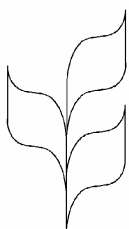




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**AD HOC TECHNICAL EXPERT GROUP ON  
PROTECTED AREAS**

First meeting

Tjärnö, Sweden, 10-14 June 2003

**THE ROLE OF PROTECTED AREAS IN THE EXISTING PROGRAMMES OF WORK  
UNDER THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

*Note by the Executive Secretary*

**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. Protected areas form an important component of many of the Convention's existing work programmes. The thematic programmes of work relating to specific ecosystems (for example, marine and coastal biological diversity, forest biological diversity, inland water ecosystems biological diversity, dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity and mountain biological diversity) incorporate in some way the use of protected areas as a tool for conservation and sustainable use. In addition, many of the cross-cutting issues under the Convention (for example, sustainable use, the Global Taxonomy Initiative, and Article 8(j)) include components directly relevant to protected areas. It is envisioned that the Convention's new work programme on protected areas would provide a framework of goals and activities relating to protected areas in general. However, activities relating to a specific ecosystem types would be dealt with under the appropriate thematic work programmes.

2. This document aims to review the protected areas-relevant activities under the thematic and cross-cutting programmes of work of the Convention. In addition, the ecosystem approach, which is the primary framework for action under the Convention, is elaborated upon.

**II. MARINE AND COASTAL BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

3. The programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity is perhaps currently the most advanced of all the work programmes in terms of its treatment of protected areas. Programme element 3 of the programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity (decision IV/5) is dedicated to marine and coastal protected areas. The two aims of this programme element are to facilitate research and monitoring activities related to the value and the effects of marine and coastal protected areas or similarly

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restricted management areas on sustainable use of marine and coastal living resources; and to develop criteria for the establishment of, and for management aspects of, marine and coastal protected areas.

4. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Marine and Coastal Protected Areas, which finalized its work in 2002, produced a report and a number of recommendations addressing the two aims of the programme element, including technical guidance on the establishment and management of a national system of marine and coastal protected areas. The report and recommendations were discussed at the eighth meeting of the Convention's Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) in March 2003. In its resulting recommendation (VIII/3 B), SBSTTA welcomed the report of the group, and recognized its high quality. SBSTTA also endorsed a global goal for the Convention in regards to marine and coastal protected areas, which provides for the establishment and maintenance, by 2012, of marine and coastal protected areas that are effectively managed, ecologically based and contribute to a permanent representative global network. Representative areas where extractive uses are excluded, and other significant human pressures are removed or minimized, should form a part of the network, which should also extend into areas outside of national jurisdiction. The Expert Group provided guidance for creating such a network, and also identified future research priorities.

5. The report of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Marine and Coastal Protected Areas is provided to this meeting as an information document (UNEP/CBD/AHTEG-PA/1/INF/5). The document also includes recommendation VIII/3 B

### **III. FOREST BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

6. The expanded forest programme of work, which was adopted in decision VI/22, contains a number of activities related to protected areas. The programme of work also calls for a meeting on forest protected areas, to be held back-to-back with the ninth meeting of SBSTTA in November 2003. The purpose of this workshop is to exchange current knowledge and experience on opportunities and challenges to establishing and ensuring long-term sustainability of protected forest areas.

7. The specific protected-areas-related text in the expanded forest programme of work is as follows:

***“Programme element 1, goal 1***

***“Objective 1***

“Develop practical methods, guidelines, indicators 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.

***“Programme element 1, goal 3***

***“Objective 3***

“Ensure adequate and effective protected forest area networks.

