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

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Curitiba, Brazil

Item 22.2 of the provisional agenda\*

#### SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND THE CLEARING-HOUSE MECHANISM (ARTICLE 18, PARAGRAPH 3)

##### *Clearing-house mechanism activities during the inter-sessional period*

*Note by the Executive Secretary*

### I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present note was prepared by the Executive Secretary as a report on the activities developed during the inter-sessional period towards the implementation of decision VII/23, as well as other activities that are intrinsic to the development and enhancement of the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention.

2. Section II recalls briefly the background for the activities of the clearing-house mechanism. Section III addresses the issue of scientific and technical cooperation through the clearing-house mechanism. Section IV reports on the activities of the informal advisory committee (IAC) in accordance with paragraph 8 of decision V/14. Section V contains elements of draft decision that the Conference of the Parties may wish to consider and adopt.

3. Information on the Biosafety Clearing-House, which was established as part of the clearing-house mechanism under paragraph 1 of Article 20 of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, may be found in the relevant documentation prepared for the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.

### II. BACKGROUND

4. At its first meeting, the Conference of the Parties decided to implement the provisions of Article 18, paragraph 3, of the Convention on the establishment of a clearing-house mechanism to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation, operating under the authority of the Conference of the Parties (decision I/3, para. 1). This central role highlighting technical and scientific

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\* UNEP/CBD/COP/8/1 and Corr.1.

cooperation has been reaffirmed explicitly throughout each successive Conference of the Parties, <sup>1/</sup> reiterated in its former and updated draft strategic plan (UNEP/CBD/COP/8/18).

5. It is for this reason that the updated draft strategic plan of the clearing-house mechanism, in listing its three primary goals, places the promotion and facilitation of scientific and technical cooperation first, although the other two goals—information exchange and network development—are also understood as integral and essential components of the activities under the clearing-house mechanism. Indeed, effective information exchange mechanisms functioning through a well-defined network of national focal points and stakeholders provide the necessary infrastructure in support of the current activities under the mechanism.

6. During its pilot phase, the clearing-house mechanism focused on information-sharing and exchange to support and assist future initiatives and projects in technical and scientific cooperation and the establishment of national clearing-house mechanisms. The information-sharing/exchange phase resulted in the following mechanisms being put in place:

- (a) The website ([www.biodiv.org](http://www.biodiv.org)) of the Convention on Biological Diversity;
- (b) A web-based search engine, BIOSEEK, to provide assistance in locating and retrieving global biodiversity-related information;
- (c) Web-based databases with information on focal points;
- (d) A roster of experts;
- (e) A clearing-house mechanism newsletter;
- (f) A clearing-house mechanism toolkit to assist countries in the development and establishment of clearing-house mechanism national focal points; and
- (g) A clearing-house mechanism brochure. <sup>2/</sup>

7. These mechanisms have been highly effective in facilitating information sharing/exchange and network development. Together with the underlying human logical and physical networks they entail, <sup>3/</sup> they formed the basis for the development of later technical and scientific cooperative activities.

8. Once the pilot phase was completed, the clearing-house mechanism focused more fully on the development of technical and scientific cooperation initiatives, particularly within the context of the Convention's programme areas and cross-cutting issues.

9. In consultation with the informal advisory committee, emphasis has been given to the following programme areas: (i) the Global Taxonomy Initiative; (ii) invasive alien species; (iii) marine and coastal biodiversity; and (iv) the ecosystem approach. To strengthen the links between the clearing-house mechanism and the technical and scientific programmes of the Secretariat, the informal advisory committee recommended that advice be sought from the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) on new possible pilot projects.

10. Finally, at the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on the Review of Implementation of the Convention, held in Montreal, Canada from 5 to 9 September 2005, during its review of the impacts and effectiveness of existing processes under the Convention, requested that the Executive Secretary, in

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<sup>1/</sup> See: paragraph 1, decision I/3, paragraph 4 (b), decision II/3, preamble, (a), decision III/4, paragraph 5, decision III/4, paragraph 10 (e), decision IV/2, paragraph 7, annex II (g)(ii), decision V/14, annex II (j), decision V/14, paragraph 2, decision VI/18., paragraph 5, decision VII/23, paragraph 7(b), decision VII/23, paragraph 8, decision VII/23.

<sup>2/</sup> Pilot phase of the clearinghouse mechanism (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/3).

