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Eighth meeting

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Item 26 of the provisional agenda*

THEMATIC PROGRAMMES OF WORK – PROGRESS REPORTS AND CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE ACTION: FOREST BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY; BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY OF INLAND WATER ECOSYSTEMS; MARINE AND COASTAL BIODIVERSITY AND AGRICULTURAL BIODIVERSITY

Note by the Executive Secretary

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present note has been prepared to assist the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting in its consideration of item 26 of the provisional agenda: progress reports on the implementation of the programme of work and consideration of proposals for future action: forest biological diversity; biological diversity of inland water ecosystems; marine and coastal biodiversity and on agricultural biodiversity, as enabled through decisions VII/1, VII/3, VII/4 and VII/5. It covers activities implemented in the period between the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties in February 2004 and the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties with a focus on most recent developments. The report thereby supplements the relevant progress reports on thematic areas prepared for the tenth and eleventh meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/10/2 and UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/2). It aims to highlight some of the most important developments and events.

2. The Conference of the Parties may wish to take note of the progress made in the implementation of the programmes of work and provide additional guidance, as needed, in the further implementation of the work programmes.

3. Other relevant recommendations from SBSTTA are contained in the recommendations made for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and

* UNEP/CBD/COP/8/1.

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Technological Advice (SBSTTA) at its tenth and eleventh meetings (UNEP/CBD/COP/8/2 and UNEP/CBD/COP/8/3) and by other inter-sessional bodies.

4. Draft decisions under all these items, incorporating the relevant recommendations of the inter-sessional bodies, will be contained in the compilation of draft decisions for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties (UNEP/CBD/COP/8/1/Add.2).

II. FOREST BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

5. In decision VI/22, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to: (i) clarify the conceptual basis of the ecosystem approach in relation to the concept of sustainable forest management; (ii) compile best practices in form of toolkit to promote integrated and cross-sectoral approaches between forest biological diversity and other policies; (iii) initiate collaborative actions towards the implementation of the expanded work programme; (v) develop an internet portal; (vi) support the work of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), and, in particular, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD); (vii) produce guidance on the effects of insufficient law enforcement on forest biological diversity.

6. In decision VII/1, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary, *inter alia*, to: (i) continue its work on the report on the effects on forest biological diversity of insufficient forest law enforcement; and (ii) propose, in collaboration with the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on the Review of Implementation of the Programme of Work on Forest Biological Diversity, outcome-oriented targets to be integrated into the work programme.

7. In response to the above decisions, the Secretariat undertook the following activities:

(a) The Secretariat held a one-day meeting on 20 September 2005 at the FAO Forestry Department in Rome to explore further opportunities for collaboration and to formulate a draft joint workplan on forest-related activities in the context of the Memorandum of Understanding between the two organizations and taking into account relevant topics contained in decision VI/22. Issues for collaboration included:

- (i) Monitoring, assessment and reporting, including the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2005 and 2010 and its relationship to the requirements for CBD reporting under the 2010 target and the review of implementation of the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity;
- (ii) Input from the Convention process to national forest programmes;
- (iii) Development of a toolkit for cross-sectoral planning (in line with paragraph 19 (c) of decision VI/22);
- (iv) Participation and contributions to meetings and publications (including the FAO State of the World's Forests); and
- (v) Future activities in the context of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests Task Force on Streamlining Forest-related Reporting.

A number of specific areas and targeted activities were identified, and responsible actors and timelines were also delineated. The Letter of Intent between the Government of the Netherlands and the Secretariat provided funding to the Secretariat's staff to attend the meeting;

(b) The Secretariat provided substantial technical input for the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)/IUCN expert workshop held in Switzerland from 12 to 15 September 2005 on the review and updating of the ITTO guidelines for biodiversity conservation in tropical production forests, which were originally released in 1992, for consideration at the thirty-seventh session of ITTO in November 2005;

(c) The Secretariat submitted at the eleventh meeting of SBSTTA a detailed proposal (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/15) for carrying out the in-depth review of implementation of the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity by the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, including the set of outcome oriented sub-targets in support of the global 2010 target as applied to the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity. It also produced a detailed review of progress in the implementation of matters requested in paragraph 19 of decision VI/22 (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/14) for consideration by SBSTTA;

(d) The Secretariat prepared a compilation of best practices derived from case-studies across selected production sectors and that will form the basis for the development of a toolkit (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/INF/13) and a progress report on the main causes and consequences of insufficient forest law enforcement on forest biological diversity (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/INF/14);

(e) The Secretariat carried out a preliminary analysis of the section on the implementation of the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity submitted by Parties as part of the third national report (UNEP/CBD/COP/8/23);

(f) In the context of programme element 1, goal 3, objective 1 of the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity, the Secretariat contributed with a chapter on tropical montane forest restoration for the book "Forest Restoration in Landscapes" produced by the World Wildlife Fund; ^{1/}

(g) In the context of the Letter of Intent between the Government of the Netherlands and the Secretariat, the Centro Agronomico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza (CATIE) in Costa Rica was commissioned to prepare a concept paper on a framework for regional partnerships on forest biodiversity in Latin America and the Caribbean, containing a set of specific recommendations and actions aimed at facilitating the implementation of the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity through a network of demonstration sites and at multiple spatial scales across the region. The paper will be presented for further discussion at the meeting of the FAO Latin American Regional Forestry Commission to be held in Santo Domingo from 26 to 30 June 2006.

III. BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY OF INLAND WATER ECOSYSTEMS

8. In paragraph 25 of decision VII/4, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with FAO and other relevant organizations, to prepare a study of the linkages between conservation and sustainable use of inland water biodiversity and poverty alleviation/sustainable livelihoods, including human health considerations, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its

¹ Mansourian, S. Vallauri, D. Dudely, N. Editors. 2005. Forest Restoration in Landscapes: beyond planting trees. Springer, New York.

eighth meeting. The study should contain proposals on ways and means to ensure that implementation of the programme of work contributes appropriately to poverty alleviation and sustainable livelihoods.

9. In paragraph 12 of decision VII/4, the Conference of the Parties urged Parties to share information and lessons learned from the application of national and regional policies, plans and best practices, from the application of water frameworks, including specific examples of successful policy interventions to conserve and sustainably use inland waters, and requested the Executive Secretary to summarize this and related available information for the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

10. In paragraph 14 (a) of the same decision, the Executive Secretary was requested to compile, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting, information on mountain ecosystems and their role as water suppliers and examples of transferable technologies relevant to the implementation of the revised programme of work on inland water biodiversity also relevant to mountain ecosystems, and ensure that this information is considered in the implementation of the programme of work on mountain biological diversity and taking into account, *inter alia*, the work of the FAO Committee on Forestry.

11. In paragraph 3 of decision VII/4, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to develop with the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention a proposal, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting, on streamlining and improving the effectiveness of national reporting on inland water ecosystems, taking into account the work of the Task Force on Streamlining Forest-related Reporting established in the framework of United Nations Forum on Forests and other initiatives for harmonizing biodiversity-related national reports.

12. In paragraph 16 of the same decision, the Conference of the Parties recognized the need for reliable baseline data and subsequent regular national assessments of the status and trends of, and threats to, inland water biodiversity as a basis for decision-making on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity of inland water ecosystems and, accordingly, requested the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with Parties and relevant organizations, and making use of all available information, to prepare, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting:

(a) A work plan with defined timeframe, ways, means, and capacity needs for assessing the extent, distribution and characteristics of inland water ecosystems;

(b) A report on information, and sources of information, on the trends of inland water biodiversity, definition of agreed baselines, relevant indicators and frequency of the assessments; and

(c) A work plan with ways and means for assessing processes and categories of activities which have or are likely to have significant adverse impacts on the conservation and sustainable use of inland water biological diversity.

13. In paragraph 29 of the same decision, the Conference of the Parties invited the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention and the Scientific and Technical Review Panel of the Ramsar Convention, in collaboration with the Executive Secretary and the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, respectively, and in line with paragraph 30 of resolution VIII.10 of the Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention, and with a view to achieving a more comprehensive coverage of components of biological diversity through the designation of Ramsar sites to further elaborate the criteria and guidelines.

14. In paragraph 30 of the decision, the Conference of the Parties further invited the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention, in collaboration with the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological

Diversity, to provide guidance, based on experiences, for the interpretation and application of the Ramsar criteria at the national and regional levels.

15. Finally, under activity 1.1.10 the programme of work annexed to decision VII/4, the Secretariat and the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention were to finalize the development and move into full implementation of the River Basin Initiative, with input from collaborating partner organizations.

16. In response to these decisions the following activities were carried out:

(a) The Secretariat has worked closely with collaborators, in particular FAO, the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) (WorldFish Center and the International Water Management Institute (IWMI)), Wetlands International and WWF International, to prepare an information document for the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the linkages between conservation and sustainable use of inland water biodiversity and poverty alleviation/sustainable livelihoods, including human health considerations, drawing closely on the technical inputs into, and outcomes of, the ninth meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Wetlands (7-15 November 2005), which considered linkages between wetlands and poverty in detail in resolution IX.14. The analysis of ways and means to ensure that implementation of the programme of work contributes appropriately to poverty alleviation and sustainable livelihoods concluded that proposed activities should focus on continued partnerships with the many other initiatives and processes that are already working on this important subject. In particular, there are further opportunities through the Ramsar Convention and its international organisation partners. The aforementioned Ramsar Convention resolution IX.14 requests that its Scientific and Technical Review Panel develop ways to implement the resolution. Some ways in which this could be further achieved are identified in the aforementioned information paper to be produced by the Secretariat and the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity can pursue these matters further directly with the Ramsar Secretariat under his mandate from existing decisions of the Conference of the Parties;

(b) Fifteen responses were received to a notification (2005-021) requesting case-studies on water frameworks many of which provided substantial information which will be compiled in an information paper for the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

(c) An information document on mountain ecosystems and their role as water suppliers and examples of transferable technologies relevant to the implementation of the revised programme of work on inland water biodiversity also relevant to mountain ecosystems has been prepared for the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, which includes the analysis of 18 case-studies submitted in response to a notification by the Executive Secretary;

