



**Convention on
Biological Diversity**

Distr.:
GENERAL

28 August 2012
UNEP/CBD/COP/11/INF/41

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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

Eleventh meeting

Hyderabad, India, 8–19 October 2012

Item 5.2 of the provisional agenda*

**COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, OTHER CONVENTIONS, AND
INITIATIVES:**

***Report on the activities of the United Nations Environment Programme in the area of biological
diversity***

1. The Executive Secretary is circulating herewith, for the information of participants in the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the report on the activities of the United Nations Environment Programme in the area of biological Diversity, submitted by UNEP.
2. The document is being circulated in the form and language in which it was provided to the Secretariat.

* UNEP/CBD/COP/11/1.

REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME IN THE AREA OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

I. Introduction

1. The present report has been prepared by the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for the eleventh meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. It provides information on UNEP activities in the areas of biological diversity, including biosafety, for the period 1 January 2011 to 31 October 2012. In addition, it describes activities undertaken by UNEP in response to the decisions adopted at the tenth meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention.
2. Supplemental information in the form of publications and documents will be made available by UNEP to the Conference of Parties at its eleventh meeting.
3. At its tenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention adopted 13 decisions which were specifically related to UNEP. In general, the Conference of the Parties requested UNEP to address issues related to technology transfer, national reporting, protected areas, business engagement, incentive measures, implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020, biodiversity and climate change, biofuels and biodiversity, marine and coastal biological diversity, and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, among others. Most of those issues are being addressed by UNEP through its programmes of work for 2010–2011 and 2012–2013.
4. Section II of the present report covers UNEP responses to the decisions made at the tenth Conference of the Parties; section III considers UNEP contributions to the implementation of the Convention in general; section IV provides information on inputs by UNEP to the items on the agenda of the Eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and section V gives an overview of UNEP activities undertaken in support of the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

II. UNEP responses to decisions made at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

5. The present section outlines the UNEP response to those decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting that included specific requests to UNEP. The activities covered in the present report comprise those undertaken by UNEP during the biennium 2010–2011 and those planned for the current biennium, 2012–2013.

Decision X/3: Strategy for resource mobilization in support of the achievement of the Convention's three objectives

6. In paragraph 8 (d) of decision X/3, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to compile information from all sources, including but not limited to the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (BIP), to give methodological guidance to the indicators for monitoring the implementation of the strategy for resource mobilization, including collaborating with the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD/DAC) and informed by the work of the ad hoc technical expert group on indicators for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020.
7. Working with the Governments of Finland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), UNEP conducted a feasibility study of the indicators for the resource mobilization strategy. The report was presented to the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on the Review of Implementation of the Convention at its fourth meeting as an information document (see UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/4/INF/8).

Decision X/5: Implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan

8. In paragraph 6 of the decision X/5, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, in collaboration with Parties, other Governments and relevant international organizations such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other partners, to continue facilitating the provision of support to countries for capacity-building activities, including through regional and/or subregional workshops on updating and revising national biodiversity strategies and action plans, the mainstreaming of biodiversity and the enhancement of the clearing-house mechanism.

9. The Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, for which UNEP provides the secretariat, supports the strengthening of capacity-for the development of national biodiversity indicators within the framework of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and the review, updating and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs). This work has recently received additional funding from the European Commission and UNEP, and covers several workshops in four regions (South-East Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, Eastern Europe and Latin America) and provides associated technical support, together with a regional training of-trainers programme to widen the to include as many parties as possible. Electronic learning materials with associated certification will also be developed and a community of practice will be established. All the NBSAP capacity-building work has been designed and implemented in coordination with the CBD secretariat to complement the capacity-building work that the secretariat is directly facilitating.

10. UNEP, the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), the CBD secretariat, the UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Partnership and UNDP are undertaking joint work on “reciprocal mainstreaming”. As biodiversity and poverty reduction are intrinsically linked and demand an integrated approach, their sustainable achievement requires integration in both directions i.e., reciprocal mainstreaming. This will ensure that biodiversity is better managed and development benefits realized. To date, mainstreaming efforts have been “supply-driven”, meaning that biodiversity stakeholders have promoted biodiversity values in ways that do not sufficiently engage development stakeholders. The joint work proposed (NBSAPs 2.0), for which funding is imminent, will engage African leaders, forming an African leadership group; support cross-country learning to draw out experience (through diagnostic exercises and peer support) from five African countries; jointly prepare good practice guidance with leaders and parties, the Poverty-Environment Initiative, and UNDP; pilot approaches throughout the NBSAP revision process; and showcase successes and lessons.

11. UNEP, in partnership with the Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP), is also working on a project to review the lessons learned from incorporating the valuation of biodiversity and ecosystem services into the development of NBSAPs. The review closely examines the different approaches by which valuation assessments and national accounting are integrated into revised NBSAPs, with the final output being a road map of good practice to support the NBSAP process.

Decision X/7: Examination of the outcome-oriented goals and targets and associated indicators and consideration of their possible adjustment for the period beyond 2010

12. In paragraph 2 of the decision X/7, the Conference of the Parties recognized the need to continue strengthening the ability to monitor biodiversity at all levels, including through, inter alia, building on and continuing the work of the 2010 Biodiversity Indicator Partnership in delivering global indicators for the post-2010 period.

13. UNEP contributed significantly to the assessment of the 2010 Biodiversity Target. This information, stemming from the wide range of interagency, governmental and non-governmental partners of BIP, was published in the journal *Science*, and was central to the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook. Following the adoption of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Targets, UNEP assisted the CBD secretariat with the facilitation of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group Meeting on Indicators for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 by, inter alia, conducting an expert workshop held concurrently with the Ad Hoc Meeting. The resulting framework of indicators for the Aichi Targets was discussed at the fourth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on the Review of Implementation of the Convention and the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties. BIP produced an information document (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/4/INF/6) to support discussions at the fourth meeting of the Working Group. The document reviewed requests made to the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership at the fifteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the Convention to support global, regional and national indicator development and details on how the Partnership will work with the CBD secretariat to assist in implementing these requests.

14. BIP is working to enlarge and enhance the Partnership, to fill gaps relating to the Aichi Targets and expand its set of indicators. The incorporation of new indicators will help create new synergies, expand ownership of BIP and assist in the adequate monitoring of progress towards the Aichi Targets.

15. BIP also works regionally, supporting capacity-building for the development of national biodiversity indicators within the framework of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and supports the review, updating and implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans.

16. All the work of BIP, including indicator development tools and comprehensive information about available indicators, is shared and communicated through a multilingual web portal that is

maintained by the BIP secretariat. BIP has worked to produce an interactive search facility that places indicators in the framework of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. This search facility has been integrated into the indicator section of the Convention website.

17. Also in paragraph 2 of the decision X/7, the Conference of the Parties “recognized the need to continue strengthening the ability to monitor biodiversity at all levels, including through, inter alia, identifying and addressing barriers that limit the availability of data, including through the work of the Conservation Commons.

