



## CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

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

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Item 24 of the provisional agenda\*

#### COOPERATION WITH OTHER CONVENTIONS, ORGANIZATIONS AND INITIATIVES AND ENGAGEMENT OF STAKEHOLDERS, INCLUDING OPTIONS FOR A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP

*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. The adoption of a Strategic Plan by decision VI/26—and of its associated target, to significantly reduce, by 2010, the rate of biodiversity loss—has further emphasized the need for cooperation. Under the strategic goal “The Convention is fulfilling its leadership role in international biodiversity issues”, the Conference of the Parties established the following objectives:

*Objective 1.2:* The Convention is promoting cooperation between all relevant international instruments and processes to enhance policy coherence; and

*Objective 1.3:* Other international processes are actively supporting the implementation of the Convention, in a manner consistent with their respective frameworks.

2. In addition, goal 4 of the Strategic Plan seeks broader engagement across society in the implementation of the Convention and is supported by a more specific objective:

*Objective 4.4:* Key actors and stakeholders, including the private sector, are engaged in partnership to implement the Convention and are integrating biodiversity concerns into their relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes, and policies.

3. Recognizing the need for enhanced cooperation and noting objectives 1.2 and 1.3 of the Strategic Plan, the Conference of the Parties, at its seventh meeting, urged further enhanced cooperation between the Convention and all relevant international conventions, organizations and bodies (decision VII/26, paragraph 1).

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

4. In this context, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to form a liaison group with the four other biodiversity related conventions (decision VII/26, paragraph 2), and to examine options for a flexible framework between all relevant actors, such as a global partnership on biodiversity, in order to enhance implementation through improved cooperation (paragraph 3). In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties also requested that the Executive Secretary renew his applications for observer status in relevant bodies of the World Trade Organization (paragraph 4). In addition, the Conference of the Parties made specific references to other conventions and organizations in a number of decisions on specific thematic areas and cross-cutting issues. <sup>1/</sup>

5. Further to decision VII/26, the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention held in Montreal from 5 to 9 September 2005, considered ongoing work to establish ways of enhancing cooperation between the major biodiversity related organizations and secretariats. In its recommendation 1/6, the Working Group requested that the Executive Secretary consider further means to improve cooperation, with a view to developing a systematic approach for consideration by the Conference of the Parties (paragraph 5). The Working Group also suggested that the Executive Secretary undertake consultations in order to provide proposals on a flexible framework among all relevant actors, such as a global partnership on biodiversity (paragraph 8).

6. In addition, in considering the issue of implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Plan, the Working Group on Review of Implementation requested the Executive Secretary to develop a proposal on inviting other biodiversity-related conventions, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, to participate in the liaison group of the biodiversity-related conventions (recommendation 1/1 C (e)). The same recommendation also requested the Executive Secretary to consider the potential role of other organizations in providing technical support to Parties for facilitating and promoting implementation of the Convention, as discussed in document UNEP/CBD/COP/8/15.

7. The Executive Secretary has prepared the present note to assist the Conference of the Parties to review cooperation with various other conventions, international organizations and initiatives, and engagement of stakeholders. In doing so, the note also responds to the requests made to the Executive Secretary by the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and the first meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation.

8. Section II of this note provides an overview of cooperative activities undertaken since the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in light of decision VII/26 and other decisions mentioned in paragraph 4. Section III proposes a systematic approach for further enhancing cooperation under the Convention. As part of this systematic approach, section IV discusses options for a global partnership on biodiversity in more detail. Finally, section V presents some conclusions.

9. The issue of engagement with the private sector is considered separately, in an addendum prepared by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/COP/8/25/Add.1).

10. In addition, the Executive Secretary is making available to the Conference of the Parties a note on options for enhanced cooperation among the Rio conventions, prepared jointly by the secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/7/Add.1). The Executive Secretary is also making available a note prepared jointly by the secretariats of the five biodiversity-related conventions on options for enhanced cooperation among those instruments (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/7/Add.2). Document UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/3/6 provides information on cooperation with organizations, conventions and initiatives in relation to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

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<sup>1/</sup> Notably in decisions: VII/1 (Forests), VII/4 (Inland waters), VII/5 (Marine and coastal), VII/13 (Invasive alien species), and VII/27 (Mountains).

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

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

11. Decision VII/26 welcomed the support of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA Resolution A/58/212) for the ongoing work of the liaison group of the secretariats and officers of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

12. Since the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio conventions has met on three occasions. <sup>2/</sup> The group has identified adaptation, capacity-building, and technology transfer as the three priority issues for joint collaboration, as reflected in the joint paper on options for enhanced cooperation among the Rio conventions (available to the Conference of the Parties as UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/7/Add.1).

13. At its most recent meeting, in Bonn on 5 October 2005, the Joint Liaison Group agreed that further proposals for cooperation would be developed following consideration of the 'options' paper by the relevant bodies of all three conventions. The Group also decided to ensure joint input into initiatives such as the development of shared approaches to capacity-building (following from the National Capacity Self Assessment process), and the preparation of a joint paper on synergy in the implementation of the three conventions in least developed Countries/small island developing States. Furthermore, the Group agreed to encourage the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to fund regional education, training and public awareness approaches addressing the three conventions.

14. In addition to meetings of the liaison group, other activities among the Rio conventions include: the convening of two workshops addressing issues of synergy in implementation; <sup>3/</sup> a second meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change; a pilot project to merge the roster of experts maintained by the UNCCD and Convention on Biological Diversity, as part of the two conventions' joint programme of work; and initiation of work to facilitate interoperability between relevant databases maintained by UNFCCC and the Convention on Biological Diversity. <sup>4/</sup> The coincidence of the UNFCCC COP and COP/MOP meeting in Montreal in late 2005 with the eleventh meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Matters of the Convention on Biological Diversity also provided an opportunity to hold an informal joint meeting of the subsidiary scientific bodies of these conventions.

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

15. In response to decision VII/26 (paragraph 2), the Executive Secretary invited the heads of the other four biodiversity conventions—namely, the Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and the World Heritage Convention—to form a liaison group, in order to enhance coherence and cooperation in their implementation. Since June 2004,

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<sup>2/</sup> Reports of these meetings are available at <http://www.biodiv.org/cooperation/liason.shtml>.

<sup>3/</sup> Workshop on 'Forests and Forest Ecosystems: Promoting synergy in the implementation of the three Rio Conventions', Viterbo, Italy, 4-7 April 2004, and the 'Regional Workshop for Africa on synergy Among the Rio Conventions and other biodiversity-related conventions in implementing the programmes of work on the biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands and agricultural biodiversity, Gaborone, Botswana, 13-17 September 2004. Final reports are available at <http://www.unccd.int/workshop/menu.php> and <http://www.biodiv.org/doc/meeting.aspx?mtg=WSAGDL-01> respectively.

