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AD HOC OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON PROTECTED AREAS

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Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

CONSIDERATION OF THE PROCESS FOR THE REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK ON PROTECTED AREAS

Note by the Executive Secretary

SUMMARY

The tasks that the Conference of the Parties has suggested need to be undertaken by the Working Group on Protected Areas include, *inter alia*, the consideration of reports from the Parties and other relevant organizations and institutions on the progress in the implementation of the programme of work and to recommend to the Conference of the Parties ways and means to improve implementation (decision VII/28, paras. 29 (d) and (e)). To assist the Working Group in these areas, the Executive Secretary has prepared the present note for its consideration at its first meeting.

The note recapitulates the relevant paragraphs of decision VII/28 seeking information on the implementation of the programme of work and follow-up actions and sets out a proposed process for the review of implementation of the programme of work.

SUGGESTED RECOMMENDATIONS

The Ad Hoc Working Group may wish to:

1. *Take note* of the process proposed by the Executive Secretary contained in the annex to the present document;
2. *Request* the Executive Secretary to carry out the activities described in the annex to this note and report thereon to the Working Group at its second meeting; and
3. *Decide* to review the implementation of the programme of work on protected areas at its second meeting;
4. *Invite* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to contribute information needed for the review of implementation.

* UNEP/CBD/WG-PA/1/1.

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. In paragraphs 28 (d) and (e) of decision VII/28, the Conference of the Parties suggested, *inter alia*, that the Ad Hoc Working Group on Protected Areas should consider reports from the Parties, scientific organizations, civil society and others on progress in the implementation of the programme of work on protected areas, compiled by the Executive Secretary and to recommend to the Conference of the Parties ways and means to improve implementation of the programme of work (sub paragraphs (d) and (e) of para 29 of decision VII/28).

2. In paragraph 30 of the same decision, the Conference of the Parties urged Parties and invited other Governments to report to the Executive Secretary on implementation of decision VII/28 and the programme of work prior to each meeting of the Conference of the Parties until 2010. Under goal 4.3 of the programme of work, one of the activities to be undertaken by the Parties (activity 4.3.2) is to measure progress towards achieving protected areas targets based on periodic monitoring, and to report on progress towards these targets in future national reports under the Convention as well as in a thematic report at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

3. As the third national reports to be submitted by Parties are due in May 2005, and considering that the available time from then to the opening of the first meeting of the Working Group may not permit to prepare a synthesis report, it is proposed that, at its first meeting, the Working Group would only consider the process for the review of implementation of the programme and, at its second meeting, review progress in the implementation of the programme of work on protected areas.

4. The Executive Secretary has prepared the present note to assist the Working Group in its consideration of agenda item 4 of the provisional agenda (UNEP/CBD/WG-PA/1/1). Section II of the note describes the follow-up actions taken on relevant paras of decision VII/28, seeking information on progress in the implementation of the programme of work. Section III and the annex present the proposed process for the review of the implementation of the programme of work.

II. RELEVANT PARAGRAPHS OF DECISION VII/28 SEEKING INFORMATION ON PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK AND THE FOLLOW-UP ACTION TAKEN

5. In paragraph 28 of decision VII/28, the Conference of the Parties decided to assess at each meeting of the Parties until 2010, progress in the implementation of the programme of work, and to determine the need for more effective measures and additional financial and technical support to reach 2010 target. In paragraph 30 of the decision the Conference of the Parties urged Parties and invited other Governments and relevant organizations to report to the Executive Secretary on implementation of decision and the programme of work prior to each meeting of the Conference of the Parties until 2010.

6. To facilitate the provision of information requested by the Conference of the Parties in paragraph 30 of the decision, the Executive Secretary developed a set of questions relating to those activities and targets contained in the programme of work, that Parties were requested to undertake or achieve before 2008. These questions were included in the revised format for the third national report, which was distributed to Parties in July 2004.

7. To obtain the information from scientific organizations, civil society and others as requested in decision VII/28, paragraph 29 (d), for consideration by the Working Group, the Executive Secretary sent letters in November 2004 to relevant scientific organizations, academia, and civil society, particularly those organizations identified in the programme of work as partners or collaborators for its implementation, requesting them to provide relevant information to the Secretariat. As at 15 March 2005, submissions had been received from the World Bank, the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the

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International Whaling Commission, the International Association for Impact Assessment and the Man and Biosphere Programme of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

III. PROCESS FOR REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAMME OF WORK ON PROTECTED AREAS

8. The programme of work on protected areas contains four programme elements and each programme element is structured into goals, targets and activities of the Parties. The programme of work contains 16 goals, which are outcome-oriented statements of ultimate purpose. Each goal is accompanied by a target, which in almost all cases sets a specific date by which the goal is to be accomplished, and in many cases, provides indicators to measure progress towards the goal. Fourteen of these targets contain specific time bound deadlines of 2010 or 2012 for achieving the targets. Each paired goal and target is followed by a list of suggested activities of the Parties. Many of these activities include intermediate target dates of 2006 or 2008, in recognition of the fact that reaching many of the goals and targets of the programme of work will require a phased, step- by- step approach.

9. The review of implementation of the programme of work on protected areas will involve consideration of the progress on, and opportunities and constraints for, each of the goals, targets and activities under the programme of work. Implementation of these activities entails financial, human and other capacity requirements. There is therefore a need to gather information on implementation of activities from Parties, other Governments and partners and other collaborators, taking into account the availability of resources and other requirements.

