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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE  
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY  
Tenth meeting  
Nagoya, Japan, 18–29 October 2010  
Agenda item 8.1

### OTHER MATTERS

#### *Report on the activities of the United Nations Environment Programme in the area of biodiversity and biosafety*

*Note by the Executive Secretary*

1. The Executive Secretary is circulating herewith, for the information of participants in the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, a report of the United Nations Environment Programme in the area of biodiversity and biosafety.
2. The present report is being circulated in form and the languages in which it was received by the Secretariat of the Convention.

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**Conference of the Parties to the  
Convention on Biological Diversity  
Tenth meeting**  
18–29 October 2010  
Nagoya, Japan  
Item 8.1 of the provisional agenda\*  
**Other matters**

**Report on the activities of the United Nations Environment  
Programme in the area of biodiversity and biosafety**

**Introduction**

1. The present report has been prepared for the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. It provides information on activities of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in the areas of biodiversity and biosafety carried out during the period 2008–2010. In addition, it describes major UNEP activities in response to requests in decisions of the Conference of the Parties during the reporting period in the areas covered by the Convention.
2. Supplemental information in the form of publications and documents will be made available by UNEP to the Conference of the Parties at the meeting.

**I. Decisions by the Conference of the Parties**

3. The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its ninth meeting adopted a number of decisions specifically related to UNEP. In 17 decisions it requested UNEP to address issues relating to a global strategy for plant conservation; incentive measures for achieving the objectives of the Convention; the ecosystem approach; review of implementation of goals 2 and 3 of the strategic plan for the implementation of the Convention; access and benefit-sharing; technology transfer and cooperation; follow-up to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment; biodiversity and climate change; the biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands; protected areas; the biodiversity of inland waters; marine and coastal biodiversity; cooperation among multilateral environmental agreements and others; promoting the engagement of cities and local authorities; operation of the convention; and scientific and technical cooperation and the Convention's clearing-house mechanism.

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\* UNEP/CBD/COP/10/1.

## **II. Response by the United Nations Environment Programme**

### **A. Decision IX/1: In-depth review of the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity**

4. Pursuant to decision IX/1, UNEP is finalizing a four-year project on integrated assessment of trade-related policies and biological diversity in agriculture, launched in response to decision VI/5 of the Conference of the Parties. As part of this project a draft manual on assessment methodologies was produced and applied in the following pilot countries: Cameroon, Jamaica, Madagascar, Mauritius, Papua New Guinea and Uganda. The draft manual was well received by the countries.

5. In addition, UNEP provides support to 39 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity within agriculturally productive landscapes. The eight<sup>1</sup> projects cover a range of agricultural ecosystems and focus on assessing the status of and trends in agricultural biodiversity, adaptive management, mainstreaming agricultural biodiversity conservation into other sectors (health, nutrition, and education), food security, information management, capacity-building, policy dimensions associated with agricultural biodiversity maintenance and marketing issues.

### **B. Decision IX/2: Agricultural biodiversity: biofuels and biodiversity**

6. UNEP has developed assessments and reports on biofuels and shared them with a wide range of partners and experts. They include a resource panel report entitled "Towards sustainable production and use of resources: assessing biofuels"; reports on expert workshops on land use and land-use change, high conservation-value areas and degraded land and water and bioenergy; and issue papers on bioenergy and invasive species and bioenergy and reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) (forthcoming); and a report on a regional full-size project entitled "In situ/on-farm conservation and use of agricultural biodiversity (horticultural crops and wild fruit species) in Central Asia", which is being carried out in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

### **C. Decision IX/3: Global strategy for plant conservation**

7. Pursuant to decision IX/3 the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) contributed to the development of a draft consolidated update of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation beyond 2010 by participating in a May 2009 meeting of the liaison group established by the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to provide guidance on implementation of the Strategy. UNEP-WCMC will remain involved with future work in collaboration with other members of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation.

8. In addition, various regional and global projects of the UNEP Division of Global Environment Facility Coordination feature activities that are fully consistent with the objectives of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation. These include the regional full-size project referred to above on in situ/on-farm conservation and use of agricultural biodiversity in Central Asia; a regional full-size project entitled "Conservation and sustainable use of cultivated and wild tropical fruit diversity: promoting sustainable livelihoods, food security and ecosystem services" in India, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand and a global full size project entitled "In-situ conservation of crop wild relatives through enhanced information management and field application" in Armenia, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Madagascar, Sri Lanka and Uzbekistan.

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1 Regional full-size project "In situ/on-farm conservation and use of agricultural biodiversity (horticultural crops and wild fruit species) in Central Asia" (involving Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan); regional full-size project "Conservation and sustainable use of cultivated and wild tropical fruit diversity: promoting sustainable livelihoods, food security and ecosystem services" (involving India, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand); global full-size project "In-situ conservation of crop wild relatives through enhanced information management and field application" (involving Armenia, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Madagascar, Sri Lanka and Uzbekistan); global full-size project "Conservation and use of crop genetic diversity to control pests and diseases in support of sustainable agriculture" (involving China, Ecuador, Morocco and Uganda); global full-size project "Conservation and management of pollinators for sustainable agriculture, through an ecosystem approach" (involving Brazil, Ghana, India, Kenya, Nepal, Pakistan and South Africa); regional full-size project "Development and application of decision-support tools to conserve and sustainably use genetic diversity in indigenous livestock and wild relatives" (involving Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam); global full-size project "Conservation and sustainable management of below ground biodiversity" (involving Brazil, Côte d'Ivoire, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico and Uganda).

9. In addition, UNEP has supported the implementation of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in the Arab region through regional activities in 2008–2009 in collaboration with the League of Arab States' Arab Centre for the Study of Arid Zones and Dry lands (ACSAD), the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD), the International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), the International Centre for Bio-Saline Agriculture and the Desert Research Centre in Egypt. The aim of these activities is to promote initiatives related to in-situ conservation of genetic resources native to dry lands. Outputs include the development of a network of Arab regional and subregional gene bank centre for the exchange of genetic resources, in collaboration with existing national gene banks in Egypt, Lebanon and Saudi Arabia; the elaboration of an implementation plan by AOAD with inputs from the Lebanese Agriculture Research Institute (LARI) and the Government of Saudi Arabia; the elaboration of an electronic database of plant genetic resources for dry lands, which is available on the AOAD website; and the conduct of advanced research studies to promote biosaline species. AOAD acts as the focal point for the Arab States party to the Treaty; in that capacity it undertakes on their behalf the reporting required under the Treaty, coordinates studies with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and supports the development of national policies and laws on the management of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. The UNEP Regional Office for West Asia will be supporting the coordination of regional training with the directorates of the regional gene bank centres.

#### **D. Decision IX/6: Incentive measures**

10. In response to decision IX/6 UNEP has finalized a Global Environment Facility (GEF) project for timber certification for small-scale community-based low-intensity forestry at sites with high biodiversity value in Brazil, Cameroon and Mexico. Various capacity-building activities relating to the development of a study of the economics of ecosystems and biodiversity (TEEB) at the country level have been organized by the UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics. In addition, a regional initiative of UNEP and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on biodiversity and ecosystems entitled "Why these are important for sustained growth and equity in Latin America and Caribbean" is currently being implemented in collaboration with UNDP and other partners.

11. UNEP welcomes the initiative, launched at a meeting of the Group of Eight environment ministers in Potsdam, Germany, in March 2007, to develop a study on the economic cost of the global loss of biodiversity; it likewise welcomes the work of Germany and the European Commission to implement the initiative in the form of an international study on TEEB.