<sup>3/</sup> The human component of network architecture includes the users of network services. It is important to define the user base before designing the architecture of the network, as it can vary widely and serve different purposes. Creating a human network, acculturated to expected network behaviour and use of network protocols, is often the most difficult component in the development and establishment of a communications network.

consultation with the informal advisory committee, finalize the draft of the second clearing-house mechanism strategic operational plan (UNEP/CBD/COP/8/23).

### III. FACILITATION OF TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION

11. In response to the above, during the inter-sessional period leading to the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the clearing-house mechanism followed a three-tiered strategy. First, it continued to invest in the development and use of new formats, protocols and standards and new information technologies, particularly with regard to interoperability of information among the Rio and other environmental conventions, with the understanding that this activity will support the further development and establishment of initiatives related to technical and scientific cooperation.

12. Second, a variety of new electronic forums and communication mechanisms were created offering the Secretariat, expert groups and other interested stakeholders a virtual environment to: (i) share expertise, (ii) work collaboratively in the development of joint work plans, programmes and initiatives, and (iii) promote the work and objectives of the Convention.

13. Thirdly, the clearing-house mechanism is working with a number of international organizations to implement joint initiatives within the context of the programme areas and cross-cutting issues of the Convention. More specifically, pursuant to paragraph 7 (b), of decision VII/23, a number of regional and technical workshops were organized with a view to catalyse interaction between needs of those regions' national focal points, on one hand, and the technical and scientific expertise available at the national and regional levels, on the other. These activities illustrate the focus on technical and scientific cooperation, and point to more specific initiatives in support of Convention-related activities and programmes.

14. Within the context of these activities, the clearing-house mechanism also focused on the special needs of the communication, education and public awareness programme of the Convention. Activities under this rubric underscored the essential links between issues related to communication, education and public awareness and information exchange, network development and technical and scientific cooperation, namely: (a) development of new current awareness mechanisms to raise awareness of the Convention among targeted audiences; (b) development of educational hands-on technical workshops to enhance national capacities and transfer expertise; and (c) development of a children's website on biodiversity to promote long-term changes in behaviour.

15. Below is a summary of inter-sessional activities related to communication and network development and new initiatives in support of technical and scientific cooperation.

#### ***A. The development of new formats, protocols and standards and new information-exchange technologies and resources in support of technical and scientific cooperation***

16. In compliance with its mandate in relation to information sharing/exchange and with a view to facilitate the use of new formats, protocols and standards and new information technologies, the clearing-house mechanism implemented many of the recommendations, pursuant to paragraph 7 (e) of decision VII/23, made at the Informal Meeting on Interoperability of Information among the Three Rio and Other Environmental Conventions held in Montreal, from 2 to 3 November 2004, and other meetings related to the clearing-house mechanism, as indicated below:

(a) *Controlled vocabulary*: to improve the searching, locating and retrieving of information, the clearing-house mechanism further developed the CBD controlled vocabulary to serve as a biodiversity thesaurus (see <http://www.biodiv.org/doc/cbd-voc.aspx>). The purpose of the thesaurus is to assist the development of a joint common vocabulary among the three Rio conventions as metadata to describe categories of information such as case-studies and official documents, among other categories;

(b) *Really Simple Syndication (RSS)*: to promote greater integration of information among the Rio and other environmental conventions, clearing-house mechanism national focal points, organizations and institutions, the clearing-house mechanism implemented RSS on the Convention's website. The Convention's RSS service allows for the collection and display of CBD-related information.

An RSS news readers allows users to view the item selected through an RSS reader. An RSS reader also automatically retrieves updates, offering users the option of staying current with new content soon after it is published;

(c) *Enhancement of the Convention's website infrastructure*: pursuant to paragraph 7(g) of decision VII/23, the clearing-house mechanism completed the re-design of the Convention's website infrastructure with new protocols and standards. This work provides a robust foundation for future development of new features and procedures, especially features offering increased opportunities for interaction, communication and interoperability with other information systems. In turn, new opportunities for collaboration with regard to information exchange and sharing will become possible, particularly in light of joint programmes between the Secretariat and other convention secretariats;

(d) *Thematic databases*: to promote greater information and knowledge exchange, the clearing-house mechanism developed a number of thematic databases that reflect the Convention's programmes with the aim of promoting the sharing of, and access to, expertise and knowledge among Parties, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders. The new electronic resources include:

- (i) An ecosystem sourcebook, a tool to help practitioners implement the ecosystem approach and share experiences;
- (ii) A database on technology transfer and cooperation;
- (iii) A CD-ROM on technology transfer and cooperation;
- (iv) A database with case studies related to impact assessment;
- (v) A database with available global, regional and national datasets relevant to the 2010 indicators;
- (vi) A database on incentive measures;
- (vii) A database with case studies related to communication, education and public awareness;
- (viii) A database on measures related to access and benefit sharing;

(e) *Enhancement of search mechanisms*: a new search mechanism was tested and installed to facilitate the searching, locating and retrieving of information on the website;

(f) *Third national reports analyser*: similar to the second national report, the clearing-house mechanism developed a web-based tool to analyse the third national report. Parties are able to compile information from the reports and visualize them through graphs and tables;

(g) *Thematic reports analyser*: making use of the new formats developed for thematic reports, the clearing-house mechanism developed two new online tools to analyze national thematic reports on the global taxonomy initiative and the interim national report on implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. These new tools offer Parties the ability to search through and compile information available in thematic reports in a matter of seconds. Search criteria can be defined by report section, country groups or country names. In addition, it is possible to create graphics to view results and comparisons.

17. Information exchange and the resultant databases are important supportive mechanisms offering Parties the tools necessary to develop and establish Convention-related initiatives that focus on specific programme areas and cross-cutting issues.

#### ***B. Fostering communication and networking to promote technical and scientific cooperation***

18. Parties and interested stakeholders require communication tools to profit from new electronic resources to search, locate and retrieve information. This section discusses the communication mechanisms developed to assist Parties and stakeholders to hold virtual discussions, work collaboratively,

share expertise and establish the necessary network infrastructure to support collaborative programmes and activities.

*1. Communicating and networking through the clearing-house mechanism*

19. The clearing-house mechanism continued its development of communication and networking tools, especially collaborative spaces (i.e. restricted websites) where targeted audiences, ad hoc or expert working groups and other stakeholders could work collaboratively and dialogue. The popularity of restricted websites where target groups of experts or stakeholders could have access to draft and working documents, information resources, help facilities and electronic forums continued to grow.

20. During the last inter-sessional period, eighth such new spaces have been created for groups working on thematic areas including: Biodiversity indicators, biosafety, impact assessment, Island biodiversity, invasive alien species, inland waters, the 2010 target, and protected areas..

21. These restricted websites enable participants to share expertise, work collaboratively, discuss topics of relevance to their work programme and collaborate on new initiatives and projects.

*2. Working together through the clearing-house mechanism*

22. Another activity undertaken by the clearing-house mechanism was the development of electronic tools to offer ad hoc expert working groups, informal advisory committee members and other participants in the Convention process a means to work jointly from remote locations. The solution was the development of virtual meeting spaces which mimic the experience of face-to-face meetings and so duplicate the social interaction so often responsible for creative ideas and successful collaborative work.

23. Using this collaborative tool to working documents, participants are able to insert comments directly onto the document, thereby conserving the context and history of discussions. It thus becomes possible to scroll through the document and see the rationale and source of the comments, understand the circumstances leading to certain decisions, and add new comments as needed.

24. The clearing-house mechanism continues to create new and administer existing electronic discussion groups. At the time writing, 38 electronic discussion groups (or Internet mail lists) are active for a variety of different thematic areas and groups, including national focal points, bureau and committee members.

*3. Reaching a larger audience*

*The CBD weekly digest and CBD headlines*

25. An electronic weekly digest of the latest notifications, reports, meetings and events related to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Biosafety Protocol is now available through the Convention's website. Sent via e-mail to approximately 2000 subscribers from around the globe, this service has assisted the Secretariat to reach a larger and targeted audience, including Parties and other Governments, academia and the research community, schools and educators, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and journalists, among others.

26. A daily electronic press clipping service is also now available to Parties and stakeholders. Subscribers are able to receive the clippings via e-mail or access them through the Convention's website.

27. Both these services highlight the links between the services offered by the clearing-house mechanism to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation and the communication, education and public awareness programme which aims to assist Parties in promoting and encouraging understanding of the importance of, and the measures required for, the conservation of biological diversity.