(d) The Secretariat of the Convention and the Ramsar Secretariat have continued to work closely in relation to revised site criteria and guidelines for their application (decision VII/4, paras. 29 and 30). A note prepared for the eleventh meeting of SBSTTA (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/13) provided a status report on this matter and included mechanisms for the continued involvement of SBSTTA in this process. The Secretariat was represented at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention and was heavily involved in the discussions on this subject as related to these decisions, including as a member of a contact group. A verbal update on relevant progress at that meeting was presented to SBSTTA at its eleventh meeting. SBSTTA recommendation XI/9 deals with this subject and essentially refers it for further consideration at a future meeting of SBSTTA;

(e) With regard to paragraphs 3 and 16 of decision VII/4, the Secretariat prepared a note for the eleventh meeting of SBSTTA (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/12) containing a report on progress made

and draft proposals in preparation for the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, including on ways and means for assessing processes and categories of activities which have or are likely to have significant adverse impacts on the conservation and sustainable use of inland water biological diversity. SBSTTA considered this subject only partly through its recommendation XI/9. The Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention at its ninth meeting considered a number of related matters in detail including harmonizing national reporting between conventions, assessments, trends and indicators for inland water biological diversity. The Executive Secretary has consolidated this work, and relevant progress in the inter-sessional period, in a document prepared for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting (UNEP/CBD/COP/8/26/Add.3).

IV. MARINE AND COASTAL BIODIVERSITY

17. In decision VII/5, the Conference of the Parties adopted an elaborated programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity. The present section provides a brief review progress made in each programme element.

1. *Integrated marine and coastal area management (IMCAM)*

18. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Implementation of Integrated Marine and Coastal Area Management (IMCAM) met in Montreal from 11 to 15 July 2005 with generous funding from the Government of the Netherlands. The terms of reference of this Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) were approved by SBSTTA in annex I to its recommendation VIII/3 A. The work of the AHTEG contributes towards activity (c) under operational objective 1.1 of the programme of work on the identification of obstacles to the implementation of IMCAM nationally and regionally, and the development and implementation strategies, such as partnerships, tools and other means, to overcome those obstacles, including provision of guidance on the application of such tools. The report of the AHTEG is available to the Conference of the Parties as an information document. A summary report with recommendations is also presented for consideration (UNEP/CBD/COP/8/26/Add.1). The results of the AHTEG, including tools and strategies, will be made available through the Convention's clearing-house mechanism.

19. The Secretariat has participated in the following relevant meetings:

(a) The Third Global Conference on Oceans, Coasts and Islands, which took place in Paris, France, from 23 to 28 January 2006. The Conference provided a review of progress achieved and obstacles faced in the implementation of international targets on oceans, coasts, and small island developing States (SIDS), especially those related to the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and other related agreements such as the Convention on Biological Diversity and Agenda 21;

(b) A workshop titled "Changing Currents – Charting a Course of Action for the Future of the Oceans", which took place in Vancouver, Canada, from 23 to 26 February 2005. The goal of the workshop was to identify strategies and practical actions to effect change in the management of marine resources, and to halt the decline of biodiversity. The report of the workshop is available at <http://www.sfu.ca/coastalstudies/changingcurrents.htm>;

(c) A Round Table convened in Halifax, Nova Scotia, on 28 and 29 July 2004, in conjunction with the International Oceans Institute (IOI) course on Ocean Governance: Policy, Law and Management, to consider ocean policies and the role of conventions in oceans management. There is a Memorandum of Cooperation between the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the IOI:

(d) Two meetings related to the Global Marine Assessment: the International Workshop on the Global Marine Assessment (GMA), held from 7 to 11 June 2004 in New York; and the Group of Experts on the Draft Document Establishing a Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socio-Economic Aspects (GMA), held in New York from 23 to 26 March 2004.

20. The Secretariat collaborated with the World Conservation Monitoring Centre of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP-WCMC) in the preparation of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment synthesis report on marine and coastal ecosystems and human well-being. The Secretariat has provided review comments on two versions of this report, and has also reviewed both the marine and coastal chapters of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment

21. The Global International Waters Assessment (GIWA) regional reports are available at www.giwa.net. These reports present a comprehensive and integrated assessment of international waters (comprising marine, coastal and freshwater areas) in different regions. The reports include a systematic assessment of the environmental conditions and problems.

22. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has developed guiding principles for post-tsunami rehabilitation and reconstruction. These guidelines rely on concepts of integrated coastal zone management, including public engagement in local decision-making. The principles were adopted at a meeting on coastal zone rehabilitation and management in the tsunami-affected region, which was held in Cairo on 17 February 2005. The guiding principles are available at <http://www.gpa.unep.org/tsunami/>.

2. Marine and coastal living resources

Coral reefs and related ecosystems

23. The specific work plan on coral bleaching was updated by the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and is contained in appendix 1 to annex I of decision VII/5. The Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to continue facilitating the implementation of this work plan in active collaboration with the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI), its partners, the regional seas programmes of UNEP, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and other relevant organizations. The present section reports on a number of implementing activities.

