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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Ninth meeting

Bonn, 19–30 May 2008

Items 3.2, 3.6, and 4.5 of the provisional agenda*

CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES – PROGRESS REPORT AND CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE ACTION

Note by the Executive Secretary

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present note describes progress made on various items of the provisional agenda for the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-9) that are not otherwise reported in the relevant documentation for that meeting. Accordingly, descriptions focus on progress and considerations of proposals requested by the twelfth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) (see UNEP/CBD/COP/9/2) on the following cross-cutting issues:

- (a) Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (item 3.2);
- (b) Ecosystem approach (item 3.6); and
- (c) Biodiversity and climate change (item 4.5);

2. The note also provides a summary of progress made since the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties on a number of issues that are not on the provisional agenda of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, including:

- (a) Impact assessment;
- (b) Tourism; and
- (c) Sustainable use.

3. The Conference of the Parties may wish to:

- (a) Take note of the progress under the cross-cutting issues;

* UNEP/CBD/COP/9/1.

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(b) Consider and endorse the relevant recommendations on these matters of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), in the reports of its twelfth and thirteenth meetings (UNEP/CBD/COP/9/2 and UNEP/CBD/COP/9/3) and reproduced in the compilation of draft decisions for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties (UNEP/CBD/COP/9/1/Add.2).

I. GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR PLANT CONSERVATION (ITEM 3.2)

1. In accordance with decision VII/31, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice undertook an in-depth review of the implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, based on background documentation, expert inputs and scientific dialogue, resulting in recommendation XII/2 (UNEP/CBD/COP/9/2, annex I).

2. In paragraph 2 of that recommendation, SBSTTA requested the Executive Secretary to develop, for the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in collaboration with the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation (GPPC), the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and relevant organizations, and taking into account contributions from Parties, other Governments and relevant stakeholders, a “Plant Conservation Report” that could provide inputs to the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook and serve as a communication and awareness-raising tool on the implementation of the Strategy.

3. In response to this request, the Executive Secretary, working closely with GPPC, UNEP-WCMC and Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI), organized a meeting of a voluntary drafting group held in the Glasnevin National Botanical Gardens, Dublin, from 28 to 30 November 2007. Meeting participants agreed on contents and possible case-studies for this report and developed the outline for the Plant Conservation Report. Further, a call was made by the Chair of GPPC for volunteers to draft the elements and outlines for the various targets; agree on time lines and oversee the production of the report.

4. The voluntary group consisted of members of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity; the GPPC Chair; BGCI; IUCN; PlantLife International; UNEP-WCMC; South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI South Africa); Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh (UK); and three GSPC focal points (the United Kingdom, Ireland and Canada). The draft Plant Conservation Report will be made available as an information document for the Conference of the Parties (UNEP/CBD/COP/9/INF/25).

5. In addition, the Secretariat, with continuing support from Botanic Gardens Conservation International, has worked closely with various Parties, including Japan and Mexico, and agencies to strengthen national implementation of the Strategy.

II. ECOSYSTEM APPROACH (ITEM 3.6)

6. In decision VII/11, paragraph 12, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to assess the application of the ecosystem approach, in the light of experiences gained from activities under paragraphs 8, 9 and 10 of the same decision, for the consideration of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice prior to the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. In paragraph 6 of decision VIII/10, the Conference of the Parties decided that the application of the ecosystem approach would be among the items for in-depth review at its ninth meeting.

7. In response to these decisions, in collaboration with partners and referring to annex III to decision VIII/15, which provides guidelines for the review of the programmes of work of the Convention, the Executive Secretary has undertaken the following activities:

(a) Prepared information documents on: (i) information available from the third national reports (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/12/INF/1); (ii) consideration of the relevance of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment to the application of the ecosystem approach (pursuant to decision VIII/9, paragraphs 2 and 11) (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/12/INF/4); (iii) a review of recent activities of major partners, initiatives and organizations in the application and/or further refinement of the ecosystem approach (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/12/INF/2); (iv) barriers to the application of the ecosystem approach (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/12/INF/5); (v) the current status of development of the Ecosystem Approach Sourcebook and case-study database (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/12/INF/6); (vi) examples of the application of the ecosystem approach in the programmes of work of the Convention (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/12/INF/3); and (vii) the findings of a workshop on the ecosystem approach, protected areas and customary practice in small islands held in Bangkok from 12 to 16 December 2006 (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/12/INF/7);

(b) Prepared a document synthesizing this information, the extent of implementation of requests of the Conference of the Parties in decisions V/6, VII/11 and relevant paragraphs in other decisions, how the principles, operational guidance and implementation guidelines have been applied, and opportunities to further enhance application (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/12/2).