18. UNEP is working with the Conservation Commons to promote access to and the sharing of biodiversity data, information and knowledge by non-governmental organizations, international and multilateral organizations, Governments, academia, the private sector and individuals to strengthen biodiversity conservation. UNEP has prepared a paper on the barriers to data access on behalf of the Conservation Commons, which was presented to fourth meeting of the CBD Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention as an information document (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/4/INF/13). UNEP will work with parties to the CBD and other key stakeholders to use that document as a basis for more proactively addressing those barriers.

19. In paragraph 6 of the decision, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to invite Group on Earth Observation Biodiversity Observation Network (GEO-BON), working through organizations conducting biodiversity relevant observations, including, inter alia, the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), to prepare an evaluation of existing observation capabilities relevant to the targets contained in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and to provide a report in time for the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and to a meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice prior to the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

20. GEO-BON, IUCN and UNEP held a meeting with the Global Biodiversity Information Facility, DIVERSITAS and Alterra in March 2011, which resulted in a report entitled “Adequacy of biodiversity observation systems to support the Convention on Biological Diversity 2020 targets”. The report was made available to the fifteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (see UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/4/INF/8).

Decision X/10. National reporting: review of experience and proposals for the fifth national report

21. In paragraph 12 of the decision X/10, the Conference of the Parties encouraged parties to increase synergies in national reporting under biodiversity-related conventions to ensure that national reports comprehensively reflect the national situation and status of implementation, and to avoid unnecessary reporting burdens.

22. With funding from the Ministry of the Environment of Finland, UNEP prepared a report entitled “Promoting synergies within the cluster of biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements”, which includes an analysis of existing collaboration and coordination between multilateral environmental agreements and options for further synergies in the area of national reporting. The report was launched at a side event at the fourth meeting of the CBD Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention.

Decision X/15. Scientific and technical cooperation and the clearing-house mechanism

23. In paragraph 5 (c) of decision X/15, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to explore, in collaboration with parties, other Governments, relevant partners and members of the Conservation Commons, ways to promote free and open access to data and information for conservation purposes.

24. UNEP is working with the Conservation Commons to promote access to and the sharing of biodiversity data, information and knowledge by non-governmental organizations, international and multilateral organizations, Governments, academia, the private sector and individuals to strengthen biodiversity conservation. UNEP prepared a paper on the barriers to data access on behalf of the Conservation Commons, which was presented to the fourth meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention (see UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/4/INF/13). UNEP will work with parties and other key stakeholders to use this document as a basis for more proactively addressing those barriers.

Decision X/20. Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations and initiatives

25. In paragraph 8 of decision X/15, the Conference of the Parties invited the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions to continue giving consideration to the harmonization of national reporting and, in this context, welcomed the progress made in the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Project on Facilitating National Reporting to Rio Conventions (FNR-Rio), as well as the project to streamline reporting by Pacific island countries to the biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements.

26. The GEF-funded project FNR-Rio is executed by UNEP in the least developed countries and small island developing States. The project, which is due to close at the end of 2012, has highlighted the barriers to effective reporting at the national level, such as the lack of cooperation and coordination and the difficulties in effective data and information management. The project has also tested a joint reporting format for the three Rio conventions, on biodiversity, climate change and desertification.

Decision X/21. Business engagement

27. In paragraph 1 (c) of the decision X/21, the Conference of the Parties invited parties “to identify a range of options for incorporating biodiversity into business practices that take into account existing developments under various forums, including relevant institutions and non-governmental organizations, such as the Business and Biodiversity Offsets Programme, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Biotrade Initiative of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, Nippon Keidanren, and the Business and Biodiversity Initiative initiated at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

28. In paragraph 3 of the decision, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources and in collaboration with relevant organizations and initiatives, such as those mentioned in paragraph 1 (c) of the decision, to compile information on existing tools that can further facilitate the engagement of businesses in integrating biodiversity concerns into corporate strategies and decision-making, such as, inter alia, business-operating principles for biodiversity conservation, indicators of conservation efficiency and methodologies/techniques/tools for the valuation of biodiversity and ecosystem services, to analyse the effectiveness of these tools in relevant economic sectors, and to make this compilation and analysis available to national focal points and all relevant stakeholders, through the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention and through other means; and to encourage the development and application of tools and mechanisms that can further facilitate the engagement of businesses in integrating biodiversity concerns into their work, such as, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, certification, verification, the valuation of biodiversity and ecosystem services, incentive measures, biodiversity offsets, et cetera.

29. UNEP collaborates with the CBD secretariat to strengthen biodiversity safeguards in standards and certification schemes. That work has resulted in the publication of a review paper in the Convention Technical Series, No. 63, followed by a workshop co-hosted by the CBD secretariat to discuss and refine the findings and conclusions. UNEP is currently working with the CBD secretariat on a review of ecosystem services in standards and certification schemes with a view to developing a set of high-level recommendations for standard-setting bodies looking to strengthen their biodiversity and ecosystem service safeguards. This will lead to the development of best practice guidance for standard-setting bodies from multiple sectors on how to include effective biodiversity and ecosystem service safeguards in standards policy. In addition, UNEP assisted the CBD secretariat in convening an expert meeting to discuss the challenges and opportunities of business sector engagement with biodiversity and ecosystem service valuation and markets. The report of that meeting, which was held in London in November 2011, is expected to be presented to the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting as an information document.

Decision X/29. Marine and coastal biodiversity

30. In paragraph 35 of decision X/29, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to work with parties and other Governments, as well as competent organizations and regional initiatives, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) -Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), in particular the Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS), the Central Data Repository run by International Seabed Authority (ISA), and other relevant international scientific partnerships producing credible, quality-controlled scientific information, such as the World Conservation Monitoring Centre of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP-WCMC) and the Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative (GOBI), to facilitate availability and interoperability of the best available marine and coastal biodiversity data sets and information across global, regional, and national scales.