24. The Secretariat participated in the General Meeting of the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI), which took place in Koror, Palau, from 31 October to 2 November 2005, as well as in a workshop on sustainable financing opportunities held in the same location on 3 November 2005. In addition, the Secretariat participated in three coral reef-related meetings, which took place back-to-back in Okinawa, Japan: the meeting of the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) Management Group from 27 to 29 June 2004; the tenth International Coral Reef Symposium from held from 28 June to 2 July; and the meeting of the ICRI Coordinating and Planning Committee on 3 and 4 July 2004. The participation aimed at strengthening the implementation of the work plan of the Convention on Biological Diversity on coral bleaching by ICRI and its partners, including joint implementation strategies, presentation of the relevant outcomes of the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties at each of these meetings, including appendices I and IV of annex I to decision VII/5, as well as outcomes related to marine and coastal protected areas.

25. The Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network's report *Status of Coral Reefs of the World 2004* was published in November 2004 (see <http://www.gcrmn.org>) and presented at the tenth meeting of

SBSTTA. In addition, a report on the status of coral reefs in tsunami-affected countries will be published in early 2006. Other recent GCRMN publications include global and regional manuals on socio-economic monitoring.

26. A second edition of the *World Atlas of Mangroves* is being prepared as a joint initiative of FAO, the International Society for Mangrove Ecosystems (ISME), the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme, UNEP-WCMC and the International Network on Water, Environment and Health of the United Nations University (UNU-INWEH). The *World Atlas of Mangroves* was originally published in 1997. The second, updated edition is expected to be published in early 2006, and is aimed at managers, conservation experts and scientists.

27. The Coral Reefs Initiative for the South Pacific project (CRISP) has commenced its on-the-ground activities following a technical workshop, which took place in Noumea from 24 to 28 January 2005. CRISP will support protection and adaptive management of coral reefs as a basis for sustainable development. Financed by the French Development Agency, the French Global Environment Facility (FGEF) and a number of other partners, this US\$ 11 million initiative will support activities relating to marine protected areas, watershed management, economic valuation, coral reef restoration, and will integrate regional database and monitoring networks. Ten Pacific island countries and three French territories will be involved.

28. The Coral Reef Targeted Research and Capacity-Building for Management Programme has also commenced activities. This GEF/World Bank project aims to conduct specific, targeted research to fill critically important information gaps in the fundamental understanding of coral reef ecosystems so that management and policy interventions can be strengthened globally. The program has a strong capacity-building component through regional centres of excellence located in the Caribbean, East Africa, South-east Asia and Australasia (see www.gefcoral.org).

29. The Coral Reef Degradation in the Indian Ocean (CORDIO) Project and Status Report 2005 was released in November 2005. The report contains information on changes in coral reef health, including impacts of the Indian Ocean tsunami, as well as results from projects in three subregions (see <http://www.cordio.org>).

30. The International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN) continues its work on exchange of experience in good management practices in over 30 sites in the Wider Caribbean, Eastern Africa, South Asia, East Asian Seas and the South Pacific regions. Latest activities include training and education, activities to enhance tourism competitiveness, work on marine protected area management effectiveness, and coral reef mapping. Additional information is available at: www.icran.org.

31. The UNEP-WCMC has published a report entitled "Cold-water Coral Reefs: Out of Sight - No Longer Out of Mind". This report presents comprehensive and up-to-date information and data on cold-water coral reefs from around the world, and is available at: <http://www.unep-wcmc.org>.

Other living resources

32. The Secretariat participated in the sixth meeting of the United Nations Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and Law of the Sea (ICP), which took place in New York from 6 to 10 June 2005. In addition, the Secretariat took part in two side meetings that were held in the margins of the ICP. These were a meeting of the United Nations coordinating mechanism on oceans issues (UN-OCEANS) and a meeting of the Steering Committee of the Global Forum on Oceans and Coasts.

33. The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean has banned bottom-trawling at depths below 1,000 metres. The ban is the first of its kind in the world. Seabeds below 1,000 metres have not yet been exploited by Mediterranean fleets, and the ban is a precautionary measure to protect still intact and poorly understood deep-sea ecosystems. Over half the Mediterranean Sea is now protected from the impacts of bottom trawling.

34. *The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture* (SOFIA), the flagship publication of the FAO Fisheries Department, is now available in fact-sheet format. GreenFacts, a non-profit organization, compiled the content of the 2004 English version of SOFIA into a collection of reader-friendly summaries (see <http://www.greenfacts.org/fisheries/index.htm>).

35. The Census of Marine Life is a growing global network of researchers in more than 70 countries engaged in a 10-year initiative to assess and explain the diversity, distribution and abundance of marine life in the oceans. Information can be found at: <http://www.coml.org/coml.htm>, while the associated Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS) is available at: <http://www.iobis.org/>.

36. Calculations of the marine trophic index (one of the global indicators approved by the Conference of the Parties for immediate testing in decision VII/30) are now available on the website of the University of British Columbia's Sea Around Us Project (www.seaaroundus.org). Time-series data of the marine trophic index and the related fishing-in-balance (FiB) index are available for each country's exclusive economic zone for the years 1950 to 2001. The time-series data will be periodically updated until 2010. The development of this indicator also implements activity (a) under operational objective 2.1 of the programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity.

3. *Marine and coastal protected areas*

37. Aspects of decision VII/5 relating to marine and coastal protected areas (MCPAs) are being implemented through a number of ongoing activities, some of which are summarized below:

38. The First International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC 1) took place in Geelong, Australia, from 23 to 27 October 2005. The major outputs of the Congress are summarized at <http://www.impaccongress.org/registration.htm>. These outputs will contribute towards the development of further technical advice on network design and in particular ecological coherence of networks (requested in paragraph 37 of decision VII/5).

