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PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF  
PROGRAMMES OF WORK ON THEMATIC AREAS: INLAND WATER, MARINE AND COASTAL,  
AGRICULTURAL, AND FOREST BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Report by the Executive Secretary

1. This note has been prepared by the Executive Secretary with the purpose of assisting the Subsidiary Body on Scientific Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) to consider progress made in implementing the programmes of work in the current thematic area of the Convention, namely, inland water, marine and coastal, agricultural, and forest biological diversity.

2. This note covers the period between the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) (Bratislava, May 1998) and the fourth meeting of SBSTTA. It contains a part on the different thematic programmes and another part on issues that are common to the four programmes, that is the roster of experts and activities that are implemented in conjunction with, or through, the clean~~er~~ mechanism. A final part on options for recommendations is also included.

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PART I - IMPLEMENTATION OF THE THEMATIC PROGRAMMES OF WORK

A. PROGRAMME OF WORK ON INLAND WATERS BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

3. This section of the document will report on: implementation of decision IV/4 on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems and options for conservation and sustainable use; the work plan of SBSTTA in this area and the related programme as described in Annex I, part A, section II, paragraph 8 and Annex II of decision IV/4, respectively; submission of information on matters arising out of decision IV/4 by Parties, Governments, national and international organizations; and the implementation of the Joint Work Plan with the Convention on Wetlands. Options for recommendations by SBSTTA are presented in a separate section of this document.

4. In paragraph 8 of decision IV/4, SBSTTA was requested to:

- a) Implement the programme of work respecting the relevant tasks described in annexes I and II to the present decision, taking into account the decisions adopted at the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the schedule as contained in annex II to the present decision, subject to amending the time schedule so as to immediately commence development of regional guidelines for rapid assessment for small island States, and to report on progress to the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting;
- b) Incorporate, as appropriate, the outcome of the sixth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development on strategic approaches to freshwater management into its work plan and report back thereon to the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting;
- c) Continue to take note of the approved work programme and results, and pursue opportunities for cooperation with the Scientific and Technical Review Panel of the Convention on Wetlands.

5. Regarding paragraph (c) above, the Secretariat has been informed that a decision has been drafted for the consideration of the forthcoming meeting of Ramsar's Standing Committee, to be held in Costa Rica in May 1999. This relates to some proposed changes to the membership and operations of the Convention on Wetlands' Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP), including a recommendation that the Chair of the SBSTTA of the CBD be considered as a permanent observer to the STRP to promote cooperation and synergy between the actions of the two expert bodies.

6. Annex I, part A, section II, paragraph 8 of the above-mentioned decision states that a work plan for SBSTTA should be developed in cooperation with relevant organizations, Governments and Parties and should build upon the ongoing efforts in inland water ecosystem conservation. This work plan should include elements identified by the COP; the COP has also developed a possible timeframe for a work programme pertaining to SBSTTA activities.

7. In paragraph 10 of decision IV/4, the COP has requested the Executive Secretary to facilitate the programme of work outlined in this decision, including its annexes I and II and to begin compiling information and case studies for use by SBSTTA in addressing paragraphs 8(a) and (c) of Annex I to that decision.

8. In light of paragraph 10, the Executive Secretary sent letters to National Focal Points of the Convention and to relevant organizations inviting them to submit relevant information, case studies and inputs to assist the Secretariat in the assessment of the status and trends of the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems and identification of options for conservation and sustainable use. To date, information has been submitted by Belgium, The World Conservation Union (IUCN) and The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

9. The Royal Institute of Natural Sciences of Belgium informed the Executive Secretary of a study carried out at the national level to assess the percentage of wild fauna victims of road traffic. The World Conservation Union, a partner organization of the Convention on Wetlands, supports the Joint Work Plan between Ramsar and the CBD and declares its interest in assisting SBSTTA on the topics listed under part A, section II, paragraph 8(c) of Annex I of decision IV/4, drawing information and case studies from the IUCN portfolio of demonstration field projects. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations informed the Executive Secretary of projects and programmes developed by the Association in support of conservation and sustainable use of inland water ecosystems.

10. In paragraph 4 of decision IV/4, the COP has encouraged the implementation of the Joint Work Plan with the Convention on Wetlands, as recommended by the Conference of the Parties in its decision III/21 and by TBS in its recommendation III/1, part A, section I, paragraph (b), endorsed by the COP at its fourth meeting as a framework for enhanced cooperation between the two Conventions through decision IV/15.

11. The forthcoming Ramsar COP meeting will strengthen the joint work plan with CBD and assist SBSTTA in developing the work plan as elaborated in part A, section II, paragraph 8 of Annex I of decision IV/4, on the following items:

#### Status and trends

- With respect to paragraph 8(a), Ramsar's forthcoming meeting includes a Global Review of Wetland Resources and Priorities for Wetlands Inventory in the Future, to be presented under Technical Session IV "Tools for assessing and recognizing wetlands value" of the Ramsar's COP agenda. The final result of this report will be presented to the SBSTTA-4 meeting.
- With respect to paragraph 8(b), Technical Session IV of Ramsar's COP-7, entitled "Tools for assessing and recognizing wetland value", includes a special analysis of indicator species and guidelines for rapid assessments of wetlands and water resources from the perspective of biological diversity and ecological/hydrological functions.

#### Conservation and sustainable use

- With respect to paragraph 8(c), Technical Session I on "Ramsar and water" Ramsar's COP-7 will examine lessons learned in integrated watershed management and river basin management. In particular, this session of Ramsar's COP-7 will consider the ecosystem-based approach, to the extent possible.
- With respect to point (iii) of paragraph 8(c), Technical Session IV of Ramsar's COP-7 will include "Strategic, environmental and social impact assessment" as a tool for assessing and recognizing wetlands values.
- With respect to point (iv) of paragraph 8(c), Technical Session V of Ramsar's COP-7 on "National planning for wetlands conservation and wise use" will consider restoration as an element of national planning for wetland conservation and wise use.
- With respect to point (vi) of paragraph 8(c), the impact of invasive alien species will be the subject of one of the keynote papers, to be presented at the Ramsar's COP-7.