<sup>4/</sup> The final report of the meeting on interoperability is available at: <http://intranet.biodiv.org/doc/meetings/chm/chmiminterop-01/official/chmiminterop-01-02-en.doc>.

the liaison group of the biodiversity-related conventions, comprised of the executive heads of these conventions and relevant staff, has met on four occasions. <sup>5/</sup>

16. As part of its work, the liaison group has prepared a paper on ‘options for enhanced cooperation among the five biodiversity-related conventions’, available to the Conference of the Parties as UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/7/Add.2. This paper was recently considered by the Conferences of the Parties of CMS and Ramsar, and by the General Assembly of the WHC, as well as by the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and can serve as a guide for future cooperation. The conventions have also cooperated through the liaison group to prepare a joint statement on the importance of biodiversity for achieving the Millennium Development Goals, disseminated during the Millennium Summit in September 2005, and have issued joint statements at recent meetings of the governing bodies of Ramsar, CMS and the UNFCCC.

17. At its most recent meeting in Bonn, on 4 October 2005, the liaison group discussed the development of future work plans and options for cooperation, including joint representation at relevant meetings, the establishment of a joint web portal on national reporting, and reviewing avenues for enhanced scientific cooperation. The group also put forward views on the proposed global partnership on biodiversity, which are presented in section IV.

18. At the same meeting, the liaison group considered the idea of inviting other biodiversity-related organizations, such as FAO, to participate in the group, in line with recommendation 1/6 (paragraph 8 (e)) of the Working Group on Review of Implementation. Members noted that the liaison group comprises biodiversity-related conventions only, and that enlarging the group to include other United Nations bodies or organizations would result in a lack of focus—due not only to increased size but also to the differing nature of conventions and organizations. Possible future participation of other biodiversity-related conventions in the liaison group, however, such as the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, administered by FAO, could be considered by the liaison group upon request of their governing bodies.

19. Bilateral cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions continues, as explored in more detail in section III of the note by the Executive Secretary on options for enhanced cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/7/Add.2). An expert workshop convened to explore options for promoting cooperation and synergy between CITES and the Convention on Biological Diversity (Vilm, Germany, April 2004) proposed cross-cutting mechanisms for further enhancing cooperation, as well as specific measures for collaboration on issues of sustainable use, access and benefit-sharing, invasive alien species, and others.

20. Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) adopted, at their eighth meeting, several resolutions supporting enhanced cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Conference of the Parties to the CMS, by resolution 8.7, decided to take action within the framework of its strategic plan so as to help contribute effectively to the 2010 target. In addition, resolution 8.7 sets out how CMS can assess its contribution to achieving the 2010 target and resolution 8.11 supports the participation of the CMS Secretariat in the liaison group of the biodiversity-related conventions and in the proposed global partnership on biodiversity. A third resolution (8.18) endorses the new joint work programme developed between CMS and the Convention on Biological Diversity, and provides guidance on integrating migratory species into national biodiversity strategies and action plans. (These resolutions are available at [http://www.cms.int/bodies/COP/cop8/documents/proceedings/html/en/cop8\\_res\\_rec\\_en.htm](http://www.cms.int/bodies/COP/cop8/documents/proceedings/html/en/cop8_res_rec_en.htm))

21. A memorandum of cooperation was signed with the Ramsar Convention in May 2005, to foster programme cooperation, including through joint work plans, and to establish new and specific mechanisms for enhancing synergies and partnerships to achieve common goals. Achievement of the 2010 target is integrated into the framework for the implementation of the Ramsar Convention’s Strategic

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<sup>5/</sup> Reports of the meetings are available online at: <http://www.biodiv.org/cooperation/related-conventions/blg.shtml>.

plan in the 2006-2008 period (Ramsar Resolution IX.8). Parties to the Ramsar Convention have also approved a set of eight indicators of effectiveness of implementation of the Convention, which are consistent with and draw upon the 2010 biodiversity indicators of the Convention on Biological Diversity (Resolution IX.1 annex D). The Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention also requested its Secretary-General to be fully involved in the liaison group of the biodiversity-related conventions (resolution IX.5, para 7, (available at [http://www.ramsar.org/res/key\\_res\\_ix\\_index\\_e.htm](http://www.ramsar.org/res/key_res_ix_index_e.htm))).

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

22. In decision VII/19, the Conference of the Parties noted the relevance of the International Treaty of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture to the ongoing process to elaborate an international regime on access and benefit-sharing. Further, in decision VII/3, the Conference of the Parties urged Parties and other Governments to ratify the Treaty. A memorandum of cooperation between the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the FAO interim Secretariat of the Treaty has been finalized. The Treaty entered into force on 29 June 2004.

23. In decision VII/13, the Conference of the Parties welcomed collaboration with the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), among others, in addressing the threats posed by invasive alien species, and requested the Executive Secretary to develop a joint work plan with the IPPC Secretariat. The Interim Committee on Phytosanitary Measures (ICPM) addressed cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity at its sixth and seventh sessions, providing guidance, at its seventh session, on how National Plant Protection Organizations could contribute to efforts to address the threats posed by alien invasive species. The IPPC also participated in the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Gaps and Inconsistencies in the International Regulatory Framework in Relation to Invasive Alien Species. A memorandum of cooperation was signed with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) on cooperation between the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Secretariat of the IPPC, in February 2004. Further to this, a joint work plan was initiated in May 2004, and, following a meeting of the Secretariats in November 2005, the joint work plan is being updated.

24. With the Regional Seas Coordinating Unit under UNEP, the Secretariat is developing a document on synergies in implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans. A number of collaborative activities between the regional seas programme and the Convention on Biological Diversity are already underway or completed, in areas of marine and coastal living resources, protected areas, and marine invasive alien species, including: a joint workshop to develop a Biodiversity Strategy for the Black Sea, and, together with the Global Invasive Species Programme, development of regional training courses and of a Joint Work Programme on marine invasive alien species. As well, the regional seas programme and the Convention Secretariat have completed an analysis of how regional networks of marine and coastal protected areas contribute towards the WSSD 2012 target on representative networks (also in line with decisions VII/5 and VII/28 of the Convention on Biological Diversity).

25. The Secretariat has worked with the International Maritime Organization and the IUCN Environmental Law Center to assess the implications of the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, which entered into force in February 2004. The Conference of the Parties has encouraged (decision VII/5) and recommended (decision VII/13) Parties and Governments to consider ratifying this treaty.

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

26. 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 the United Nations system and other international organizations. The Secretariat has cooperated with UNDP concerning the possible revisions to the indicators used for assessing progress towards the MDGs and related targets. The Secretariat, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and

the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI), has developed proposals for an initiative on biodiversity for food and nutrition, in support of achieving relevant Millennium Development Goals (see UNEP/CBD/COP/8/26/Add.2), and held a consultation on the matter involving the nutrition, agriculture and rural development sectors. In addition, the links between biodiversity, health and the MDGs was emphasized by the Secretariat during participation in the organization of, and presentations at, the Conference on Health and Biodiversity (COHAB, held in Galway, Ireland, from 23 to 25 August 2005). The Executive Secretary also participated in the High Level Segments of the sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development on 21 and 22 April 2005 and in the United Nations World Summit on Assessing Progress towards the MDGs, in New York from 14 to 16 September 2005.