***“Activities***

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- a. Assess the comprehensiveness, representativeness and adequacy of protected areas relative to forest types and identify gaps and weaknesses.
- b. Establish (in accordance with Article 8(j)) with the full participation and with respect for the rights of indigenous and local communities, and other relevant stakeholders, comprehensive, adequate, biologically and geographically representative and effective networks of protected areas.
- c. Establish, in a similar manner, restoration areas to complement the network of protected areas where needed.
- d. Revise in a similar manner and ensure the comprehensiveness, adequacy, representativeness and efficacy of existing protected area networks.
- e. Assess the efficacy of protected forest areas for the conservation of biological diversity.
- f. Ensure that relevant protected areas are managed to maintain and enhance their forest biodiversity components, services and values;

***“Programme element 2, goal 1***

***“Objective 2***

“Parties, Governments and organizations to integrate biological diversity conservation and sustainable use into forest and other sector policies and programmes.

- g. Develop strategies for effective enforcement of sustainable forest management and protected area regulations, including adequate resourcing and involvement of indigenous and local communities”

**IV. INLAND WATER ECOSYSTEMS BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

8. The programme of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems<sup>i</sup> recommends the sharing of information and experience relevant to conservation and sustainable use of such ecosystems, specifically referring to use of protected areas and their management strategies for conservation and sustainable use of inland water ecosystems. The Conference of the Parties also specifically encouraged the implementation of the joint work plan with the Convention on Wetlands

9. The implementation of the programme of work on inland water ecosystems biological diversity was reviewed at the eighth meeting of SBSTTA, and a new revised programme of work proposed in recommendation VIII/2. This revised programme of work has a number of protected areas-related activities, as follows.

“Goal 1.2: To establish and maintain comprehensive, adequate and representative systems of protected inland water ecosystems within the framework of integrated catchment/watershed/river basin management

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***“Objective***

“(a) Comprehensive, adequate and representative systems of protected inland water ecosystems (including all IUCN protected area categories, as appropriate) are developed and maintained within the framework of integrated catchment/watershed/river basin management.

“(b) Where appropriate, transboundary, collaborative approaches to identifying, recognizing and managing protected inland water ecosystems are undertaken between neighbouring Parties.

***“Activities of the Parties***

- 1.2.1 Provide, as appropriate, to the Executive Secretary, examples of protected area establishment and management strategies that are supporting the conservation and sustainable use of inland water ecosystems.
- 1.2.2. Undertake the necessary assessments to identify priority sites for inclusion into a system of protected inland water ecosystems, applying in particular the guidance on operationalizing Annex I of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its harmonized application with the criteria for identifying Wetlands of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention (see activity 3.2.3).
- 1.2.3. As part of activity 1.2.2 above, identify sites important for migratory species dependent on inland water ecosystems.
- 1.2.4. Develop incrementally, as the availability of resources and national priorities determine, and as part of an integrated catchment/watershed/river basin management approach, protected area systems (aquatic reserves, Ramsar sites, heritage rivers, etc.), which can contribute in a systematic way to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and to maintaining overall ecosystem function, productivity and “health” within each drainage basin.
- 1.2.5. As appropriate, work collaboratively with neighbouring Parties to identify, have formally recognized and managed, transboundary protected inland water ecosystems.
- 1.2.6. In undertaking activity 1.2.4 above, those Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity that are also Parties to the Ramsar Convention \*/ should harmonize this work with the development of national networks of Wetlands of International Importance, which are ‘comprehensive and coherent’ in line with the Ramsar strategic framework for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance.

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*“Supporting activities of the Executive Secretary*

- “1.2.7. Review and disseminate relevant information and guidance, including through the clearing-house mechanism, on national and transboundary experiences and case-studies to assist efforts in establishing and maintaining protected inland water ecosystems considering *inter alia*:
- “(a) The range of resource materials and guidance available through the IUCN Commission on Protected Areas;
  - “(b) The Ramsar Convention strategic framework for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance, and its specific guidance in relation to the identification and designation of certain inland water ecosystem types such as karsts and subterranean hydrological systems, peatland, wet grasslands etc;
  - “(c) The new Ramsar guidelines on management planning for Ramsar sites and other wetlands, adopted by the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention at its eighth meeting; and
  - “(d) Advice and guidance available from the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere programme, International Hydrological Programme (IHP) and World Heritage Centre.
- “1.2.8. In collaboration with the secretariats of the Convention on Migratory Species and the Ramsar Convention identify opportunities for collaborative work on protected area networks for migratory species dependent on inland water ecosystems, through the respective bilateral joint work plans.