12. With respect to paragraph 8(d), Technical Session IV of Ramsar's COP-7 agenda, on "Tools for assessing and recognizing wetlands values", aims at recognizing and valuing wetland functions and services and measuring the social impacts resulting from the degradation of water resources. Also, under Technical Session III at COP-7 of Ramsar, under the theme "Involving local people at all levels", there will be a review of fiscal and other incentive measures for wetland conservation and wise use.

13. In part A, section I, paragraph 6 of decision IV/4, the COP has requested the Executive Secretary and SBSTTA to pay special attention to early cooperation with small island States in the development of rapid assessment methodologies, recognizing the immediate threats to inland water ecosystems and associated biological diversity of small island States.

14. In part A, section I, paragraph 7 of this decision, recognizing that in the territories of certain States there are inland water ecosystems suffering from ecological disaster, the COP has requested the Executive Secretary and SBSTTA to pay special attention to early co-operation in assessing such disasters and mitigating activities and in developing rapid assessment methodologies within these States.

15. The Ramsar Convention recognizes the special significance of the small island States in its Strategic Plan. Ramsar produced a booklet on small island States and a strong participation of small island States representatives is foreseen at Ramsar's COP-7.

16. In the framework of cooperation with other organizations, the CBD Secretariat attended the eighth meeting of the Intergovernmental Steering Committee on Water Supply and Sanitation and the nineteenth session of the ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources, held in Beirut, Lebanon, 28 September - 2 October 1998, to follow up the issues dealt with by the ACC Subcommittee, to participate effectively in its work and to inform the Subcommittee on decision IV/4 on biological diversity of inland water ecosystems. At the meeting, the ACC Subcommittee Secretariat underscored the importance of the biological diversity perspective and supported its inclusion in carrying out ACC activities on water resources. Following the

meeting and the discussion of the various items, the CBD Secretariat submitted to the ACC Subcommittee an update of the information on inland waters and small island developing States, on the basis of decision IV/4, for the report of the Secretary-General on progress in the implementation of the Barbados Program of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. Also, through the ACC Subcommittee, the CBD Secretariat delivered its inputs for the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities. Co-operation with the other partner organizations of the ACC Subcommittee is foreseeable, particularly with regard to coordination arrangements as a follow-up to the decisions of the sixth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (New York, 20 April - 1 May 1998), including a compilation of freshwater assessment.

B. PROGRAMME OF WORK ON MARINE AND COASTAL BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

I. Promotion of the Jakarta Mandate and its programme of work

17. Through decision IV/5, the COP adopted a multiyear programme of work for the implementation of the Jakarta Mandate on Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity.

18. While the Secretariat coordinates the implementation of the various activities related to the six elements outlined in the programme of work, including collaboration with partner organizations, the promotion of the Jakarta Mandate and its programme of work remains a priority of the Secretariat's work.

19. To this end, at the regional level the Secretariat attended, and contributed to the following events: (i) a Workshop on the Ecosystem Approach to the Management and Protection of the North Sea (Oslo, Norway, June 1998). At this occasion, the Secretariat delivered a presentation on "The ecosystem approach: evolution of the concept and experiences within the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity", with a view to promoting the ecosystem approach concept, its possible application to the North Sea, and its implementation. The workshop was a successful attempt to test the Malawi principles on the ecosystem approach, with particular focus on the marine and coastal environment of the North Sea. It is expected that the report of the workshop will be submitted by the Government of Norway to the fourth meeting of SBSTTA; (ii) a Workshop on Marine Biodiversity in the Caribbean (Montego Bay, Jamaica, October 1998).

20. On that occasion, the Secretariat delivered a presentation on the role of the Convention in addressing the main pressures on the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity, with the aim of promoting the implementation of the Convention programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity in the Wider Caribbean.

21. The Secretariat is very grateful to the Government of Sweden for its contribution towards the implementation of the Jakarta Mandate, in particular by making available a senior expert to assist in promoting the Mandate and its programme of work at various international and regional fora. This contribution has allowed the Secretariat to promote the Mandate and its programme of work at the following regional meetings:

- (i) The Advisory Committee on the Protection of the Sea (ACOPS) South Africa Conference on Cooperation for Development and Protection of the Marine and Coastal Environment in Sub Saharan Africa (Cape Town, South Africa, November 1998); and,
- (ii) the International Tropical Marine Ecosystems Management Symposium (ITMEMS), organized by the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) (Townsville, Australia, November 1998).

22. The Secretariat has recently been informed of the possible establishment of a joint initiative between the Government of Sweden and the Government of Indonesia to assist in the promotion and implementation of the Jakarta Mandate and its programme of work. A consultation between the two Governments will be held in Jakarta, in March 1999, to explore the modalities of such a joint initiative.

23. During the intersessional period, the Secretariat is willing to promote the Jakarta Mandate and its programme of work further at the regional level. Within the framework of the underpreparation Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME) Protocol on Biological Diversity and Establishment of Special Protected Areas, the Secretariat will provide assistance in the inclusion of Jakarta Mandate provisions in the abovementioned protocol. To this end, a first meeting will be held in Kuwait in September 1999, to which the Secretariat has been invited to contribute.