8. These documents were considered at the twelfth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, resulting in recommendation XII/1. In paragraph 2 of that recommendation, SBSTTA requested the Executive Secretary to undertake various activities (as listed below) and report on the progress on these activities of the Conference of the Parties to its ninth meeting. In response to this request, the Executive Secretary has undertaken the following activities:

(a) Regarding paragraph 2 (b), updated the Sourcebook through adding links to tools developed by other agencies;

(b) Regarding paragraph 2 (c), written to the organizations concerned and held a teleconference with key partners on 30 November, 2007;

(c) Regarding paragraph 2 (e), enhanced attention to the application of the ecosystem approach in regional training workshops on the development of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans; and

(d) Regarding paragraph 2 (f), drafted appropriate text for inclusion in his report to the United Nations General Assembly and informed the Commission on Sustainable Development of the relevant outcomes of recommendation XII/1.

III BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE (ITEM 4.5)

9. In its decision VII/15, the Conference of the Parties requested the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) to consider the findings of the global Assessment on Peatlands, Biodiversity and Climate Change undertaken by Wetlands International and the Global Environment Centre. At its twelfth meeting, in paragraph 2 (b) of recommendation XII/5, SBSTTA welcomed the findings of the of the Assessment and, in subparagraph 2 (b) (ii), requested the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the secretariats of relevant multilateral environment agreements and other relevant partners, to review opportunities for further action to support the conservation and sustainable use of the biodiversity of tropical forested peatlands as well as other wetlands, and to report on progress to the ninth meeting of Conference of the Parties.

10. In response to this request the Executive Secretary reports the following progress.

A. *Tropical forested peatlands*

1. *Status and trends*

11. Tropical forested peatlands have been described primarily in South-East Asia and are of critical global importance for the conservation of biological diversity, containing many unique species of plants and animals and providing very important ecosystem services, including carbon storage, flood control and water supply. They are also of critical importance for livelihood support to local communities.

12. An assessment of the status and trends of tropical forested peatlands revealed that the original area of such forests in South-East Asia was about 30 million hectares, with losses over the last 20 years of an estimated 20 to 24 million hectares. In terms of threats, approximately 12 million hectares have been cleared and drained and a further 8-12 million hectares logged or degraded. Furthermore, in the past 10 years nearly three million hectares have burnt, leading to large-scale transboundary smoke haze, which has had serious environmental, economic and health impacts. Greenhouse-gas emissions from drainage and fires in South-East Asia is estimated to contribute about 2 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide per annum or equivalent to about 8 per cent of global fossil-fuel emissions.

2. *Promotion of the assessment on peatlands biodiversity and climate change*

13. Following its consideration at the twelfth meeting of SBSTTA, the Assessment was promoted at a number of national and international meetings in different parts of the world. The Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was notified of the completion of the report and the associated recommendations from the twelfth meeting of SBSTTA. A reference to the assessment and its relevance to climate change/biodiversity links was made in the high-level statement delivered by the Executive Secretary at the plenary of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC. The Executive Secretary, together with Wetlands International and the Global Environment Centre, promoted the findings during the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC through a press conference and side-event. The Ramsar Convention Asian regional meeting in January 2008 highlighted the importance of peatlands and recommended further action, including a resolution of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention on peatlands and climate change. The Secretariat has also begun, in collaboration with relevant partners, a review of progress and programmes providing additional scientific and policy support to linking biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in wetlands with activities in response to climate change. A number of ongoing processes have also been identified. At a policy level, for example, the first Asia-Pacific Water Summit (3-4 December, 2007) called for the enhanced adoption of integrated water resource management when considering water, disaster risk reduction and climate-change adaptation. Furthermore, the World Bank is drafting a Peatland Land Use Change Strategy with a particular focus on Indonesia.