12. Also in response to the above decision, UNEP has partnered with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and produced a joint publication on international payments for ecosystem services, building on several previous workshops on the subject. In that context, UNEP has been part of a steering committee of the Netherlands-sponsored Green Development Mechanism 2010 Initiative, along with IUCN, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

13. Furthermore, UNEP is engaged in 12 projects<sup>2</sup> covering 25 countries that focus on ecosystem services with funding of approximately \$48 million from GEF. The focus in these projects is on developing and applying innovative approaches to ensuring that ecosystem services are paid for. Such approaches include testing new tools for the economic valuation of ecosystem services; linking

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2 The following are the 12 projects: Global full-size project "Project for ecosystem services (ProEcoServ)" (involving Chile, Lesotho, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago and Viet Nam); regional medium-size project "Ecosystem services in the Danube Delta" (involving Bulgaria and Romania); country full-size project "Establishment of incentives for the conservation of ecosystem services of global significance", (Argentina); country medium-size project "Developing an experimental methodology for testing the effectiveness of payments for ecosystem services to enhance conservation in productive landscapes in Uganda"; country full-size project "Mainstreaming the conservation of ecosystem services and biodiversity at the micro-watershed scale in Chiapas" (Mexico); country full-size project "Integrating trade-offs between supply of ecosystem services and land use options into poverty alleviation efforts and development planning in Mixteca" (Mexico); regional full-size project "Communities of conservation: safeguarding the world's most threatened species (Andes region)" (involving Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)); country medium-size project "Payment for ecosystem services in Las Neblinas Scientific Reserve as a pilot approach to ecosystem management that promotes the sustainability of protected areas in the Dominican Republic"; global full-size project "Carbon benefits project: modelling, measurement and monitoring"; regional full-size project "Integrated ecosystem management in the transboundary areas between Nigeria and Niger"; regional full-size project "Fouta Djallon Highlands integrated natural resources management project" (involving Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Sierra Leone); regional full-size project "Expanding FSC certification at landscape-level through incorporating additional ecosystem services" (involving Chile, Indonesia, Nepal and Viet Nam).

payment for ecosystem services science and the needs of decision makers; linking with climate change adaptation and mitigation; and promoting integrated ecosystem management in transboundary protected areas.

14. Through the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy, UNEP organized the Fifth Intergovernmental Conference, Biodiversity in Europe, in Liege, Belgium, in September 2009. The participants discussed the value of ecosystems. Documents on valuing ecosystem services, TEEB and the green economy were prepared for the Conference under the theme “valuing ecosystem services”. The Chair of the Conference prepared conclusions setting out a number of recommendations for the pan-European region.<sup>3</sup>

15. In addition, UNEP, in collaboration with the Government of Azerbaijan, organized a pan-European conference on the Millennium Development Goals and biodiversity. The Conference participants issued the Gabala Declaration, which will constitute the pan-European contribution to a high-level biodiversity event that will be held in New York on 22 September 2010, on the eve of the sixty-fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly and in parallel with the Summit on the Millennium Development Goals (20–22 September 2010).<sup>4</sup>

16. In conjunction with the pan-European conference on the Millennium Development Goals and biodiversity UNEP also organized an expert workshop on investing in biodiversity and maximizing the benefits of the green economy, which took place at the same time and venue. The workshop documents are available on the website cited in the preceding paragraph.

17. During the first annual meeting between the South Asia Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and UNEP, held in December 2008, the UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and SAARC developed a joint workplan and reviewed their collaboration within the framework of their existing memorandum of understanding, which includes a component on payment for ecosystem services. In addition, under its Poverty and Environment Initiative UNEP is planning to support the identification and application of a payment for ecosystem services mechanism and the development of a comprehensive payment for ecosystem services policy, institutional framework and strategy at the national level in Bhutan.

18. In Africa, UNEP, in cooperation with three local nature conservation non-governmental organizations, has established a reforestation facility for the rehabilitation of degraded water catchment areas in Kenya. The facility collaborates with private sector entities, local communities and government institutions in charge of forest management and aims to plant thousands of trees each year. Its activities contribute to the UNEP Billion Tree Campaign and to help to offset the UNEP carbon footprint.

## **E. Decision IX/7: Ecosystems approach**

19. In response to decision IX/7, the UNEP Division of Global Environment Facility Coordination is undertaking various projects, including one on mainstreaming biodiversity conservation and sustainable use for improved human nutrition and well-being. The project aim is to assess the nutritional value of agricultural biodiversity in three ecosystems in each of Brazil, Kenya, Turkey and Sri Lanka. In addition, a UNEP-GEF full-size project on the conservation and management of pollinators for sustainable agriculture through an ecosystem approach has been designed to focus on the benefits of pollination services provided by wild biodiversity for human livelihoods and sustainable agriculture, through an ecosystem approach in selected countries.

20. In 2009, in collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), UNEP commissioned a joint project on the natural and cultural management of the Iraqi marshlands with the aim of designing and initiating a long-term sustainable management framework. This new project addresses the pressing need for the management of the area in a way that reflects the unique historical, cultural, environmental, hydrological, social and economic characteristics of the area, in particular through the use of the World Heritage site designation process.

21. UNEP also supported activities of a project on strategic management of marine ecosystems in man-made structures being carried by the United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health in the United Arab Emirates. Project activities included a research study aimed at developing a marine monitoring programme and a management plan while understanding the ecological behaviour of novel ecosystems in reclaimed and dredged developments. The study

<sup>3</sup> Conference documents are available at <http://www.unep.ch/roe/Biodiv5Conf.htm>.

<sup>4</sup> The conference documents, including the Gabala Declaration, are available at [http://www.unep.ch/roe/Azerbaijan\\_biodiv\\_conf\\_july2010.htm](http://www.unep.ch/roe/Azerbaijan_biodiv_conf_july2010.htm).

employed the ecosystem approach: all elements of the ecosystem, including benthic species, fish and corals, plankton communities and physical oceanography, were analysed. Outputs included a 2008 environmental impact assessment workshop, coordinated by the UNEP Regional Office for West Asia, for Gulf Cooperation Council member States to assist them in applying sound approval measures for projects with potentially negative impacts on marine ecosystems and using a participatory approach.

22. In Asia and the Pacific, a project initiated in 2009 on the Mount Kailash sacred landscape conservation initiative employs a transboundary biodiversity co-management approach at the regional and national levels. The project aims to enhance local capacity for community-based participation in conservation and sustainable development efforts in the greater Mount Kailash region of China, India and Nepal. A study on the economic valuation of such ecosystem services, with the aim of integrating an ecosystems approach into national development planning processes, is being undertaken in the Lao People's Democratic Republic under the auspices of the Poverty and Environment Initiative.

23. UNEP, through the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy, continues to cooperate with ForestEurope (previously known as the Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forests in Europe) on sustainable forest management and the conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity in the pan-European region. As interim secretariat to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians, UNEP carries out activities<sup>5</sup> in support of mountain ecosystem management and is also preparing a draft protocol on sustainable forest management under the Carpathian Convention.

## **F. Decision IX/8: Review of implementation of goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan**

24. In response to decision IX/8 UNEP-WCMC has continued to run workshops at the national and regional levels to build capacity in the development and use of biodiversity indicators.

25. UNEP-WCMC also published the *Millennium Ecosystem Assessment: A Methods Manual*, drawing on the experience of many individuals and organizations in implementing the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. Training based on the manual is planned for 2010.