**V. DRY AND SUB-HUMID LANDS BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

10. Activity 7(a) of the programme of work on dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity (recommendation VIII/4) specifically concerns protected areas. It calls for guidelines on establishment of “adequate and effective protected areas networks”, and for additional protected areas in dry and sub-humid lands to be established. Also relevant for protected areas is activity 2 of the programme of work, which calls for the “Identification of specific areas within dry and sub-humid lands of particular value for biological diversity/or under particular threat, such as *inter alia*, endemic species and low lying wetlands, with reference to criteria in Annex I to the CBD”. This activity has been identified to be of high importance in the Joint Work Programme between the Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the Convention on Biological Diversity. In addition, the importance of many dry and sub-humid lands protected areas to migratory species has been identified as a potential area for collaborative work with the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS).

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## **VI. MOUNTAIN BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

11. At its eighth meeting, SBSTTA adopted the structure of a programme of work on mountain biodiversity (recommendation VIII/1). SBSTTA also decided to establish an Ad hoc technical expert group that will complete the structure of the programme by including activities under each of its elements and goals, based on the work of the group and taking into account views from Parties and Governments. The revised programme of work will then be reviewed in depth at the ninth meeting of SBSTTA. Therefore it is likely that additional protected areas relevant activities will be incorporated into this programme of work. At the moment, the following specific action is included:

“Action 1.2.3. Develop strategies for land use planning at the landscape level, taking into account elements of ecological connectivity, and establishing national and subregional networks of protected areas, while respecting the rights and full participation of indigenous and local communities.”

## **VII. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES**

12. The programme of work of the Global Taxonomy Initiative (decision VI/8, annex) contains a number of references about the importance of taxonomic information in selecting sites to be protected. In addition, the work programme contains planned activity 18 on protected areas. Development of this activity will be undertaken following discussion of the protected areas programme of work.

13. The programme of work on Article 8(j) also includes a component on protected areas. This topic is discussed in depth in document UNEP/CBD/AHTEG-PA/1/INF/3 (Protected areas: their role in the maintenance of biological and cultural diversity).

14. Although they do not directly mention protected areas, the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity (see document UNEP/CBD/AHTEG-PA/1/INF/4) are of importance for the establishment and management of protected areas, which have as their goal the sustainable use of biological diversity. These principles will likely be adopted at the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

## **VIII. THE ECOSYSTEM APPROACH**

15. The ecosystem approach is the primary framework for action under the Convention. Protected areas are seen as a component of the ecosystem approach, and one tool for its application. According to decision V/6, the ecosystem approach is a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way. Thus, the application of the ecosystem approach will help to reach a balance of the three objectives of the Convention: conservation; sustainable use; and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.

16. According to decision V/6, the ecosystem approach does not preclude other management and conservation approaches, such as biosphere reserves, protected areas, and single-species conservation programmes, as well as other approaches carried out under existing national policy and legislative

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frameworks, but could, rather, integrate all these approaches and other methodologies to deal with complex situations. There is no single way to implement the ecosystem approach, as it depends on local, provincial, national, regional or global conditions. Indeed, there are many ways in which ecosystem approaches may be used as the framework for delivering the objectives of the Convention in practice.

17. Principle 10 of the ecosystem approach states that the ecosystem approach should seek the appropriate balance between, and integration of, conservation and use of biological diversity. The rationale for this is provided as follows: Biological diversity is critical both for its intrinsic value and because of the key role it plays in providing the ecosystem and other services upon which we all ultimately depend. There has been a tendency in the past to manage components of biological diversity either as protected or non-protected. There is a need for a shift to more flexible situations, where conservation and use are seen in context and the full range of measures is applied in a continuum from strictly protected to human-made ecosystems.

18. A meeting on the further elaboration and guidelines for implementation of the ecosystem approach will take place in July. This meeting should provide further guidance on how to operationalize the ecosystem approach, and may produce outcomes of relevance to protected areas.

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