3. *Promoting the incorporation of tropical forested peatlands within the mechanism being developed under the UNFCCC for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD)*

14. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity together with the Global Environment Centre created awareness of the findings of the Assessment as they relate to tropical forested peatlands during the high-level meeting on forests and climate change held in Australia in July 2007 through posters, presentations and interventions during the meeting.

15. In August 2007, the Global Environment Centre made a presentation to the Coalition of Rainforest Nations in Indonesia to encourage the inclusion of tropical forested peatlands in the proposal by the group for consideration at the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

16. In December 2007, the Executive Secretary circulated the Executive Summary of the Global Assessment on Peatlands Biodiversity and Climate Change to all Parties to the Convention on Climate Change attending the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention. On 15 December, the Conference of the Parties adopted a decision to guide the development of the REDD mechanism in the period 2007-2009, including an annex on demonstration projects that makes specific reference to the relevant provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The decision adopted enables the inclusion of tropical forested peatlands within the mechanism.

4. *Promoting the implementation of the ASEAN Peatland Management Strategy (2006-2020)*

17. In November 2006, the 10 member countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) adopted the ASEAN Peatland Management Strategy 2006-2020 (APMS) to act as a framework to guide the sustainable management of tropical peatlands in South-East Asia. In response to the APMS, the member countries are undertaking assessments of their peatland resources and/or developing national action plans on peatlands.

18. Since October 2007, the ASEAN Secretariat and the Global Environment Centre with assistance of the ASEAN-Australia Development Cooperation Programme (AADCP), have been supporting member countries in the further development of their National Action Plans. Peatland surveys have been undertaken in Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia and Lao People's Democratic Republic. Consultations have been organized in Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam to assess the progress of the national action plans and support their further development.

5. *Securing financial resources to support the implementation of the ASEAN Peatland Management Strategy*

19. The ASEAN Secretariat and ASEAN member countries, with support from the Global Environment Centre (GEC) and the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD), reformulated a proposal for rehabilitation and sustainable use of tropical forested peatlands in South-East Asia and submitted it to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in September 2007. In November 2007, the GEF Council approved an allocation of US\$ 4.5 million for the project, subject to development of a full project document and securing other co-financing resources.

20. The Conference of Parties to the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution was held in September 2007 in Bangkok. The Conference recognized the importance of the sustainable management of peatlands to prevent regular episodes of peatland fires and associated haze. An ASEAN haze fund has been established under the agreement. The option to channel funds for prevention and control of fires in forested peatlands in the region were reviewed. Countries in the region have contributed to the fund, and further contributions are being sought.

21. In July 2007, Australia announced that \$3 million Australian dollars (\$) would be allocated in 2007-2008 to support work in Indonesia to address fires in peatlands. Subsequently, in September 2007, an \$A 100 million Kalimantan Forest and Climate Initiative was launched at the time of the meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meeting to support longer-term work to conserve peatland and other forests in Indonesia.

6. *Developing new financing mechanisms to support the conservation and sustainable use of the biodiversity of tropical forested peatlands*

22. The World Bank Forest Partnership Fund was launched in Bali on 11 December 2007 and is envisaged to become operational in 2008. An indicative target of US\$ 100 million has been set to provide support for capacity-building in developing countries related to reduction of emissions from deforestation. In addition a number of demonstration projects are envisaged to be implemented over the

next five years. Within the World Bank Fund, options for maximizing biodiversity co-benefits will be fully considered.

23. In partnership with BioX, Wetlands International has launched the Global Peatland Fund in December 2007, with the aim of generating verified emission reduction credits (VERs) from avoided emissions from restored tropical peatlands. It is hoped that this will generate interest from the carbon market in investing in peatland restoration. Plans are being prepared to raise funding for methodology development/accreditation and for some pilots in Kalimantan and Sumatra.