39. The Secretariat participated in the following meetings:

(a) Fourth Meeting of Experts on Marine and Coastal Protected Areas in the South East Pacific, held from 25 to 27 August 2004 in Guayaquil, Ecuador, in order to enhance collaboration between the Secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS) in the context of the existing Memorandum of Cooperation;

(b) The World Heritage Marine Policy Workshop, held in Paris, on 9 and 10 September 2004, in order to promote closer collaboration between the Secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the World Heritage Convention (WHC).

40. The two background studies on marine areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction were prepared for the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Protected Areas, held in Montecatini, Italy, from 13 to 17 June 2005, have now been published in the CBD Technical Series (see <http://www.biodiv.org/programmes/outreach/awareness/ts.asp>). The first study explored scientific aspects of biodiversity in marine areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction (CBD Technical Report No. 20),

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while the second study provided an analysis of the international legal regime in these areas (CBD Technical Report No. 19). This work jointly implements decisions VII/5 and VII/28.

41. The first version of the marine protected areas database called for in paragraph 38 of decision VII/5 is now available on-line at <http://www.mpaglobal.org/index.php?action=search>. According to the accompanying analysis, 0.6% of the world's oceans are currently protected, comprising a total area of 2.2 million km². The vast majority of marine and coastal protected areas are located along the coasts, with approximately 6% of the world's territorial seas now protected. Marine protection has increased over the last century at a rate of approximately 35% per year. The work to develop the database was undertaken by the Fisheries Centre of the University of British Columbia in collaboration with UNEP-WCMC and WWF.

42. The UNEP Caribbean Environment Programme is continuing its training-of-trainers programme in marine protected area management. To date, four regional courses have been organized and two additional courses will be organized in 2005 and 2007 respectively, with local follow-up training conducted by the participants. The aim of this activity is to increase the number of trained marine protected area managers in the Caribbean region. The training materials are on-line at <http://www.cep.unep.org/issues/MPA%20manual.php>.

43. A report titled *Marine Protected Areas: Benefits and Costs for Islands* has been jointly produced by the CORDIO Project, The Nature Conservancy, the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas and WWF. The report is available on-line at <http://www.icran.org/>.

44. IUCN has published a book called *How is Your MPA doing? A Guidebook of Natural and Social Indicators for Evaluating Marine Protected Area Management Effectiveness*. The guidebook provides a field-tested, step-by-step process for planning and evaluating the management effectiveness of MPAs, and can be ordered from <http://www.iucn.org/bookstore/>.

4. Mariculture

45. In response to paragraph 47 of decision VII/5, the Secretariat has collected case-studies on mariculture and is disseminating them through the clearing-house mechanism.

46. To promote use of techniques that minimize adverse impacts of mariculture on marine and coastal biological diversity, FAO, in collaboration with international experts on marine ranching, has produced a technical paper on marine ranching, addressing genetic resource management, evaluation, cost effectiveness, and biodiversity concerns.^{2/} The paper also addresses policies and good management practices for coastal shrimp farming.^{3/} Additionally, FAO continues work on assessment and management of environmental impacts of coastal aquaculture, by supporting present efforts of the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP) on Environmental Risk Assessment and Communication in Coastal Aquaculture.

47. FAO has developed new series of fact sheets on aquaculture, which will include specific subject information and profiles supported by graphics, including geographic information systems maps. The fact sheets contain a synthesis of information tailored to illustrate the various characteristics of each

^{2/} Marine Ranching. FAO Fisheries Technical Paper N. 429. D.M. Bartley and K.M. Leber (eds). FAO Rome, Italy, 2004.

^{3/} World Bank/WWF/NACA/FAO Consortium Program "Shrimp Farming and the Environment" <http://www.enaca.org/modules/news/index.php?storytopic=2&storynum=10>.

aquaculture subject. ^{4/} A number of other publications of relevance to aquaculture, including reports of relevant expert meetings and workshops, as well as technical guidance related to aquaculture, are also available on the FAO website. ^{5/}

5. *Alien species and genotypes*

48. The Secretariat in collaboration with the Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP) and the UNEP regional seas programme held a workshop to develop a joint work programme on marine invasive alien species with key stakeholders and organizations. This workshop, which took place at the Secretariat offices in Montreal from 27 to 29 June 2005, identified gaps in activities relating to marine invasive species and developed a programme to address those gaps. This work will contribute towards the establishment of an initiative for the management of marine invasive alien species in accordance with activity (a) of operational objective 5.2 in the elaborated programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity (decision VII/5, annex I). The report of the meeting was presented to SBSTTA at its eleventh as an information document (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA11/INF/10). The workshop also responded to a request in decision VI/23*, paragraph 26 (e), which calls for the development of a joint work programme through the GISP partnership network among the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Ramsar Convention, the International Maritime Organization, the International Plant Protection Convention and other relevant bodies.

49. To maintain an incident list on introductions of alien species, FAO has expanded its Database on Introductions of Aquatic Species (DIAS) and has convened expert groups ^{6/} and published reviews ^{7/} to address further how to use responsibly and control alien species in fisheries and aquaculture.