31. Working with partner organizations, UNEP has continued its implementation of the Global Marine Data Partnership, leading to the improvement of coastal and marine datasets that are critical for biodiversity and environmental planning.
32. In paragraph 39 of the decision, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with parties and other Governments, FAO, the United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, UNESCO -IOC, in particular OBIS, and other competent organizations, UNEP-WCMC and the Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative (GOBI), to establish a repository for scientific and technical information and experience related to the application of the scientific criteria on the identification of EBSAs in annex I of decision IX/20, as well as other relevant compatible and complementary nationally and intergovernmentally agreed scientific criteria, that shares information and harmonizes with similar initiatives, and to develop an information-sharing mechanism with similar initiatives, such as FAO work on vulnerable marine ecosystems .
33. UNEP collaborates within GOBI and through a GEF project on marine spatial planning and the identification of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas, including in areas beyond national jurisdiction.
34. In paragraph 53 of the decision, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to collaborate with FAO, UNEP, regional fisheries management organizations, as appropriate, and in accordance with international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the Fisheries Expert Group (FEG) of the Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM) of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and other relevant organizations and processes, to review the extent to which biodiversity concerns, including the impacts on marine and coastal biodiversity of pelagic fisheries of lower trophic levels, are addressed in existing assessments and propose options to address biodiversity concerns.
35. UNEP also collaborates with CBD, FAO, IUCN and other partners to address biodiversity concerns in sustainable fisheries. To this end, a Joint Expert Meeting entitled “Addressing biodiversity concerns in sustainable fishery”, that was held in Bergen, Norway, from 7 to 9 December 2011 and that reported in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/13, provided recommendations on policymaking and management for the mitigation, reduction and elimination of the impacts of fisheries on biodiversity. UNEP follow-up activities will include the review of the effects of fisheries on biodiversity and ecosystems in regional seas and collaboration with regional fisheries management organizations to develop management and governance systems to reduce the impact of fisheries on biodiversity. Related work aims to build national capacity for the implementation of networks of coastal “fish refugia” to protect biodiversity and essential fish habitats underpinning fish production, and therefore guaranteeing food-security for coastal communities.

Decision X/31. Protected areas

36. In paragraph 19 of decision X/31, the Conference of the Parties invited parties, taking into account the target for goal 1.4 of the programme of work, which calls for all protected areas to have effective management in existence by 2012 using participatory and science-based site planning processes with full and effective participation of stakeholders, and noting that to assess the effectiveness of the management, specific indicators may also be needed to continue to expand and institutionalize management effectiveness assessments to work towards assessing 60 per cent of the total area of protected areas by 2015 using various national and regional tools and report into the global database on management effectiveness maintained by UNEP-WCMC.
37. UNEP, in collaboration with IUCN, maintains the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA). The University of Queensland continues to lead the compilation and analysis of raw data on management effectiveness, with support from the universities of Oxford, Michigan and Copenhagen. This work underpins the management effectiveness indicator of BIP. Work has started on the development of independent global indicators of the biological and ecological effectiveness of protected areas that can be used to assess the contribution of protected areas to Aichi Targets 5 and 12 on habitat and species conservation. The Protected Planet report, which will be launched at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties and at the 2012 IUCN World Conservation Congress, will include information on management effectiveness. Discussions are currently under way with the CBD secretariat on how information regarding management effectiveness can be better mobilized and reported.
38. UNEP is directly engaged in assisting countries in developing and implementing effective and long-term sustainable marine protected areas. This includes a global study entitled *Governing Marine Protected Areas: Getting the Balance Right* (UNEP, 2011), which contains recommendations on effective governance frameworks and guidance to planners and practitioners on how to combine top-

down, bottom-up and market approaches in the development of effective and equitable governance of marine protected areas in different contexts. Future testing and demonstrations of the framework is in planning across regional seas programmes.

Programme of work on protected areas and the LifeWeb Initiative

39. In support of the Convention programme of work on protected areas, the UNEP Partnership for Protected Areas, with financial support from the Government of Spain, recognizes that protected areas are an important component for the sustainable management of biodiversity and a priority management tool to protect the biodiversity critical to ensuring ecosystem functioning and the delivery of ecosystem services. The objective of the Partnership is to support the growth and improved management of protected areas to contribute to human well-being and poverty eradication.

40. Under the Partnership, a series of 15 projects are being implemented in Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, Asia and the Pacific to demonstrate and assess the effectiveness of the policy and the strategic links between local action and protected area management. Key outputs of the implementation of these projects include: (a) direct support to protected area authorities in management planning; (b) country-level training and technical guidance for protected area planners and managers; (c) boundary demarcation, surveillance, monitoring, and community health; (d) assessment of economic incentives to conserve great ape habitats; (e) strengthened national and regional capacities for adaptive and cross-sectoral marine spatial planning; (f) trade-off analysis decision-support tools for spatial planning; (g) operational frameworks for biocultural community protocols; and (h) assessment and implementation of diverse protected area governance types. UNEP is also working to synthesize and disseminate best practices emerging from the projects.

41. In paragraph 31 of the decision, the Conference of the Parties invited parties to recognize the role of indigenous and local community conserved areas and conserved areas of other stakeholders in biodiversity conservation, collaborative management and diversification of governance types.

42. UNEP, as a partner in the Indigenous and Community Conserved Area (ICCA) Consortium, has developed an interactive registry for ICCAs worldwide. The purpose of the project is to build a knowledge base about such special areas that increases the information available on them, documents their values, enhances understanding of their purposes and impacts and increases the engagement of local and traditional communities in the biodiversity conservation and policy arenas. The registry, developed with a structure similar to that of the World Database on Protected Areas, stores two types of information that are critical to understanding ICCAs: (a) descriptive information, such as the main habitats within ICCAs and the names of the community or communities living within or near them; and (b) spatial information, such as the size, location and boundaries of the area.

43. UNEP is compiling a toolkit, targeted at communities, for supporting the management and governance of ICCAs, which will be launched at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties. UNEP is also developing a brief that outlines opportunities for recognition of ICCAs through international instruments such as World Heritage categories.

44. In paragraph 35 of the decision, the Conference of the Parties encouraged parties to share and update relevant information on their protected areas system with the World Database on Protected Areas, which includes the United Nations List of Protected Areas.

45. In paragraph 36, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to integrate the online reporting tool with the World Database on Protected Areas, in order to facilitate the reporting process and promote the joint use of both tools by the parties.

46. Working with IUCN, UNEP continues to maintain the World Database on Protected Areas. It aims to track the status of the world's protected areas in a biannual Protected Planet report, the first edition of which will be launched at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties and at the 2012 IUCN World Conservation Congress.

Decision X/33. Biodiversity and climate change

47. In paragraph 9 of the decision, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to collaborate with relevant international organizations to collect scientific knowledge and case studies and identify knowledge gaps on the links between biodiversity conservation and sustainable use and organic carbon stock conservation and restoration, and make the results available to parties through the clearing-house mechanism and to collaborate with relevant international organizations to expand and refine analyses identifying areas of high potential for the conservation and restoration of carbon stocks.

48. UNEP has directly supported the work of the CBD secretariat on climate change and its relationship to biodiversity conservation. UNEP carried out three reviews of recent scientific literature that served as background documents for the Convention's second Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change. These reviews, entitled "Links between biodiversity and climate change: impacts, adaptation and mitigation", have been published in Technical Series No. 42. Much of the extensive work of UNEP on the relationship between climate change mitigation, mainly the reduction of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries (REDD-plus), and biodiversity has contributed either directly or indirectly to discussions on this subject and to enhancing national efforts to integrate biodiversity considerations into REDD-plus.