26. In Africa, UNEP continues to support the Government of Kenya in a review of its wildlife policy and a bill to enact provisions that would enhance the implementation of biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements, including the Convention on Biological Diversity, which Kenya ratified on 26 July 1994. UNEP has also provided technical assistance to build the capacity of the Kenyan Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources in protected area and wildlife management, including the mainstreaming of environmental conservation into a training programme for rangers in the Kenya Wildlife Service. In addition, the integration of biodiversity conservation into priority projects in Great Lakes Region core countries such as Angola, Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, the Sudan, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia has been carried out.

27. Providing support for national planning and reporting, UNEP has been involved in a series of foundational planning activities for countries to enable them to manage biodiversity based on sound science and globally accepted tools. This has included supporting biodiversity country studies in 30 countries, national biodiversity strategies and action plans in 28 countries, clearing-house mechanisms in 35 countries, a global biodiversity planning support programme and funding for additional activities under the national biodiversity strategies and action plans in 30 countries. For national reporting to the Convention on Biological Diversity, UNEP has assisted some 40 countries in the preparation of their first, second, third and fourth national reports.

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<sup>5</sup> Second meeting of the Working Group on Sustainable Tourism of the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (Carpathian Convention), 23–25 April 2008, Krakow and Sucha Beskidzka, Poland; Regional Workshop on Renewable Energy Within the Context of the Carpathian Convention, 6 and 7 May 2008, Lviv, Ukraine; Carpathian Strategic Workshop on Spatial Planning, 26 and 27 May 2008, Vienna; second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention, 17–19 June 2008, Bucharest; Joint Session of the Biodiversity Working Group and the Steering Committee of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas, 4 March 2009, Vienna; Meeting of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas Steering Committee, 4 and 5 March 2009, Vienna; SARD-M (strengthening mountain populations' livelihoods with improved policies for sustainable agriculture and rural development) meeting, 19 and 20 May 2009, Vienna; Meeting of the Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management, Bratislava, 19 and 20 November 2009; Meeting of the Carpathian Convention Biodiversity Working Group, Brasov, Romania; 17 and 18 May 2010; Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management of the Carpathian Convention, San Vito, Italy, 15 and 16 June 2010. More information may be found at <http://www.carpathianconvention.org/index.htm>.

28. UNEP is one of the three implementing agencies that established GEF in 1991, the other two being the World Bank and UNDP. It is the only one whose core business is the environment. Together with the other nine GEF agencies, UNEP plays a key role in supporting countries in the development and execution of GEF projects that benefit from its comparative advantage.<sup>6</sup>

29. In Europe, UNEP supported a series of workshops, conferences and other activities for the review of the post-2010 biodiversity targets. They included an expert workshop on investing in biodiversity and maximizing the benefits of the green economy, held in Gabala, Azerbaijan, in July 2010; the Fifth Intergovernmental Conference, Biodiversity in Europe, held in Liege, Belgium, in September 2009; a Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy Council meeting on a post-2010 strategy for the Strategy, held in Liege in September 2009; a UNEP and Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy friends of the chair meeting in May 2010 on a review of the Strategy beyond 2010 and preparations for the seventh "Environment for Europe" ministerial conference, to be held in Astana in September 2010; and the contribution of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy to biodiversity in the pan-European region and implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

30. In addition, UNEP has been involved in foundational planning activities for countries to enable them to manage biodiversity based on sound science and globally accepted tools. This has included supporting biodiversity country studies in 30 countries, national biodiversity strategies and action plans in 28 countries, clearing-house mechanisms in 35 countries, a global biodiversity planning support programme and funding for additional activities under the national biodiversity strategies and action plans in 30 countries. For national reporting under the Convention on Biological Diversity, UNEP has assisted some 40 countries in the preparation of their first, second, third and fourth national reports.

31. In West Asia, implementation of a joint Convention on Biological Diversity capacity-building programme for the Arab region in cooperation with the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment team on biodiversity and desertification continues. Activities include provision of support for a regional workshop on national biodiversity strategies and action plans and mainstreaming biodiversity (December 2008); support for a regional consultation on inputs to the new Convention on Biological Diversity strategic plan and post-2010 biodiversity targets (January 2010); coordination of a workshop for West Asia and Horn of Africa countries on fourth national report under the Convention and substantive review of Arabic reports to be submitted before the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (April 2010); and support for regional input into the negotiations on an international regime on access and benefit-sharing. The Regional Office for West Asia is preparing to provide support Iraq in the preparation of its national biodiversity strategies and action plan and preparations for a workshop aimed at building capacity related to the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements.

32. UNEP organized and conducted, in collaboration with the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, a capacity-building workshop for African countries on the review and update of the new strategic plan, which took place in Cairo in December 2009. The workshop provided an opportunity for African countries to contribute to the elaboration of the new strategic plan for the period beyond 2010, including its vision, goals, targets and mechanisms for supporting implementation.

33. In support of the development of the new strategic plan UNEP organized an expert brainstorming meeting on how to develop the new plan, including the post-2010 targets, in February 2009 in Nairobi. The meeting was attended by a cross-section of experts and its outcomes formed the basis for many regional and international consultations on development of the new strategic plan. UNEP organized another expert meeting, in October 2009 in Nairobi, which was attended by the chairs of the scientific bodies of the biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements and representatives of United Nations bodies, non-governmental organizations, the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and others. The purpose of the meeting was to come up with drafts of a new vision and mission statement for the targets and to identify the targets and indicators where possible. The outcomes of the meeting formed the basis of the draft strategic plan.

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<sup>6</sup> In the context of GEF UNEP is said to have a comparative advantage in respect of scientific assessments, monitoring and early warning; the linking of science to policy at the national, regional and global levels (capacity-building and enabling activities); innovation, technology transfer and the lifting of barriers; regional and global cooperation; awareness-raising, advocacy and knowledge management; and support for national planning and reporting.

34. In cooperation with the Convention secretariat and IUCN, UNEP organized a series of regional consultations on the new draft strategic plan in Southern Africa, the Arab region, Latin America and the Caribbean and Africa. It also participated in a regional consultation for Asia and the Pacific. The results of the regional consultations formed the basis for the revised draft strategic plan that was presented at the third meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

35. In addition, in cooperation with the United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS) UNEP organized an international expert meeting on access and benefit-sharing issues under the new strategic plan and targets, in December 2009. The results were presented at the ninth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing, in Cali, Colombia, including through an information document and a special event. The Cali meeting resulted in a revised target 17 on access and benefit-sharing and a set of indicators for consideration by the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity at its third meeting.

