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**EXPERT MEETING ON THE
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**REVIEW OF THE INCORPORATION OF THE ECOSYSTEM APPROACH INTO
VARIOUS PROGRAMMES OF WORK OF THE CONVENTION**

Note by the Executive Secretary

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Pursuant to paragraph 5 of decision V/6 of the Conference of the Parties, the present document reviews the incorporation of the ecosystem approach into various programmes of work of the Convention.
2. The review is based on an assessment of decisions of the Conference of the Parties and recommendations brought forward from the eighth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and technological Advice that explicitly address the application of the ecosystem approach in thematic programmes of work and cross-cutting issues of the Convention, as relevant. A summary table (Table 1) listing the relevant decision/recommendation text and a status report on the implementation of specific activities is included in the annex to the note.
3. Specific reference to the ecosystem approach is made in all thematic programmes of work, i.e. on inland waters ecosystems, marine and coastal biodiversity, agricultural biodiversity, forest biodiversity, dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity and in the elements for a programme of work on mountains. It will also be addressed in the programme of work on protected areas, which is currently under preparation, in particular through the components on ecological networks and corridors.
4. Furthermore the ecosystem approach is explicitly addressed through cross-cutting issues including on indicators and assessments (including impact assessment); liability and redress; the Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI); the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GPSC); invasive alien species (IAS); incentive measures; traditional knowledge, innovations and practices (Article 8(j) and related provisions), and; sustainable tourism.
5. Usually the programmes of work include an umbrella statement on applying the ecosystem approach, sometimes making explicit reference to decision V/6 on the ecosystem approach, its principles and the operational guidance. Programmes of work that were drafted prior to the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties make reference to the ecosystem approach in a more general way. Decisions relevant to the programmes of work taken at the fifth and sixth meetings of the Conference of the Parties usually refer to decision V/6. The newly proposed programmes of work on inland water and marine and coastal biodiversity (recommendations from the eighth meeting of SBSTTA) include some explicit

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activities that promote, document and analyse the application of the ecosystem approach. The ecosystem approach is, through decisions of the Conference of the Parties and recommendations from the eighth meeting of SBSTTA, addressed to some extent in each programme area.

6. It is apparent that a variety of "ecosystem approaches" are being referred to, and it is not always apparent if and how these relate to the principles of the ecosystem approach of the CBD as laid out in decision V/6. Also the term "ecosystem management" seems to be used when referring to the ecosystem approach. It is difficult to assess in how far the principles of the ecosystem approach are being applied in this context.

7. Little information on the implementation of the ecosystem approach is available at this moment, especially on a country basis. It is apparent that a number of activities implementing ecosystem approaches are underway, however the information is hard to obtain systematically. The third national reports might provide an ideal opportunity to review the implementation of the ecosystem approach through the various work programmes of the convention in some detail.

Table 1: Review of the incorporation of the ecosystem approach into various programmes of work of the Convention - list of COP decisions and SBSTTA 8 recommendations explicitly addressing the application of the ecosystem approach and review of progress in implementation.

