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AD HOC OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON PROTECTED AREAS

Second meeting

FAO, Rome, 11-15 February 2008

Item 3.1 of the provisional agenda*

PROGRESS MADE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION ON PARAGRAPHS 27 AND 33-35 OF DECISION VII/28

Note by the Executive Secretary

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In paragraph 13 of decision VIII/24 the Conference of Parties (COP) requested the Executive Secretary to report to the second meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Protected Areas on progress made in the implementation of paragraphs 27 and 33-35 of decision VII/28, as well as other supporting activities in the programme of work on protected areas. The present note was prepared to provide relevant information on progress made in implementing these provisions in the programme of work. Section II describes progress on paragraph 27 of decision VII/28, and section III reports on progress on paragraphs 33-35.

II. PROGRESS ON PARAGRAPH 27 OF DECISION VII/28

2. In paragraph 27 of decision VII/28, the Conference of the Parties invited Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to organize regional workshops to advance implementation and assess the progress in implementation of the programme of work on protected areas. Implementation of the programme of work for the period 2004-2006 was assessed at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Curitiba, Brazil in March 2006. In decision VIII/24, recognizing lack of information regarding progress made in implementation and constraints in relevant capacities in developing countries, the Conference of the Parties urged Parties to address these constraints as a priority and encouraged Parties and relevant organizations to support and implement capacity-building activities.

3. In pursuance of this decision, members of a consortium of international non-governmental conservation organizations ("the NGO consortium", consisting of The Nature Conservancy, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), Conservation International, BirdLife International, and Wildlife Conservation Society) and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity developed plans to organize a series of training workshops. The need to better coordinate activities so as to avoid unnecessary duplication and to pool efforts in a synergistic way was quickly identified. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity subsequently convened an informal planning meeting (Montreal,

* UNEP/CBD/WG-PA/2/1.

13-14 November 2006) with members of the NGO consortium, the IUCN–World Commission on Protected Areas, the European Commission and the German Federal Ministry of Environment and Nature Conservation. Participants in this meeting agreed:

- (a) To organize workshops at subregional level;
- (b) That each partner would cover a number of subregions in collaboration with other partners so as to cover as many developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and to thereby facilitate participation of two representatives from each country;
- (c) That each subregional workshop would not only address activities identified by the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties with regard to capacity-building needs but would also review implementation of the programme of work on protected areas at large.

4. This informal group of partners, subsequently named “friends of the programme of work on protected areas (PoWPA friends)”, jointly organized and serviced nine subregional workshops between June 2006 and January 2008, servicing Caribbean, East Caribbean States, Latin America, South and West Asia, South-east Asia, Eastern Europe, Anglophone Africa, Francophone Africa, and Central Asia and Caucasus. The table in annex I provides details on the workshops organized by the PoWPA friends, participating countries and themes covered.

5. These regional PoWPA implementation workshops provided an important platform for the countries to identify challenges/obstacles in the implementation of the programme of work and practical ways and means to address obstacles for enhancing its implementation. More specifically, the workshops held to date have:

- (a) Reached out to countries, opening a dialogue which conveyed an understanding of the benefits, obstacles and needs for implementing the programme of work on protected areas and thereby contributed to the identification of obstacles in the implementation of the programme of work and practical ways and means to address those obstacles. Detailed information is included in the background document on review of implementation for the second meeting of the working group on protected areas (UNEP/CBD/WG-PA/2/2);

- (b) Generated the development of a comprehensive set of learning materials and case-studies (e.g. nearly 50 case-studies covering gap assessment, sustainable finance plans and protected area management effectiveness (PAME) specific to respective regions were presented. Detailed presentations on these topics, the quick guide series, and CDs with available tools and guidelines provided comprehensive learning material to the participants.);

- (c) Provided a forum for regional level discussions, cooperation and future collaboration (e.g., The Miami workshop provided the necessary impetus for further developing the Caribbean challenge. The Anglophone Africa workshop facilitated organization of a regional protected areas technical clinic being held in Antananarivo, Madagascar, on 21-24 January 2008. This clinic is sponsored by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Government of Madagascar and organized by The Nature Conservancy, WWF Madagascar and the Government of Seychelles. The central Asia and Caucasus workshop triggered the convening of a donor workshop in Mongolia for the implementation of the programme of work by WWF, the German GTZ and the Government of Mongolia on 15 and 16 November 2007.);