## **G. Decision IX/12: Access and benefit-sharing**

36. UNEP engagement with the process of furthering negotiations on an international regime on access and benefit-sharing has been consistent and strategic between 2008 and 2010. The activities listed in the following subparagraphs have formed the core of UNEP support on access and benefit-sharing issues:

(a) UNEP organized regional preparatory consultations prior to the ninth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing in the Latin American and Caribbean region, the Arab region, the Central and Eastern European region, the Pacific region and the Asian region. UNEP provided inputs for an African regional preparatory meeting that was organized by the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ);

(b) UNEP published technical guidance documents on compliance, benefit-sharing, community experiences on access and benefit-sharing issues, ethics and equity within the Convention on Biological Diversity and elsewhere;

(c) UNEP distributed a pocket guide on access and benefit-sharing in the six official United Nations languages to increase awareness of access and benefit-sharing issues;

(d) UNEP established a knowledge hub on access and benefit-sharing in October 2009 to encourage the exchange of information and expertise on access and benefit-sharing issues;

(e) UNEP organized a series of capacity-building workshops on access and benefit-sharing issues during the seventh, eighth and ninth meetings of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing as well as at the regional and national levels;

(f) UNEP supported the work of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing co-chairs by providing strategic guidance on key negotiating issues;

(g) UNEP worked with the Convention secretariat to strengthen the access and benefit-sharing portal by providing information material and documents;

(h) UNEP organized an expert meeting in December 2009 to provide inputs related to access and benefit-sharing issues in the new access and benefit-sharing strategic plan;

(i) UNEP is preparing a trade and access and benefit-sharing dossier that will be available during the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

(j) UNEP developed a webpage on community protocols for access and benefit-sharing along with UNESCO and the non-governmental organization Natural Justice;

(k) UNEP supported the development of five biocultural protocols as a means of implementing the access and benefit-sharing provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity, as well as at the national and local levels;

(l) UNEP prepared a guidance document for the Government of India on implementing the benefit-sharing provisions of the India's Biological Diversity Act of 2002 and Rules of 2004;

(m) UNEP supported preparation of an equity, governance and benefit-sharing module under the programme of work on protected areas;

(n) UNEP initiated the development of a multi-module access-and-benefit-sharing e-curriculum as an online learning tool;

(o) UNEP partnered with a range of institutions and initiatives on access and benefit-sharing issues, including the multi-donor Africa capacity-building initiative on access and benefit-sharing, on which it collaborated with the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development, Research and Information Systems, UNDP, UNU-IAS and UNESCO.

37. Among the GEF implementing agencies, UNEP has become a leader on access and benefit-sharing and has developed three regional and two single-country projects in the area. Access and benefit-sharing will continue to be for UNEP a high-profile component of biodiversity and the Convention on Biological Diversity. The access and benefit-sharing projects that UNEP has developed are:

(a) Regional full-size project on supporting the development and implementation of access and benefit-sharing policies in Africa (involving Cameroon, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Senegal and South Africa);

(b) Regional medium-size project on building capacity for regionally harmonized national processes for implementing provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity on access to genetic resources and sharing of benefits (South-East Asia);

(c) Country full-size project on strengthening the implementation of the Biological Diversity Act and rules with focus on its access and benefit-sharing provisions (India);

(d) Regional medium-size project on strengthening the implementation of access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing regimes in Latin America and the Caribbean;

(e) Country full-size project on capacity-building for access and benefit-sharing and conservation and sustainable use of medicinal plants (Ethiopia).

38. UNEP supported Arab States during regional meetings in 2010 by disseminating UNEP outreach material on access and benefit-sharing and hosting an access and benefit-sharing information platform. Outputs included contributions by the Regional Office for West Asia to the February 2010 regional meeting in Damascus in collaboration with the League of Arab States, ACSAD, Morocco, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia to review and update the Arab position paper on access and benefit-sharing that was submitted at the Cali meeting.

39. In partnership with the GTZ Africa Regional Capacity-building Development Initiative the UNEP Regional Office for Africa supported an African expert meeting and ministerial conference on access and benefit-sharing, which took place in Windhoek in March 2010. The result of this consultation was the establishment of an African position on an international regime on access and benefit-sharing, with a request for political input and approval by African environment ministers who were not in attendance at the meeting. In addition, the conference ended with an exchange between African and European ministers, who also attended the meeting. The consultation strengthened collaboration and coordination efforts between UNEP, particularly the Regional Office for Africa, and the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and enhanced the relationship with African experts on access and benefit-sharing and Convention-related matters.

40. UNEP is supporting a capacity development project for African non-governmental organizations on access and benefit-sharing. The objective of the project is to enable non-governmental organizations to participate more effectively in the access and benefit-sharing process, including through strengthening their negotiating skills, and in the development of policies and regulations.

## **H. Decision IX/14: Technology transfer and cooperation**

41. In response to decision IX/14 UNEP, in close cooperation with the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, prepared a technical policy document on technology transfer and cooperation under the Convention, which was presented at the fourteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the third meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The document highlights options for furthering work under the Convention on technology transfer and cooperation and links to the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building and offers options for decision-making at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. A special event on technology transfer and cooperation was organized during the fourteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, which took place in Nairobi.

42. Furthermore, also in response to decision IX/14 UNEP has prepared a data set of 350 technologies that are either relevant for conservation or sustainable use or are based on biodiversity as its contribution to the discussions on technology transfer and cooperation under the

Convention on Biological Diversity. The database is linked with the Convention secretariat's database and the technologies are available online on a special web page focusing on biodiversity for the International Year of Biodiversity under the heading "Inspired by Nature". UNEP and the Convention secretariat will launch a full compilation of the technologies and an interactive CD-ROM at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

43. In carrying out this work, UNEP has forged close cooperation with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization regional office for Kenya and Ethiopia to pilot test some technologies on the ground. In addition, it has established links with United Nations Economic and Social Commission regional technology transfer and cooperation hubs in publishing the technologies identified above.

44. In collaboration with partners UNEP will execute a capacity-building project to promote the ability of developing countries to participate effectively in phase II of the Biosafety Clearing-House. The UNEP Division of Environmental Law and Conventions will carry out activities aimed at advancing the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and related instruments through a synergistic approach. It is hoped that this will contribute to the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan and the Convention on Biological Diversity, among others. The activities will include technical assistance, training programmes, technical materials and knowledge management.

45. In addition, the UNEP Division of Global Environment Facility Coordination, in collaboration with UNEP-WCMC, is executing a medium-size global project to explore the possibilities of joint reporting to the Rio Conventions<sup>7</sup> by small island developing States. The project, on piloting integrated processes and approaches to facilitate national reporting to the Rio Conventions, will cover Afghanistan, Eritrea, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Liberia, Mauritius and Palau.

46. UNEP has funded the participation of Palestine, a non-party to the Convention on Biological Diversity, in most regional and international capacity-building activities related to biodiversity, aiming to integrate the ecological work being undertaken there into global assessments. The UNEP Regional Office for West Asia funded a forest assessment in the West Bank in 2010. Outputs of these activities include a report entitled "Palestine Forest and Nature Reserve Assessment", prepared by the Regional Office for West Asia in collaboration with IUCN; support by the regional office and the UNEP Division of Early Warning and Assessment for the report *Environment Outlook for the Arab Region*, which includes a chapter on biodiversity in the Arab region and was launched in Cairo in March 2010 in collaboration with the League of Arab States and the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment; and support for the launch of *Status of Biodiversity in West Asia*, a report linked to the third edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* report.

47. Under the cooperation agreement between Africa and China, UNEP coordinates the implementation of four components of a joint project with the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology on building the capacity and improving the resilience of African countries to cope with water stress and adapt to climate change. In addition, UNEP is also implementing the following:

- (a) Project on enhancing capacity to monitor the water resources of Lake Tanganyika, in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia;
- (b) Project on a drought early warning system and adaptation to drought, in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco and Zambia;
- (c) Project on reuse of wastewater for forest plantations, in Egypt, Kenya and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

## **I. Decision IX/15: Follow-up to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment**

48. Pursuant to decision IX/15, the Executive Director of UNEP convened three ad hoc open-ended intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meetings on an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services. The first meeting was held in Putrajaya, Malaysia, from 10 to 12 November 2008. The second meeting took place in Nairobi from 5 to 9 October 2009 and the third in Busan, Republic of Korea, from 7 to 11 June 2010. The main outcome of the Busan meeting was an agreement by Governments to establish a new platform as an independent

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<sup>7</sup> The conventions commonly referred to as the Rio Conventions are the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

intergovernmental body administered by one or more existing United Nations organizations, agencies, funds or programmes.<sup>8</sup>

49. In terms of the platform's scope, it was agreed that the platform should respond to requests by Governments. It was also agreed that the platform should focus on the identification of key scientific information needed for policy makers, perform regular and timely assessments of knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystem services and their interlinkages, support policy formulation and implementation, prioritize capacity-building needs and catalyse financing to meet such needs. The Governments present also agreed on some key guiding principles.