49. UNEP has supported the Convention's regional consultation workshops on biodiversity safeguards for REDD-plus through its work with the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD) regarding the development of the draft UN-REDD Social and Environmental Principles and Criteria. Other UNEP work on safeguards was presented to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its fifteenth meeting (see UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/15/INF/2). Several UNEP and UN-REDD publications on the potential for multiple environmental benefits from REDD-plus have been launched at CBD side events and many are available from www.carbon-biodiversity.net. UNEP has also worked on monitoring multiple benefits from REDD-plus, and has linked this to monitoring requirements for the Rio Conventions. The Interactive Carbon Calculator, developed jointly by the CBD secretariat, LifeWeb and UNEP-WCMC, provides users with initial estimates of carbon stored in existing protected areas or any polygon drawn on a global map, opportunities for forest restoration and the status of the forest within these areas, and information on how they relate to protected areas and key biodiversity areas. UNEP has also embarked on work supported by the International Climate Initiative (ICI) to help ensure the incorporation of CBD policy and biodiversity considerations into work carried out under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

50. In addition, UNEP collaborates with UNFCCC and CBD on ecosystem-based adaptation to assist countries develop effective and long-term sustainable adaptation responses through new tools, guidance, training and demonstration to build the resilience of communities and ecosystems to climate change. Collaboration and good interaction is already ongoing between UNEP and CBD to advance this work. An ecosystem-based adaptation decision-support framework (EBA-DSF) is under development to assist planners and decision-makers in selecting, designing, implementing and tracking ecosystem-based adaptation measures. Future steps include testing by national planners and practitioners of a number of pilot projects and the development of a training package with technical guidance and recommendations to support future national action plan implementation. Pilot activities include training and demonstration of coastal ecosystem-based adaptation in small island developing States, mountains, drylands and river basins.

Decision X/43. Multi-year programme of work on the implementation of article 8 (j) and related provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity

51. In paragraph 17 of the decision, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with parties, Governments, international agencies, the Working Group on Indicators of the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity and interested parties, including the 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, to pursue the ongoing refinement and use of the proposed indicators, also bearing in mind the implementation of article 10 and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including through further technical workshops, to consider availability of data, methodologies and coordinating organizations.

52. In paragraph 18, the Conference of the Parties, considering the new emphasis being placed by parties on the implementation of article 10, requested the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of funding, in collaboration with parties, Governments, international agencies including the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the Working Group on Indicators of the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity, relevant non-governmental organizations and the 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, to explore, through further technical workshops, the development of appropriate indicators for customary sustainable use and to report on this matter to the Working Group on Article 8 (j) and Related Provisions at its seventh meeting, so that this matter can be advanced within the framework of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.

53. BIP continues to work with UNESCO on the indicator on the status and trends of linguistic diversity and numbers of speakers of indigenous languages in response to Strategic Goal E of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

III. Further UNEP support for the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity

Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity study

54. UNEP is fielding a side event at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties entitled “Valuing the wealth of biodiversity and ecosystems in South-East Asia: the ASEAN TEEB scoping Study”. The side event will share the results of the scoping study and feature the initial economic valuation results of selected ecosystems (such as mangroves, corals, forest, wetlands, lakes and coastal and marine ecosystems), including identified ecosystems services. It will also provide a venue for technical experts, practitioners, policymakers and donor partners to discuss issues related to the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity study (TEEB). Insights generated from these discussions will feed into the design and implementation of a proposed full TEEB study by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). The objective of the ASEAN TEEB study is to pursue the mainstreaming process of the economics of ecosystems and biodiversity by conducting assessments and valuations of key ecosystems in South-East Asia and its services, and assist ASEAN member States in developing green growth economies. Using the UNEP TEEB study as a foundation, the study will build sufficient evidence and a sound basis for policymakers and technical officers on the imperatives for proper valuation of ecosystem services as a measure for adapting to climate change impacts.

55. The TEEB for Business Coalition has commissioned research to identify the areas of greatest business impact on biodiversity and ecosystem services. These impacts will be quantified across 20 different industrial sectors, including the entire supply chain. In order to address the needs of the companies along the supply chain, and more specifically small and medium-sized enterprises, UNEP and the CBD secretariat could jointly complement existing guidelines and hands-on methodologies to build local capacities to assess and reduce the impact of businesses, especially small and medium-sized enterprises, on biodiversity and ecosystem services. Such guidelines could be included in a compendium of available best practices in the targeted sectors, with specific focus on appropriate solutions for small and medium sized enterprises.

56. In the area of the built environment, UNEP launched the Global Initiative for Resource Efficient Cities (GI-REC) with the aim of enhancing quality of life in urban areas, especially in rapidly growing cities in developing countries, while minimizing resource extraction, energy consumption and waste generation and safeguarding ecosystem services. Providing support to cities in important dimensions of resource efficiency, such as undertaking a systemic analysis of resource flows in cities and harmonizing metrics around resource efficiency in cities, are some of the key activities that the Initiative will pursue. One key activity of the initiative will be to develop an approach for determining a city's “resource footprint”, thus supporting cities in understanding, identifying and managing their resource flows and potential efficiency gains. Furthermore, the impact of city consumption and production on urban ecosystems and fragile ecosystems in the city periphery is an issue that GI-REC may examine.

Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

57. In support of strengthening the scientific basis for the implementation of the Convention and the strengthening of the Subsidiary Body on Technical and Technological Advice in particular, UNEP has been facilitating the process of enhancing the science-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services. A central element of this work was the provision of support for the development of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), which was established on 21 April 2012 by a resolution to which 94 Governments consented during the second session of the plenary meeting to determine the modalities and institutional arrangements for the platform, held in Panama City from 16 to 21 April 2012. This followed more than four years of negotiations and discussion at intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meetings, the General Assembly and several of the meetings of the biodiversity and ecosystem services-related conventions (including decision X/11)).

58. Following the establishment of IPBES, UNEP was requested to facilitate it until its secretariat had been established by one or more of UNEP, UNESCO, FAO and UNDP in Bonn, Germany. UNEP is currently facilitating the inter-sessional process agreed at the IPBES meeting in Panama City, including a broad online consultation open to Governments and other stakeholders to submit input on various procedures to be adopted by the Platform, and on elements of the its work programme. Further details of the inter-sessional process are available at www.ipbes.net/plenary/interseasonal. UNEP is also planning the first IPBES plenary meeting, to be held in January 2013.