27. The Secretariat has worked closely with UNEP on a number of biodiversity-related issues (in addition to those related to the Regional Seas Programme, described above). The Secretariat is participating in a UNEP project on 'Issue-based Modules for the Implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements', reviewing draft modules and participating in planning meetings. The project aims to harmonize reporting and facilitate implementation of the five biodiversity-related conventions, by structuring available guidance on four priority topics. The Secretariat is also a member of the core advisory group of experts for the 'trade and biodiversity' initiative coordinated by the UNEP-Economics and Trade Branch. The initiative is meant to support implementation of the Convention in developing countries, by building institutional capacity for the design and implementation of trade-related policies that maximize development in the agriculture sector while minimizing biodiversity impacts. Also under UNEP, the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) has contributed significantly to advancing the Convention's work on developing and testing indicators for evaluating progress towards the 2010 target. UNEP-WCMC is also helping to communicate the results of available indicators and drafting the second edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook.

28. The Secretariat is coordinating the work of the United Nations-Oceans Task Force on Biodiversity in Marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction, which has, *inter alia*, reviewed background documents related to this issue that were prepared for consideration by the Ad hoc Open-ended Working Group on Protected Areas.

29. The Secretariat continues to work closely with FAO. A revised memorandum of cooperation, signed in May 2005, establishes a framework for cooperation in the area of biological diversity of relevance to food and agriculture (including forestry and fisheries), with a view, *inter alia*, to promoting synergy between FAO and the Convention on Biological Diversity. As well, a draft joint work plan on forest-related activities of mutual interest has been drafted between the Secretariat and FAO's Forestry Department, reflecting topics contained in decision VI/22. Other specific contributions of FAO to the Convention on Biological Diversity programmes of work include, *inter alia*: adoption, by the 26<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries, of international guidelines for the eco-labelling of fish and fishery products from marine capture fisheries; compilation of knowledge on forest resources (as part of the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2005 process), on livestock breeds in dry and sub-humid lands, and on introductions of aquatic alien species; work on incentive measures in the agricultural context, through analysis of existing policy, identification of emerging ecosystem services markets, and valuation of pollination services; and hosting of the secretariat of the Mountain Partnership.

30. In line with decision VII/1, the Executive Secretary continues to support the work of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF). Important aspects of this collaboration are the Secretariat's involvement in efforts to simplify and harmonize forest-related reporting—directed by the Task Force on Streamlining Forest-related Reporting of the CPF—and the development of common forest-related indicators.

#### ***E. Cooperation with indigenous organizations***

31. Further to cooperating with indigenous organizations, the Secretariat considers, and selects where appropriate, experts nominated by indigenous and local community organizations for participation in expert groups under the Convention. Regarding capacity-building, where possible and subject to the

availability of funds, the Secretariat has participated in a number of initiatives in partnership with indigenous and local community organizations and networks aimed at building the capacity of indigenous and local communities. In May 2004, the Secretariat participated in a capacity-building workshop focussing on indigenous women, which was hosted in partnership with the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the South Asia Indigenous Women Forum and the Indigenous Women's Biodiversity Network. It also participated in the Expert Meeting on Traditional Forest-Related Knowledge and the Implementation of Related International Commitments, held in San Jose, Costa Rica, from 8 to 10 December 2004, which was hosted by the International Alliance of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples of the Tropical Forests. In 2005, the Secretariat participated in the Asia Capacity-Building Workshop on Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, which preceded the Asian Regional Workshop on the Composite Report, April 25-30, 2005. Subject to the availability of funds, the Secretariat actively pursues partnerships to further the goal of capacity-building to enhance the participation of indigenous and local communities in the work of the Convention.

32. The Convention formalized indigenous and local community participation in decision VII/16 G, paragraph 10, in which the Conference of the Parties established a voluntary fund to assist the participation of indigenous and local communities in meetings under the Convention. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties requested the development of selection criteria in consultation with indigenous and local communities and taking into account United Nations practice in the field. Further to this, the Working Group on Article 8(j), at its fourth meeting, will consider a note by the Executive Secretary on mechanisms to promote the effective participation of indigenous and local communities in matters related to the objectives of Article 8(j) and related provisions - criteria for the operation of the Voluntary Funding mechanism (UNEP/CBD/WG8J/4/5) and make recommendations for the consideration of the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. It is anticipated that the Voluntary Fund, pending the outcome of the Conference of the Parties, will be fully operation later in 2006.

***F. Cooperation with the World Trade Organization and other economic and trade related organizations***

33. The Conference of the Parties, by decision VII/26 (paragraph 4) requested the Executive Secretary to renew his applications for observer status in relevant bodies of the World Trade Organization (WTO), in particular, in the Council on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs Council). Although the Executive Secretary holds observer status for the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment, observer status is pending for the Committee on Agriculture, and has yet to be granted for either the TRIPs Council or for the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Committee, despite repeated requests.

34. The Secretariat has participated in meetings of the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment in Regular and Special (negotiating) Sessions, in order to observe negotiations on paragraph 31 of the Doha Ministerial Declaration, concerning the relationship between WTO rules and specific trade obligations set out in multilateral environmental agreements. Statements given in Special Session on the implications of the decisions of the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties and COP/MOP 1 for the work of the CTE were also circulated to delegates in Regular Session. <sup>6/</sup> The Secretariat also participated in the WTO workshop on environmental goods (October 2004) with a view to exploring links between environmental goods and services and technology transfer for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. As well, in June 2004, the Executive Secretary attended a meeting to mark the tenth anniversary of the conclusion of the Marrakech Agreement establishing the WTO.

35. The Secretariat has continued to attend sessions of the World Intellectual Property Organization's Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property Rights, Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore, as well as a WIPO Seminar on Intellectual Property and Development.

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<sup>6/</sup> These statements were circulated as WT/CTE/W/235 (at the April 2004 session), and TN/TE/INF/9 (at the October 2004 session).

36. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Council adopted a recommendation (on 21 April 2004) on ‘the use of economic instruments in promoting the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity’ that, among other things, instructs OECD’s Environment Policy Committee to continue to support efforts by the Convention on Biological Diversity to improve the efficient and effective application of incentive-based approaches to biodiversity and sustainable use. The recommendation reinforces existing cooperation between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the OECD’s Working Group on Economic Aspects of Biodiversity (WGEAB), such as the Secretariat’s participation in WGEAB meetings, and is in line with the decisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity on incentive measures. <sup>7/</sup>

#### ***G. Cooperation with scientific research and assessment bodies***

37. The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) set out to establish the scientific basis for actions needed to enhance the conservation and sustainable use of ecosystems, and to assess ecosystems’ contributions to human well-being. The Convention contributed to the MA in several ways. SBSTTA, at its tenth meeting, reviewed and commented on a draft of the MA’s biodiversity synthesis report, and reviewed the findings of the final report at its eleventh meeting. The Secretariat was involved in reviewing the biodiversity synthesis report, as well as other synthesis reports (including those on wetlands and water, marine and coastal ecosystems, desertification and business and industry). Secretariat staff further contributed as authors on several of these reports, as well as on various chapters of the main assessment. The Executive Secretary additionally served on the MA Board. To mark International Biodiversity Day, the Secretariat collaborated with the MA Secretariat to officially launch the biodiversity synthesis report, at an event in Montreal.