| | Decisions and planned activities | Implementation examples |
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| THEMATIC PROGRAMMES | | |
| Inland waters | <p>Decision IV/4, para 7b & Annex I</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urges Parties to prioritise projects preparing and implementing integrated watershed, catchment and river basin management plans based on an ecosystem approach including transboundary watersheds, catchments and river basins, and wetlands of international importance. • Annex I, Part A, 3, paragraph 9 (d) calls to encourage research on the ecosystem approach <p>Decision VI/2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the River Basin Initiative (RBI) collaboration with the Convention on Wetlands <p>SBSTTA VIII/ 2, Annex, proposed revised programme of work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme element 1 "Conservation, sustainable use and benefit-sharing" promotes the ecosystem approach esp. through Goal 1.1. "To integrate the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into all relevant sectors of water-resource and river-basin management, taking into account the ecosystem approach". Suggested activities include: (1) the assessment of current management approaches and strategies with regard to their integration of the ecosystem approach and sustainable use principles and adjust them as needed, (2) contribution to, and participation in the RBI by sharing case studies, experiences and lessons learned, i.e. on examples of watershed management that incorporate the conservation and sustainable use of inland water biological diversity with special reference to examples that use the ecosystem approach to meet water management goals • Programme element 3 "Knowledge, assessment and monitoring" promotes the ecosystem approach esp. through Goal 3.1. "To develop an improved understanding of the biodiversity found in inland water ecosystems, how these systems function, their ecosystem goods and services and the values they can provide" and Goal 3.3. "To ensure projects and actions with the potential to impact negatively on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems are subjected ... to suitably rigorous impact assessments, ... ". Suggested activities include: (1) increased research efforts leading to an improved understanding of the biodiversity and functioning of inland water ecosystems, and the practical | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parties have been invited to submit case studies (notification dated 18 September 2002) on: community involvement in river basin or water resources management; planning procedures and mechanisms; monitoring and research; policies and legal instruments; management interventions; transboundary/international cooperation; and institutional arrangement. No case studies were received. • The RBI is being implemented (www.riverbasin.org). Through its IWRM ToolBox it provides a mechanism for submission of case studies, including critical analysis, lessons learned and positive experiences that might be considered for replication, in the context of implementing ecosystem approaches. • The Ramsar STRP, through its working groups on wise use and water resource management, are integrating the CBD ecosystem approach principles into their work. • UNESCO has published a report "Using the ecosystem approach to implement the CBD: a global synthesis report drawing lessons from three regional pathfinder workshops", including examples on inland waters http://www.unesco.org/mab/docs/Report.pdf • A series of reports facilitated by the German Government (Ministerial Division for Conservation) deal with the ecosystem approach and present case-studies for ecosystem approach implementation, including on inland waters (see e.g. http://www.bfn.de/09/skript78.pdf) • The World Economic Forum, in association with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), has launched a Water Initiative to create public-private partnerships to improve the management of watersheds; reference to the implementation of the ecosystem approach (http://www.weforum.org/site/homepublic.nsf/) |

| | Decisions and planned activities | Implementation examples |
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| | <p>application of the ecosystem approach, and (2) collaboration with the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) and other relevant organizations; esp. decision VI/7 A on further development and refinement of the guidelines, to incorporate all stages of the environmental impact assessment processes taking into account the ecosystem approach.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IUCN published a documentation of case-studies on application of ecosystem approaches, including in freshwater systems http://www.iucn.org/themes/wetlands/ecosystemmanagement.html Additional case studies are currently being documented. |
| <p>Marine and coastal areas</p> | <p>Decision IV/5, annex B, para 3 and annex C operational objective 2.1.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The programme of work, through its basic principles, promotes the ecosystem approach at global, regional, national and local levels. Programme element 2 on marine and coastal living resources, through operational objective 2.1. "To promote ecosystem approaches to the sustainable use of marine and coastal living resources, including the identification of key variables or interactions, for the purpose of assessing and monitoring, first, components of biological diversity; second, the sustainable use of such components; and, third, ecosystem effects". Explicit activities include the promotion of (i) the identification and development of ecosystem approaches compatible with the sustainable use of marine and coastal living resources, and (ii) identification both of components of the ecosystems which are critical to the functioning of the ecosystem and of key threats. <p>Decision V/3 para 9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through section II. on integrated marine and coastal management endorses further work on developing guidelines for coastal areas, taking into account decision V/6, on the ecosystem approach; and to continue work on ecosystem evaluation and assessment, inter alia, through guidelines on evaluation and indicators. <p>SBSTTA VIII/ 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposed reviewed programme of work makes mention of ecosystem approaches as framework. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> According to the first and second national reports and the NBSAPs, the ecosystem approach has not yet been adopted in the majority of countries (see document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/8/9). The Parties have identified application of the ecosystem approach as a priority, i.e. the development and adoption of marine and coastal management plans that use an ecosystem approach (recommendation VIII/3). Guidance for ecosystem-based management of marine and coastal biodiversity is contained in recommendation VIII/3 and document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/8/INF/11. The Government of the Netherlands, with e.g. GPA, Wetlands International, the Ramsar Convention, are currently producing guidance, which will fully integrate existing IMCAM guidance and the objectives of the CBD, particularly applying the ecosystem approach. A number of international and regional organizations promote the ecosystem approach for the sustainable use of marine and coastal living resources, e.g. FAO conducted the Reykjavik meeting on responsible fisheries and marine ecosystems (http://www.fao.org/docrep/meeting/004/Y2211e.htm); The World Fish Centre (ICLARM; http://www.worldfishcenter.org/) is developing an "Integrated Fisheries Management Framework", which promotes the ecosystem approach; the fourth meeting of the UN Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (http://www.un.org/Depts/los/consultative_process/consultative_process.htm) calls for the implementation of the ecosystem approach. The Helsinki Commission (HELCOM) provides a regional example for the approach (http://www.helcom.fi/). IOC is currently reviewing the OSLR programme to be compatible with the ecosystem approach. |