*The CBD Information Centre*

28. An electronic information centre was developed to facilitate access to and exchange of information on biodiversity related publications, reports, serials, bibliographies and other resources. Composed of electronic catalogues and links to resources, the CBD electronic information centre offers Parties, other Governments and stakeholders a depository of research and educational materials published in support of the Convention and its Biosafety Protocol.

29. In addition, the clearing-house mechanism is undertaking a retrospective project to acquire past research and scholarly publications, in paper or electronic format, on the Convention and its Biosafety Protocol. Toward this end, it developed an electronic index of research articles related to the Convention and the Biosafety Protocol. Hyperlinks to the full text of the articles are available if the journal is in the public domain or if the publisher offers unrestricted access or copyright permission.

30. These initiatives reflect an acknowledgment by the clearing-house mechanism that more efforts are needed to involve more effectively the research and academic communities in activities related to the Convention, particularly with regard to efforts to raise awareness of the Convention and its programme areas with the research and academic communities.

*Cooperation with other conventions*

31. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was invited to join the informal advisory committee of the clearing-house mechanism with a view to facilitate more effective collaboration and joint projects.

32. As mentioned above, the Secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and Ramsar Convention are working to find ways to make the information on their website more easily accessible and interoperable. The first draft of interoperability specifications has been published and a beta project where information pertaining to national focal points was made interoperable was completed by the Secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity, United Nations Framework Convention. A side event demonstrating the feasibility of interoperability among the Rio Conventions was demonstrated during the Eleventh meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the Eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the Climate Change Convention.

33. In addition, the Secretariats of the Rio Conventions continue to work jointly in the publication of a hard-copy and web-based joint calendar.

***C. Technical and scientific collaboration within the context of the clearing-house mechanism programme areas and cross-cutting issues***

34. With the completion of the information-exchange phase of the clearing-house mechanism and its ongoing investment in formats, protocols and standards and communication and electronic collaborative tools, the building blocks for the development and implementation of initiatives focusing on technical and scientific cooperation are now in place.

*1. Cooperation with other international organizations*

35. Indeed, following the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, many of these initiatives led directly to joint work plans with other international organizations and initiatives, particularly the Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network (IABIN), the Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP), the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF), the Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI) and BirdLife International. Among these joint initiatives, the Secretariat is cooperation with the Global Invasive Species Information Network in the development of an invasive alien species profile schema to assist in the establishment of the invasive alien species information network. As well, BirdLife International, with the cooperation of the Governments of Peru and Ecuador, established the first bi-national, eco-region-based clearing-house mechanism for the dry forests of Peru and Ecuador (the Tumbesian Endemic Bird Area) under the Darwin Initiative.

2. *Building capacity through the clearing-house mechanism: regional workshops*

36. Assisting Parties in enhancing national, subregional and regional capacities for the implementation of the programmes of work, particularly the 2010 target and technology transfer, under the Convention, in collaboration with other international organizations and initiatives, was and remains one of the primary goals of the clearing-house mechanism. To this end, pursuant to paragraph 7(b) of decision VII/23 and following generous financial contribution from the Government of Belgium, three regional workshops were organized in Asia, Latin American and the Caribbean, and Central and Eastern Europe, to focus on assisting Parties to participate more effectively in the programme of work of the Convention, and to cooperation on a regional basis with regard to activities related to the 2010 target and technology transfer. The reports of the meetings are available as information documents.

37. As well, the Secretariat organized and participated in a number of technical hands-on training workshops in cooperation with the European Environment Community and the Government of Belgium to transfer technical know-how and introduce developing area Parties and Parties with economies in transition to new information and web-based technologies.

*The Asia regional meeting*

38. The Asia regional meeting on the clearing-house mechanism, which was held in Bangkok from 3 to 5 February 2005, aimed to provide countries of the region with an opportunity to express their needs and expectations with regard to the clearing-house mechanism's new efforts to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation, particularly in regard to technology transfer, the 2010 target and cooperation with international thematic focal points and other relevant Conventions, organizations and initiatives. The recommendations made at the meeting endorsed strongly the new efforts of the clearing-house mechanism to raise national capacities to more effectively participate in the programme areas and cross-cutting issues of the Convention, and to cooperate in the transfer of technologies and initiatives in support of the 2010 target.