50. In accordance with the Busan outcome<sup>9</sup> and as requested by the UNEP Governing Council in its decision SS.XI/4, the Busan outcome has been transmitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session for consideration during the high-level segment on biological diversity in September 2010 and thereafter.

51. The new platform, when established, will provide a common framework for biodiversity-related conventions to ensure that scientifically sound, uniform and consistent approaches are taken in tackling common issues being dealt with under multiple conventions.

52. Furthermore, in line with decision IX/15, UNEP, in collaboration with partner agencies such as UNDP, has been facilitating a global initiative to follow up on the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. The initiative seeks to facilitate efforts by stakeholders in implementing the global strategy for the Assessment agreed on by partners in 2007. The initiative has several pillars: building the knowledge base; integrating the Assessment ecosystem service approach into decision-making at all levels; and undertaking outreach and dissemination activities to raise awareness of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment.

53. A key component of the initiative is the promotion of subglobal assessments in various regions. UNEP is working with partners such as UNU-IAS and the Cropper Foundation in coordinating these efforts. The Poverty and Environment Initiative also plays an active role in this regard, with a strong focus on integrating the ecosystem approach into planning and budgeting processes.

54. In addition, in the Arab region, UNEP has carried out assessments to promote the adoption of integrated assessment approaches at the local, national and regional levels through pilot studies that serve to develop a framework for a coordinated and integrated regional collaborative multiscale assessment effort. An integrated assessment approach was used to provide information to decision makers for designing a comprehensive and sustainable management plan for the environment. The assessment was piloted in three sites: Assir national park, in Saudi Arabia; the Sinai Peninsula, in Egypt; and the Tafilalt Oasis, in Morocco.

## **J. Decision IX/16: Biodiversity and climate change**

55. As a member of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change, established by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its ninth meeting, UNEP contributed significantly to the Group's discussions and to the preparation of the report that it authored. UNEP also provided financial support for the production by the Convention secretariat of a technical series on the subject of biodiversity and climate change.

56. In relation to decision IX/16, UNEP-WCMC has promoted synergies between the Rio Conventions through various activities. They include, first, working to ensure that climate change adaptation policies and practices increasingly take account of biodiversity and ecosystem services (specifically, by supporting improved adaptation planning through the provision of tools, guidelines and workshops and by supporting the mainstreaming of biodiversity into national adaptation plans) and, second, providing analysis that enables REDD to address non-carbon priorities. This work will form part of the new joint work programme of UNEP-WCMC and the Convention secretariat on the implementation of decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting (currently under preparation).

57. UNEP-WCMC has undertaken various activities as part of UNEP work on ecosystem-based adaptation, including through the preparation of a paper on understanding ecosystem-based adaptation. On REDD, UNEP-WCMC has undertaken extensive work, including the preparation of a report on carbon emissions from forest loss in protected areas and three reviews of recent scientific literature on

<sup>8</sup> Report of the third ad hoc intergovernmental and multi stakeholder meeting on an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services (UNEP/IPBES/3/3).

<sup>9</sup> Ibid., annex.

the impacts of climate change on biodiversity, on biodiversity and climate change mitigation and on biodiversity and climate change adaptation. These reviews were submitted to the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change. It also contributed a paper in the Convention secretariat's technical series, a review of the literature on links between biodiversity and climate change, including impacts, adaptation and mitigation, and prepared a report entitled "Carbon in Drylands: Desertification, Climate Change and Carbon Finance", for meeting in 2008 of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa.

58. It launched an atlas on carbon and biodiversity and a publication entitled "The Natural Fix? The role of ecosystems in climate mitigation" in English, French and Spanish. It published a technical paper on global congruence of carbon storage and biodiversity in terrestrial ecosystems in the journal *Conservation Letters*. In addition, it convened a three-day international consultative workshop on the multiple benefits of REDD-plus and launched the first version of a web-based carbon calculator at the fourteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (May 2010). During this period it also prepared technical papers on the ecosystem-derived benefits of REDD-plus and on safeguarding and enhancing the ecosystem-derived benefits of REDD-plus.

59. In addition, UNEP has prepared a desk study report assessing the vulnerability of freshwater resources to climate change, with the aim of giving an indication of the implications of the sharing of water resources in Western Asia. This in turn would indicate and identify existing gaps hindering member States when considering freshwater vulnerability. The study also provided recommendations on how decision makers could be equipped with strategic responses and policy options to improve water resources management. The study was commissioned by the Arabian Gulf University and ACSAD.

60. In Europe, the Pan-European Guidelines for Afforestation and Reforestation, with a special focus on the provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, were adopted by the participants at an expert meeting of the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe on 12 and 13 November 2008 and by the Bureau of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy on behalf of the Council on 4 November 2008.<sup>10</sup> Fund-raising for a project proposal on an integrated approach for climate change mitigation, biodiversity conservation and renewable energy production in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia is under way.

61. In Africa, UNEP, in partnership with the secretariat of the Nile Basin Initiative, will implement a project on adapting to climate-change-induced water stress in the Nile River Basin. This will involve assessment of water availability for populations and ecosystems; information on the projects on climate and water regime changes; and scenarios of water regimes within the basin and options for adaptation.

62. The UNEP Division of Global Environment Facility Coordination has commissioned a project for West Africa on evolution of protected area systems with regard to climatic, institutional, social and economic conditions in West Africa, looking at Chad, the Gambia, Mali, Sierra Leone and Togo.

63. UNEP is partnering with the secretariats of the Rio Conventions, led by the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in co-organizing an ecosystems and climate change pavilion that will operate during the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change and the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention to Combat Desertification, in addition to during the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012. The aim of the pavilion is to provide a common audience and venue for sharing information on synergistic activities between the Rio Conventions.

64. The flagship UNEP programme on REDD offers support to countries on issues related to REDD and its implementation. UNEP has developed a forest biodiversity and climate change project relating to addressing greenhouse-gas emissions from tropical forests. The first two sites under the project will be in the Tripa Swamp in Aceh, Indonesia, which is home to many orang-utan, and the Mone River Forest Reserve in south-west Cameroon, home of the Cross River Gorilla. A UN-REDD-plus side event is to be held in the ecosystem and climate change pavilion during the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

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<sup>10</sup> The guidelines may be found at <http://www.foresteurope.org/filestore/foresteurope/Publications/pdf/Pan-EuropeanAfforestationReforestationGuidelines.pdf>.

## **K. Decision IX/17: Biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands**

65. Pursuant to decision IX/17 UNEP-WCMC has produced updated maps delineating drylands, including tropical dry and sub-humid forests. These maps have been made available to the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The UNEP Regional Office for West Asia hosts the Regional Coordinator for the subregional action programme to combat desertification and drought in West Asia and is seeking to review and update the subregional action plan on combating desertification in sub-humid and dry lands in collaboration with the International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas and ACSAD. Activities currently under way include action plan pilot projects for Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen; preparation and publication of a book in 2007 entitled *The Arabian Deserts*; and the provision of support for Bahrain in 2007 in the preparation of its national action plan report under the Global Mechanism of the Convention to Combat Desertification.