24. At the global level, the Secretariat attended the Second London Oceans Workshop, in London, UK, in December 1998, in order to promote consideration of the Jakarta Mandate and its programme of work by the process on the review of Chapter 17 of Agenda 21, on oceans and seas, being carried out within the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD). The London Workshop was an important inter-sessional event of the CSD, prior to its seventh session, to be held in New York, 1-5 March 1999. The Secretariat has provided input on the Jakarta Mandate, and will contribute to the meeting of the CSD Intersessional Working Group on the Oceans and Seas and Small Island Developing States, as well as CSD-7.

25. In July 1998, on the occasion of an International Training Programme on the Implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and agenda 21, designed for the developing countries cadre (Dalhousie University, Halifax, Canada), the Secretariat delivered a lecture on the Convention and the Jakarta Mandate on Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity. This international programme is organized by the International Ocean Institute (IOI)/Canada.

## II. Cooperation with global and regional conventions, partner organizations and initiatives and implementation of the programme of work through those organizations and initiatives

26. The Executive Secretary transmitted decision IV/5 to various relevant organizations and bodies. In forwarding the decision, the Executive Secretary drew attention to the invitation from COP to those concerned organizations and bodies to participate in, and contribute to, the implementation of the Convention. He also referred to the invitation to regional organizations/bodies/agreements to

coordinate their activities relevant to the programme of work, and encouraged relevant intergovernmental organizations/bodies to implement the programme of work.

27. A significant number of organizations replied, all positively, to the above-mentioned invitation. In addition to those organizations that are already assisting in the implementation of specific elements of the programme of work (as presented in the next section), a number of organizations reiterated their availability to support general aspects of the Jakarta Mandate. Also, several organizations that had not entered into cooperation with the Secretariat before expressed their interest in doing so; the Secretariat is in the process of identifying elements and modalities for cooperation with those organizations.

28. The collaboration with the Convention on Wetlands (the Ramsar Convention) in the field of coastal biological diversity is continuing in the broader framework of the CBD-Ramsar Joint Work Plan (see decision IV/4 on inland water biological diversity). Specific actions in the coastal field since the endorsement of the Joint Work Plan by COP4 consist of: a study on alien species on both inland and coastal areas covered by the Ramsar Convention, prepared for COP of the Ramsar Convention, the outcome of which will be used in the work on alien species within the CBD; and a strategy to link the Joint Work Plan with the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (Barbados, 1994). The Secretariat will attend the Pan Asian Regional Meeting of the Ramsar Convention (Manila, Philippines, February 1999) to specifically explore how to expand cooperation in the area of marine and coastal biological diversity, both in the region as well as globally.

29. Cooperation is continuing with the United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (UNDOALOS). An informal consultation between the secretariats of the two Conventions is planned for March 1999. Areas of cooperation will include integrated marine and coastal area management, marine protected areas, and the issue of bioprospecting of deep sea resources. The Secretariat is also monitoring closely the work of the International Sea Bed Authority in areas relevant to the Convention. The Secretariat has contributed, through UNDOALOS, inputs to the Secretary-General's Report on Oceans and the Law of the Sea to the fifth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

30. An informal consultation was arranged in January 1999 between the Secretariat and the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM), the latter on behalf of the Helsinki Convention. Cooperative linkages have been identified by HELCOM in virtually all the areas covered by the Jakarta Mandate programme of work. The HELCOM proposal should be considered at the twentieth meeting of the Commission, in March 1999. The Commission will inform the Executive Secretary of the CBD of the HELCOM's deliberations.

31. The Oslo-Paris Commission (OSPAR), which administers the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic, provided the Secretariat with a detailed response on how the Commission is already addressing several of the provisions contained in the Jakarta Mandate and its programme of work. The Commission has adopted Annex V to the OSPAR Convention, which deals with the protection and conservation of the ecosystems and biological diversity of the maritime area and has adopted a specific strategy to implement Annex V. Coordination between the two Secretariats will continue through the exchange of information on a regular basis.

32. With regard to cooperation with partner organizations in the South Pacific region, the Permanent Commission of the South Pacific (CPPS) provided the Secretariat with a list of possible activities related to the Jakarta Mandate programme of work to be carried out jointly in the near future, following the example of an expert meeting on alien species jointly organized by CPPS and the Convention Secretariat in Viña del Mar, Chile, in September 1998. The Secretariat had identified areas for possible joint action, including the area of marine and coastal protected areas (MCPAs) (elaboration of guidance for integrated marine and coastal protected areas; implementation of a regional network of MCPAs; training of MCPA managers; organization of an expert meeting on marine and coastal protected areas; and organization of a workshop on the effects of mariculture to adjacent marine and coastal environments in the South-East Pacific). At present, these matters are still under discussion between the two organizations.

33. The Secretariat of the Cartagena Convention provided the CBD Secretariat with information on their activities in relation to marine and coastal issues aimed at further focusing the cooperation between the two organizations in the framework of the existing Memorandum of Cooperation. The CBD Secretariat identified two thematic areas for possible immediate cooperation, namely integrated marine and coastal area management and marine and coastal protected areas. The two Secretariats are presently exchanging views in order to operationalize the joint memorandum.

34. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) informed the Secretariat that the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity is one of the high priorities of ASEAN in the environment sector. Subsequently, a number of ASEAN programmes/projects have been developed to support this theme. The ASEAN secretariat is willing to collaborate with the CBD Secretariat in a number of areas which are of direct relevance to the Jakarta Mandate programme of work.

35. The Secretariat held some preliminary consultations with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), through a joint meeting of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) Subcommittees on Oceans and Coastal Areas and on Water Resources, aimed at linking the CBD programmes of work on marine and coastal and inland water biological diversity with efforts within the Global International Waters Assessment (GIWA) and the UNEP Regional Seas Programme. While consultations on the latter are proceeding directly through cooperation with UNEP Regional Seas Units, the consultations with GIWA will be restored with the imminent appointment of the GIWA coordinator. Cooperation with UNEP is being sought also in relation to the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities (GPA/LBA) and its Secretariat in The Hague, which will include assistance in the development of a clearing mechanism for GPA-LBA.