| | Decisions and planned activities | Implementation examples |
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| Agricultural biodiversity | <p>Decision V/5, annex, para 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of the programme of work will apply the ecosystem approach, <i>inter alia</i>, through intersectoral cooperation, decentralization of management to the lowest level appropriate, equitable distribution of benefits, and the use of adaptive management policies that can deal with uncertainties and are modified in the light of experience and changing conditions. The implementation process will also build upon the knowledge, innovations and practices of local communities and thus complement Article 8(j) of the Convention. A multi-disciplinary approach that takes into account scientific, social and economic issues is required. <p>Decision VI/5, Annex II, para 7 and element 4 of the programme of work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators is considered providing an opportunity to apply the ecosystem approach. Explicit activities under programme element 4 "Mainstreaming", addressing the ecosystem approach include, integration of considerations of pollinator diversity, and related dimensions of agricultural biodiversity, consistent with the ecosystem approach, (i) into biodiversity strategies and action plans, and into planning processes in the agricultural sector, (ii) in formal educational programmes at all levels. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The WSSD Plan of Implementation (para 29(a)) calls for the application of the ecosystem approach for the management of marine resources by the year 2010. FAO organised a workshop on "Biodiversity and Ecosystem approach in agriculture, forestry and fisheries", October 2002: http://www.fao.org/biodiversity/ UNESCO prepared a report "Using the ecosystem approach to implement the CBD: a global synthesis report drawing lessons from three regional pathfinder workshops", also addressing agrobiodiversity (http://www.unesco.org/mab/docs/Report.pdf) Reports of the German Government (Ministerial Division for Conservation) include case-studies for ecosystem approach implementation including on agrobiodiversity (e.g. http://www.bfn.de/09/skript78.pdf). The GTZ has compiled a series of "source books" "Conservation and sustainable use of Agricultural Biodiversity". This is one example for practicing the ecosystem approach (http://www.gtz.de/agrobiodiv/english/index.html). Case-studies on the implementation of the ecosystem approach are published by IPGRI (http://www.ipgri.cgiar.org/themes/human/gardens.htm); Genetic Resources Management in Ecosystems (GRME), a workshop convened by the CGIAR System-wide Programme on Genetic Resources (SGRP) and organized by CIFOR, ICRAF, and ICRISAT in 2002, had the objective to examine ecosystem approaches to the management of genetic resources and identify the needs and opportunities for combining strategies for conserving and using genetic resources within the wider natural resources management context (http://www.cifor.cgiar.org/grme/). |
| Forest ecosystems | <p>Decision IV/7 Annex, section I, para 3 (b) and section II, paras 11-27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognises that one of the objectives of the programme of work is to facilitate the implementation of the objectives of the CBD based on the ecosystem approach. The work programme addresses the ecosystem approach through elements including holistic and inter-sectoral ecosystem approaches that integrate the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking account of social | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A call for case-studies from countries in which the ecosystem approach has been applied in sustainable forest management practices, including arid and semi-arid areas, was posted in 2000. 24 contributions were made (http://intranet.biodiv.org/programmes/areas/forest/case-studies.asp) |