10. The information required for the review will be gathered primarily from the third national reports and from submissions by relevant organizations, partners and collaborators in response to the request of the Executive Secretary, mentioned in paragraph 7 above. Additional information can be obtained from (i) reports on protected areas projects funded by the Global Environment Facility; (ii) reports of workshops such as the regional technical workshops requested by the Conference of the Parties in paragraph 27 of decision VII/28; and (iii) reports received from international and other relevant organizations.

11. In order to assess the status of implementation, information received will be synthesized to highlight what has been implemented, what remains to be implemented, obstacles to implementation, and ways and means for overcoming obstacles

12. The process for the review of the implementation of the programme of work on protected areas is presented in the annex to this note with some details on the mechanisms/approaches, the tools for the collection of information and assessing progress including and a timeframe.

13. In view of the subsequent reviews that should take place prior to each meeting of the Conference of the Parties until 2010 (decision VII/28, para. 28), the review process discussed in this note could be re-evaluated based on the experience gained and availability of information.

Annex

PROCESS, GUIDELINES AND MECHANISMS FOR MONITORING PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK ON PROTECTED AREAS

Action	Mechanisms/Tools	Guidance on the use mechanisms / tools and time frame
Information acquisition	1.1. The third national reports that are due mid-May, 2005	1.1. Compilation of third national report will take place after the first meeting of the Working Group, to be held in June 2005 and should be finalized by early September 2005 [In the event not enough responses have been received in June 2005 the Executive Secretary will send a reminder and request for information with 15 August 2005 deadline for action.]
	1.1.1. Previous national reports containing sections on protected areas, thematic reports on protected areas, national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs); and other relevant documents considered during the preparation of NBSAPs	1.1.1. Sections in NBSAPs and other relevant documents used during the preparation of NBSAPs will be compiled and should be finalized by early September 2005. The Information regarding Article 8, in the first and second national reports submitted between June 1997 and January 1998, and in May 2001 respectively will be compiled, although they include activities carried out before the adoption of the programme of work. The overview of the analysis of this information regarding Article 8 is provided in document UNEP/CBD/COP/6/INF/10. In pursuance of decision VI/25, Parties submitted thematic reports on protected areas A synthesis of information contained in these thematic reports is provided in document UNEP/CBD/COP/7/INF/8. Information contained in the thematic reports will be compiled and should be finalized by early September 2005.
	1.2. Information submitted by relevant academia, scientific organizations, civil society and others, particularly those organizations identified as collaborators in the programme of work on protected areas	1.2. The Executive Secretary requested in November 2004 these organizations to submit reports. So far only five organizations responded. The Working Group at its first meeting may wish to request the organizations and others to submit the information by 31 July 2005. Compilation of information should be finalized by early September 2005
	1.3. Reports on relevant GEF-funded projects	1.3. Progress reports on GEF funded protected area projects will contribute to assessment of implementation of the programme of work on protected areas.

Action	Mechanisms/Tools	Guidance on the use mechanisms / tools and time frame
	1.4. Reports of any regional technical workshops organized in pursuance of para 27 of decision VII/28 or relevant to the programme of work	1.4. So far there is no information on the organization of any regional workshops. The Working Group at its first meeting may wish to request the Organizations, and invite Parties and other Governments to organize such regional workshops and submit reports to the Executive Secretary.
	1.5. Questionnaire for a thematic report on the implementation of the programme of work	<p>1.5. In decision VII/28, the Conference of the Parties urged Parties and invited other Governments and relevant organizations to report to the Executive Secretary on implementation of the decision and the programme of work on protected areas at each of its meetings till 2010.</p> <p>Reporting to COP-8 (2006) and COP-10 (2010) are being taken care by the third and fourth national reports respectively. However, for COP-9 (2008) a thematic report is planned.</p> <p>Accordingly the Executive Secretary will prepare a draft questionnaire for a thematic report for consideration by the Working Group at its second meeting</p>
Synthesis of information	2.1. Preparation of a synthesis of information mentioned under 1.1 and 1.2 above, using analytical tools developed by the Secretariat.	2.1. This synthesis will commence in July 2005 and will be completed in September 2005
Assessment of the level of implementation	<p>3.1. Review the synthesis report taking into account, what has been implemented, what remains to be implemented, obstacles to implementation by the Executive Secretary</p> <p>3.2. Depending on availability of time and funds E-forum and/or workshop to consolidate the conclusions/findings</p>	<p>3.1. This review of synthesis report should be completed by October 2005</p> <p>3.2. The Working group at its first meeting, depending on availability of time prior to its second meeting , may wish to recommend for establishing an E- forum and /or for a workshop to consolidate the conclusions</p> <p>The Working Group will review the conclusions/findings of the synthesis at its second meeting and make recommendations to COP</p>

Action	Mechanisms/Tools	Guidance on the use mechanisms / tools and time frame
Review and revisions of review process	4.1. Assessment and revisions of review process, including development of methodologies for further review	4.1. The Working Group at its second meeting may wish to recommend processes and mechanisms for further review taking into account inter <i>alia</i> thematic report for COP-9 and 4 th national report for COP-10
Assessment of the effectiveness of the programme of work and its contribution to the 2010 target	5.1 Gap analysis taking into account results from assessments under items 3.1. and 3.2.	5.1 The Working Group at its second meeting may wish to recommend how to assess the effectiveness of the programme of work and its contribution to the 2010 target