## **L. Decision IX/18: Protected areas**

66. Working in close cooperation with the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, UNEP is supporting the development of e-learning modules on protected areas as an online curriculum. In addition to providing technical inputs for some modules, such as that on governance, equity and benefit-sharing, UNEP supported the translation into Spanish of all the modules. It is anticipated that this cooperation will result in the delivery of the modules through regional and national capacity-building workshops.

67. UNEP is also working with the secretariat in the preparation of technical documents on the programme of work on protected areas, including the development of an implementation strategy for the programme of work that is expected to be put in place pursuant to decision IX/18.

68. With financial support from the Government of Spain, UNEP is implementing a component of the LifeWeb project supported by the Government of Germany and other donors, with activities focusing on policy, strategic issues that must be tackled if the objectives of the programme of work on protected areas are to be achieved and field projects to demonstrate linkages to national policy. This project is being implemented in close cooperation with the secretariat.

69. Pursuant to decision IX/18 on protected areas, and in cooperation with the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas, UNEP-WCMC continues to manage the World Database on Protected Areas and maintain the United Nations List of Protected Areas. The focus of UNEP-WCMC, which works closely with the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, has been on expanding the Database section on management effectiveness, including through a European study in collaboration with the German Government and other partners; further developing the Database to support national and global reporting on progress in implementation of the programme of work on protected areas; integrating marine protected areas into the Database and reporting on progress towards the achievement of marine protected area targets; development of an expert review process for data held in the Database; development of a pilot registry for indigenous and community conserved areas; and mapping carbon storage by protected areas, including through development of an interactive carbon calculator.

70. In addition, the Regional Office for West Asia, in collaboration with IUCN, prepared a final assessment of forests and nature reserves in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, which aims at developing a rapid ecological and institutional assessment of a manageable protected areas system covering 26 sites in the Territory. UNEP also provided support for a rapid systematic biodiversity assessment for the Arabian Peninsula and the United Arab Emirates, in collaboration with the Abu Dhabi Global Environmental Data Initiative, which aims to prioritize biodiversity areas for conservation. The project is currently in the development phase and the Regional Office for West Asia is providing input on project development and future regional implementation using geographic information systems and the systematic conservation planning approach.

71. UNEP continues to cooperate with the Council of Europe on the Pan-European Ecological Network and participated in the pan-European conference on biodiversity and the Millennium Development Goals in the pan-European region that was held in Gabala, Azerbaijan, in July 2010. The importance of protected areas and ecological networks was highlighted in background documents and presentations for the Gabala conference, and in the Gabala Declaration that was adopted by the conference participants.<sup>11</sup>

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11 Conference documents may be found at [http://www.unep.ch/roe/Azerbaijan\\_biodiv\\_conf\\_july2010.htm](http://www.unep.ch/roe/Azerbaijan_biodiv_conf_july2010.htm).

72. In the framework of the Environment and Security Initiative UNEP has worked on the management of transboundary natural resources and in particular on the possible establishment of transboundary protected areas in South-Eastern Europe. Based on an initial assessment of potential areas, three areas have been selected for priority action, in consultation with national focal points. These include the Sharr/Šar Planina – Korab – Dešat/Deshat, located in the border areas of Albania, Kosovo and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; Durmitor – Tara Canyon – Sutjeska, located along the border between Bosnia and Herzegovina (in the area of the Republic of Srpska) and Montenegro; and the Prokletije/Bjeshkët e Nemuna mountains, which span Albania, Kosovo, Montenegro and Serbia.<sup>12</sup> UNEP, as interim secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, supports the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas, holds regular meetings and supports several activities.<sup>13</sup>

#### **M. Decision IX/19: Biological diversity of inland water ecosystems**

73. In relation to decision IX/19 UNEP has coordinated since 2009 the Litani River project in Lebanon, which aims to build a river-basin-wide management plan for the river based on the principle of integrated water resources management and participation by Lebanese stakeholders. In addition, UNEP supported the 2004–2009 project for the environmental management of the Iraqi marshlands, which aims at restoring marshlands, over 90 per cent of which were lost to land reclamation and drainage. To promote synergies, UNEP prepared a June 2010 regional workshop on wetlands for the Arabian Peninsula in Oman to strengthen and enhance wetland designations in the gulf region.

74. UNEP-WCMC has continued its work on harmonization of reporting between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention), as well as between all biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements, through, among other things, supporting the facilitation of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Centre for Biodiversity workshop on harmonization of reporting to the biodiversity-related conventions in April 2009, providing input to the project of Australia and the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme on streamlined reporting by Pacific island countries to the biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements and providing support to the Ramsar Convention Scientific and Technical Review Panel in its liaison with the Convention on Biological Diversity.

75. UNEP, jointly with the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, launched a report prepared by the secretariat on freshwater biodiversity during the World Water Day celebrations held in Nairobi. The launch was preceded by media training for journalists on issues of water and biodiversity.

#### **N. Decision IX/20: Marine and coastal biodiversity**

76. In response to decision IX/20 the following activities have been undertaken by UNEP in collaboration with partners: development of a paper (No. 45 in the Convention secretariat's Technical Series) on the impacts of ocean fertilization on marine biodiversity (responding to paragraph 3 of decision IX/20); development of a paper (No. 46 in the Convention secretariat's Technical Series) on the impacts of ocean acidification on marine biodiversity (responding to paragraph 4 of decision IX/20); and development of a global ocean data viewer (responding to paragraph 5 of decision IX/20). In addition, responding to paragraph 10 of decision IX/20 UNEP participated in, and co-authored the background document for, an expert workshop on scientific and technical guidance on the use of biogeographic classification systems and identification of marine areas beyond national jurisdiction in need of protection, which took place in Ottawa in 2009. In response to paragraph 18 of the decision UNEP, with partners, developed illustrations of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas criteria to support the identification of such areas. In addition, pursuant to paragraph 27 of the decision UNEP participated in publishing in 2010 a new global atlas of mangroves, and initiated a global marine data partnership, focused on the improvement and integration of available data on critical marine and coastal ecosystems, to facilitate assessment of the status of and trends in marine biodiversity and critical habitats, in response to paragraph 23 of decision IX/20. In response to

<sup>12</sup> The feasibility studies are online at [http://www.unep.at/documents\\_unep/Balkan%20-%20Feasibility%20Studies/](http://www.unep.at/documents_unep/Balkan%20-%20Feasibility%20Studies/).

<sup>13</sup> Joint Session of the Biodiversity Working Group and the Steering Committee of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA SC), 4 March 2009, Vienna; Meeting of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA) Steering Committee, 4 and 5 March 2009, Vienna; seventh Meeting of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA) Steering Committee, 14 January 2010, Vienna; Meeting of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA), 17–21 May 2010, Brasov, Romania. More information can be found at <http://www.carpathianconvention.org/index.htm>.

paragraph 27 of the decision it also developed a pilot registry for indigenous and community conserved areas.

77. UNEP has supported the development of a biodiversity outlook report for the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment, which is to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its tenth meeting, and aims at assessing the state of marine biodiversity using a set of indicators developed by the Marine and Coastal Environment Branch of the UNEP Division of Environmental Policy Implementation in consultation with the Regional Seas Programme.