| | Decisions and planned activities | Implementation examples |
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| | <p>and cultural and economic considerations. Parties are encouraged to develop, implement, monitor and evaluate national forest programmes, which include a wide range of approaches for sustainable forest management, including ecosystem approaches that integrate the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of biological diversity. Research support activities includes (i) examination of methodologies for enhancing the integration of forest biological diversity conservation and sustainable use into an holistic approach to sustainable forest management, (ii) development of methodologies to advance the integration of traditional forest related knowledge into sustainable forest management, in accordance with Article 8(j), (iii) cooperation on the conservation and sustainable use of forest biological resources at all levels, ranging from community to inter-organization level, at the national and international levels in accordance with Articles 5 and 16 on the Convention, (iv) case-studies from countries in which the ecosystem approach has been applied in sustainable forest management practices, including arid and semiarid areas, (v) sharing of relevant technical and scientific information on networks at all levels of protected forest areas and networking modalities, taking into account existing national, regional and international networks and structures, in all types of forest ecosystems.</p> <p>Decision V/4, paras 3 & 8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calls upon Parties, Governments and organizations to take practical actions to address urgently the conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity, applying the ecosystem approach • Encourages Parties and other Governments to promote the integration of national forest programmes with national biodiversity strategies, applying the ecosystem approach and sustainable forest management. <p>Decision VI/22 para 19 (a) & Annex</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiates explicit action, at the ES and head of UNFF level, in support of the ecosystem approach, including (i) to carry out a comparative study to clarify the conceptual basis of the ecosystem approach in relation to the concept of sustainable forest management with adequate consideration for regional conditions; (ii) to undertake a synthesis of case-studies on the ecosystem approach provided to the Convention on Biological Diversity by Parties; (iii) invite the Collaborative Partnership on Forests members to provide a discussion paper, drawing on concrete national or regional experiences and inter-sessional meetings for consideration by the Convention on Biological Diversity. • Through programme element 1 "conservation, sustainable use and benefit sharing", goal 1 "To apply the ecosystem approach to the management of all types of forests" with the objective to develop practical methods, guidelines, indicators | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IUFRO published a paper "Ecosystem management as an approach for sustaining forests and biodiversity" (http://iufro.boku.ac.at/iufro/spdc/embiodiv.pdf) • GBF 16 focused on ecosystem approach and forest biodiversity (see report on http://www.iucn.org/themes/cem/library/reports/gbf16_report_forests.doc). • UNESCO has published a paper " Biosphere reserves - some case-studies for the application of the ecosystem approach", including forests (http://www.unesco.or.id/PROG/SCIENCE/ENVIR/mab_br2000.htm). Additionally UNESCO published a report "Using the ecosystem approach to implement the CBD: a global synthesis report drawing lessons from three regional pathfinder workshops", including forests (http://www.unesco.org/mab/docs/Report.pdf) • The German Government (Ministry for Development Cooperation) has developed "Principles on sustainable forest management", which include the ecosystem approach. These principles are applied to development cooperation interventions (http://www.bmz.de/en/media/concepts/sustainable_development_of_forests/); reports of the German Government (Ministerial Division for Conservation) include case studies for ecosystem approach implementation in forests (e.g. http://www.bfn.de/09/skript78.pdf). • UNDP, UNEP, the World Bank and the World Resources Institute (WRI) released a report "World Resources 2000-2001: People and Ecosystems, The Fraying Web of Life" (http://wri.igc.org/wri/wr2000/wr2000-nr02.html), which promoted the broad application of the ecosystem approach. |