36. Discussions were held in December 1998 between the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Secretariat of the Convention regarding possible cooperation between the two organizations in the area of the Jakarta Mandate. The Commonwealth Secretariat is willing to assist its Member States and the Parties to the Convention in the implementation of activities in the following areas: co-management (in the framework of integrated marine and coastal area management), testing the application of an ecosystem approach to the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity, and public awareness raising. The two

Secretariats are in the process of identifying possible pilot projects in the above-mentioned areas.

37. The World Conservation Union (IUCN) informed the Secretariat that the impact of climate change on coral reefs is a priority issue in their work related to marine and coastal ecosystems. In line with the Jakarta Mandate programme of work, IUCN may contribute to an expert consultation on coral bleaching, possibly to be held in 1999. In addition, the IUCN also referred to the existing Memorandum of Understanding with UNEP, which frames much of IUCN's work on marine and coastal ecosystems in the Eastern Africa region. Some talks have been held between the Secretariat and IUCN on other possible areas of cooperation, namely integrated marine and coastal area management and marine and coastal protected areas, in the framework of the Jakarta Mandate programme of work. At the moment, the Secretariat is awaiting a proposal from IUCN regarding these issues.

38. The Secretariat was invited to attend the twenty-sixth Conference of the International Ocean Institute (IOI) in Halifax, Canada, in November 1998, and contributed an input to the Conference theme "The crisis of knowledge." The Conference provided an opportunity for the two Organizations to explore cooperation. The Executive Secretary of the IOI has proposed elements for a memorandum of cooperation between the two organizations. IOI could assist the implementation of the Jakarta Mandate programme of work, inter alia, in the areas of integrated marine and coastal area management and parataxonomy.

39. The Secretariat has been invited to become a standing participant in the meetings of the ACC Subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas, which is responsible for coordinating the implementation of Chapter 17 of Agenda 21 on oceans and seas. The Secretariat attended the joint meeting of the ACC Subcommittees on Oceans and Coastal Areas and on Water Resources, held in The Hague, Netherlands, in June 1998, and has contributed inputs to the Secretary General's Report on Oceans and Seas to CSD-7.

40. Cooperation is under discussion or finalization with other partner organizations, including the Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES) and the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR).

41. In addition to the above-mentioned organizations, the Secretariat is collaborating with various competent organizations and initiatives in the implementation of specific elements of the programme of work. Information on the status of these activities is presented in the following section.

### III. Implementation of specific elements of the programme of work

#### Coral reefs

42. In responding to the request of the COP at its fourth meeting, the Executive Secretary forwarded an invitation to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to urgently address the issue of coral bleaching as a possible occurrence of global warming and in light of the related potentially severe

loss of biological diversity and consequent socio-economic impacts. The same invitation will also be conveyed to the Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention at its seventh meeting, in Costa Rica (May 1999).

43. At the invitation of the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI), the Secretariat participated in the International Tropical Marine Ecosystems Management Symposium (ITMEMS) (Townsville, Australia, November 1998), at which coral bleaching was a major issue. At the meeting, consultations started with the ICRI Secretariat on how ICRI could assist in contributing relevant information on the issue.

44. The Secretariat is collecting information on coral bleaching from a variety of sources, mainly from partner organizations and drawing upon the information contained in the National Reports, with a view to assisting the work of SBSTTA on this issue prior to the fifth meeting of the COP. Several Parties and governments, as well as partner organizations, have approached the Secretariat in order to assist in the issue on coral bleaching. The Executive Secretary may convene an expert consultation on the issue, using the roster of experts, in order to assist SBSTTA in making a comprehensive analysis of this phenomenon and provide relevant information to the fifth meeting of the COP.

45. Cooperation with ICRI in the area of coral reef in general is proceeding well. The Secretariat has established a fruitful contact with the new ~~secretariat~~ of ICRI, presently provided by France.

#### Integrated Marine and Coastal Area Management (IMCAM)

46. Organizations have been approached to discuss their interest in joining an informal IMCAM Task Force under the Convention, as called upon by the COP in its decision IV/5, to review existing instruments for IMCAM and their relevance to the Convention. This task force will include those agencies responsible for developing existing sets of guidelines on IMCAM, experts from the roster, and other relevant organizations. The task force is expected to be operational early in the second half of 1999. Regional organizations active in the field will also participate, such as the Secretariat of the Cartagena Convention.

47. Cooperation between UNDOALOS, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Convention in the field of training in IMCAM is being finalized, particularly with regard to the contribution of the UNDOALOS/UNDP TRAIN-SEA-COAST Programme to the implementation of capacitybuilding provisions on IMCAM within the Jakarta Mandate programme of work.

48. In the framework of the work of SBSTTA on indicators, the Jakarta Mandate unit of the Secretariat is contributing to the design and organization of the next meeting of the Liaison Group on indicators, including using experts from the roster. This should allow identification and selection of marine and coastal biological diversity indicators, with the aim to advance the elaboration of guidelines on ecosystem approaches, within the framework of IMCAM, paying special attention to indicators, as called for in the programme of work.

49. It is in the field of IMCAM that cooperation with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO has focused since-@OP IOC has recently launched, together with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the US and the Center for the Study of Marine Policy of the University of Delaware, United States, a Global Web Service on Integrated Coastal Management. CBD is a collaborating partner to the Service. The Service represents a web site exclusively devoted to IMCAM and provides information in all area of IMCAM, including the story of IMCAM, national profiles, problems and case study examples, coastal laws, news, resources for practitioners, and useful links. The Service is accessible through the web site of the clearing-house mechanism to the Convention.