Great Apes Survival Partnership

59. The Great Apes Survival Partnership (GRASP) is an innovative and ambitious partnership facilitated by UNEP and UNESCO, in support of a range of programmes of work and cross-cutting issues of the Convention, including forest and mountain biodiversity, and the sustainable use of protected areas. The Partnership comprises great ape range States that are tackling the immediate challenge of lifting the threat of imminent extinction faced by gorillas, chimpanzees, bonobos and orangutans across their ranges in Equatorial Africa and South-East Asia.
60. The Partnership's mission is to promote the conservation of wild populations of great apes in their natural habitats and to ensure that where apes and people interact, their interactions are both positive and sustainable. As threats to great apes continue to grow, the second GRASP Council meeting will be held in Paris in November 2012, bringing together the partnership of great ape range States, non-range States, non-governmental organizations, United Nations agencies and other organizations to establish new priorities to assist the Partnership in moving forwards.
61. GRASP also seeks to reduce the threats facing the same biodiversity-rich ecosystems which share the forests with great apes and to illustrate what can be achieved through a genuine global partnership among myriad stakeholders.
62. To achieve these goals, GRASP aims to implement the objectives outlined in the global strategy for the survival of great apes, which was adopted at the Intergovernmental Meeting on Great Apes, held in Kinshasa in 2005.
63. In support of a range of programmes of work and cross-cutting issues of the Convention, including forest and mountain biodiversity, sustainable use and protected areas, GRASP has devoted its efforts over the past two years to improving protected areas in central Africa and Indonesia by offering direct support to protected area authorities, raising awareness and providing development assistance. During 2011, GRASP launched a report entitled "Orangutans and the economics of sustainable forest management in Sumatra", which demonstrates the economic value of sustainable forest management in support of orangutan conservation and the wider biodiversity and ecosystem service benefits of forest conservation. The report found that conservation and development objectives in Sumatra could be balanced, with economic returns improved in many instances by adopting inclusive green economy initiatives in and around orangutan habitats. It shows that prioritizing investments in sustainable forestry, including REDD-plus projects, can deliver multiple benefits with respect to climate, orangutan conservation and employment in natural resource management.

Payment for ecosystem services

64. UNEP is also implementing 11 interrelated GEF projects in the field of ecosystem services, building upon the TEEB study and the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. These include: the Global Project for Ecosystem Services and the Danube-Carpathian Programme for ecosystem services. These two projects are aimed at building bridges between the science of ecosystem services and assessments of natural capital values for better informed decision-making and policy processes at the local, national and regional levels. These projects will test approaches and develop innovative tools for the inclusion of ecosystem services and natural capital values into national accounting and decision-making processes through field work and extensive consultations in nine countries; valuation, including the economics of biodiversity and ecosystem services; and payment for ecosystem services and related mechanisms, in support of Aichi Targets 2, 14 and 20, in particular.
65. UNEP is seeking collaboration with countries and organizations to implement the green economy approach in coastal States and small island developing States. UNEP is also working through its regional seas programmes to build capacity and develop demonstration activities for ecosystem service valuation to support national management and governance, the green economy and TEEB.
66. UNEP has continued to provide support to countries in meeting Aichi Biodiversity Target 9, set in 2010 as part of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 agreed at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties: "By 2020, invasive alien species and their pathways are identified and prioritized, that priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment".

Invasive alien species

67. To this end, UNEP has continued and expanded its partnership with the Centre for Agricultural Bioscience International and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme in the establishment of national frameworks for the prevention, control and management of invasive alien species. Following the recent conclusion of the field activities of the GEF-funded project entitled "Removing barriers to invasive plant management in Africa" (executed with national partners in Ethiopia, Ghana, Uganda and Zambia), a new GEF programme was designed and recently started in

Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Viet Nam called “Removing barriers to invasive species management in production and protection forests in Southeast Asia”, which will be executed over the next four years. One of the innovations of the project is to focus on increasing willingness to build capacity to apply biocontrols in the fight against invasive alien species in the environment. It will also build capacity on habitat and forest rehabilitation, a field of work rarely touched in IAS programmes. Three additional GEF-funded partnerships are ongoing in Cameroon, the Caribbean and Pacific island countries, entitled “Mitigating the threats of invasive alien species in the insular Caribbean”, the “Prevention, control and management of invasive alien species in the Pacific Islands” and the “Development and implementation of a national monitoring and control system (framework) for living modified organisms and invasive alien species”.

Voluntary certification for sustainable tropical forest management

68. Following the successful completion in Brazil, Cameroon and Mexico, and through collaboration with the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) of the UNEP/GEF project “Improved certification schemes for sustainable tropical forest management”, two new initiatives in the field of voluntary certification were developed to support the Convention in its objective of achieving the sustainable utilization of biodiversity. The former four-year project, which involved communities in Brazil, Cameroon and Mexico, as well as FSC national offices, has developed tools and incentives to help small forest managers, communities and non-timber forest product collectors in the tropics to identify and protect biodiversity in the forests they manage through certification. UNEP has recently started implementation in Chile, Indonesia, Nepal (FSC country office) and Viet Nam of the new landmark project entitled “Forest certification for ecosystem services”, which looks at what changes to the global FSC system are needed over a four-year period, from 2011 to 2015, for FSC to become a global leader in the certification of ecosystem services. FSC and partner organizations will research, analyse and field test innovative ways on how to evaluate and reward the provision of critical ecosystem services, such as biodiversity conservation, watershed protection and carbon storage and sequestration. Pilot tests will be carried out at 10 forest sites under various environmental and socio-political conditions. Essential to this is the development of suitable compliance indicators at both the national and international levels. In addition, newly developed impact indicators will be used to demonstrate positive outcomes and gauge the success of social and environmental objectives, which are increasingly important mechanisms to measure the attainment of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

Agrobiodiversity and food security

69. UNEP is also implementing key initiatives in the conservation and sustainable use of agrobiodiversity in support of the Convention. One key initiative taking place in Brazil, Kenya, Sri Lanka and Turkey is aimed at improving global knowledge of biodiversity for food and nutrition and thereby enhance the well-being, livelihoods and food security of target beneficiaries and strengthen the conservation and sustainable management of agricultural biodiversity through mainstreaming into national and global nutrition, food and livelihood security strategies and programmes. The project is not only aligned with the Convention’s cross-cutting initiative on biodiversity for food and nutrition established in 2006, but also supports the achievement of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The results and outcomes of the project would support in particular the achievement of the following strategic goals and targets: Strategic Goal C: improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity; Target 13: by 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives including other socio-economically, as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimal genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity; Strategic Goal D: enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services; Target 14: by 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and the vulnerable; Strategic Goal E: enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building; and Target 18: by 2020, traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.

Support for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on access and benefit-sharing

70. UNEP is supporting the implementation of the access and benefit-sharing regime of the Convention through several initiatives, including “Strengthening the implementation of the Biological Diversity Act and rules with focus on its access and benefit-sharing provisions” in India; and

“Capacity-building and benefit-sharing and conservation and sustainable use of medicinal plants in Ethiopia”. It is currently assisting five African countries (Cameroon, Kenya, Madagascar, Senegal and South Africa) in developing, implementing and reviewing their access and benefit-sharing frameworks. In addition, UNEP supported countries in negotiating the Nagoya Protocol in October 2010. The support is currently being extended to assist countries in ratifying and implementing the Protocol through several initiatives. UNEP has also developed guidance on biocultural community protocols, (*“A Community Approach to Ensuring the Integrity of Environmental Law and Policies”* (UNEP, 2009) to guide development of local systems for access to and benefit-sharing of natural resources for local communities. A follow-up phase has recently been initiated to specifically address access to and benefit-sharing of coastal and marine resources through guidance on coastal biocultural community protocols.