- (d) Presented an introduction and overview to policy makers on key issues in order to improve motivation towards taking in-country actions (e.g. The timing of the regional workshops and launching of the United Nations Development Programme-Global Environment Facility (UNDP/GEF) early action project for the programme of work coincided and these workshops motivated participating countries to submit proposals under the UNDP/GEF early action project, as well as to provide technical support. All three themes for capacity-building in the regional workshops fall under the purview of the UNDP/GEF project and in the Anglophone Africa and Central Asia and Caucasus workshops the global project coordinator conducted training sessions on the preparation of project proposals. As a result, ten

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out of the 14 approved proposals in the first round of applications on 24 October 2007 had a connection with the PoWPA regional workshops. Thus the coordination of technical capacity with prospects of funding and backing of consortium partners with further technical support in implementing the projects will lead to concrete actions on ground in implementing the programme of work).

6. The Secretariat convened the second meeting of the PoWPA friends (Montreal, 29-30 November 2007) to review achievements and lessons learned from the 2006-2007 activities and to discuss the plan of action for 2008-2009. In addition to the participants of the first meeting, representatives of UNEP-WCMC, Canada and the Republic of Korea also participated in the second informal meeting. The meeting, after reviewing the progress, agreed on activities contained in the table in annex II for the next phase to support implementation of the programme of work. The meeting also agreed to explore funding opportunities to undertake those activities in different regions.

III. PROGRESS ON PARAGRAPHS 33 TO 35 OF DECISION VII/28

A. Paragraph 33

7. In paragraph 33 of decision VII/28, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to update information on status and trends of and threats to, protected areas in collaboration with Parties and relevant organizations, in particular the IUCN-World Commission on Protected Areas (IUCN-WCPA). The Secretariat had submitted information, prepared in collaboration with UNEP-WCMC and the IUCN-WCPA on status and trends of, and threats to, protected areas in November 2003 to the ninth meeting of SBSTTA, (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/5/Rev.1). In pursuance of the request in para. 33 of decision VII/28, UNEP-WCMC and the IUCN-WCPA accepted to update the information contained in that document for the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, using the World Database on Protected Areas and other information.

8. The Executive Secretary requested Parties to provide information on the establishment of new protected areas since the adoption of the programme of work, as well as information on the impact of key threats on protected areas, through key questions within the matrix on the implementation of the programme of work. Information received from Parties and other organizations is synthesized in the document on the review of implementation (UNEP/CBD/WG-PA/2/2). As reported by 24 countries, 2,300 new terrestrial protected areas and 50 new marine protected areas, covering approximately 60 million hectares, have been established since the adoption of the programme of work.

B. Paragraph 34

9. In paragraph 34 of decision VII/28, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to strengthen collaboration with other organizations, institutions and conventions to support implementation of the programme of work, and to establish a liaison group of relevant organizations, including *inter alia* the World Heritage Convention, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, and the Man and Biosphere programme of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

10. Since the adoption of the programme of work in 2004, the Secretariat has developed and established functional and working partnerships with major international conservation organizations, Conventions, and regional development organizations to facilitate implementation of the programme of work. The Secretariat has managed to bring relevant global and regional partners on board to supplement and complement efforts in implementing the programme of work at national level. Some of the major international non-governmental conservation organizations have adopted implementation of the programme of work as the framework of action for their national programmes. The establishment of an informal consortium of partners and organization of regional capacity building workshops described above is a testimony to this functional partnership.

11. The Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions, at its fifth meeting, held in Gland, Switzerland, on 14 September 2006), noted that the programme of work on protected areas includes specific goals time-bound targets and activities many of which are relevant to other biodiversity-related conventions (see, for example, the World Heritage Convention text; Ramsar resolution IX.22; CMS

resolution 8.2—CMS Strategic Plan Objective 2, and existing memoranda of cooperation and joint work plans). It was therefore agreed that the Liaison Group members would provide inputs to the preparation of relevant documentation for the second meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group on Protected Areas, in particular to the document on the review of implementation (UNEP/CBD/WG-PA/2/2).