| | Decisions and planned activities | Implementation examples |
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| | <p>and strategies to apply the ecosystem approach adapted to regional differences to forests both inside and outside protected forest areas as well as both in managed and unmanaged forests. Explicit activities include (i) clarify the conceptual basis of the ecosystem approach in relation to sustainable forest management, (ii) develop guidance for applying the ecosystem approach in forest ecosystems, (iii) identify key structural and functional ecosystem elements to be used as indicators for decision-making and develop decision-support tools (iv) develop and implement guidance to help the selection of suitable forest management practices for specific forest ecosystems, (v) develop and implement appropriate mechanisms for the participation of all stakeholders in ecosystem-level planning and management, (vi) develop an informal international network of forest areas for piloting and demonstrating the ecosystem approach and exchange related information through the clearinghouse mechanism, (vii) hold workshops to train and familiarize decision makers and managers with the foundations, principles and modalities of the ecosystem approach, (viii) promote research and pilot projects to develop understanding of the functional linkages between forest biological diversity and agriculture with the aim to developing practices that could improve the relations between forest management and other land use methods; functional linkages between mining, infrastructure and other development projects and forest biodiversity, (ix) promote activities that minimize the negative impacts of forest fragmentation on forest biodiversity.</p> | |
| <p>Dry and sub-humid lands</p> | <p>Decision V/23, Annex 1, paragraph 3, Annex 1, section II</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The programme of work aims at applying the ecosystems approach in its implementation. • Explicitly under part b of the programme of work "targeted actions in response to identified needs" activities addressing the ecosystem approach are considered, these include (i) Activity 7. Promotion of specific measures for the conservation and sustainable use of the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands, through, inter alia, through sub-activity (m) cooperation with all relevant conventions, in particular with the Convention to Combat Desertification with respect to, inter alia, the sustainable use of the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands, the application of the ecosystem approach, the assessment of the status and trends of this biological diversity as well as to its threats, and (ii) Activity 8. Promotion of responsible resource management, at appropriate levels, applying the ecosystem approach, through an enabling policy environment, including, inter alia, (a) local institutional structures, and indigenous and local techniques, (b) decentralisation of management, (c) institutions for land tenure and conflict resolution, (d) transboundary issues, (e) policies and instruments. <p>SBSTTA VIII/4, Annex 1. activity 8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The refined programme of work defines expected outcomes including the | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With financial support from the Government of the Netherlands and initiative has been started between the CBD and UNCCD Secretariats, the GTZ, IUCN and UNITAR on a synergies, amongst other, sharing lessons-learned from the implementation of activity 8 of the PoW. A first workshop is planned for 2004. • IUCN published a documentation of case-studies on application of ecosystem approaches, including in drylands http://www.iucn.org/themes/wetlands/ecosystemmanagement.html Additional case studies are currently being documented. • WRI published a paper "An ecosystem approach to drylands: building support for new development policies" (http://forests.wri.org/pubs_description.cfm?PubID=3154) • International guidelines for cooperation e.g. of UNDP, the GEF, the Worldbank, all contain reference to the ecosystem approach, esp. in view of combating desertification (UNDP http://www.unccd.int/cop/reports/un/2000/undp-eng.pdf ; |

| | Decisions and planned activities | Implementation examples |
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| <p>Mountain ecosystems</p> | <p>collection of case-studies, the synthesis of lessons-learnt and development of guidances, joint work programmes and other, applying the ecosystem approach</p> <p>SBSTTA VIII/ 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is noted that the implementation of this proposed programme of work should take into account the ecosystem approach | <p>Worldbank: http://lnweb18.worldbank.org/ESSD/essdext.nsf/48DocByUnid/A2328AA047E52F8C85256B7900563351/\$FILE/ConservingandManagingBiodiversityDryland.pdf ; UNDP/GEF operational guidelines http://www.undp.org/gef/undp-gef_publications/publications/land_degradation_guidelines.doc)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The UNESCO report "Using ecosystem approach to implement the CBD: a global synthesis report drawing lessons from three regional pathfinder workshops" (http://www.unesco.org/mab/docs/Report.pdf), specifically make reference to mountains. Reports of the German Government (Ministerial Division for Conservation) on the implementation of the ecosystem approach include explicit case-studies on mountains (e.g. http://www.bfn.de/09/skript78.pdf) |
| CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES | | |
| <p>Indicators and assessments; including impact assessment, liability and redress</p> | <p>Decision V/7 para 1 (b)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a key set of standard questions and a list of available and potential indicators, covering the ecosystem, species and genetic levels, taking into account the ecosystem approach. <p>Decision V/18, I, para 5 (b)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact assessments should include activities, that would, amongst other apply the ecosystem approach, and i.e. renew the call for further case-studies, including case-studies on negative impacts and, in particular, on impact assessments that take the ecosystem approach into account. <p>Decision VI/7 para 3 & Annex</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part of the "further development of guidelines for incorporating biodiversity-related issues into environmental-impact-assessment legislation or processes and in strategic impact assessment", aims to compile and disseminate current experiences in environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment procedures that incorporate biodiversity-related issues, as well as experiences of Parties in applying the guidelines; in light of this information, to prepare proposals for further development and refinement of the guidelines, particularly to incorporate all stages of the environmental impact assessment and | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Executive Secretary has convened an expert meeting on indicators of biological diversity including indicators for rapid assessment of inland water ecosystems, February 2003, Montreal. The expert group developed a key set of standard questions and a list of available and potential indicators, covering the ecosystem, species and genetic levels, taking into account the ecosystem approach. The review of case studies has led to the formulation of guidelines for incorporating biodiversity-related issues into Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) procedures and legislation, addressing the ecosystem approach. The review of the of guidelines for incorporating biodiversity-related issues into environmental-impact-assessment legislation or processes and in strategic impact assessment has been initiated |