50. At its fifty-third session, in July 2005, the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) adopted guidelines for uniform implementation of the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments (BWM Convention). The guidelines adopted cover ballast water management equivalent compliance; approval of ballast water management systems; ballast water management and development of ballast water management plans; ballast water exchange and the procedure for approval of ballast water management systems that make use of active substances. Further information may be found at www.imo.org.

^{4/} The fact sheets are accessible at:
<http://www.fao.org/figis/servlet/static?dom=root&xml=aquaculture/index.xml>.

^{5/} The publications are available at:
http://www.fao.org/fi/eims_search/advanced_s_result.asp?title=aquaculture|acuicultura&owner=serv_4&sortorder=3&form_c=A_ND&lang=en.

* 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 the decision (see UNEP/CBD/COP/6/20, paras. 294-324).

^{6/} International Mechanisms for the Control and Responsible Use of Alien Species in Aquatic Ecosystems. FAO Non-Serial Publication. D.M. Bartley et al. (eds and comps). FAO Rome, Italy. 2004. Building capacity to combat impacts of aquatic invasive alien species and associated trans-boundary pathogens in ASEAN countries. ASEAN/NACA/FAO et. al. workshop, Penang, Malaysia, 12-16 July 2004. Report of the Joint APEC/FAO/NACA/OIE/DOF-Thailand/INP/CONAPESCA/SAGARPA Workshops. APEC FWG 01/2002. NACA, Bangkok, Thailand. 203 p.

^{7/} Briggs et al. 2004. Arthur, J.R., M.G. Bondad-Reantaso, F.C. Baldock and C.J. Rodgers. 2004. Manual on risk analysis for the safe movement of aquatic animals (FWG/01/2002). APEC/DoF/NACA/FAO, 59 p. FAO Fisheries Technical Paper Nos. 402 (2000), 402/1 (2001), 402/2 (2001), 451 (2004). Arthur, J.R. and M.G. Bondad-Reantaso (eds). 2004. Capacity and Awareness Building on Import Risk Analysis (IRA) for Aquatic Animals. Proceedings of the Workshops held from 1 to 6 April 2002 in Bangkok, Thailand and 12-17 August 2002 in Mazatlan, Mexico.

51. The GEF-UNDP-IMO Global Ballast Water Management Programme (GloBallast), aimed at assisting developing countries in implementing measures to minimize the adverse impacts of aquatic invasive species transferred by ships in ballast water, has begun its second phase, following the initial, successful, execution of the five-year US\$ 10.2 million project by IMO. The preparatory phase of the new project, to be known as GloBallast Partnerships, was initiated on 1 April 2005 with funding of around US\$ 700,000 from the Global Environment Facility (GEF). This preparatory project will be executed by IMO over a period of 18 months and is expected to provide the groundwork for the full-scale GloBallast Partnerships project. The main objective of the full-scale project will be to assist particularly vulnerable countries and/or regions to enact legal and policy reforms to meet the objectives of the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, adopted by IMO in February 2004 (see www.imo.org).

6. General

52. The Secretariat participated in the meeting of UN-Oceans, which took place at the offices of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on 25-26 January 2005. Several task forces were set up at this meeting. The Secretariat is coordinating the work of the Task Force on Biodiversity in Marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction, which has, *inter alia*, reviewed background documents relating to this issue prepared for the Ad hoc Open-ended Working Group on Protected Areas.

53. The Convention Secretariat, the UNEP regional seas programme and the Black Sea Commission collaborated to hold a Joint Workshop of the Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy. The workshop aimed to enhance synergy and cooperation by aligning targets, indicators and activities of the draft Black Sea Biodiversity and Landscape Conservation Strategy with those of the Convention on Biological Diversity. This workshop is one of the joint activities supported by the UNEP regional seas programme as part of its collaborative activities with the Convention Secretariat.

V. AGRICULTURAL BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

54. In decision VI/5, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to undertake, in collaboration with other institutions, the necessary steps for the full implementation of the programme of work as contained in table 1 of annex I to the decision and the reporting schedule in table 2 of the same annex. In paragraph 6 of the same decision, the Executive Secretary was requested, in collaboration with FAO, to prepare, in time for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting, syntheses of relevant studies and an analysis of gaps and opportunities in the implementation of the programme of work.

55. In paragraph 13 of the same decision, the Conference of the Parties established an International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Soil Biodiversity as a cross-cutting initiative within the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity, and invited FAO and other relevant organizations, to facilitate and coordinate this initiative.

56. In paragraph 4 of decision VII/3, the Conference of the Parties requested SBSTTA to consider the report of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on the Potential Impacts of Genetic Use Restriction Technologies (GURTs) on Smallholder Farmers, Indigenous and Local Communities and Farmer's Rights at its tenth meeting with a view to providing advice to the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, also taking into account decision VII/16 on Article 8(j) and related provisions.

57. In response to these decisions, the activities described in the following paragraphs were carried out. It should, however, activities relating to agricultural biodiversity continue to be constrained by a staff responsible for the programme of work.