38. The ‘Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands’ (LADA) Project was identified by decision VII/2 as a key mechanism in the proposed process for periodically assessing status and trends of biological diversity in dry and sub-humid lands. Accordingly, the Secretariat contributed to the preparation of a meeting of partners, stakeholders and technical resource persons involved in the LADA project, held at FAO headquarters in May 2004. The Secretariat also provided input to the ‘Status of Coral Reefs of the World 2004’ Report, produced by the Global Coral reef Monitoring Network.

39. The Secretariat participated in the International Conference on ‘Biodiversity: Science and Governance’, held in Paris from 24 to 28 January 2005. In follow-up, the Secretariat participated in the first meeting of the International Steering Committee to launch the consultative process for assessing the need for an International Mechanism of Scientific Expertise on Biodiversity, in June 2005.

40. The Secretariat was invited to discuss joint implementation strategies at a meeting of the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) Coordinating and Planning Committee. This followed collaboration between the Convention on Biological Diversity and ICRI in preparing a note on small island developing States and cold water coral reefs, noted with appreciation by the Conference of the Parties in decision VII/5.

41. The Secretariat signed Memoranda of Cooperation with several scientific and research bodies during the intersessional period. An memorandum of cooperation with BioNET International aims to promote taxonomic capacity-building and related technical and scientific cooperation to Parties. The Secretariat also became a member of the organization’s board. The agreement with the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS) aims for IUBS to, in particular, facilitate the implementation of programmes dealing with biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, and with measures to prevent and reduce physical alterations and destruction of habitats due to land-based activities.

#### ***H. Cooperation with IUCN, non-governmental organizations and partnerships***

42. The World Conservation Union (IUCN) continues to closely support the Convention’s work. In March 2005, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the IUCN World Commission on Protected

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<sup>7/</sup> Namely, IV/10A, V/15, VI/15 and VII/18.



Areas (WCPA) signed an annex on protected areas to the existing memorandum of cooperation, with the aim of facilitating implementation of the programmes of work on marine and coastal biodiversity (adopted by decision VII/5) and on protected areas (decision VII/28). The Secretariat has also collaborated with IUCN's Sustainable Use Specialist Group (on indicators of sustainable use), and the IUCN Global Marine Programme (on risks to marine biodiversity outside areas of national jurisdiction), and is exploring the possibility of a joint work plan with the IUCN Invasive Species Specialist Group. In addition, IUCN Canada, in collaboration with Environment Canada, has funded an expert consultant to work at the Secretariat on issues related to the 2010 target, and to business and biodiversity.

43. The Convention on Biological Diversity was represented at the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Conservation Congress (17-25 November 2004), the general assembly of IUCN members which, *inter alia*, sets the global conservation agenda for the organization.

44. The Nature Conservancy (TNC), with IUCN-WCPA, helped to prepare a guide on the programme of work on protected areas, and have been developing indicators for sustainable use with the NGO Equilibrium. Together with other members of the Collaborative partnership on protected areas, TNC has mobilized substantial resources and catalyzed the formation of national partnerships, in support of implementation of the Convention's programme of work on protected areas.

45. Together with the Global Invasive Species Programme, the Executive Secretary organized two workshops held in Montreal in June and November 2005, to identify elements of the joint work plan called for in paragraph 26 (e) of decision VI/23.

### **III. PROPOSALS FOR A SYSTEMATIC APPROACH TO FURTHER ENHANCING COOPERATION**

#### **A. *The need for a more systematic approach***

46. Achieving the 2010 target, and monitoring progress towards it, will require improved coordination, synergy and partnership among various actors and programmes. Better coordination and partnerships are also needed in order to ensure effective mainstreaming of biodiversity and the 2010 target into relevant international programmes, projects, processes and initiatives. In addition, fulfilment of the leadership role mandated by the Strategic Plan of the Convention on Biological Diversity (Goal 1) for halting biodiversity loss will require greater cooperation among relevant international instruments and processes, and also the active support of such instruments and processes to the objectives of the Convention and the 2010 target.

47. The Working Group on Review of Implementation requested the Executive Secretary to consider further means to improve cooperation in the implementation of the Convention at the global, regional and national levels, including with respect to promoting the sustainable use of biodiversity and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, with a view to developing a systematic approach to cooperation, and to report thereon to the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting (recommendation 1/6, paragraph 5).

48. Based on the review of experience provided in document UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/7, and building on the recommendations of the Working Group, this section proposes a more systematic approach that the Executive Secretary might follow for enhancing cooperation under the Convention. A key element of the proposal is the establishment of a global partnership on biodiversity, discussed in detail in section IV of this note.

49. It should be noted, however, that in enhancing cooperation under the Convention, it will be important to maintain flexibility and room for creativity. A systematic approach should help to strategically organize and broaden cooperation, but should not limit the Secretariat in taking advantage of new, unforeseen, opportunities for cooperation when these arise. Making strategic choices is particularly important given that Secretariat resources are limited (both in financial and human terms), and that the potential scope for cooperation is large.

**B. Proposed systematic approach for enhancing cooperation**

50. *Inventory of existing partners.* The Secretariat presently collaborates with a number of organizations, either under formal agreements for ongoing cooperation (Memoranda of Cooperation, Joint Work Programmes or Plans), formal agreements for one-off projects (Memoranda of Understanding) or informal arrangements. Where cooperation is informal, relevant staff within the Secretariat are generally most up to date on the nature and status of collaborative work, and report on any significant progress made or concrete outputs in their Quarterly Reports. This progress is also recorded in the official and information notes prepared by the Executive Secretary.

51. The Secretariat is currently in the process of assessing, in a more structured manner than in the past, the number of partners working with the Convention. To begin, two criteria have been established for identifying whether or not an organization, initiative or other process can be considered to be a partner: (i) that a formal agreement exists between the Secretariat and it and/or (ii) that it has been mentioned in a decision of the Conference of the Parties in the context of cooperation (either as a current or potential collaborator). On the basis of these criteria, 175 partners have been identified, with decisions prior to the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties yet to be surveyed. If a global partnership on biodiversity is established, organizations involved in that process will also be counted as partners.

52. It may be that the Secretariat is cooperating with organizations or stakeholder groups that have not signed any agreements with the Secretariat, and have not been mentioned in any decisions. These de facto partners could be more formally recognized.

53. *Assessment of current state of cooperation, and gap analysis.* On the basis of an updated list of partners, the Secretariat will assess the current status of cooperation with each of them. For formal partners (e.g., where MOCs and/or JWPs exist) this assessment could consist of taking stock of progress made in the areas explicitly identified for cooperation. Assessment of progress with partners mentioned in decisions could first establish whether cooperation is underway, and if so, if it appears to meet or exceed the cooperation called for in the relevant decision.