| | Decisions and planned activities | Implementation examples |
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| | <p>strategic environmental assessment processes taking into account the ecosystem approach (particularly principles 4, 7 and 8).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The guidelines, as included in the Annex, describe the approach to applying the ecosystem approach. In accordance with the approach, the proper temporal and spatial scales of problems should be determined as well as the functions of biodiversity and their tangible and intangible values for humans that could be affected by the proposed project or policy, the type of adaptive mitigation measures and the need for the participation of stakeholders in decision-making. Para 26 of the annex refers to "Reporting: the environmental impact statement (EIS)", which further takes into account the ecosystem approach, and specifically refer to the need that environmental management plans and strategies contained in the environmental impact statement should consider regional and transboundary impacts, taking into account the ecosystem approach. | |
| Global Taxonomy Initiative | <p>Decision VI/8. Global Taxonomy Initiative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operational objective 5 of the programme of work addresses key taxonomic objectives within the work of cross-cutting issues. Sub-objective 5.4 focuses on the ecosystem approach. Planned activity 17, specifically addresses the ecosystem approach through "Support for ecosystem approach and work under the Convention on Biological Diversity on assessment including impact assessments, monitoring and indicators". Explicit actions include (i) GTI support to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, under the caveat of the ecosystem approach, i.e. through the characterization of ecosystems, including better data on key species that comprise ecosystems and their role in maintaining ecosystem processes; (ii) facilitating better knowledge of species and their distributions, (iii) the communication of such knowledge, (iv) provision of taxonomic overviews. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Bio-Net webpage facilitates communication and networking of relevant information (http://www.bionet-intl.org/) |
| Global Strategy for Plant Conservation | <p>Decision VI/9, Annex, para 3 & 11(c)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Strategy is accepted as a tool to enhance the ecosystem approach to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and focus on the vital role of plants in the structure and functioning of ecological systems and assure provision of the goods and services such systems provide; Section B of the annex describes the rationale, scope and general principles of the GSPC. Paragraph 11(c) refers to the application of the ecosystem approach adopted under the Convention, recognizing the interaction of plants and plant communities, with other components of ecosystems, at all scales, and their role in ecosystem functions and processes. The ecosystem approach also implies, <i>inter alia</i>, intersectoral cooperation, decentralization of management to the lowest level appropriate, equitable distribution of benefits, and the use of adaptive management policies that can deal with uncertainties and are modified in the light of experience and changing conditions (para. 11(c) of the Annex). Section C of the annex presents 16 targets including, <i>inter alia</i>, Target (iii) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The European Strategy for Plant Conservation, adopted in 2002, is in line with the GSPC and the ecosystem approach http://www.plantaeuropa.org/html/plant_conservation_strategy.htm. It also contributes to the Pan European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS), which is an European response to support the implementation of the CBD. In the year 2002, Colombia launched its national strategy for plant conservation: "Estrategia para la conservación de plantas", specifically applying the principles of the ecosystem approach. |