78. In Africa UNEP is working on the production of an environment atlas for the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, which will be published in Arabic and English. The funds for this atlas were provided by the Government of that country, and it will be produced in collaboration with the Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe and national experts in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. The objective is to show the level of biodiversity loss and degradation of coastal areas in the country and to identify solutions. The UNEP Regional Office for Africa is considering a request from the Government of Morocco to produce a similar atlas for that country.

79. The UNEP Division of Environmental Law and Conventions is currently identifying priorities and developing activities relating to the protection and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction. It is envisaged that such activities will revolve around promoting relevant interdisciplinary research and scientific assessment of the high seas; strengthening the ability of developing countries and small island developing States to participate and negotiate actively in international high seas processes; building the capacity of developing countries and small island developing States to implement, comply with and enforce relevant international obligations and to develop legal instruments controlling human high seas activities at the national level; and developing and promoting modern ocean governance and management tools such as guidelines and environmental impact assessments, including cumulative effects.

80. On marine and coastal ecosystem-based management, UNEP has:

- (a) Developed a manual on marine and coastal ecosystem-based management for planners and decision makers in regional seas and other forums;
- (b) Provided technical advice (which will be the basis for a future training manual) on good governance for marine protected areas (expert workshop in Croatia in October 2009 and synthesis study);
- (c) Provided technical guidance on adaptive marine spatial planning (expert workshop in Copenhagen in January 2009; technical report available);
- (d) Developed an options paper on the surveillance and enforcement of remote marine areas (expert workshop in Washington, D.C. in November 2009; technical report available);
- (e) Supported and organized regional workshops on mainstreaming coastal issues into national planning in Guayaquil, Ecuador, and in Manila, Philippines, in 2009 to share lessons learned from other countries in those regions and to endeavour to identify and increase mainstreaming opportunities for national programmes of action;
- (f) Supported and organized a regional training workshop on ecosystem approaches to coastal and ocean management, with a focus on ecosystems-based management, in Eastern Africa, jointly with the United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, in Mombasa, Kenya, in October 2008;
- (g) Developed a policy document on integrated management and governance of deep waters and open oceans for planners and decision makers of regional seas programmes, regional fisheries management organizations, large marine ecosystems bodies and similar forums;
- (h) Provided technical advice to Governments on effective ecosystem-based adaptation approaches, including pilot projects in coastal cities and small island developing States;
- (i) Supported the Plan of Action for the Conservation of the Marine Mammals in the South-East Pacific, including pilot projects addressing the by-catch of marine mammals in that area;
- (j) Managed the UNEP-LifeWeb project on integrated marine management with marine protected area networks for the protection of marine mammal migration corridors and critical habitats in the wider Caribbean and the south-east Pacific;
- (k) Developed a joint study with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Convention on Biological Diversity on impacts of destructive fishing practices,

unsustainable fishing and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing on marine biodiversity and habitats (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/INF/6);

(l) Provided financial and technical support to the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in the preparation of an in-depth review, conducted in accordance with the guidelines provided in annex III to decision VIII/15, of the implementation of the expanded programme of work of the Convention on marine and coastal biological diversity set out in annex I to decision VII/5, which was submitted for the fourteenth meeting of the Convention's Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/4, and provided input for the third edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* report, which was also submitted also for the said meeting;

(m) Supported the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in the preparation of a scientific synthesis on the impacts of destructive fishing practices, unsustainable fishing and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing on marine biodiversity. The synthesis was submitted as an information document for the fourteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice;

(n) Developed a project on environmental aspects of fisheries, including the development of a framework for evaluating trade-offs between human use and conservation.

#### **O. Decision IX/26: Promoting business engagement**

81. UNEP co-organized with the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity the "Third Business and the 2010 Biodiversity Challenge Conference" referred to in recommendation 3/2 of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

82. Under the auspices of the UNEP Finance Initiative a biodiversity and ecosystem services work stream was initiated in 2006 after a request from the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its eighth meeting, held in Curitiba, Brazil, where the business sector was requested to take steps to curb biodiversity loss. Since its inception the stream has featured work with many financial institutions to promote awareness of the indirect ecosystem impacts of lending and investments, to identify how banks and investors can account for such impacts, and to promote environmental markets that are supporting biodiversity and interesting from a business perspective. Key initiatives include the Natural Value Initiative; and building the business case for action through publications such as "Bloom and Bust", "Biodiversity Offsets and the Mitigation Hierarchy in Bank Lending" and "CEO Briefings".

#### **P. Decision IX/27: Cooperation among multilateral environmental agreements and other organizations**

83. UNEP has provided financial and technical support for the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements related to biodiversity and the promotion of synergies between such agreements, including the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora; the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals; the Ramsar Convention; the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage; the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and the Contiguous Atlantic Area; the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds; the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture; and the Convention to Combat Desertification, in collaboration with the League of Arab States and ACSAD, the Gulf Cooperation Council secretariat and other regional organizations. In Africa the UNEP Regional Office for Africa, in collaboration with the secretariat of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, is encouraging implementation of the Partnership's action plan of the environment initiative, with its extensive biodiversity conservation programme. In addition, UNEP is working through United Nations Development Assistance Framework processes to mainstream issues of biodiversity conservation into African countries' development plans.

84. As interim secretariat of the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea, UNEP is supporting cooperation between the Caspian Sea Convention and the Convention on Biological Diversity by drafting a protocol for the protection of Caspian biodiversity, which was the subject of meetings in 2008 and 2009. In addition, as interim secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, UNEP prepared a draft protocol on biodiversity that was adopted on 19 June 2008 in Bucharest and has recently entered into force. Other activities are carried out under the Carpathian Convention to reinforce the cooperation on implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, including:

- (a) Memorandum of understanding between the Carpathian Convention, the International Convention for the Protection of the Alps and the Convention on Biological Diversity;
- (b) Meeting of the Carpathian Convention Biodiversity Working Group on 3 March 2009 in Vienna.

85. In addition, UNEP, through the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy, is working on a post-2010 strategy for making the Strategy a regional instrument for the achievement of the objectives of the biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements.

86. In Africa, UNEP hosts the secretariat of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN). UNEP facilitated the thirteenth session of AMCEN, which took place in Bamako in June 2010. The theme for the session was “enhancing the interrelationship between climate change, biodiversity and desertification for sustainable development”. The main objective of the session was to provide a platform for environment ministers to deliberate on substantive issues of importance to Africa which must be addressed in the context of desertification, in addition to the continuing negotiations on climate change and biodiversity.

87. The outcome of the AMCEN session included declarations by which the ministers present committed themselves to developing a common position for the continuing negotiations on access and benefit-sharing and liability, compensation and redress regimes under the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Cartagena Protocol and to call upon the African Union and UNEP to support African negotiators in the negotiation of a new international regime on access and benefit-sharing.

88. They also called upon States to support at the national, subregional, regional and global levels the process to establish an intergovernmental science-policy platform for biodiversity and ecosystem services to be considered by the United Nations General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session; committed themselves to implementing activities in the framework of the celebration of the 2010 International Year on Biodiversity and those recommended in the third Global Biodiversity Outlook report; and invited the international community to take the necessary measures to prevent accidents that could result from biotechnological risks and to ensure the restoration of the environment in cases where such accidents occurred.

89. UNEP continues to support the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean to help focus on issues of interest to the region to ensure better regional preparations and implementation of multilateral environmental agreements, including the Convention on Biological Diversity in respect of access and benefit-sharing issues.