7. *Minimizing the conflicts between conservation of tropical forested peatlands and the production of palm oil and related biofuels*

24. One of the main root causes for conversion of tropical forested peatlands in recent years has been the growing global demand for vegetable oils, especially palm oil. Large areas of tropical peatlands in South-East Asia have been cultivated with palm oil with demand for oil being enhanced by the growing market for biofuels. Conversion of forested peatlands to palm oil plantations leads to large-scale loss of biodiversity and emissions of greenhouse gases. Two meetings were organized in the period to reduce the impact of palm-oil plantations on biodiversity and climate change. A technical workshop in October 2007 in Kuala Lumpur brought together climate, biodiversity and plantation experts to assess the issue and recommend steps to minimize impacts. In November 2007, the round-table on sustainable palm oil adopted new principles and criteria for sustainable palm oil, which included guidance to avoid the conversion of peatlands.

25. The International Mire Conservation Group prepared an assessment of the impact of development of biofuel feedstocks on peatlands in different parts of the world. They also assessed the sustainability of direct extraction of peat for fuel.

8. *Enhancing activities for the restoration of tropical forested peatlands*

26. Pilot activities to support the restoration of tropical forested peatlands have been initiated in several countries in South-East Asia in recent years, including Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand. In 2007, the Netherlands Government extended funding for the Central Kalimantan Peatlands Programme coordinated by Wetlands International in conjunction with a range of other partners. Work to identify priority sites for conservation of peatland biodiversity in South-East Asia was initiated with support from the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity.

B. *Activities of the Ramsar Secretariat and Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP)*

27. Immediately prior to the STRP mid-term workshops in March 2007, the STRP and the secretariats of the Ramsar Convention and the Convention on Biological Diversity held a joint expert workshop on “Wetlands, water, biodiversity and climate change” to review current knowledge and issues and identify future priorities for attention. The unedited draft report of this workshop was launched jointly by the Executive Secretary and Secretary-General of the Ramsar Convention on the occasion of International Biodiversity Day on 22 May, 2007, and it is available at: www.biodiv.org/doc/case-studies/wtr/cs-wtr-ramsar-en.pdf. The expert meeting stressed the need for better communication and public awareness on wetlands, water and climate change. The report has already had a strong influence on STRP, including the strengthened adoption of climate change as an emerging issue in its further work.

28. The STRP revisited issues surrounding wetlands and climate change at its mid-term workshops in March 2007, and the Panel agreed to establish an additional thematic work area on this emerging topic, to be led by the STRP Chair. Some initial work has been undertaken as discussed at the fourteenth meeting of STRP, held from 28 January to 1 February 2008, and the Panel will be developing the scope, terms of reference, and proposed priority tasks for this work area in preparation for proposing a more comprehensive suite of activities in the next triennium, including how best to engage in future with the

technical processes under the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the Convention on Climate Change. It is anticipated that the Panel may consider bringing forward a further draft resolution on these matters to the Standing Committee and the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention.

29. The STRP considered a number of products at its fourteenth meeting including:

(a) The proceedings report of the joint CBD-Ramsar workshop (see paragraph 27 above), which will be further reviewed, updated and include more information on adaptation and will be published as a joint CBD/Ramsar Technical Report;

(b) A report on simple methodologies for assessing hydrological vulnerability of wetlands to climate change scenarios (being prepared for STRP by the United Kingdom Centre for Ecology & Hydrology), also expected to be issued as a Ramsar Technical Report;

(c) A review discussion paper (prepared by invited expert Kevin Erwin) on “Climate change and wetland restoration”; and

(d) A Ramsar Technical Report on “Wetland vulnerability assessment” (STRP work carried over from the previous triennium for completion).

30. The discussions at the fourteenth meeting of STRP on Earth observation and the potential for establishing a partnership approach for a global wetland observing system were also relevant to climate change issues. STRP has already identified that there is a dearth of consolidated information on the role and importance of different types of wetlands in carbon sequestration and storage, which is also essential to setting the recent findings about such roles in South-East Asian peatlands within their global context.