54. Such a general assessment would provide a sufficient basis for the gap analysis described below. However, if time and resources were available, the Secretariat may wish to conduct a more in-depth assessment of the extent of cooperation, as a means to draw out lessons for further enhancing collaborative activities. For instance, an in-depth assessment could aim to identify obstacles where progress on cooperation is lacking and facilitating factors where it is successful, where necessary, in consultation with the partner in question.

55. Following an initial assessment, the Secretariat will undertake a gap analysis in order to identify: (i) which thematic and cross-cutting areas of the Convention are most/least supported by cooperative arrangements; (ii) what categories of organizations and stakeholders are most/least represented among partners (e.g., intergovernmental, non-governmental, indigenous); (iii) what other sectors besides environment are or are not represented among partners; and (iv) for each area, category and sector considered in (i), (ii) and (iii), what key organizations and stakeholder groups not already identified as partners should be involved, as a priority, in the Convention's work. Under point (iv) the gap analysis could also consider whether any existing partners are being underutilized, and could be making meaningful contributions in areas other than those in which they are already involved (for instance, indigenous groups are often implicated in Article 8(j) issues, but have limited participation on other issues).

56. The Working Group on Review of Implementation has already identified some important gaps in cooperative efforts (also described in UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/7), including the need for more balanced cooperation in order to meet all three objectives of the convention.

57. The assessment and gap analysis can be undertaken internally, as a joint effort of relevant programme officers, with additional inputs requested of existing partners, where required.

58. *Identifying activities.* The Secretariat will identify activities for strategically enhancing cooperation and engagement of stakeholders, taking into account the need to fill gaps identified in the above-described exercise, and the following criteria for prioritizing cooperation:

(a) *Contribution to implementation and achievement of the 2010 target.* Cooperation should advance implementation, particularly at the national level, as on-the-ground action is important and lacking, for achieving the objectives of the Convention and meeting the 2010 target.

(b) *Balancing the three objectives of the Convention.* More cooperation should be undertaken in the areas of sustainable use and of fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, in order to balance the current focus on conservation;

(c) *Mainstreaming biodiversity.* Cooperation should involve other sectors besides environment (including the private sector) and/or sectors that engage more directly with stakeholders (including civil society), in order to broaden the base of support for biodiversity issues, and to achieve more wide-reaching results;

(d) *Increasing developing country participation.* Cooperation should engage organizations, initiatives and stakeholders based in developing countries, as appropriate, in order to achieve a better balance between North and South voices in the processes of the Convention and its implementation;

(e) *Maximizing impact.* Cooperation should make a significant contribution to meeting the objectives of the Convention, without involving significant resources from the Secretariat. In this regard, strengthening cooperation with existing, willing partners will be important, particularly where a framework for cooperation is already in place.

59. Secretariat activities in support of enhanced cooperation could include, but not be limited to:

(a) For formal partners, updating or otherwise revisiting memoranda of cooperation, with a view to advancing implementation of the Convention. Where appropriate, the Secretariat should develop joint work plans with formal partners (as recommended to the Conference of the Parties by the Working Group on Review of Implementation, recommendation 1/6, paragraph 9 (g)), in order to translate identified areas for cooperation into specific action. Where cooperation has lapsed definitively, formal agreements could be dissolved;

(b) The establishment of further bilateral memoranda of cooperation, prioritizing links to organizations and stakeholder groups that are under-represented (as revealed by the gap analysis). For instance, the Working Group on Review of Implementation recommended that the Conference of the Parties request the Executive Secretary to liaise with the World Trade Organization with a view to identifying options for closer collaboration, including developing a MOC (recommendation 1/6, paragraph 9 (h));

(c) The establishment of liaison groups and/or multilateral work plans on issues where a core set of partners already exists or can be easily identified, and where coordinated action would enhance implementation of the Convention. Two examples are conventions and organizations related to invasive alien species issues (e.g., IPPC, OIE, FAO, WTO/SPS, IMO, ICAO) and those relevant to the protection of biodiversity in marine areas (e.g., UNCLOS, DOALOS, the regional seas programme). In this regard, the Working Group on Review of Implementation recommended that the Conference of the Parties consider improved cooperation with respect to invasive alien species (recommendation 1/6, paragraph 9(e));

(d) Enhancing United Nations system-wide support for the achievement of the 2010 target. The Environmental Management Group (EMG) was established by the Secretary General, according to a mandate of the United Nations General Assembly for the purpose of enhancing United Nations system wide agency coordination in the field of environment and human settlements. It comprises the specialized agencies, the United Nations programmes and agencies, the Bretton Woods Institutions, WTO and the

secretariats of the multilateral environment agreements. The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development calls for strengthened inter-agency collaboration through the United Nations Environmental Management Group (EMG) using an issue-management and problem-solving approach. The Executive Secretary is liaising with the Chair of EMG with a view to establishing an issue-management group within the EMG to coordinate the contributions of the various agencies to the achievement of the 2010 target;

(e) The establishment of a Heads of Agency Task Force. A number of international organizations, through their regular activities, are directly contributing to the achievement of the 2010 target. These include UNEP, IUCN, UNDP, UNESCO, FAO and WWF, as well as the biodiversity-related conventions. This forum will provide a platform for exchange of information on activities carried out by the respective agencies on all issues relevant to the 2010 biodiversity target, with a view to promote complementarity and maximize efforts for the achievement of the target. The task force will meet at least once a year and its secretariat will be coordinated by the Executive Secretary. When established, this task force will be a useful mechanism for the implementation of the Global Partnership for Biodiversity to be decided at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

(f) The establishment of a global partnership on biodiversity, as described in section IV;

(g) For all existing partners, identifying focal points, and maintaining records on cooperation, to allow more efficient cooperation. The Executive Secretary has already developed an internal database of partner organizations, including contact information and links to formal agreements, which can be updated with focal point information;

(h) Disseminating more widely information on the nature and role of cooperation under the Convention, as a way of encouraging more groups and organizations to engage in activities that support implementation. To this end, the Convention's web pages on cooperation have been updated and expanded, including an online, searchable database identifying existing partners. Successful examples of cooperation should also be highlighted and disseminated, through media outreach or other appropriate means.

(i) Exploring ways to facilitate cooperation, with a view, in particular, to allow a broader base of organizations and stakeholder groups to engage more fully with the Convention. For instance, the Secretariat (following decision VII/16 G) is currently formalizing processes to facilitate participation by indigenous and local communities across all thematic areas of the Convention, through a voluntary fund.

60. *Resources.* Any strategy for enhanced cooperation will need to allow sufficient human and financial resources for the Secretariat to uphold its end of collaborative arrangements. While making every effort to reduce costs—through electronic communications, meetings on the margins of major side events, etc.—meaningful cooperation will depend to some degree on the Secretariat travelling to or hosting meetings with partners. The implications for staff time should also be considered; whereas synergies should be sought wherever possible, increased cooperation will necessarily involve more work and time.