IV. United Nations Environment Programme contribution to the agenda items before the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its eleventh meeting

71. Section II the present report provided information regarding responses to decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its tenth meeting that were of direct relevance to UNEP. In preparation for the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, UNEP has proactively reviewed the upcoming agenda items and, where relevant, communicated to the parties what it is doing and how it can offer support for the implementation of biological diversity commitments. UNEP has developed several initiatives which could benefit biological diversity stakeholders, and, it aims to communicate more effectively with parties at the eleventh meeting of to ensure that they are well aware of what UNEP has to offer to assist them in fulfilling their Convention commitments.

A. Item 3 of the provisional agenda: implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and progress made towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets

Marine and coastal biodiversity, including land-based aspects, in support of Aichi Targets 6, 7, 8, 10 and 11 in particular

72. Capacity-building on ecosystem-based management. UNEP is proposing a “Global partnership on capacity building for ecosystem-based management of oceans and coasts: pursuing compatible objectives for sustainable development through integrated spatial planning, management and policies” in the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, with parties to the Convention and other stakeholders regarded as key potential partners.

73. Marine protected areas. Future testing and demonstration of the framework is in the pipeline across regional seas. Other normative marine protected area work includes the development of recommendations on the use of marine protected areas as a fishery management tool, in collaboration with FAO and other partners. Moreover, UNEP is currently implementing a marine protected area demonstration project in the Caribbean and the eastern Pacific, including innovative approaches to the management of long-distance migration corridors and essential habitats of large marine mammals. If a second phase is funded, UNEP will seek additional partners.

74. Marine debris. UNEP has established a Global Partnership on Marine Debris and CBD is already a partner. UNEP hopes to seek GEF support on a micro-plastics project and would seek the collaboration of CBD in this work.

B. Item 4.1 of the provisional agenda: review of the implementation of the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, including the establishment of targets

75. UNEP, working with ICF GHK, has been contracted by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs of the United Kingdom to work with the CBD High-level Panel on Global Assessment of Resources for Implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 to provide an aggregated estimate of the investment and on going expenditure needed to meet the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. This project will complement the work of the Panel that has been invited to report to the Conference of Parties at its eleventh meeting.

C. Item 5.2 of the provisional agenda: cooperation with international organizations, other conventions and initiatives

76. In 2012, UNEP published a report for the Ministry of the Environment of Finland entitled “Promoting synergies within the cluster of biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements”. The report builds on previous initiatives relevant to the issue and looks at current coordination and collaboration among the biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements with regard to four issues: a science-policy interface; strategic planning; national reporting; and capacity-building. The report also outlines a road map for further synergies among the biodiversity related conventions.

D. Item 5.4 of the provisional agenda: engagement of other stakeholders, major groups and subnational authorities

77. UNEP is a member of the Global Partnership on Local and Sub-national Action for Biodiversity. As a member of the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Cities and Biodiversity Outlook, UNEP-WCMC assisted in the preparation of this major report, with a focus on potential indicators as a component of the Scientific Foundation report.

E. Item 8 of the provisional agenda: review of the programme of work on island biodiversity

78. UNEP supports the provision of a robust infrastructure to support coherent reporting of alien species and species losses on islands. This is being achieved by undertaking critical updates and enhancements of the Global Island Database in partnership with IUCN and the Global Island Partnership. In addition, UNEP is embarking on a three-phase programme on island ecosystem management across regional seas: the development of guidance documents on an island ecosystem management approach, including planning guidelines, island ecosystem service valuation and island specific trade-off analysis (phase 1); pilot application of the guidance documents to selected sites to demonstrate the usefulness and applicability of the guidance documents, and the actual benefits of undertaking island ecosystem management approaches (phase 2); and collation and dissemination of lessons learned and good practices regarding island ecosystem management through various regional forums and bodies, including replication of good practices across small island developing States (phase 3).

79. A report on a green economy in small island developing States is being prepared by UNEP and the Small Island Developing States Unit of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat for release at the General Assembly in late 2012. The report will highlight the challenges and opportunities of the green economy approach for small island developing States. Its objective is to support countries in developing their own perspectives and implementing the green economy on the basis of their particular needs and circumstances. It focuses on the concerns of small island developing States in the context of a green economy, as well as the risks, benefits, challenges and opportunities involved, and looks at institutional capacity, strategies and coordination issues for such States at the national, regional and inter-regional levels. The report examines how small island developing States can take advantage of green economy opportunities to reduce their vulnerability to climate change and promote sustainable growth.

80. Furthermore, UNEP has initiated a number of activities aimed at identifying, quantifying and valuating ecosystem services to be incorporated into management decision-making, targeting coastal and marine ecosystems, forest ecosystems, freshwater ecosystems and other terrestrial ecosystems. The activities are based on previous and ongoing UNEP activities in small island developing States, including projects on integrated watershed and coastal area management and integrated water resources and wastewater management.

F. Item 10 of the provisional agenda: marine and coastal biodiversity

Ecologically or biologically significant areas

81. UNEP will be working with CBD in using the outcomes of the work undertaken on ecologically or biologically significant areas in a GEF project entitled “Areas beyond national jurisdiction” aimed at ensuring efficiency and sustainability in the use of deep-sea living resources and biodiversity conservation in areas beyond national jurisdiction through the systematic application of an ecosystem approach for (a) protecting vulnerable marine ecosystems and ecologically or biologically significant areas; and (b) practising improved area-based planning for deep sea ecosystems.

G. Item 10.1 of the provisional agenda: identification of ecologically and biologically significant marine and coastal areas

Marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction, including ecologically or biologically significant areas

82. UNEP is working with FAO, IUCN, UNEP-WCMC, the Regional Seas Programme and other partners to develop and implement a new concerted effort, with the support of GEF, to achieve efficiency and sustainability in the use of deep-sea living resources and biodiversity conservation in areas beyond national jurisdiction, through the systematic application of an ecosystem approach for: (a) improving sustainable management practices for deep-sea fisheries, taking into account the impacts on related ecosystems; (b) protecting vulnerable marine ecosystems and ecologically or biologically significant areas; and (c) practising improved area-based planning for deep-sea ecosystems.

H. Item 10.2 of the provisional agenda: other matters related to marine and coastal biodiversity

Capacity-building on ecosystem-based management

83. UNEP is implementing a comprehensive capacity-building effort on marine and coastal ecosystem-based management across regional seas. This includes the development of global decision-support tools, guidance resources, regional training and policy advice and national demonstration activities. A coordinated effort to assist in the collaboration and adoption of an ecosystem approach to regional seas is under way. Such an approach would include regional-level sustainable development goals, targets, indices and systems to track future performance. An *Introductory Guide on Marine and Coastal Ecosystem-based Management* was published in 2011 which is now being used to support regional capacity-building and demonstration activities.

84. A synthesis report entitled *The Green Economy in a Blue World* was launched in 2012 by UNEP and a range of partners. The report makes the case for including ocean sectors in any green economy transition. As an outcome of the report, UNEP, with its partners GRID-Arendal and Duke University, have initiated a TEEB for oceans study.