58. FAO, as the lead implementing partner for the programme of work, has prepared a detailed progress report on these and related activities for the information of the Conference of the Parties. Major points noted are:

(a) Most of the FAO work integrating biodiversity into the food and agriculture agendas at intergovernmental level has been done through its intergovernmental Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (the “Commission”). Following a decision from the FAO Conference in 1995, the Commission now deals with all biodiversity of relevance to food and agriculture. It has 166 Member Countries. It develops and monitors global instruments, such as the Global Strategy for the Management of Farm Animal Genetic Resources and the Global Strategy for Plant Genetic Resources. It oversees FAO’s cooperation with the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and regularly receives reports from international organizations working in the field of biodiversity for food and agriculture. At its tenth meeting the Commission noted that FAO was a major player in the CBD’s programmes of work, in relation to agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

(b) The ongoing work of the Commission is relevant in considering the status and trends of agricultural biodiversity. The Commission oversees the development of two major assessments in this field:

- (i) The first Report on the State of the World’s Farm Animal Genetic Resources - the first-ever country-driven assessment on farm animal diversity will describe the current situation of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture, at the global level, and identify the gaps and needs for their conservation and sustainable utilization. The number of country reports already finalized is 165. One major objective of the report is to analyse and describe the state of animal genetic resources, their status and trends, and on their contribution to food, including nutrition, agriculture, and rural development. This would be adopted in 2007 at the First International Technical Conference which would be organized by FAO and hosted by Switzerland; and
- (ii) The second report on the State of the World’s Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, expected to be finalized by 2008. its preparation is expected to reach a similar number of country reports as previously mentioned. The second report will include a chapter addressing the contribution of plant genetic resources to food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture. The Commission is in the process of establishing a multi-year programme of work to organize its future work, including strengthening mutual cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity;

(c) The Commission agreed that its Secretariat, in cooperation with the relevant services and “Priority Areas for Interdisciplinary Action” (PAIAs), under which the Interdepartmental Working Group on Biodiversity operates in FAO, should submit a multi-year programme of work (MYPOW) for consideration at its eleventh session. The Commission Secretariat is consulting with the regional groups about their ideas, in the preparation of the first draft of the multi-year programme of work, which should take into account inputs from the intergovernmental technical working groups on plants and animals, in their fields of expertise. A second draft will then be prepared by that Secretariat, for consideration by

regional groups. In the light of comments from the regional groups, a final draft will be prepared for submission to the eleventh session of the Commission (late 2006);

(d) Through the multi-year programme of work, the Commission should implement its full mandate (Conference resolution 3/95) in the medium and longer term. The Commission Secretariat was requested to prepare a document on the status and needs of sectors of genetic resources for food and agriculture, other than plants and animals, including the various areas of biodiversity for food and agriculture, and the agro-ecosystem approach to genetic resource conservation and cross-sectorial matters, identifying the responsibilities of relevant FAO services and PAIAs in these fields, and submit this to the Commission at its eleventh session.;

(e) In preparation for the eleventh session of the Commission, FAO is preparing, with a number of international partner organizations, a series of background documents on the status and needs of sectoral and cross-sectoral matters that have linkages with the various assessments foreseen in the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity under the Convention;

(f) With regard to cooperation with the Convention on the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity, the Commission recommended that FAO work closely with the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and play a leading role in the in-depth review of the programme of work, which will be considered at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in 2008. It noted that the Convention's review process will not commence until around 2006, and that the Commission would consider any preliminary findings at its eleventh session;

(g) The final report of the Commission's tenth regular session (see in particular sections VIII and X of the report - CGRFA-10/04/REP) is available at <ftp://ext-ftp.fao.org/ag/cgrfa/cgrfa10/r10repe.pdf>,

(h) FAO is currently undertaking numerous activities on assessments of biodiversity for food and agriculture, from different angles. Examples of this work include:

- (i) The preparation of the second State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Country reports will be submitted in 2006, and the consolidated State of the World report will be ready in April 2008;
- (ii) The preparation of the first State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources will be presented to the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group for Animal Genetic Resources of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in the first semester of 2006, and will be negotiated in an International Technical Conference for Animal Genetic Resources in 2007;
- (iii) A first report presenting a rapid assessment of the State of the World's Pollinators; and
- (iv) The Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) (produced since 1946, every five to ten years);

(i) These assessments undertaken by FAO are mostly the result of very extensive consultations with national partners. The information used to prepare the above-mentioned reports are a result of country reports that are submitted to FAO in a timely manner, so that their content can be compiled and consolidated into a single report (e.g. the State Of The World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources (AnGR), Global Forest Resources

Assessment). In addition, the preparation of country reports is part of a process in building national-level capacity;

(j) FAO has also put out calls for case studies, for example those on soil biodiversity (available at: <http://www.fao.org/ag/agl/agll/soilbiod/cases.stm>), and on pollinators and pollination, which provided an important contribution to the compilation of the State of the World's Pollinators. FAO furthermore has information collected in databases and statistics pertinent to different aspects of biodiversity for food and agriculture – one example is in fisheries: <http://www.fao.org/waicent/FaoInfo/Agricult/AGP/AGPS/pgr/ITWG3rd/pdf/p3w3E.pdf>

(k) The ongoing FAO activities on assessments of the different components of biodiversity for food and agriculture provide information that feeds into the assessment of agricultural biodiversity as requested by the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Furthermore, the ongoing work will be assessed as part of the process of developing the multi-year programme of work for the CGRFA at its eleventh session, in 2006.