31. STRP, at its fourteenth meeting, also considered the related issue of biofuels in its proposals for future work.

C. Options for further action

32. Options for further action to support the conservation and sustainable use of the biodiversity of tropical forested peatlands, as well as other wetlands, include for the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting to:

(a) *Encourage* Parties and other Governments to strengthen collaboration with the Ramsar Convention and interested organizations in the implementation of the Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands;

(b) *Invite* the Global Environment Centre, subject to available resources, to translate and further disseminate the global Assessment on Peatlands Biodiversity and Climate Change;

(c) *Welcome* the initiative of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel of the Ramsar Convention to consider wetlands and climate change as an important emerging issue and invite the Secretariat and the Scientific and Technical Review Panel of the Ramsar Convention, subject to available resources, to further assess the contribution of biodiversity to climate-change mitigation and adaptation in peatlands and other wetlands;

(d) *Request* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention, and subject to available resources, to conduct an analysis of the potential of incentive measures and funding mechanisms under climate change adaptation and mitigation in supporting biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in wetlands; and

(e) *Invite* the Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention, at its tenth meeting, to consider appropriate action in relation to wetlands, water, biodiversity and climate change in view of the importance of this subject for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and human welfare.

IV. IMPACT ASSESSMENT

33. In decision VIII/28, the Conference of the Parties adopted voluntary guidelines on biodiversity-inclusive impact assessment and requested Parties to apply these, as appropriate, in the context of their implementation of paragraph 1 (a) of Article 14 of the Convention. The testing and application of guidance, and, where appropriate, the incorporation of elements into existing procedures and policies, is an ongoing process over many years. For this reason, no specific date has been set for reporting on the compilation of experiences made by Parties, other Governments, relevant organizations and practitioners in applying the guidelines to the circumstances in which they are to be applied. Accordingly, impact assessment does not feature as a distinct agenda item for the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The following paragraphs provide an update on significant developments since 2006.

34. A background document on the voluntary guidelines on biodiversity-inclusive impact assessment was prepared in collaboration with the Netherlands Commission on Environmental Assessment, published as CBD Technical Series No. 26 and distributed among participants at the 2006 annual meeting of the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA).

35. Significant progress in supporting countries on biodiversity-inclusive impact assessment was made through the capacity-building in biodiversity and impact assessment (CBBIA) project, a targeted capacity-building programme intended to promote good practice in biodiversity and impact assessment. CBBIA was supported by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 2003 to 2007. CBBIA worked through partnerships and networks in Asia, Southern Africa, Latin America and small island developing States to develop regionally tailored guidance on biodiversity-inclusive impact assessment in accordance with the provisions in decision VIII/28 (paras. 8 (a) and 12 (a)). The regional guides for Asia and southern Africa include advice on valuing biodiversity and ecosystem services and integrating them with impact assessment. CBBIA also included a small grants component to support country-level case-studies demonstrating good practice. Participating countries included Nepal, Bhutan, Cameroon and Nigeria. The capacity developed through CBBIA provides a foundation for further testing and implementing this guidance. The CBBIA toolkit ^{1/} provides information about the programme and its outputs. Discussions are being held with Parties about a possible follow-up project.

36. The Scientific and Technical Review Panel of the Ramsar Convention, in collaboration with BirdLife International, is currently preparing annotations to the guidelines contained in decision VIII/28 to facilitate their application within the context of the Ramsar Convention and the Convention on Migratory Species.

37. The second International Conference on Health and Biodiversity (COHAB 2), held in Galway, Ireland, from 25 to 28 February 2008 addressed the use of strategic assessments in each of its three workshop themes (disaster prevention, relief and recovery; food resources, diet and nutrition; emerging infectious diseases) to ensure that health-biodiversity relationships are appropriately considered and monitored in the design and development of plans, programmes and policies on health, social welfare and economic development. In addition to the main conference, a satellite workshop on strategic assessments discussed examples of best practice and lessons learned in strategic environmental assessments, root-causes analysis and health impact assessments worldwide.