#### **IV. OPTIONS FOR A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP ON BIODIVERSITY**

61. As part of its efforts to improve cooperation under the Convention, the Conference of the Parties, in decision VII/26 (paragraph 3), requested the Executive Secretary, in close collaboration with relevant conventions, organizations and bodies, to examine options for a flexible framework between all relevant actors, such as a global partnership on biodiversity, in order to enhance implementation and to report to the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting on possible ways forward.

62. In considering this issue, the Working Group on Review of Implementation recommended that the Conference of the Parties consider the establishment of such a flexible framework, taking into account the views of potential members (recommendation 1/6, paragraph 9 (f)). To this end, the Working Group suggested that the Executive Secretary undertake consultations with relevant organizations and initiatives,

and with representatives of indigenous and local communities, in preparing proposals (recommendation 1/6, paragraph 8).

63. In the same paragraph, the Working Group further noted that:

- (a) A bottom-up, partner-driven process should be used in developing proposals for a global partnership;
- (b) A global partnership should address all three objectives of the Convention in a balanced way;
- (c) A global partnership should facilitate on-the-ground action, particularly implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- (d) A global partnership should enable results of scientific assessments of biodiversity to be translated into effective responses;
- (e) A global partnership should facilitate the development of issue-based networks without attempting to direct these networks;
- (f) A global partnership should be a voluntary alliance;
- (g) Organizational and servicing options that would allow partners outside the Convention to play a leadership role in a global partnership should be explored;
- (h) An assessment should be made of the resource implications of such proposals.

64. Following the suggestion of the Working Group, the Executive Secretary has undertaken consultations through (i) meetings of the liaison group of the biodiversity-related conventions and (ii) a letter sent to over 50 conventions and international organizations—including United Nations agencies, major non-governmental and indigenous organizations, and scientific groups—inviting their views on the matter. <sup>8/</sup> Ideas were solicited on:

- (a) The partnership's aim, objectives and specific activities;
- (b) Organizational structure;
- (c) Potential members of the partnership, including those outside the environment/conservation sector;
- (d) Useful models to follow and/or existing initiatives that should not be duplicated;
- (e) Working modalities, including organizational and servicing options that would allow partners outside the Convention to play a leadership role in the partnership.

65. This section summarizes the views put forward by the liaison group of the biodiversity-related conventions on the establishment of a global partnership on biodiversity, and synthesizes views received from organizations on the same matter, before proposing options for consideration by the Conference of the Parties. Existing models and potential building blocks for a global partnership were presented in UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/7/Add.3, and are not re-visited here.

#### ***A. Views of the Liaison Group of the biodiversity-related conventions***

66. The liaison group of the biodiversity-related conventions discussed options for a global partnership on biodiversity at their third meeting. Their views were reflected in the relevant documents considered by the Working Group on Review of Implementation. At their fourth meeting (in October 2005), the Liaison Group noted consensus between their own views and those of the Working Group on the following points: the partnership should focus on implementation; it should bring in a wide range of

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<sup>8/</sup> The conventions and organizations consulted were provided with relevant excerpts from decision VII/26 and WGRI recommendation 1/6, and with the documents UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/7 (on cooperation, including draft terms of reference for the partnership) and UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/7/Add.3 (detailing options for the global partnership).

issue-based networks and facilitate the establishment of new networks where necessary; and it should promote and foster the achievement of the 2010 target among a range of stakeholders.

67. However, the Liaison Group noted that, for the partnership to contribute meaningfully to the achievement of the 2010 target, it would need to be established at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

68. In addition, the Liaison Group, at its fourth meeting, emphasized the outstanding importance of involving actors from sectors not primarily concerned with conservation in the partnership. Accordingly, activities under the partnership should include promoting and facilitating the wider use of tools and guidelines developed by the conventions, including their mainstreaming in the relevant economic sectors, and engaging relevant players on thematic and cross-cutting issues. Other important activities would be increasing understanding of biodiversity among the general public and fundraising. The Liaison Group felt that the focus of activities should be on enhancing implementation at the national level, although the regional dimension would also be addressed.

69. In terms of organization, the Liaison Group reaffirmed its strong view that the partnership would need to be structured around a limited number of founding institutions, for the practical reason of facilitating work. In addition to the five biodiversity-related conventions, this core group could include FAO, UNEP, UNDP, IUCN and possibly UNESCO and the World Bank. Only the five biodiversity-related conventions, however, would service the partnership, with the secretariat provided under the auspices of the Liaison Group.

70. In earlier discussions, at their third meeting, the Liaison Group had emphasized that the partnership should work in harmony with existing organizations and networks, and seek to complement current activities and initiatives rather than displacing these. The partnership should enhance the work of all partners by providing a common focus around the 2010 target and—as these are developed—around longer-term goals for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

71. In addition, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species, at its eighth meeting, “invite[d] its Executive Secretary to assist with the establishment of the global partnership for biodiversity, where CMS will be a core member, to promote the objectives of the Convention and contribute to the achievement of the 2010 target.” (CMS Resolution 8.11, paragraph 5).

### ***B. Views received from international organizations***

72. Ten organizations responded in writing to the Executive Secretary’s call for views on a global partnership.<sup>9/</sup> Overall, the responses were supportive of the idea of a global partnership, with most organizations indicating an interest in participating in such a framework once established.

73. *Aim, objectives and activities.* There was general agreement that the partnership should focus on achievement of the 2010 target, with several organizations noting that the partnership should also aim to achieve implementation of the Convention’s other goals and/or objectives.

74. Priorities were identified by one organization as: implementation of concrete activities at the regional and national level identified within existing legislation; the creation of a sound science-based platform to assess the progress towards the 2010 target; the mainstreaming of technology transfer issues; and linking the 2010 targets with the MDGs to facilitate better environmental management at the national level. Of particular interest to two trade-related intergovernmental organizations was the issue of how the partnership could best engage with other economic sectors (e.g., agriculture, fisheries, trade) that have a

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<sup>9/</sup> Countdown 2010, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), the International Ocean Institute (IOI), the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI), the International Seabed Authority (ISA), the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (UN-DOALOS), the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), and the World Resources Institute (WRI).

major impact on biodiversity. The need to raise the profile of biodiversity issues among policy makers was additionally highlighted by an international NGO.

75. In order to avoid duplicating existing initiatives, it was felt that the partnership should develop a clear set of agreed goals and activities around a common agenda (such as the 2010 target, or the work programmes of the Convention more generally). As submitted by one organization, the structure of the partnership would then follow in response to the needs of the identified work plan.

76. Specific activities suggested by respondents included information sharing, scientific assessments and support (including eventual assistance with data collection and analysis), refining of available tools for implementation, mainstreaming of biodiversity objectives through broad participation, advocacy and capacity-building within local communities, and possibly support to national reporting.

77. *Organizational structure.* It was widely agreed that participation in the partnership should be voluntary. One organization expressed its opinion that the partnership should not lead to the creation of a new organization, but rather be a loose and broad alliance focused on implementation. The structure should facilitate partnerships to better address cross-cutting biodiversity issues.