*The Latin America and Caribbean regional meeting*

39. As with the Asia regional meeting on the clearing-house mechanism, international thematic focal points, non-governmental organizations and international organizations were invited to participate with the view to establishing partnerships and joint projects. Held in Brasilia, Brazil, from 9 to 11 March 2005, the meeting also offered the view that the clearing-house mechanism should continue its new efforts to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation, particularly in regard to technology transfer, the 2010 target. Many of the recommendations emphasized this approach, and offered suggestions for concrete activities to operationalize it.

*The Central and Eastern Europe regional meeting*

40. A CBD Clearing-House Mechanism and EC Clearing-House Mechanism joint regional meeting for Central and Eastern Europe was held in Tallinn, Estonia from 13 to 15 December 2005. The purpose of this meeting was to provide countries of the region with an opportunity to become acquainted with new information and web-based technologies, namely, the second version of the European Commission clearing-house mechanism toolkit. The meeting also offered Parties the opportunity to express their needs and expectations with regard to efforts by the Convention clearing-house mechanism and the European Community clearing-house mechanism to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation, particularly in regard to the 2010 target, the transfer of technology, the communication, education and public awareness programme and other programme areas and cross-cutting issues of the Convention.

*Technical Workshop on the Development of Regional Clearing-House Mechanisms*

41. In response to recommendations from the regional workshops on the clearing-house mechanism, and to assist Parties with paragraphs 4 and 5 of decision VII/23, a Technical Workshop on the Development of Regional Clearing-House Mechanisms was organized with the European Community

Clearing-House Mechanism and , Finsiel Romania, the technical developer of the European Community Clearing-House Mechanism portal toolkit, in Bucharest, from 23 to 25 February 2005.

42. The workshop reflected efforts to assist Parties to gain the technical capacities necessary to participate effectively in the programme areas and cross-cutting issues of the Convention, and the focus of the clearing-house mechanism to implement grounded programmes to assist with the transfer of technical know-how and expertise. It also reflected the increasing role of the clearing-house mechanism to highlight issues related to technical education and other special needs of the communications, education and public awareness programme of the Convention.

### *3. The clearing-house mechanism toolkit*

43. In paragraph 7 (c) of decision VII/23, the clearing-house mechanism toolkit was updated to act as a meta-toolkit, linking different existing toolkits with a view to optimize their resources and assist uses to choose the most appropriate technology. At this writing, the clearing-house mechanism toolkit includes information of toolkits developed by the European Community clearing-house mechanism, the clearing-house mechanism of the Government of the Netherlands, and the Global Biodiversity Information Facility. Also included is information on the Biosafety Clearing-House Toolkit.

44. Currently, the toolkit is available in web-format (see <http://www.biodiv.org/chm/toolkit/>) and CD-ROM versions to ensure its widest possible use and adoption.

## **IV. INFORMAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (IAC) OF THE CLEARING-HOUSE MECHANISM**

45. The Executive Secretary convened three meetings with the informal advisory committee in 2004-2005 (13 and 17 February 2004, 6 February 2005 and 27 November 2005) to seek advice and recommendations on the implementation of decision VII/23, particularly paragraph 7 (a), and advice on further developing the clearing-house mechanism to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation.

46. The committee's review and advice assisted the Executive Secretary in the updating of the strategic plan of the clearing-house mechanism (UNEP/CBD/COP/8/18) and with issues related to programme element 2 of decision VII/29 and the 2010 target. Its advice concerning the Convention's programme of work, particularly with regard to the programme areas, capacity-building and information exchange was instrumental in assisting the clearing-house mechanism to place strong focus on efforts to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation.

## **V. RECOMMENDATIONS**

47. In sum, activities undertaken by the clearing-house mechanism during the inter-sessional period fall within three categories: first, investment in new information technologies and use of new formats, protocols and standards; second, development of communication mechanisms and new information-dissemination tools and databases to create more effective channels of interaction between the Secretariat and Parties and stakeholders; and, thirdly, collaboration with international thematic focal points, international organizations and non-governmental organizations in the development and implementation of initiatives for the scientific and technical cooperation within the context of the Convention's programme areas and cross-cutting issues, particularly activities related to the 2010 target, the transfer of technology and the communication, education and public awareness programme.

48. The table annexed to the present note provides an overview of the specific contributions of the clearing-house mechanism to the various thematic areas and crosscutting issues of the Convention.