90. UNEP continues to promote and facilitate cooperation in the implementation at the regional level, through the regional seas conventions and action plans, of decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

#### **Q. Decision IX/28: Promoting engagement of cities and local authorities**

91. UNEP, through the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy, continues to cooperate with Countdown 2010, notably in connection with the Fifth Intergovernmental Conference, Biodiversity in Europe, which as noted above was held in Liege in 2009. In addition, UNEP has been implementing the Territorial Approach to Climate Change initiative in Europe; and compiling and identifying climate change information and training needs of subnational authorities and best practices. In addition, UNEP has held successful capacity-building workshops for subnational authorities.

#### **R. Decision IX/30: Scientific and technical cooperation and the clearing-house mechanism**

92. In relation to decision IX/30 UNEP-WCMC, in collaboration with the Division of Environmental Law and Conventions, is working with the secretariats of biodiversity-related agreements, including the Convention on Biological Diversity, on a second-phase project on knowledge management for biodiversity-related conventions. As at August 2008, following approval of a concept by the project approval group, WCMC and the Division are working with the secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, representing the Biodiversity Liaison Group, on a full project document. Furthermore, UNEP-WCMC continues to be an active member of the clearing-house mechanism's Informal Advisory Committee, supporting the Executive Secretary in the implementation of the clearing-house mechanism and related activities. UNEP-WCMC not only provides the secretariat for the Conservation Commons, which is actively promoting improved availability of and access to biodiversity data and information, it is also taking active steps to increase access to data and information through the establishment of data partnerships consistent with the intent of decision IX/30. In this regard, UNEP-WCMC is working

actively with the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements on ways to improve access to and use of data and information.

93. In addition, the Division of Environmental Law and Conventions will strengthen its knowledge management system with a view to improving access to information and knowledge about and use of synergies between the Rio Conventions and other conventions, including in the area of biodiversity. This will include advancing the work already being undertaken with various partners, including UNEP-WCMC, IUCN and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

### III. International Year of Biodiversity

94. UNEP is engaged in activities to raise the profile of biodiversity during the International Year of Biodiversity. Some significant activities include the organization of a ministerial round-table discussion on biodiversity during the eleventh special session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, held in Bali, Indonesia; development with IUCN of a special page on the UNEP website<sup>14</sup> that carries exclusive and comprehensive information on biodiversity issues through features such as “Species of the Day”, “Inspired by Nature” and “Community Story of the Week”; a series of technical presentations on biodiversity in collaboration with multilateral environmental agreements, United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations and communities; a bibliography on biodiversity; quote of the day and others.<sup>15</sup>

95. UNEP partnered with the German company Puma to launch the “Play for Life” campaign to raise awareness of biodiversity. This partnership, launched in Nairobi, focused on support for African biodiversity conservation activities and raising awareness of biodiversity through football games.

96. UNEP also partnered with the Indian Premier League in identifying an ambassador for biodiversity from the world of cricket (Mr. Sachin Tendulkar) and in showcasing what it has called a “biodiversity quote of the match” and a “biodiversity pledge” to spotlight and increase awareness of biodiversity issues. The UNEP Division of Communications and Public Information focused on biodiversity as the key theme for all activities during the Year. These included a special biodiversity issue of the UNEP magazine for young people, a children’s painting competition on biodiversity and others.

97. UNEP also decided to make biodiversity the theme for World Environment Day, which was celebrated globally with a launch in Rwanda on 5 June 2010.

98. UNEP, in cooperation with UNESCO and the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, prepared, launched and supported an international travelling exhibition on biodiversity. With its launch in January 2010 at UNESCO headquarters, this exhibition has travelled the world, providing information on the role and relevance of biodiversity for human well-being. UNEP also provided financial and technical support to develop a public service announcement to help the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity promote the International Year of Biodiversity.

99. UNEP also launched the global celebration of the International Day on Biodiversity with events in Nairobi, including tree planting and a public debate on biodiversity and agriculture with Biodiversity International and others. Through its regional offices, UNEP developed action plans for celebrating the International Year of Biodiversity. The action plan includes activities throughout 2010 to raise awareness of and celebrate biodiversity in West Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean and Asia.

100. UNEP also supported the simultaneous launch of the third edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* report with activities in Nairobi and through its regional offices. To supplement the global report, the UNEP Division of Environmental Law and Conventions and the UNEP regional offices in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, West Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean produced regional biodiversity status reports. These were launched simultaneously along with the global report in the official United Nations languages of the regions.

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14 [www.unep.org/iyb](http://www.unep.org/iyb).

15 Available at [www.unep.org/delc](http://www.unep.org/delc).

## **IV. Activities in support of Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety implementation**

### **A. Outcomes of the expert review on the effectiveness of various approaches to capacity-building**

101. In paragraph 6 of decision BS-IV/3, the parties to the Cartagena Protocol on biosafety welcomed an offer from UNEP to undertake, in collaboration with GEF, an expert review of capacity-building activities funded by GEF, its agencies and the Executive Secretary, with a view to assessing the effectiveness of various approaches to capacity-building and drawing lessons therefrom. In the same decision, parties, other Governments, donors and relevant organization were invited to provide additional support to extend the review to non-GEF activities and submit the review to the Biosafety Clearing-House.

102. Pursuant to the above decision, UNEP commissioned a review in May 2009 and submitted an advance draft report to the Convention secretariat in June 2010. The review involved the analysis of documents from past meetings of the parties, project-related information registered in the Biosafety Clearing-House, reports by UNEP and the Convention secretariats and reports of previous evaluations and assessments of biosafety capacity-development programmes and activities by various organizations, including an evaluation of GEF support for biosafety undertaken in 2006 and an assessment of biotechnology and biosafety capacity development activities carried out by UNU-IAS in 2008. The final report will be made available in information document UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/5/INF/9.

### **B. Other activities in support of the Convention on Biological Diversity**

103. UNEP, in partnership with UNESCO, the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the University of Montreal, organized an international conference on culture and biodiversity in Montreal, Canada, in 2010. The results of the conference are expected to strengthen further the work on article 8 (j) of the Convention and facilitate better discussions on key issues through the expert working group on Article 8 (j).

104. In collaboration with UNESCO, UNU-IAS and the non-governmental organization Natural Justice, UNEP worked on developing community-level protocols focusing on issues of traditional knowledge protection, access and benefit-sharing, equity and climate change. These protocols are expected to further facilitate implementation of provisions related to access and benefit-sharing and article 8 (j) of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

105. UNEP participated in the multiagency discussion meeting organized by the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity focusing on the issue of financing development and biodiversity in development assistance. In continuation of this, UNEP provided technical support to the team from the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity working on biodiversity and development by reviewing the toolkits being developed, the technical series on biodiversity and development besides identifying linkages with the Millennium Development Goals.

106. In preparation for the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties, UNEP and the Convention secretariat are jointly preparing a series of 15 issue papers focusing on key topics for discussion at the meetings. These brief papers are expected to provide an overview of key and emerging issues. UNEP and the Convention secretariat will continue to produce the series for other meetings and related multilateral environmental agreement events.

### **C. UNEP and the fifth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility**

107. The fifth replenishment of GEF began in 2010. The UNEP biodiversity team will continue to work with countries to ensure that projects in the GEF focal areas implemented by UNEP are adequately funded. In addition, UNEP will ensure that such projects innovatively link science to policy, promote global, regional and transboundary cooperation and ensure technology transfer. The main project areas include agricultural biodiversity, mainstreaming biodiversity conservation in production sectors, invasive alien species, transboundary biodiversity issues, including fly way-level conservation, management of inland and coastal ecosystems, transboundary biodiversity issues, sustainable forest management and access and benefit-sharing.