59. In decision VII/3, the Conference of the Parties noted the postponement of the preparation of the final report of the comprehensive assessment of agricultural biological diversity and related milestones by two years (UNEP/CBD/COP/7/11, paragraph 66). This has implications for the timing of associated activities. In particular, finalization of activities in relation to paragraph 6 of decision VI/5 need to be harmonized with this work.

60. In addition to the aforementioned major activities under the leadership of FAO, the Secretariat has undertaken the following activities:

(a) The Executive Secretary, in collaboration with FAO, IPGRI and others, has undertaken the necessary consultations and brings forward options for consideration by the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties for a cross-cutting initiative on biodiversity for food and nutrition (decision VII/31, para. 7). Progress on this issue is reported in detail in a separate note (UNEP/CBD/COP8/26/Add.2);

(b) The Secretariat collaborates with the Economics and Trade Branch of UNEP on the development of an integrated assessment of trade-related policies in the agricultural sector. The aim of this initiative is to support the implementation of the Convention by building national institutional and governmental capacities in developing countries for assessing, designing and implementing policies that maximize development gains from trade-related policies in the agricultural sector while minimizing the impact on agricultural biodiversity;

(c) The Executive Secretary submitted to FAO a summary report on the activities undertaken within the framework of the Convention on (i) monitoring the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and (ii) preparation of the second report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources. This report was considered by the third meeting of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture;

(d) The Executive Secretary prepared a progress report on the status of the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Soil Biodiversity which was considered at SBSTTA10 (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/10/14). This resulted in SBSTTA recommendation X/10;

(e) The Executive Secretary prepared a note on the report of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on the Potential Impacts of Genetic Use Restriction Technologies (GURTs) on Smallholder Farmers, Indigenous and Local Communities and Farmers' Rights, which was considered at SBSTTA10 (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/10/15). This resulted in SBSTTA recommendation X/11. This issue will be considered further by the Ad Hoc Open Ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions in January 2006;

(f) The Secretariat conducted a regional workshop for Africa on synergy among the Rio Conventions and other biodiversity-related conventions in implementing the programmes of work on dry and sub-humid lands and agricultural biodiversity, which is referred to further under decision VII/2;

(g) The Secretariat participated in the 36th Biennial IFAP World Farmers' Congress, which took place on 2 June 2004, in Washington, D.C., and delivered a statement on 'How to Strengthen Farmers Involvement in Conserving Biodiversity'. This was a significant opportunity to engage the private sector in relevant issues and participation was followed by an indication from IFAP that the body will become further involved with the Convention process including through participation in relevant meetings;

(h) The Secretariat contributed to, and reviewed, the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment chapters on food and cultivated systems. Furthermore, the contributions of the Secretariat to the drylands chapter of the Conditions and Trends volume of the Assessment contained review work addressing agro-biodiversity aspects in drylands;

(i) A side-event organized by the Ecoagriculture Partners during the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties emphasized the importance of agricultural biological diversity to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity per se, and especially to food security. IPGRI and collaborators hosted a side-event entitled "Management of agricultural biodiversity for sustainable development: towards a research agenda" and another to inform on the launch of the Global Crop Diversity Trust;

(j) A member of the Secretariat attended the Conference on Water for Food and Ecosystems, held in The Hague from 31 January to 5 February, 2005 and organized by the FAO and the Government of the Netherlands. A presentation to the meeting was made on behalf of the Executive Secretary. This focussed on the relevance of the Convention on Biological Diversity (and in particular the programmes of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems and agricultural biodiversity) to the subject matter and objectives of the Conference. It was noted that the topics being discussed at the Conference represented an excellent and comprehensive example of the implementation of these programmes of work at the sector and field levels;

(k) The Secretariat continues to contribute to the CGIAR Comprehensive Assessment of Water Management in Agriculture. A member of the Secretariat attended a workshop in Montpellier, France, from 5 to 8 June, to finalize the outline for the chapter on "ecosystems" and to provide relevant technical inputs and case studies. It was agreed that the Secretariat would produce a short explanation of "biodiversity" and how it related to the subjects in question in the opening section on "key messages". The Secretariat promoted biodiversity more as a cross-cutting theme and recommended it not be dealt with as a separate subject. Overall, the assessment is drawing the conclusion that "diversity" is generally good, for a number of related reasons, and that this message should be emphasized in all sections where appropriate. Linkages between the Comprehensive Assessment and the Convention, in particular the programmes of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems and agricultural biodiversity, were also explained. The Secretariat subsequently accepted an invitation to join the Assessment more formally as a "co-sponsor". Good progress in this work has resulted in the proposal by the CGIAR that the

relevant topics be broadened, in collaboration with the Secretariat, in a more detailed document on biodiversity and agriculture, in particular in relation to irrigation.

61. The Secretariat notes that the activities of the FAO, and related partners, although deviating by necessity from the original proposed schedule (decision VI/5 annex and tables), are progressing well. Activities are in place that, over the next two years, will enable the comprehensive assessment of the status and trends in agricultural biodiversity, and related assessments, the analysis of case-studies and gaps and opportunities, clarification of capacity-building needs and opportunities, and identification of key actions for mainstreaming.