49. It is suggested that the clearing-house mechanism continue to focus strongly on cooperative initiatives, and strive to lend its support to all areas of work related to the Convention. In so doing, it will fulfil its mandate to promote and facilitate technical and scientific collaboration while developing an effective working relationship with all programme areas and cross-cutting issues of the Convention.



50. In light of the above, and inline with the recommendations made by the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on the Review of Implementation of the Convention, the Conference of the Parties may wish to consider and adopt a decision along the following lines in relation to the clearing-house mechanism:

*“The Conference of the Parties,*

*Taking note* of the note by the Executive Secretary on the activities of the clearing-house mechanism during the inter-sessional period (UNEP/CBD/COP/8/17),

*Noting with satisfaction* the concrete steps taken towards making the clearing-house mechanism an effective tool for promoting technical and scientific cooperation among Parties,

1. *Decides* to adopt the draft of the updated clearing-house mechanism strategic plan;
2. *Institute* a user-focused in-depth review and assessment of the clearing-house mechanism, for consideration at its tenth meeting.

*Annex*

**SPECIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE CLEARING-HOUSE MECHANISM IN SUPPORT OF THE CONVENTION'S THEMATIC AREAS AND CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES**

<b>Programmes of work</b>		<b>Specific contributions of the clearing-house mechanism in support of the Convention's programme areas and cross-cutting issues</b>
	Forest biodiversity	? Development of a web-based portal on forest biodiversity
	Inland waters biodiversity	? The database on case studies was expanded to include inland waters biodiversity
	Marine and coastal biodiversity	? An electronic discussion forum was established to gather the outputs of the Caribbean GEF project on climate change adaptation (CPACC project) as a contribution to activities, relevant findings were disseminated
	Access to genetic resources and benefit sharing	? Development of a roster of experts ? Development of a database on measures related to access and benefit sharing ? Development of a database on capacity building
	Invasive alien species	? Drafting of an alien invasives schema to assist in the establishment of a global information network on invasive alien species per paragraph 25 of decision VI/23*
	Article 8(j): traditional knowledge, innovations and practices	? Development of a web-portal for 8(j) ( <a href="https://www.biodiv.org/portals/tk/default.shtml">https://www.biodiv.org/portals/tk/default.shtml</a> ) ? Enhancement of the CBD indigenous focal point through use of the portal
	Communication, education and public awareness	? Development of an electronic current awareness service ? Development of an electronic daily newspaper clipping service ? Development of the CBD Information Centre ? Development of the CBD Information Centre online catalogue ? Development of the CBD index of research article citations ? Development of bibliographies of research articles on the Convention and the Biosafety Protocol ? Development of a children's website on biodiversity
	Economics, Trade and Incentive Measures	? Development of a database on incentive measures ? Development of a database on case studies ? Development of a CD-ROM on incentive measures
	Ecosystem approach	Development of the ecosystem sourcebook <a href="http://www.biodiv.org/programmes/cross-cutting/ecosystem/sourcebook/home.shtml">http://www.biodiv.org/programmes/cross-cutting/ecosystem/sourcebook/home.shtml</a> per, paragraph 9 of decision VII/11, paragraph 9
	Global Taxonomy Initiative	? Development of a web-based portal for the Global Taxonomy Initiative <a href="https://www.biodiv.org/programmes/cross-cutting/taxonomy/default.shtml">https://www.biodiv.org/programmes/cross-cutting/taxonomy/default.shtml</a>
	Impact assessment, liability and redress	? Development of a database on case studies
	Indicators	? Development of a database on indicators related to the 2010 target
	Island biodiversity	? Development of a web-based portal for island biodiversity ( <a href="https://www.biodiv.org/portals/island/default.shtml">https://www.biodiv.org/portals/island/default.shtml</a> )

	<b>Programmes of work</b>	<b>Specific contributions of the clearing-house mechanism in support of the Convention's programme areas and cross-cutting issues</b>
	Technology Transfer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>? Development of a web-based portal</li> <li>? Participation in Programme element 2: information systems, of decision VII/29</li> <li>? Development of a database on case studies</li> <li>? Development of a CD-ROM on technology transfer</li> </ul>

\* 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 few representatives expressed reservations regarding the procedure leading to the adoption of this decision (see UNEP/CBD/COP/6/20, paras. 294-324).

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