C. Paragraph 35

12. In paragraph 35 (a) of decision VII/28, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to compile information received from Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations and bodies on the implementation of the programme of work, and transmit this information to the ad hoc open-ended working group. Through notifications 2006-80, dated 7 July 2006, and 2006-125, dated 30 November 2006, the Executive Secretary invited Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to submit information on implementation of the programme of work on protected areas using tools such as the matrix in annex II of recommendation 1/4 of the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Protected Areas. Based on the information received and information gathered in the regional workshops, the Executive Secretary has prepared document UNEP/CBD/WG-PA/2/2 to facilitate the review of implementation of the programme of work on protected areas by the working group at its second meeting.

13. In paragraph 35 (b) of the decision, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to establish, in collaboration with the IUCN-World Commission on Protected Areas (IUCN-WCPA), a roster of experts to help Parties in implementing the programme of work on protected areas. In a subsequent decision the Conference of the Parties decided to discontinue with the establishment of rosters of experts (decision VIII/10, para. 17). IUCN-WCPA is one of the important members of the informal consortium partnership for implementation and its various regions are actively involved in the regional implementation workshops. Major international conservation organizations through their country programmes and members of IUCN-WCPA regions are involved in providing technical assistance to Parties in implementing the programme of work.

14. In paragraph 35 (c) of the decision, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to undertake the suggested supporting activities included in the programme of work which include *inter alia*: organization of regional and subregional workshops; compilation and dissemination of relevant tools, guidelines, best practices; collaboration with relevant organizations and bodies, etc. Information on the organization of regional workshops and collaboration with relevant organizations and bodies is described above. In collaboration with partners, the Secretariat has developed the following technical support material for implementing the programme of work:

(a) *Towards Effective Protected Area Systems - An Action guide to Implement the Convention on Biological Diversity Programme of Work on Protected Areas – CBD Technical Series No. 18*: This action guide provides practical steps in implementing various activities of the programme of work. This guide divides the activities and targets of the four programme elements into nine themes. Each theme-based chapter describes the context (a brief over view of the issue and why it is important), potential steps for implementing the activities (a series of possible steps with some details on how to put them into practice), case-studies (examples of how the targets have been addressed in specific countries, usually by providing references to relevant web sites), tools and resources (a selection of tools, methodologies, data sources, codes and best practices etc, that are already available for achieving particular targets). This guide is also available in Spanish and Russian and efforts are under way to produce the French version;

(b) *Closing the Gap- Creating ecologically representative protected area systems- CBD Technical Series No. 23*: This guide describes in detail the key steps to conduct an ecological gap analysis and to establish ecologically representative national protected area systems. In addition, it provides a wealth of information on tools, and case-studies including country and regional assessments and resources. This guide is also available in Spanish;

(c) *Biodiversity Issues for Consideration in the Planning, Establishment and Management of Protected Area Sites and Networks- CBD Technical Series No. 15*: This document contains articles from 25 invited contributors highlighting critical issues relating to the selection, planning, and effective management of protected areas for policy makers, managers, and other actors in the protected area community;

(d) *Protected Areas and Biodiversity – An Over View of Key Issues*: This document provides a scholastic overview of key issues for biodiversity and protected areas including threats to protected areas, global climate change, system and network design, transboundary protected areas, evaluating management effectiveness, alternate forms of protection and governance, private sector and extractive industries, access and benefit-sharing perspectives and financing of protected areas;

(e) *Review of Experience with Ecological Networks, Corridors and Buffer Zones- CBD Technical Series No. 23*: This document illustrates the concept of ecological networks, corridors and buffer zones in relation to goals 1.2 and 1.3 of the programme of work. It also describes experiences in developing ecological networks corridors and buffer zones in each of the five UN regions, their suitability for biodiversity conservation, sustainable use, poverty alleviation and contribution to the achievement of the 2010 biodiversity target;

(f) *The International Legal regime of the High Seas and the Seabed Beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction and Options for Cooperation for the Establishment of Marine Protected Areas in Marine Areas beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction- CBD Technical Series No. 19*: This document prepared in collaboration with IUCN's Global Marine Programme and the Task Force on High Seas Marine Protected Areas of IUCN-WCPA examines the legal aspects and options for cooperation to establish marine protected areas beyond national jurisdiction;