78. The proposed organizational concept of a core group supported by issue-based networks was generally agreed upon, with one NGO noting that the size and suggested membership of the core group, as identified in Appendix A of UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/7, provided an appropriate starting point. A second organization similarly felt that the core group could work to determine which issues to address as a priority, and how to recruit issue-based networks to the partnership. A third organization referred to a 'steering committee' guiding issue-based networks, rather than a core group. This steering committee should comprise representatives from all partners (Governments, international conventions, civil society, indigenous peoples and private sector), and meet periodically to review the overall direction of the partnership.

79. An alternative structure to the one outlined above was proposed by an international NGO. Given that obstacles to implementation often lie at the national level, this organization proposed to structure the partnership around the formation of national or regional committees. These committees would include representatives from across relevant sectors, while maintaining a focus on biodiversity issues. The networks would be guided by a steering committee, which would establish the membership of national network committees, and provide guidance on activities.

80. *Potential members.* One organization noted that the partnership should be open to all partners interested in contributing to the achievement of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and, in particular, the 2010 target. The same organization emphasized the need to involve a large set of stakeholders in the partnership—including NGOs and the private sector—rather than only those biodiversity-related conventions, organizations and initiatives already converted to the cause. Additional general suggestions were to involve local communities, and the scientific community.

81. More specifically, a United Nations agency identified UNESCO (with IOC and the Man and Biosphere programme), UNEP-WCMC, IUCN, WWF, ICRI (with GCRMN, Reef Check and ICRAN), and Census of Marine Life (with OBIS and DeDAMar) as potential partnership members. Representatives of DIVERSITAS and the Society for Conservation Biology were suggested to serve in the core group, as members of the scientific community.

82. The single responding organization with reservations about a global partnership—an environmental think-tank—felt that a priority for the Convention on Biodiversity should be to expand cooperation away from Northern-based groups to include more partnerships with developing country organizations, particularly those connected with local communities.

83. *Working modalities.* The partnership should take advantage of existing networks and facilitate the creation of new thematic networks, where leadership can be assumed by relevant partners, according to their interests and expertise.

84. Several organizations noted that potential partners should be asked to make a clear commitment to the partnership's aims prior to joining. For one organization, this pledge could take the form of partners completing an online self-certification form. For another respondent, potential partners should be asked to make specific commitments of their role and contribution, tied to the partnership's intended outcomes and benefits. Under this approach, clear objectives, measurable targets, and time frames would be combined with a transparent and neutral system for periodically reviewing partners' performance. The issues of governance, transparency and accountability were emphasized by a third organization as matters that would need careful consideration in developing the partnership.

85. According to one organization, a small secretariat will most likely be necessary to facilitate and coordinate decentralized action, but it should not be perceived as setting the agenda for partners. To reduce costs, and allow for broad participation, the partnership should make use of portals, listservs, virtual meeting spaces and other communications technologies. As described by the respondent, these virtual spaces should optimally be open-access, but would require a chairperson (with the position frequently rotated among partner organizations) to develop an agenda and translate guidance from the core group.

86. *Models and existing initiatives.* In their responses, organizations made reference to a number of potential models for the global partnership, namely: CGIAR System-wide Genetic Resources Programme, Countdown 2010, the International Labour Organization, Ramsar's international organization of partners, the UNSG Global Compact and the UN-Energy Group. The United Nations Oceans task team was identified as an existing initiative to be taken into account in order to minimize duplication of efforts.

87. *Other issues.* One organization submitted that, although they supported the establishment of a global partnership, the nature of the membership, structure, aim, objectives and activities should emerge as a result of extensive discussions and debate, in a variety of forums, among the many different organizations and groups likely to support this idea.

88. A final issue is with the name of the initiative itself: given that the focus of the partnership will be on facilitating implementation on the ground, through national and regional partnerships, one organization suggested reconsidering the title 'Global Partnership on Biodiversity'. To reflect the multi-regional and issue-based nature of the partnership, they propose: "Strategic Biodiversity Partnership".

### **C. Options for a global partnership for biodiversity**

89. On the basis of the views presented above, and building on options for a global partnership on biodiversity presented to the Working Group on Review of Implementation, the Executive Secretary has prepared the proposal contained in the annex to this note.

90. As proposed, the Global Partnership for Biodiversity will aim to further implement the three objectives of the Convention, and contribute to the achievement of the 2010 target. The Partnership will function as a voluntary alliance, bringing together a wide range of organizations and stakeholders in order to facilitate, *inter alia*, on-the-ground action, the development of cross-cutting partnerships, and the mainstreaming of biodiversity into sectors other than environment and awareness-raising. Partners will be invited to make a clear commitment to the common agenda of the partnership, but the partnership will aim to maintain a flexible and loose structure which, rather than imposing undue burdens on any member, reduces duplication of effort.

91. Given that the year 2010 is fast approaching, the global partnership would need to be established at this meeting in order to make a significant contribution to the Convention's target. The overall structure of the partnership—a core group or steering committee, supported by issue-based networks—was largely supported by organizations consulted, and the liaison group of the biodiversity-related conventions stands ready to serve as secretariat to the partnership. At the first meeting of the core group, partners could identify how to facilitate the recruitment and development of issue-based networks, and finalize working modalities.



## V. DRAFT DECISION

*Paragraphs 1- 4, 8 and 9 of the following draft decision are recommendations of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on the Review of Implementation of the Convention (Recommendation 1/6). Paragraphs 5 – 7 have been drafted to reflect the outcomes of work by the Executive Secretary, requested by the Working Group. Paragraph 10 has been drafted to reflect the outcome of work by the Executive Secretary, as requested by the Working Group in relation to Recommendation 1/1 C, paragraph (e). Paragraph 11 has been drafted in the light of CMS resolution 8.18, paragraph 6. In addition, the Conference of the Parties may wish to consider improved cooperation with respect to the Convention's work on invasive alien species, in line with the Working Group's Recommendation 1/6, paragraph 9 (e).*

The Conference of the Parties may wish to:

1. *Urge* Parties to facilitate cooperation among international organizations, and to promote the integration of biodiversity concerns into all relevant sectors by coordinating their national positions among the various conventions and other international forums in which they are involved, as appropriate;
2. *Invite* Parties to promote, as appropriate, coordination among national focal points for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the Convention on Biological Diversity with a view to achieving synergies on cross-cutting activities, and to seek funding from the Global Environment Facility for these activities where appropriate;
3. *Note* the paper developed jointly by the secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the Convention on Biological Diversity on options for enhanced cooperation among the three Rio conventions (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/7/Add.1);
4. *Note* the paper developed jointly by the secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals, the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971) and the World Heritage Convention on options for enhanced cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/7/Add.2);
5. *Welcome* the proposal of the Executive Secretary for a more systematic approach to cooperation, as set out in document UNEP/CBD/COP/8/25.
6. *Request* the Executive Secretary to establish a Global Partnership for Biodiversity to promote the three objectives of the Convention and contribute to the achievement of the target to achieve, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of biodiversity loss, building on and complementing existing initiatives and partnerships. The terms of reference of the Global Partnership for Biodiversity will be based on the elements set out in the annex to the present note;
7. *Invite* relevant organizations and networks listed in the appendix to the annex to the present note, and representatives of affiliated networks, to participate in the core group of the Global Partnership for Biodiversity;
8. *Request* the Executive Secretary, where appropriate, subject to the availability of necessary financial and human resources and in accordance with the priority-setting mechanism established by the Conference of the Parties, to liaise with the conventions, organizations and initiatives with which the Convention has already signed memoranda of cooperation with a view to advancing implementation of the Convention in line with the decisions of the Conference of the Parties, including the possibility of developing joint work programmes;
9. *Request* the Executive Secretary to liaise with the secretariat of the World Trade Organization on relevant issues, including trade-related intellectual property rights, sanitary and

phytosanitary measures, and environmental goods and services, *inter alia*, with a view to identifying options for closer collaboration, including developing a memorandum of cooperation to promote the three objectives of the Convention;

10. *Note* that other biodiversity-related conventions, such as the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, could be considered for invitation to join the liaison group, following a request from their Governing Bodies to the Executive Secretary.

11. *Welcomes* the revised joint work programme with the Convention on Migratory Species (2006-8)<sup>10/</sup>, *invites* national focal points of the Convention on Biological Diversity to undertake relevant activities of the joint work programme in collaboration, as appropriate, with their CMS counterparts, and *requests* the Executive Secretary to collaborate with the CMS Secretariat to implement the activities identified in the joint work programme.

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<sup>10/</sup> Endorsed by the CMS Conference of the Parties in paragraph 6 of Resolution 8.18: "Integration of Migratory species into national biodiversity strategies and action plans and into on-going and future programmes of work under the Convention on Biological Diversity,"

*Annex*

**PROPOSAL ON THE AIM, GENERAL PRINCIPLES AND FORM OF A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR BIODIVERSITY**

**A. Overall aim**

1. The Global Partnership for Biodiversity aims to bring together a wide range of organizations and stakeholders in support of the target to achieve, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of biodiversity loss.

**B. General Principles**

2. The Global Partnership for Biodiversity should:

(a) Be a voluntary alliance of partners who agree to align relevant activities with appropriate goals and targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and of the other biodiversity-related conventions, in support of achieving the 2010 target;

(b) Address all three objectives of the Convention in a balanced way;

(c) Facilitate on-the-ground action to achieve concrete results, focusing in particular on activities identified as priorities in national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and other relevant regional and national legislation, programmes and plans;

(d) Involve a wide range of partners, including United Nations agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, indigenous and local communities, the private sector, and the scientific community;

(e) Engage with partners and sectors not primarily concerned with biodiversity issues, including the agriculture, fisheries, forestry, finance and trade sectors;

(f) Promote exchange among a wide range of issue-based networks, and facilitate the establishment of new networks where necessary, without attempting to direct these networks;

(g) Have a strong scientific basis, and enable the results of scientific assessments of biodiversity to be translated into effective responses;

(h) Support achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by making clear and acting upon the links between the MDGs and the 2010 biodiversity target;

(i) Seek to complement and not displace current activities and initiatives.

**C. Objectives**

3. The objectives of the Global Partnership for Biodiversity should be to:

(a) Contribute directly to implementation of the Convention through specific activities, including support to national focal points, technical cooperation, scientific assessments and support, information sharing, increased public awareness and participation, capacity-building within local communities, advocacy, and exchange of experience;

(b) Facilitate partnerships to better address cross-cutting biodiversity issues, and to provide opportunities for cross-sectoral integration of biodiversity considerations, by involving a broad base of partners;

(c) Raise the profile of biodiversity issues among policy makers and society at large, by putting forward a strong, coherent and international message under a common label;

(d) Reduce duplication of effort to make best use of limited resources.

#### **D. Working modalities**

##### **1. General approach**

4. The Partnership will not constitute a formal body of the Convention, but rather operate as a loose, broad and voluntary alliance to enhance implementation.
5. The independent legal status and mandates of each member organization will be respected.
6. While participating organizations and networks will continue to set their own priorities, the Partnership will develop a common agenda with clear goals and targets to focus efforts that might contribute to a collective effort to achieve the 2010 target. This agenda will be guided, *inter alia*, by the programmes of work of the Convention and relevant decisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity's Conference of the Parties.
7. The Partnership will complement and build on existing cooperation arrangements between the Convention and its partners (including the Joint Liaison Group, the liaison group of the biodiversity-related conventions, other liaison groups, joint work programmes/plans, memoranda of cooperation and other existing arrangements among members of the Global Partnership).

##### **2. Structure and membership**

8. The international organizations listed in the appendix below will be invited to form a core group within the Global Partnership. The core group will, among other tasks, keep under review the overall direction of the Partnership, determine which issues to address as a priority under the Partnership, and identify issue-based networks to recruit to or, if necessary, be established under, the Partnership.
9. Representatives of affiliated networks will be invited to participate in the core group of the Global Partnership for Biodiversity, ensuring that all categories of partners are represented (e.g., indigenous organizations, the private sector, civil society).
10. Any *bona fide* organization, network or other body that has objectives directly related to biodiversity, or that otherwise commits to contributing to the 2010 target or biodiversity-related issues, may be admitted to the Global Partnership by invitation from the core group, on the recommendation of the Executive Secretary. Potential partners will be asked to make a clear commitment to the partnership's aims prior to joining (through a mechanism to be determined by the core group).
11. The membership of the core group may be reviewed periodically and adjusted in order to be representative of the Partnership at large.
12. The secretariat of the Partnership will be rotated between the members of the liaison group of the biodiversity-related conventions. It is proposed that the Convention on Biological Diversity initially host the secretariat, with the other members of the liaison group providing assistance and taking on responsibility for individual issues, as agreed by the liaison group. The role of the secretariat will be to facilitate and coordinate action, and not to set the agenda for the partnership. This arrangement could be reviewed at or before the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

##### **3. Meetings and communication**

13. General meetings of the Partnership will be held from time to time, usually in association with another major biodiversity-related meeting (e.g., a meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity).
14. While the core group will usually conduct its business by teleconference and electronic communications, at least one core group meeting will normally be held between successive Conferences of the Parties
15. To allow broader participation, the partnership could make use of portals, listservs, virtual meeting spaces and other communications technologies, using chairpersons where necessary.

*Appendix*

**PROPOSED CORE GROUP MEMBERS OF THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR  
BIODIVERSITY**

***Biodiversity-related conventions:***

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)  
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)  
Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)  
Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar)  
World Heritage Convention (WHC)

***United Nations specialized agencies and programmes:***

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)  
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)  
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)  
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)  
World Bank

***Civil society organizations***

One or more representatives from:  
○ IUCN—The World Conservation Union  
○ International organization(s) representing indigenous and local communities  
○ International science organizations

***Representatives of affiliated networks:***

One representative from each.