| | Decisions and planned activities | Implementation examples |
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| | <p>"Development of models with protocols for plant conservation and sustainable use, based on research and practical experience", which explicitly should be based on the ecosystem approach.</p> | |
| <p>Invasive Alien Species</p> | <p>Decision V/8, para 8 and Annex I, Guiding principle 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is noted, that all relevant partners, including the Global Invasive Species Programme, should give priority attention to geographically and evolutionarily isolated ecosystems, and to use the ecosystem approach and precautionary and biogeographical approaches, as appropriate in their work on alien invasive species. Further, Annex 1 includes the interim guiding principles for the prevention, introduction and mitigation of impacts of alien species. 8. Guiding principle 3 is on the ecosystem approach and reads "All measures to deal with alien invasive species should be based on the ecosystem approach, in line with the relevant provisions of the Convention and the decisions of the Conference of the Parties" <p>Decision VI/23, para 12d and Annex</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Underlines the need to incorporate invasive alien species considerations into national biodiversity strategies and action plans and into sectoral and cross-sectoral policies, strategies and plans, taking into account the ecosystem approach. The Annex contains guiding principles for the prevention, introduction and mitigation of impacts of alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species. Guiding principle 3 focuses on the ecosystem approach, stating that measures to deal with invasive alien species should, as appropriate, be based on the ecosystem approach, as described in decision V/6 of the Conference of the Parties. No activities are elaborated. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The GISP tool box addresses the application of the ecosystem approach: http://www.cabi-bioscience.ch/wwwgisp/et1purp.htm Case studies on the relationship between migratory species and the prevention of introduction, eradication or control of invasive alien species, pursuant to decision V/8, and considering the ecosystem approach were called for. |
| <p>Incentives measures</p> | <p>Decision VI/15, Annex I</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annex II contains "proposals for the design and implementation of incentive measures", section B deals with the design. Paragraph 10 is on the ecosystem approach, stating that the design of incentive measures should, where appropriate and feasible, be based on an ecosystem approach as defined in the framework of the Convention. In paragraph 14, on the precautionary approach, it is stated that combined with the ecosystem approach, a precautionary approach requires that programmes on incentive measures err on the side of caution when scientific knowledge is uncertain and where there is a threat of significant reduction or loss of biological diversity. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No examples for implementation known. |
| <p>Traditional knowledge, innovations and</p> | <p>Decision V/16, Annex</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section II of the Annex describes the tasks of the first phase of the programme of work. Task 2 requests Parties to develop appropriate mechanisms, guidelines, legislation or other initiatives to foster and promote the effective participation of | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A critical statement was made by indigenous groups during COP 6, mentioning that in relation to forest management the rights and abilities of communities in managing forests are not sufficiently addressed. Suggestions for application of the ecosystem approach |

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| <p>practices (Article 8(j))</p> | <p>indigenous and local communities in decision-making, policy planning and development and implementation of the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity at international, regional, subregional, national and local levels, including access and benefit-sharing and the designation and management of protected areas, taking into account the ecosystem approach.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ecosystem approach, described as “a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in an equitable way”, is part of the general principles of the programme of work. Task 13 of the second phase of the programme of work requests the Ad Hoc Working Group to develop a set of guiding principles and standards to strengthen the use of traditional knowledge and other forms of knowledge for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking into account the role that traditional knowledge can play with respect to the ecosystem approach, in situ conservation, taxonomy, biodiversity monitoring and environmental impact assessments in all biodiversity sectors <p>Decision VI/10, Annex II</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annex II is on "Recommendations for the conduct of cultural, environmental and social impact assessment regarding developments proposed to take place on, or which are likely to impact on, sacred sites and on lands and waters traditionally occupied or used by indigenous and local communities". Section II, paragraph 22, addresses the ecosystem approach, stating that consistent with it, proponents of development proposals should recognize the importance of understanding and applying the values and knowledge, where relevant, of use of biological diversity held by indigenous and local communities and their application for sustainable development. | <p>in a community-forest context were made. (http://www.forestsandcommunities.org/CBD%20CF%20Statement.htm)</p> |
| <p>Tourism</p> | <p>Decision V/25, para 4b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An assessment of interlinkages between tourism and biological diversity ought to be transmitted to the Commission on Sustainable Development. It is recommended that relevant bodies consider this assessment as a basis for their policies, programmes and activities in the field of sustainable tourism, and to pay particular attention to the need to develop, with all the potential stakeholders, strategies and plans, based on the ecosystem approach and aiming at a balance between economic, social, cultural and environmental concerns, while maximizing opportunities for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, the equitable sharing of benefits and the recognition of traditional knowledge, in accordance with Article 8(j) of the Convention, and seeking to minimize risks to biological diversity. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment was undertaken and forwarded to CSD (see Annex to decision V/25 for the text). Draft guidelines will submitted to COP-7 for final adoption (UNEP/CBD/COP/7/3; SBSTTA recommendation VIII/5) Report of the German Government (Ministerial Division for Conservation) report and case-studies for ecosystem approach implementation: http://www.bfn.de/09/skript78.pdf |