(g) *Patterns of Species Richness in the High Seas- CBD Technical Series No. 20*: This document presents maps of species richness in the high seas based on the distribution of individual species of marine vertebrate and invertebrate groups, complemented with maps of genera and families of invertebrate fishes;

(h) *Quick guides on Protected Area System Master Planning, Protected Area Management Effectiveness, Marine Ecological Gap Assessments, and Capacity Action Planning*: These documents under the quick guide series provide some references that explain an overview of issues, brief case-studies and reference tools;

(i) *Manual on critical steps, tools, available resources and case-studies on* (i) Ecological Gap Analysis, (i) Sustainable Financing, and (iii) Management Effectiveness- UNEP/CBD/WS-PA/AA/1/3: This manual explains basic principles, methodologies, available resources and case-studies for: (i) Filling ecological gaps: conducting gap assessments and steps to fill identified gaps in national protected area systems; (ii) Sustainable finance: Completing business-oriented sustainable finance plans for protected area systems and putting in place effective sustainable funding mechanisms, and long-term capacity building programs; and (iii) Management effectiveness: Conducting management effectiveness evaluations and steps to improve management effectiveness. This manual was prepared for the regional capacity building workshops. A French version of the document is also available;

(j) *The Value of Nature – Ecological, Economic, Cultural and Social Benefits of Protected areas*: This brochure, more specifically meant for policy and decision makers, illustrates the benefits of protected areas in a comprehensive and convincing manner in order to generate a stronger call to action;

(k) *Protected Areas in Today's world - Their values and Benefits for the welfare of the planet -CBD Technical Series No 36*: This document contains articles from invited contributors highlighting case studied on the ecological, economic, social and cultural benefits of protected areas;

15. In all regional workshops participants were provided with a CD containing all presentations of the workshop as well as other resources including nearly 200 documents on tools, reports, and analyses on

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protected areas to encourage and facilitate implementation. The information was classified into ten themes in line with the targets of the programme of work: 1. elements of master planning, 2. gap assessments, 3. threats, 4. management effectiveness, 5. capacity action plan, 6. equity and benefit-sharing, 7. governance, 8. policy environment, 9. sustainable finance, 10. monitoring.

16. Information provided on resources includes title, theme, format, citation, and a short description. ^{1/} Distributed resources are also being made available through the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention.

^{1/} An example of a resource is: “Evaluating Effectiveness: A Framework for Assessing management effectiveness of protected areas 2nd edition”, on the theme management effectiveness, available in PDF, full citation, with the short description, “This Best Practice Guideline is not intended as a “how-to” manual and does not contain a detailed methodology, but explains (Chapter 4) the steps in designing and conducting an assessment, through the phases of: 1. defining assessment objectives, scope and resourcing; 2. choosing and developing a methodology, including establishing an assessment team and defining indicators; 3. implementing the assessment in the field and office; and 4. interpreting, communicating and using results.”

Annex I

**LIST OF SUBREGIONAL WORKSHOPS TO SUPPORT AND REVIEW IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK
ON PROTECTED AREAS**

| SUBREGION, LOCATION/ DATES | PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES | LEAD INSTITUTIONS | RESOURCE PERSONS | THEMES COVERED |
|---|--|--|--|--|
| Caribbean Miami, Florida, 20- 22 June 2006 | 13 countries: Antigua& Barbuda, Bahamas, British Virgin Island, Commonwealth of Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica, Montserrat, Puerto Rico, St Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines | TNC, in collaboration with SCBD, IUCN_WCPA, USAID, Parks in Peril | From TNC | Gap analysis, SF plans, PAME and Capacity building |
| South America Quito, Ecuador, 24- 26 July 2006 | 10 countries: Brazil, Ecuador, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, Peru and Venezuela | Same as above | Same as above | Same as above |
| East Caribbean States St Lucia, 5-7 December 2006 | 7 countries: Antigua and Barbuda, British Virgin Island, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines | Same as above | Same as above | Same as above |
| South & West Asia Dehradun, India 2-4 April 2007 | 10 countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Islamic Republic of Iran, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, and Yemen | SCBD with financial support from EC, Government of India and in collaboration with IUCN-WCPA, TNC, WWF and WCS | SCBD, TNC, WWF, WCS, WildLife Institute of India | Gap analysis, SF plans, PAME and review of implementation of the POW and inputs to WG second meeting |
| ASEAN 23-27 April, 2007, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia | 7 countries | IUCN-WCPA, South East asia region, BirdLife international and WWF | IUCN-WCPA, BirdLife International and WWF | Gap analysis, PAME and review of implementation of the POW |
| Eastern Europe Isle of Vilm, Germany, 17-21 June 2007 | 11 countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Slovakia, Serbia, Ukraine | WWF and German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation in collaboration with SCBD, TNC and IUCN | TNC, WWF, IUCN and SCBD | Gap analysis, SF plans, PAME and review of implementation of the POW and inputs to WG second meeting |