#### Marine and Coastal Living Resources

50. Emerging activities being implemented within this programme element are: (i) the identification of ecosystem approaches to the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal living resources by the Secretariat, on the basis of information received from partner organizations and drawing upon the National Reports; (ii) a desk study on the effects of stock enhancement techniques on marine and coastal biological diversity, being compiled for the Convention by the International Center for the Management of Living Aquatic Resources (ICLARM), in collaboration with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); and (iii) the collection of information on the bioprospecting of marine and coastal genetic resources, mainly building upon the information received by relevant experts in the roster, who have been requested to provide information on the subject, as well as the information contained in the National Reports.

#### Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (MCPAs)

51. The Secretariat has prepared terms of reference for anad hoc technical expert group on MCPAs under SBSTTA, which will contribute inputs to, and help coordinate, the implementation of the programme element relating to research on the effects and value of MCPAs on the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity.

52. With the aim of elaborating criteria on the establishment and management of MCPAs, the Secretariat is in the process of establishing an informal task force, as called for in decision IV/5. The task force will include the main actors in the field, including the World Bank, IUCN and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves of the Man and Biosphere Programme, with particular reference to marine and coastal Biosphere Reserves. Expression of interest from those and other organizations have already been received; the Task Force will rely heavily on experts from the roster and on relevant regional conventions, including the Cartagena Convention. It is expected to be operational early in the second half of 1999.

#### Mariculture

53. The Secretariat has prepared draft terms of reference for anad hoc technical expert group on mariculture, under SBSTTA.

54. The Secretariat is coordinating with Parties on the possibility that a Junior Professional Officer be seconded for an initial period of two years, to assist in the implementation of the activities under this programme element.

55. It is expected that this particular programme element will be implemented in close cooperation with the FAO. To this end, an intersecretariat consultation is tentatively to be held at FAO Headquarters in Rome in March 1999.

#### Alien species and genotypes

56. Preliminary communication has been established with relevant experts and institutions, inter alia, the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the Baltic Marine Biologist Association Working Group on Nonindigenous Estuarine and Marine Organisms (BMB WG-NEMO). These and other organizations are contributing important information to this programme element.

57. IMO has provided information on its activities relevant to the development of legally binding provisions to minimize the risks of introducing harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens through ships' ballast water. IMO has also confirmed its willingness for closer cooperation and supported the views regarding the need to harmonize the respective work programmes developed under different Conventions. The activities in the operational objective of the programme of work dealing with legal instruments on alien species will also benefit from cooperation with the Global Invasive Species Programme, mainly through cooperation, already established, with the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE) and the IUCN Law Center in Bonn.

58. Useful information was forwarded by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)/IMO/IOC Study Group on Ballast Waters and Sediments, especially on the relationships of ballast waters, alien species, and harmful algal blooms.

59. At the regional level, the Secretariat participated in the Meeting of Experts to Analyze the Impacts of the Introduction of Alien Species to the South-East Pacific Region (Viña del Mar, Chile, September 1998), with the objective to evaluate the issue of the introduction of alien species and its effects on marine and coastal ecosystems. This meeting was organized by the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS) in cooperation with the Government of Chile, with the assistance of the CBD Secretariat, the latter in the framework of the Memorandum of Cooperation between SCBD and CPPS. A presentation was made by SCBD on a "Global overview of the alien species problems in marine and coastal areas". The report will be made available through the clearing-house mechanism.

60. In addition to the above activities, efforts have also been made by the Secretariat to discuss the topic with the agencies responsible for the coordination and implementation of the project entitled "Development of the Best Practices and Dissemination of Lesson Learned for Dealing with the Global Problem of Alien Species that Threaten Biological Diversity", in particular those alien species that are found in the marine and coastal environment (see document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/4/8).

61. The Secretariat has started the compilation of an alien species "incident list", based on the above-mentioned process and on that contained in the National Reports. It is expected that Parties or organizations will contribute human

resources to the Secretariat for the implementation of the programme element on alien species.

Roster of experts on marine and coastal biological diversity

62. The activities relevant to the roster of experts on marine and coastal biological diversity are presented under a separate section of the current note, dealing with the Convention roster of experts.

C. PROGRAMME OF WORK ON AGRICULTURAL BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

I. Assessment and further development of the work programme

63. The programme of work on agricultural biological diversity, as contained in decision III/11 and as reinforced by decision IV/6 of the COP, has two main elements: the conduct of the assessment of relevant activities and instruments at national and international levels; and the development by Parties of national strategies, programmes and action plans.

64. As part of this programme of work, SBSTTA has been requested to consider the results of the assessment, including the identification and prioritization of issues that need to be addressed at these levels, and to provide advice to the Conference of the Parties for the setting of priorities for further work. This process is to take into consideration, inter alia, relevant knowledge, the results of case studies on the three issues identified - pollinators, soil biota and land use management options, and the thematic areas in the indicative list in Annex 2 of decision III/11.

Reports by Parties and organizations

65. In regard to the assessment of relevant activities and instruments, national contributions have been provided to the Executive Secretary ~~By~~ Parties through specific inputs on agricultural biological diversity and by 59 Parties through relevant sections in their reports on national biological diversity strategies and action plans, in accordance with COP decisions II/17 and IV/14.

66. For the international level assessment being coordinated by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), contributions have been provided by many international and regional organizations and bodies, particularly in the form of reports to the seventh and eighth sessions of the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA), held in May 1997 and April 1999, respectively.