| | Decisions and planned activities | Implementation examples |
|-------------------------------|---|--|
| | <p>SBSTTA VIII/5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The draft guidelines on tourism emphasise the need for baseline information i.e. to enable impact assessment and decision-making and it is recommended that its compilation follow the ecosystem approach: esp. proposals for tourism developments. Guidance in this respect is specified. Additionally, it is noted that the ecosystem approach requires adaptive management to deal with the complex and dynamic nature of ecosystems and the absence of complete knowledge or understanding of their functioning. | |
| <p>Sustainable use</p> | <p>Decision V/24, paras 2 and 3 Taking into account the decisions of the Conference of the Parties and the ecosystem approach, (...)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commends to the Executive Secretary the process being used to develop the ecosystem approach and requests him, together with relevant organizations, to adapt and immediately initiate that process for relevant work on sustainable use (paragraph 2); Requests the Executive Secretary to assemble, in collaboration with relevant organizations, drawing from an assessment of the case-studies referred to in paragraph 1 above, and the process referred to in paragraph 2 above, practical principles, operational guidelines and associated instruments, and guidance specific to sectors and biomes, which would assist Parties and Governments to develop ways to achieve the sustainable use of biological diversity, within the framework of the ecosystem approach, and to present a progress report for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice prior to the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (paragraph 3); <p>Decision VI/13 Requests the Executive Secretary to organize a fourth open-ended workshop on the sustainable use of biodiversity to synthesize the outcomes of the three workshops, integrate different views and regional differences and develop a set of practical principles and operational guidelines for the sustainable use of biological diversity, to be submitted to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice for its consideration prior to the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties;</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three regional workshops were organized in order to develop practical principles and operational guidelines. Sustainable use and the ecosystem approach have been dealt with extremely interactively, as the two concepts are closely interlinked. The Addis Ababa Principles and guidelines for the sustainable use of biodiversity were developed. For the practical principles cross-references are provided to the relevant principles of the Ecosystem Approach (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/9). reports of the German Government (Ministerial Division for Conservation) include case-studies for ecosystem approach implementation in forests (e.g. http://www.bfn.de/09/skript78.pdf). |

List of abbreviations:

CBD=Convention on Biological Diversity; CGIAR=Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research; CIFOR=Center for International Forestry Research; ICRAF=International Center for Agroforestry; COP=Conference of the Parties; CSD= Commission on Sustainable Development; EA=ecosystem approach; FAO=Food and Agriculture Organization; GBF=Global Biodiversity Forum GEF=Global Environment Facility; GISP=Global Invasive Species Programme; GPA=Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Pollution from Land-based Activities; GRME= Genetic Resources Management in Ecosystems; GTZ=German Agency for Technical Cooperation; HELCOM=Helsinki Commission; ICLARM=World Fish Center;

ICRISAT=International Crops Research Institute for the semi-arid Tropics; IOC=Intergovernmental Oceanic Commission; IPGRI=International Plant Genetic Resources Institute; IUCN=World Conservation Union; IUFRO=International Union for Forest Research Organisations; IWRM=Integrated Water Resource Management; NBSAP=National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan; PEBLD=Pan European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy; PoW=Programme of Work; RBI=River Basin Initiative; SGRP= System-wide Programme on Genetic Resources; STRP=Scientific and Technical Review Panel of the Ramsar Convention; UNCCD=United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification; UNDP=United National Development Programme; UNEP=United Nations Environment Programme; UNESCO=United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation; UNITAR=United Nations Institute for Training and Research; WRI=World Resources Institute; WSSD=World Summit on Sustainable Development