| SUBREGION, LOCATION/ DATES | PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES | LEAD INSTITUTIONS | RESOURCE PERSONS | THEMES COVERED |
|--|--|---|--|--|
| Anglophone Africa Cape Town, South Africa, 13-15 August 2007 | 20 countries: Botswana, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, | SCBD with financial support from EC, and WWF and in collaboration with IUCN-WCPA, TNC, WWF, BirdLife international, CI and Government of South Africa | TNC, WWF, IUCN, CI, SCBD, UNDP/GEF, Government of Madagascar | Gap analysis, SF plans, PAME and review of implementation of the POW and inputs to WG second meeting |
| Central Asia and Caucasus countries Isle of Vilm, Germany, 20-23 August 2007 | 12 countries: Armenia Azerbaijan, Belarus, China, Georgia Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan | WWF and German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation in collaboration with SCBD, and TNC | TNC, WWF, SCBD, UNDP/GEF | Gap analysis, SF plans, PAME and review of implementation of the POW and inputs to WG second meeting |
| Francophone Africa Libreville, Gabon 7-10 January 2008 | 20 countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, , Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Guinea-Bissau, Madagascar, Mali, Morocco, Mauritania, Republic of the Congo, Sao Tome and Principe, Togo, and Tunisia | SCBD with financial support from Germany, GTZ, Canada, COMIFAC and Gabon. | TNC, CI, WWF, GTZ, WCS | Gap analysis, SF plans, PAME and review of implementation of the POW and inputs to WG second meeting |

*Annex II***ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK**

| TYPE | CHARACTERISTICS | EXAMPLES | ESTIMATED COST |
|--|--|---|---|
| <i>Regional activities:</i> | | | |
| 1. Regional catalysing workshop | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple themes • Numerous countries • Senior to mid level government officials and NGOs • Overview of PoWPA • Overview of funding opportunities • Introductory technical information and case-studies • CBD Secretariat presence • Reporting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All regional workshops to date | US\$100,000-150,000 <i>Recommended frequency: 1 per year, per region</i> |
| 2. Technical clinic | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 or 2 themes • 2 to 5 countries • Technical level practitioners • Practical technical guidance and knowledge sharing, with hands on exercises' • CBD Secretariat letter | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eastern Caribbean: management effectiveness & capacity development planning • Indian Ocean Islands: Ecological gap analysis and sustainable financial planning | US\$30,000-60,000 <i>Recommended frequency: 2-3 per year, per region</i> |
| 3. Technical knowledge exchanges | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One theme • Technical assistance provided by peer country staff, consultant, or NGO • Short visit, with virtual follow-up, linked to a broader set of learning activities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panama: PA system master planning • Guatemala: Capacity development planning | US\$5,000-15,000 <i>Recommended frequency: 4-8 per year, per region</i> |
| <i>Tools, guidance and knowledge support</i> | | | |
| 4. Tools and guidance development and web-based knowledge support | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing different types of practical tools and guidance, based on grounded experience • Sharing tools, guidance and country case-studies on key PoWPA themes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quick guides • Technical Series documents • Training modules • PALNet • Conserve-on-line • CBD PA Website • Potential: GEF EAG project site | US\$10,000-25,000 per theme including web-based dissemination |