67. The preliminary results of the inventory were highlighted in the progress report to the fourth meeting of the COP (document UNEP/CBD/COP/4/6). On the basis of the findings, the CBD Secretariat and FAO jointly ~~developed~~ developed an analytical matrix to facilitate the synthesis and presentation of the findings of the assessment and the identification, based on priority issues identified, of key programme elements for further work. This matrix will assist SBSTTA in identifying the issues that are of greatest relevance to the objectives of the Convention and where work is

not ongoing or needs to be strengthened and, in consequence, in elaborating recommendations for consideration by the COP for the further development of ~~the~~ wo programme on agricultural biological diversity.

68. The matrix delimits a number of areas and levels of intervention, including the concerned genetic resources, the wider ecosystem and the human activities and influences that determine the type of production system. It also identifies main categories of activities and instruments for international and national programmes and action plans, including: (i) data and information systems; (ii) indicator development; (iii) identification, monitoring and assessment; (iv) research methods and approaches; (v) best practices and technologies; (vi) capacity building and training; (vii) education and awareness raising; (viii) networks and partnerships; and (ix) legislation, codes of conduct and policy development.

#### Case studies

69. In preparation for the international workshop on "Opportunities, incentives and approaches for the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural ecosystems and production systems" (Rome, December 1998), a call for case studies ~~was prepared~~ and posted through the clearing-house mechanism. Case studies were invited on sustainable agricultural practices, integrated landscape management and appropriate farming systems, in accordance with those elements of COP decisions III/11 and IV/6 that address the ecosystem level. Twenty case studies have been provided to date which describe efforts being made by Parties and organizations and illustrate ways and means to minimize possible negative impacts of agriculture on biological diversity and to enhance the ecological functions provided by biological diversity to agriculture. Parties and organizations are still invited to submit case studies on this subject for analysis by the Secretariat and dissemination through the clearing-house mechanism.

70. Several case studies have also been provided on pollinators, especially as direct contributions to the international workshop on the "Conservation and sustainable use of pollinators in agriculture - with an emphasis on bees", that was organized by the Government of Brazil with FAO as a ~~co~~ sponsor in October 1998 in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

71. To date, very few case studies have been submitted on soil biota including soil microorganisms. Learning from the experience with other case studies, the conduct of a technical workshop on this issue would be most useful in encouraging and generating relevant contributions and it would also provide the opportunity for a review of this important issue. A further call for case studies on pollinators and soil biota is being posted through the CBD clearing-house mechanism during February 1999 to encourage further submissions by interested Parties and organizations by mid July 1999, with a view to their synthesis for consideration by SBSTTA-V.

#### International workshops

72. As mentioned in paragraph 7 above, FAO and the CBD Secretariat jointly organized, with the support of the Government of the Netherlands, an international workshop on the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biological diversity at ecosystem and production system levels, from 2 to 4 December 1998,

in FAO Headquarters, Rome. By reviewing case studies, experiences and lessons learnt at ecosystem level, experts from 20 countries and 15 organizations considered opportunities and incentives for promoting sustainable agricultural strategies, farming systems and practices, as well as landscape management approaches that enhance biological diversity and ecosystem functioning.

73. The workshop contributed to the development of a better understanding of the ways and means to address agricultural biological diversity at agroecosystem and production system levels. It helped to identify the main elements required to provide enabling environments and technical, policy, institutional and legal incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biological diversity.

74. The workshop report will be distributed to Parties and concerned organizations and made available through the CBD clearinghouse mechanism and FAO web site with a view to furthering the development and implementation, from international to local levels, of programmes and actions that address agricultural biological diversity at ecosystem level. The workshop discussed actions, for the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biological diversity, especially at agro-ecosystems levels, under the following categories: (i) Information, assessment and indicators; (ii) Research and development; (iii) Awareness and capacity building; and (iv) Development of policy and instruments.

75. The workshop on the "Conservation and sustainable use of pollinators in agriculture - with an emphasis on bees", organized with the support of FAO, the University of Sao Paulo and the Brazilian National Council for Research and Technology Development (EMBRAPA), enabled 56 experts to consider the key issues and develop recommendations: to reduce the taxonomic impediment through inventorying pollinator diversity; to monitor and identify causes of pollinator diversity decline; to determine the economic value of pollinators; and to conserve, restore and ensure the sustainable use of pollinator diversity. The workshop developed a framework and proposals for action to promote the conservation and sustainable use of pollinators worldwide.

76. The reports of the Rome workshop (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/4/Inf.xx) and the Sao Paulo workshop on pollinators (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/4/Inf.xx) are being provided to the fourth meeting of SBSTTA, with a view to assisting Parties and organizations in clarifying their priorities for the further development of the multi-year work programme at the fifth meeting of SBSTTA.

77. The outcome of the Rome workshop report is also expected to contribute to other related processes and programmes in the agricultural and rural development sectors, including the FAO/Netherlands Conference on Multifunctional Character of Agriculture and Land (13-17 September 1999, Maastricht, The Netherlands), which is being organized to help prepare for the eighth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD8) which will consider the sectoral theme "Integrated planning and management of land resources" and the economic sector of "Agriculture".

78. On the basis of the abovementioned contributions (reports, workshops and case studies) by Parties and organizations to the assessment on agricultural biological diversity, the CBD Secretariat and FAO will jointly prepare a synthesis of the findings of the assessment and present elements of a programme of work for consideration by SBSTTA at its fifth meeting. In this regard, the Executive

Secretary may call upon a liaison group of experts to assist in this process through: (i) reviewing the draft programme of work; (ii) further defining the objectives, activities and expected outputs for each programme element, on the basis of the synthesis of the findings of the assessment; and (iii) elaborating on the timing, ways and means, and budgetary implications.