85. With regard to global marine assessment for policy support, capacity-building at the regional and global levels is ongoing in support of the Global Ocean Assessment (formerly known as the Regular Process for a Global Marine Assessment) to support science-policy linkages and decision-making on marine management and governance, which includes but is not limited to the themes of the marine and coastal related Aichi Biodiversity Targets. UNEP, at the request of member States, has been supporting Regional Seas Programme capacity-building workshops, with more scheduled for later in 2012, and has been working with member States through the Programme to support the undertaking of the assessments with a target of 2014 for completion of the Global Ocean Assessment.

86. On marine debris, UNEP, through the GPA, has established a Global Partnership on Marine Litter. UNEP introduced the Honolulu Strategy to the third Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities in January 2012 as the framework that can be adopted and used by member countries and organizations. Representatives of 65 Governments and the European Commission emphasized the relevance of the Honolulu Commitment endorsed at the fifth International Marine Debris Conference and in the Honolulu Strategy. It was also recommended that a global partnership on marine litter be established. UNEP developed the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML) in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, and it was launched in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012. The Partnership has the following objectives: (a) to protect human and environmental health through the reduction and management of marine litter; (b) to enhance international cooperation and coordination through the promotion and implementation of the Honolulu Strategy and the Honolulu Commitment; (c) to promote knowledge management and information-sharing facilitated by the online Marine Litter Network.

87. The marine debris-related activities of UNEP also feed into the workplan of the UNEP led Global Partnership on Waste Management. This will ensure that marine debris issues, goals, and strategies are tied to global efforts to reduce and manage waste. In addition, UNEP is planning to facilitate an online forum to enable the global marine debris community to monitor progress in the implementation of the Honolulu Strategy and share information, lessons learned and tools. UNEP is also leading the establishment of the United Nations Oceans Taskforce on Marine Litter, with the aim of coordinating marine litter-related activities within the United Nations family.

88. UNEP, through GPA, has also been managing the Global Partnership on Nutrient Management (GPNM). GPNM is a partnership of Governments, scientists, policymakers, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and international organizations whose objective is to address the growing problem of nutrient over-enrichment. GPNM raises awareness and facilitates the exchange of good practice to address the root causes of harmful algae blooms. It also provides a space where countries and other stakeholders can forge more cooperative work across a variety of international and regional forums and agencies dealing with nutrients. GPNM is guided by a steering committee chaired by the Government of the Netherlands.

89. With support from GPNM partners, the UNEP-GPA Coordination Office secured GEF funding for the project entitled “Global foundations for reducing nutrient enrichment and oxygen depletion from land-based pollution, in support of the global nutrient cycle”. The aim of the project is to address the underlying problem of the lack of a sufficient governance and management framework for effective action on reducing nutrient inputs and improving efficiency of use.

90. UNEP, through GPA, convened a side event related to nutrients at the Conference on Sustainable Development. The event was designed to highlight the emerging issues associated with excessive nutrient inputs into the marine environment and the urgent need for the international community to unite to respond to this issue. Those present agreed on the urgency of a global assessment of nutrient linkages, benefits and threats.

Adverse human impacts on coral reef ecosystems

91. UNEP is developing a global coral reef partnership with the regional seas programmes, as a contribution towards Aichi Target 10 and the Rio+20 outcomes, in particular. The partnership is aligned with the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) Call to Action and Framework for Action and builds on current and past activities, including the International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN). The partnership aims to catalyse effective, ecosystem-based coral reef management, through the development of tools and guidance at the global level, and pilot testing, adoption and application through Regional Seas. Main thematic work areas include management and adaptation planning for resilient coral reef seascapes during climate change and ocean acidification, fishery support through networks of refugia, water quality standards, and creating revenue streams through ecosystem service mapping and valuation.

92. UNEP technical and financial support towards the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) focuses on strengthening the scientific rigour of its assessments, enhancing the impact of its periodic reporting and broadening its base of collaborators. This encompasses input towards the present process of detailed analysis of long-term coral reef ecosystem change as well as promoting greater integration between GCRMN and the Regional Seas Programme. Both UNEP and CBD are among the founding organizations of GCRMN and serve on its Management Group. GCRMN operates under the auspices of ICRI.

93. On marine spatial planning tools and the commitment made by UNEP at the sixteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to address its recommendation XVI/6 in collaboration with CBD and other partners, UNEP will host an expert workshop, including representatives from regional seas programmes. The aim of the workshop is to compile and review information on experience and use of marine spatial planning and consolidate practical guidance for applying marine spatial planning and the development or modification of existing web-based information-sharing system linking existing information sources on marine spatial planning on the web.

I. Item 12 of the provisional agenda: biodiversity and development

94. UNEP is a member of the CBD Expert Group on Biodiversity for Development and Poverty Eradication, which was established by decision X/6. The group held its first meeting in December 2011 in India and drafted the Dehradun Declaration of Forest peoples on Environment Justice, which will be considered by the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting. UNEP will jointly host a side event on biodiversity and development with the secretariat of the CBD to present a mainstreaming diagnostic tool for use by partners, experiences from countries of its preliminary use, and the state of knowledge on biodiversity-development mainstreaming.

95. UNEP has also been supporting the CBD biodiversity and development programme through technical advice and ongoing joint work on biodiversity and development linkages with the International Institute for Environment and Development. A specific output to note is CBD Technical Series No. 55, entitled “Linking biodiversity conservation and poverty alleviation: a state of knowledge review”. A range of collaborative work in support of the programme was presented during the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat

Desertification, held in Changwon, Republic of Korea, at the Rio Conventions Pavilion side event, entitled “Healthy planet, healthy people: mainstreaming biodiversity for development, poverty eradication, health and gender equity”, which was co-hosted by the CBD secretariat and UNEP.

J. Item 13.1 of the provisional agenda: biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands

96. UNEP, together with the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and IUCN, has been playing a leading role in the development of a book entitled *Conserving Drylands Biodiversity through Sustainable Land Management: in Pursuit of Land Degradation Neutrality*. This authoritative and evidence-based, policy-relevant document will be launched at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties and at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in 2012.

K. Item 13.7 of the provisional agenda: global strategy for plant conservation

97. As a member of the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation, UNEP is currently working with Botanic Gardens Conservation International on the development of a capacity-building project for the implementation of a global strategy for plant conservation in Africa.

L. Item 13.10 of the provisional agenda: global taxonomy initiative

98. UNEP, which is a member of the Coordination Mechanism of the global taxonomy initiative, together with BioNET International and Kew Gardens, has developed an indicator for taxonomy within the framework of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Targets. The indicator has been integrated into the provisional framework of indicators for the Aichi Targets.

IV. Support for implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

99. UNEP, with support from GEF, is currently implementing the project entitled “Continued enhancement of capacity –building for effective participation in the Biosafety Clearing House project (BCH-2)”.