V. BIODIVERSITY AND TOURISM

38. Following decision VII/14, and with the generous support of Germany, the Secretariat produced a Users' Manual on the CBD Guidelines on Biodiversity and Tourism Development (*Managing Tourism*

^{1/} See <http://www.iaia.org/modx/index.php?id=155>.

and Biodiversity), including a glossary and definitions of technical terms used in the Guidelines. In paragraph 12 of decision VII/14, the Executive Secretary is requested to report on progress made in the implementation and improvement of the Guidelines, including the development of relevant tools. Acting on this request, the Secretariat launched the Biodiversity and Tourism Network, an interactive Web-based platform that promotes exchanges between users of the CBD Guidelines (<http://tourism.cbd.int/>). The network was launched at the ITB Berlin tourism trade fair in March 2007, in an event with the Federal Ministry of Environment of Germany, on the occasion of Germany's launch of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) Consulting Unit for rehabilitation of tourism facilities affected by the 2004 tsunami in Thailand and Indonesia.

39. The CBD Guidelines were further incorporated in late 2006 into the UNEP/GEF project on sustainable tourism and managed by Ecological Tourism in Europe, in view of implementing the CBD Guidelines on Biodiversity and Tourism Development in tourism management plans in three Biosphere Reserves in Eastern Europe: Babia Gora, Šumava and Aggtelek. The Secretariat provided technical assistance, as the stated purpose of the project is to implement the CBD guidelines, and is part of the International Advisory Committee of the project. The United Nations Foundation (UNF) also used the Guidelines to produce international criteria for sustainable tourism. UNEP (as part of the Marrakech process), the Rainforest Alliance and IUCN have partnered with UNF in this initiative to undertake a project to identify a set of global sustainable tourism criteria as a way of facilitating a common platform for all actors working in this field.

40. The World Tourism Organization worked with the Secretariat in November 2007, to disseminate the Guidelines at the round table on "Challenges for Sustainable Tourism", on the margins of the seventeenth session of its General Assembly in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, further detailing an upcoming Memorandum of Understanding between UNWTO and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. In partnership with the tourism task force of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas, the Secretariat has prepared an article on protected-areas finance for the second meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Protected Areas, held in Rome from 11 to 18 February 2008 (part of CBD Technical Series No. 36 on the economic contribution of protected areas).

41. Responding to paragraph 11 of the decision, which calls for additional efforts to increase awareness and training on the Guidelines and their applicability to the tourism sector and to related decisions regarding indigenous and local communities, the Secretariat organized the first workshop of the "Indigenous communities, tourism and biodiversity: new information and web-based technologies" series, from 19 to 21 November 2007 in Sainte-Catherine de la Jacques Cartier, Canada. With the generous support of the Governments of Canada and Spain, this first workshop focusing on the Arctic region gathered representatives from five Arctic countries: Canada, Finland, Sweden, Russia, Mongolia, and United States of America (Alaska). The workshop aimed at building capacity of indigenous and local communities with regards to the use of web-based technologies and tools for marketing purposes; promoting knowledge on bio-diversity-based tourism in the Arctic region, and testing and assessing the Convention on Biological Diversity and other web tools available to indigenous and local communities. Additional workshops are scheduled to take place in Latin America, Africa, and the Pacific and Indian islands, with a focus on forest basins, islands, mountains, and dry and sub-humid areas.

VI. SUSTAINABLE USE

42. Further to decision VII/12, the third Workshop on Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity, with an emphasis on agricultural biodiversity, took place from 12 and 15 December 2006 in Nairobi, with the generous support of the Government of the Netherlands. Previous workshops were held in Moscow and Buenos Aires. The Nairobi meeting was organized in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), three centres of the Consultative Group on International

Agricultural Research (CGIAR) (ICRAF, Bioversity International and the Tropical Soil Biological and Fertility (TSBF) Institute of the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT)) and the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP), and attended by 14 official representatives of African countries nominated by Convention focal points (Cameroon, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Egypt, Kenya, Mali, Morocco, Niger, Seychelles, South Africa, Togo, Uganda, Zimbabwe) and 19 representatives of Governments, international research institutions, non-governmental organizations, farmers' federations, and indigenous and pastoralist people's organizations. Participants in the Workshop presented 19 case-studies on the sustainable use of biological resources in their countries, taking into consideration the topic of the Workshop and its focus on agriculture. All presentations have been included on the website: <http://www.biodiv.org/programmes/socio-eco/use/workshops.shtml>. The final output of the three workshops contributed to the in-depth review of the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity at the thirteenth meeting of SBSTTA.