#### Assessment of new technology in the seed sector

79. Pursuant to paragraph 11 of decision IV/6, the Executive Secretary invited contributions from Parties and organizations towards the assessment of the consequences for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity of the development and use of new technology for the control of plant gene expression, and like technologies which sterilize or reduce the agronomic value of second generation seed. No direct contributions were provided.

80. A team of internationally renowned specialists with relevant expertise in biotechnology, intellectual property, plant breeding and socioeconomic issues has been identified through a consultative process and recruited to prepare a scientifically sound technical paper. The draft paper will be revised during March on the basis of the comments and suggestions of a review team composed of competent institutions and bodies and experts selected from each region. The results of the assessment and background information are outlined in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/4/9 for consideration under agenda item 4.6.

## II. Cooperation in implementing the work programme on agricultural biological diversity

### Cooperation with FAO

81. The Executive Secretary acknowledges and welcomes the confirmation by FAO to extend the funding for a post of Programme Officer, Agricultural Biodiversity, seconded to the Secretariat.

82. The close cooperation developed between the CBD Secretariat and FAO and the implementation of the joint CBD-FAO work programme on agricultural biological diversity (crop, livestock, aquatic, and forest genetic resources for food and agriculture) have been further strengthened through FAO's Ad Hoc Working Group on Biological Diversity for Food and Agriculture. This Working Group, which is supported at the highest level by all key Technical Departments, is promoting inter-disciplinary work to address specific cross-cutting issues to complement existing programmes and activities.

83. Some of the main activities carried out by FAO to promote the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biological diversity, including those that address plant, animal, aquatic and forestry genetic resources, are contained in the "Report from FAO on its Policies, Programmes and Activities on Agricultural Biological Diversity" (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/4/Inf.xx) and "FAO cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity" (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/4/Inf.xx) both submitted to the eighth session of the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA).

84. FAO assisted the CBD Secretariat in the process of the preparation of the scientifically-sound technical paper on the assessment of the new technologies for the control of plant gene expression.

85. In preparation for the inter-sessional meeting on the operations of the Convention (28-30 June 1999) which will, inter alia, explore options for access and benefit sharing mechanisms (COP decisions IV/8 and IV/16), FAO provided clarification to the Executive Secretary on the situation regarding those ex situ collections which are addressed by the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA). The CBD Secretariat attended, and reported to, the fifth extraordinary session of the Commission (June 1998) and will attend the eighth regular session (23 April 1999, Rome), during which further progress is expected to be made in the negotiations for the revision of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources, including, inter alia, conservation and sustainable utilization, access to genetic resources for food and agriculture, benefit sharing in regard to their utilization, and Farmers' Rights (document UNEP/CBD/XX/Inf.xx). These issues are of direct relevance to the CBD Expert Panel on Access and Benefit Sharing which is scheduled to convene from 4 to 8 October 1999.

#### Cooperation with other organizations and bodies

86. Cooperation with many other organizations and bodies has been strengthened through their active participation in the two international workshops on agricultural biodiversity-related issues held during 1998. Cooperation with the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) continues to be most valuable, through the System Wide Genetic Resources Programme and its System Wide Information Network on Genetic Resources (SINGER). In particular, it has been providing advice regarding the assessment of the new technologies for the control of plant gene expression, as well as ex situ and in situ conservation of genetic resources for food and agriculture and access to genetic resources.

87. Following the CBD Secretariat's request to the World Trade Organization for observer status at the meetings of the Committee on Agriculture and the Agreement on the Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Council, in addition to its already-granted observer status at the Committee on Trade and Environment, further information has been requested from the Secretariat. It is noted that the relationship between trade and agricultural biological diversity, as highlighted in COP decisions III/11 and IV/6, is of direct relevance to the work of the inter-sessional meeting in developing a common appreciation of the relationship between intellectual property rights and the relevant provisions of the TRIPS and the Convention (COP decisions IV/15 and IV/9).

#### D. PROGRAMME OF WORK ON FOREST BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

88. The Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting (Bratislava, May 1998) adopted decision IV/7 on forest biological diversity, including a programme of work.

89. As a first step towards the implementation of this programme, the CBD Secretariat has transmitted decision IV/7 to Parties, Governments and relevant organizations. Cooperation is being sought with a number of organizations, with

a view to harmonizing efforts and identifying possible joint activities for the implementation of the programme of work.

90. The CBD Secretariat was represented at the second session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF), Geneva, Switzerland, August-September 1998, and, as requested by decision IV/7, the Secretariat representative transmitted and presented the decision to the meeting. The meeting also provided the opportunity to further contacts and collaboration with relevant organizations and bodies.

91. The CBD Secretariat was also represented at the second session of the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (Dakar, Senegal, December 1998) and, as requested by decision IV/7, the Secretariat transmitted and presented the decision to the meeting.

92. In accordance with decision IV/7, paragraph 11, which "requests the Executive Secretary, in implementing the work programme on forest biological diversity, to actively continue collaborating and cooperating with the Secretariat of the IFF", the CBD Secretariat, working in close contact with the latter Secretariat, has contributed to the revision of the Implementation Plan of the high-level Interagency Task Force on Forests (ITFF).

93. The CBD Secretariat is the lead agency for the item on Traditional Forest Related Knowledge within the IFF process. In accordance with decision IV/7, paragraph 11, and also in accordance with the mandate of the IFF, as agreed at its first session, the Secretariat is currently preparing a draft note for the Report of the Secretary-General on Traditional Forest Related Knowledge for consideration for substantial discussion at IFF-3.

94. In the preamble to decision IV/7, the Conference of the Parties looks "forward to the outcomes of forthcoming work under the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests, including the global workshop on underlying causes of deforestation". Consequently, the CBD Secretariat is contributing to the initiative of the Government of Costa Rica and non-governmental organizations on the Underlying Causes of Deforestation and Forest Degradation and took part in the meeting that was held in San Jose de Costa Rica in January 1999.