100. The BCH-2 project was developed as a direct response to the needs identified by the parties at the fourth and fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and is being implemented in collaboration with CBD. The aim of the project, which is being implemented in 50 countries, is to provide assistance to eligible countries in strengthening national capacities to effectively access and use Biosafety Clearing House, promoting regional and subregional collaboration, networking and exchange of experience for national and regional BCH management.

101. The UNEP-GEF BCH-2 project, in collaboration with CBD, has held more than 90 national training workshops in 46 participating countries with the active involvement and participation of more than 916 public, private and academic institutions and civil society, with special emphasis on stakeholder groups that have been identified by parties to the Protocol as being very important, and should therefore be targeted by new national training events. These include customs, academia and phytosanitary groups.

102. In addition, during the 2011–2012 period, five regional workshops were conducted in collaboration with the secretariat of the CBD to enhance the capacity of BCH national focal points. These workshops were well attended by a total of 69 participants, representing 51 countries: 12 from the Asia-Pacific region, 9 from Latin America, 1 from Central and Eastern Europe, 13 from francophone Africa, 10 from anglophone Africa and 6 from the Caribbean. The main aim of these workshops was to enhance the capacity of national focal points to publish and find information on the BCH central portal in a bid to assist countries in making informed decisions with regards to their obligations under the Protocol. Participants also had the opportunity to share experiences and discuss the current status of their biosafety frameworks, with special emphasis on BCH and on how to promote the sustainability of BCH-related functions within the responsible government agencies. At the five regional training workshops, more than 90 new basic records were registered on the BCH-2 central portal, and 51 BCH-2 national focal points were trained.

103. Furthermore, the project has continued to support and strengthen the network of regional advisers, a pool of experts from all regions and sub-regions who deliver targeted training to countries on BCH and other issues and facilitate skills development for the implementation of the Protocol.

104. In addition, the project has established various communications tools, such as online forums, real-time conferences and Moodle (a virtual electronic learning system) to help regional cooperation.

UNEP has established a virtual learning platform to help project participating countries exchange their training experiences and store all training material used during their regional or national training workshops. Each regional training workshop has its own page available electronically on Moodle, and upon request each participating country may have its own national training workshop page available for all stakeholders

105. As a result of all these different initiatives, by May 2012 more than 2,050 different users from more than 100 countries had used the virtual learning platform to access BCH training material, with more than 82,000 virtual course pages visited. The platform will soon include several webinars on the most requested issues and activities related to BCH. These include: “Introduction to the Cartagena Protocol”, “Registering national and reference information”, “Finding information with the help of the BCH practical problem-solving tool”, “National authorized users management”, “National biosafety website development using the HERMES tool provided by the CBD secretariat”, and “Integrating BCH information into websites using the AJAX plug-in provided by the CBD secretariat”.

106. The project has updated 92 per cent of all training materials (more than 75 documents are available in all six official United Nations languages and include 10 curricula and guides, 13 manuals, 32 case studies, two interactive modules, 14 ready reference guides, five quizzes and discussion points (available at bch.cbd.int/help/topics/en/webframe.html?Training_Materials.html and <http://moodle.bch2project.org/>). New training materials for customs and phytosanitary officers (curricula, manuals and case studies) and a new module on registering decisions and risk assessments have been developed. All of these BCH training materials are published directly on the BCH central portal. Furthermore, compact disc images of all BCH training materials have been distributed to all national and regional workshops.

107. In support of the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, UNEP continues to work in partnership with parties, the secretariat of the CBD and other partners through its GEF-supported projects to support the implementation of decisions of the conferences and meetings of the parties. In line with GEF strategy of supporting national, regional and thematic issues and specific projects based on stocktaking, UNEP currently has a portfolio of 25 medium-sized projects and four full-sized projects in the fourth GEF cycle. Of these, 18 medium-sized projects and 3 full-sized projects were started in the current reporting cycle and are at various stages of implementation. These projects are being executed in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. The reporting period saw the execution of three unique full-size projects as “firsts” under the UNEP-GEF Biosafety Portfolio, namely, the Caribbean Regional Project (12 countries); the Indian Full-Size Project on Capacity-Building on Biosafety for Implementation of the Cartagena Protocol - Phase II; and the Cameroon Project on Development and Institution of a National Monitoring and Control System (Framework) for Living Modified Organisms and Invasive Alien Species. The Cameroon project is a biosecurity project anchored in the risk analysis principle as a basis for the management of all biological introductions and is the first of its kind under the GEF Biodiversity Focal Area. This is a pilot intervention from which UNEP and its partners will draw lessons and best practices and models for future biosecurity interventions. The 18 medium-sized projects are country-specific; the full-sized projects for Cameroon and India are also country executed, while the Caribbean Regional Project is supporting 12 countries.

108. During the past two years UNEP has focused support on the implementation of decision BS-V/16 on the Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety for the period 2011–2020 and on the GEF-5 Strategy on Biosafety. UNEP also contributes to the programme of work of the CBD secretariat through its contributions and membership of the Coordination Mechanism through the coordination meetings of institutions, Governments and organizations supporting biosafety capacity-building and the Liaison Group on Biosafety.

109. UNEP, in line with decision BS-V/2, has prepared an overview report on the status of the Biosafety Clearing House project, collected endorsements from parties and is in discussions with the GEF secretariat for approval and roll out of an add-on project to the current phase 2 Biosafety Clearing House Project to support eligible parties. In the reporting year, UNEP provided rapid response support to the second national reporting process, in line with BS-V/5, paragraph 4 (c), through the execution of three projects approved in May 2011, with a total of 123 GEF-eligible parties in Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean, with reports to be completed in September 2011 to assist parties in meeting the obligation of article 33 on monitoring and reporting. In that vein, UNEP developed presentations, toolkits and materials to provide guidance and assistance to GEF-eligible parties. At the time of reporting, 110 of the 123 eligible parties had prepared their second national biosafety reports, which have been uploaded onto the BCH website. This is the highest number of national reports ever delivered in the context of GEF-supported national reporting obligations to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

110. As part of its cooperative activities with the secretariat of CBD, UNEP, as a key member of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on the Second Assessment and Review of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, provided background information, including lessons learned and best practices captured in the preliminary work of the independent consultant's work and through the review process. In addition, UNEP provided technical input and support in exploring options to support capacity-building and the mainstreaming of the obligations of the new Nagoya Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol into the national biosafety framework implementation process and has also developed a draft proposal for discussion with the GEF on the enforcement of the Biosafety Regulatory System, as requested through the coordination mechanism.

111. UNEP, in partnership with the secretariat of CBD and through its annual regional-based national project coordinators meeting of the ongoing Biosafety Implementation project, has been providing guidance and technical support on GEF strategies, lessons, best practices and new information on the decisions of conferences and meetings of the parties, strategies relating to the new programme of work on biosafety and the updated action plan on capacity-building on biosafety, with hands-on demonstrations.