## PART II - PROGRESS MADE IN AREAS COMMON TO THE THEMATIC PROGRAMMES

### A. Rosters of Experts

95. An integrated database for the management of the CBD rosters of experts on marine and coastal, agricultural and forest and inland water biological diversity is under preparation by the Secretariat. The situation regarding the rosters for the first three themes was reported to COP4. In regard to the latter, in Part A, section I, paragraph 4 of Annex I of decision IV/4, COP requested the Executive Secretary to develop a roster of experts on the conservation and sustainable use of the biological diversity of inland waters, and urged Governments to nominate experts to the roster, noting also that the Ramsar Bureau is establishing a similar list of experts.

96. Forty-five countries have submitted names of experts to the Secretariat for the roster of experts on inland water biological diversity. The database of experts will be made available through the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention following due consultation with the experts regarding which categories information should be released.

97. The CBD roster of experts on agricultural biological diversity was utilized to select experts from the different regions for the ~~EBD~~ international workshop on agricultural biological diversity (Rome, December 1998). The criteria used in the selection process included: ecosystem and production system level experience; expertise in the different thematic areas of relevance to agricultural biological diversity; a combination of policy and technical expertise; regional coverage; and gender balance.

#### Roster on Marine and coastal biological diversity

98. One of the basic principles for the implementation of the Jakarta Mandate programme of work is the role of experts on the roster. Paragraph 8 of the annex to decision IV/5 specifically invites the experts on the roster to make available their expertise in order to contribute to the further development of the scientific, technical, technological and socio-economic issues.

99. As a first step to begin a process of a mutually fruitful partnership, the Secretariat, with the assistance of an expert seconded by the Government of the Netherlands, prepared the following documents with the objectives to guide individual experts in further familiarization with the Convention process and to clarify the role which they can continue playing in the process of implementing the Jakarta Mandate:

- a) a booklet encompassing the recommendations and decisions taken, respectively, by SBSTTA and COP relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity: SBSTTA recommendation I/8, decision II/10 - "The Jakarta Mandate", and decision IV/5 on a programme of work. This booklet also provides an introduction to the process and a complete analytical index for easy reference;
- b) an overview of the tasks, mandate and principles of the work of the roster of experts, as formulated by the meetings of the COP;
- c) substantive questions for the experts on the roster.

100. The materials were sent in November 1998 to all the experts listed on the roster, and, by the end of January 1999, positive responses started being received by the Secretariat from individual experts. As of January 1999, responses had been received from 20 experts. In addition, some experts have also provided the Secretariat with valuable materials related to specific elements of the programme of work as well as with thoughts that address the substantive questions mentioned above.

101. In the mean time, the Secretariat has finalized the database of experts, which was made available in the Internet under the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention at <<http://www.biodiv.org>>.

102. For the purpose of improving the roster database, the Secretariat is in the process of requesting individual experts to update or complete the existing data and information. In the first quarter of 1999, the Secretariat will also send a reminder to those countries that have not yet provided names of experts for the roster.

103. The Secretariat wishes to acknowledge the Government of the Netherlands for seconding one expert to assist in the development of a methodology for the full use of the roster of experts on marine and coastal biological diversity.

#### B. Clearing-house Mechanism Linkages

104. Part A, section I, paragraph 4 of Annex I of COP decision IV/4 states that the clearing-house mechanism should be used to promote and facilitate the exchange of information and the transfer of technology relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of inland water biological diversity. The Secretariat is in the process of creating an Internet page fully devoted to inland waters.

105. The clearing-house mechanism and the Jakarta Mandate Internet page continue playing a key role in the dissemination of both information and findings related to several activities within the programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity.

106. In regard to agricultural biological diversity, the Internet home page of the CBD Secretariat was used actively in the preparation for the international workshops and is being regularly updated with case studies and contributions to facilitate the exchange of information between Parties and organizations, including the different stakeholders that have access to the Internet. Following consultations between the clearinghouse mechanism and the FAO World Agriculture Information Centre (WAICENT) programme, there is a plan of collaboration to develop training materials and system tools to enhance access to and flow of information between FAO and CBD focal points and stakeholders, and to test and evaluate such a training package through workshops and user response.

### PART III - OPTIONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS BY SBSTTA

107. The SBSTTA may wish to consider the following options for recommendations:

#### General

Consider the findings in the progress report on the four thematic areas, with a view to providing appropriate scientific, technical and technological advice and recommendations in the lead up to the fifth meeting of the PCO aimed at furthering the implementation of the Convention and related decisions in the areas pertaining to the four thematic programmes of work.

#### Inland water biological diversity

- (a) Consider the possible time-frame of a work programme on inland water biological diversity, as presented in Annex II of decision IV/4;
- (b) Invite the Chair of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel of the Convention on Wetlands to attend, as a permanent observer, the SBSTTA meetings in order to strengthen cooperation and synergy between the actions of the two experts bodies;
- (c) Take into account the results of the seventh Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Wetlands and the tangible products that will be provided directly to the fourth meeting of SBSTTA.

Agricultural biological diversity

In view of the fact that SBSTTA will only substantively consider agricultural biological diversity at its fifth meeting, it may wish to advise Parties and organisations to:

- (a) consider the outcome and recommendations of the two international workshops on sustaining productive ecosystems and agricultural biological diversity (UNEP/CBD/COP/SBSTTA/4/Inf. xx) and on pollinators in agriculture (UNEP/CBD/COP/SBSTTA/4/Inf. xx), in their preparation for SBSTTA5, with a view to guiding the development of the further programme of work in this area; and
- (b) draw upon the conclusions and recommendations contained in these workshop reports in the implementation of COP decisions III/11 and IV/6.