



## CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

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MEETING OF THE LIAISON GROUP  
ON ISLAND BIODIVERSITY  
Bangkok, 5 February 2005

### REPORT OF THE LIAISON GROUP ON ISLAND BIODIVERSITY

#### INTRODUCTION

1. At its seventh meeting, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, in its decision VII/31, adopted its multi-year programme of work up to 2010. Island biodiversity was identified as the new thematic area to be developed under the Convention and as the item for in-depth consideration at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to be held in Brazil in 2006.
2. To this end, in paragraph 8 of decision VII/31, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to develop a preparatory process for the work on island biodiversity of the Convention's Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) which should include, *inter alia*, electronic forums, a meeting of an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG), and a liaison group to be held immediately after the International Meeting for the Review of the Barbados Programme of Action (BPoA), which took place in Port Louis, Mauritius, in January 2005.
3. In response to this request, the Executive Secretary convened a liaison group meeting on island biodiversity on 5 February 2005, prior to the tenth meeting of SBSTTA. Participants included members of the AHTEG who attended the Mauritius International Meeting.
4. The purpose of the meeting was to consider the outcome of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in light of the draft programme of work on island biodiversity prepared in December 2004 by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Island Biodiversity. On the basis of this review, the group was requested to identify elements from the Mauritius International Meeting that SBSTTA may wish to address at its tenth meeting in its consideration of the draft programme of work on island biodiversity and to discuss proposals developed during the Mauritius International Meeting on ways to improve the draft programme of work on island biodiversity.

#### ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

5. The meeting was opened by Mr. Hamdallah Zedan, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, 5 February 2005.
6. Mr. Zedan welcomed participants. He noted that almost all the members of the liaison group had attended the Mauritius International Meeting and were therefore familiar with the issues discussed at the

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meeting, as well as its outcome. He also recognized that a number of participants in the liaison group were members of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Island Biodiversity, and were therefore very familiar with the draft programme of work on island biodiversity. Mr. Zedan also informed the group about a submission received from some members of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Island Biodiversity who participated in the Mauritius International Meeting and circulated among the liaison group members.

7. He finally briefly described the mandate of the group, with reference to the agenda of the meeting contained in document UNEP/CBD/LG-IB/1/1/Rev.1.

8. The liaison group elected Ms. Theresa Mundita Lim as Chair of the meeting.

**ITEM 2. REVIEW OF THE STRATEGY FOR THE FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL ISLANDS DEVELOPING STATES, AND IDENTIFICATION OF ELEMENTS FROM THE MAURITIUS INTERNATIONAL MEETING STRATEGY THAT SBSTTA 10 MAY WISH TO CONSIDER IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF ITS ADVICE ON THE PROGRAMME OF WORK ON ISLAND BIODIVERSITY AT ITS TENTH MEETING**

*and*

**ITEM 3. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS FOR RESTRUCTURING THE DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK ON ISLAND BIODIVERSITY DEVELOPED BY THE AD HOC TECHNICAL EXPERT GROUP ON ISLAND BIODIVERSITY**

9. The members of the liaison group considered the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the Mauritius Declaration.

10. The group also considered a proposal received from some members of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on island biodiversity who participated in the Mauritius International Meeting. The proposal takes into account recommendations made during a number of events at the Mauritius International Meeting, including the side event co-hosted by the Government of the Bahamas and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity on the programme of work and the side event hosted by the Secretariat of the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) on the same issue. It consists essentially of a reorganization of the draft programme of work developed by the AHTEG to improve its focus, harmonize the actions and remove of redundancies and inconsistencies.

11. On the basis of this review, the group identified issues from the Mauritius International Meeting that SBSTTA may wish to address in its consideration of the draft programme of work on island biodiversity. The proposals are contained in the annex to the present report.

**ITEM 4. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

12. The present report was adopted by the group on Saturday, 5 February and immediately forwarded to SBSTTA for its consideration at its tenth meeting.

**ITEM 5. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

13. The meeting was closed by the Chair at 6 p.m. on Saturday, 5 February 2005.

*Annex*

**RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE LIAISON GROUP TO SBSTTA**

**A. Working definitions**

1. The Liaison Group agreed that to facilitate the restructuring and finalization of the programme of work the following terms needed to be clarified. The Group agreed on the following:

- Global target = desired outcome/results to be achieved within a specific timeframe. These should be measurable and achievable.
- Priority action = major action that must be implemented and will contribute significantly to achieving the target. This answers the question “What must we do to achieve this target?”
- Supporting action = actions or tasks to enable implementation of the priority action.

**B. Preamble**

*1. How to use the programme of work*

2. The preamble requires an explanation along the following lines as to how the programme of work can be most effectively used:

“As outlined in the introduction to the programme of work the scale of islands provides significant opportunities for the integrated management of biodiversity. The goals and targets within the programme of work are therefore closely inter-related. Countries are encouraged to consider implementation of this programme in an integrated manner and in light of existing plans and within existing planning and programming cycles.”

*2. Linkages to the Millennium Development Goals*

3. As this programme of work will contribute significantly to the achievement of the 2010 biodiversity target, the Group recommended the inclusion of a specific reference to how the Programme will contribute to poverty alleviation in islands. Accordingly, the Group recommends the addition of a new paragraph after paragraph 13 to read as follows:

“13 *bis* In addition to the achievement of Millennium Development Goal 7 on environmental sustainability, this programme of work will contribute to the achievement of other Millennium Development Goals relating to poverty eradication and health. While the reference to poverty reduction and health is not explicitly stated throughout programme of work, it is understood that the conservation and sustainable use of island biodiversity will contribute significantly to food security, sustainable livelihoods, health improvements and human well-being.”

*3. Biosafety*

4. Although it was considered that potential threats from genetically modified organisms to island biodiversity were extremely important for islands and island States, no reference has been made to these within the programme of work. The Group agreed that this would be most appropriately addressed under the Biosafety Protocol.

**C. Structure**

5. The recommendations relating to structure have been based on the review of the Mauritius Strategy and guidance received during the Mauritius International Meeting. The group identified number of linkages between the Mauritius Strategy and the draft programme of work and requested SBSTTA to make explicit reference to them within the “Linkages” column of the programme of work. The group recommended the following amendments to the goals, target and priority actions:

### GOAL 1:

The sequence of the targets was changed to reflect the logical hierarchy in the Convention from ecosystems to the genetic level. The group also recommends restructuring of the targets and priority actions under goal 1 as follows:

Target	Priority Actions	Supporting Actions
Target 1 (previous target 3 combined with previous target 5):  By 2010, 10% of island terrestrial ecoregions are effectively conserved and by 2012 [30%] of island marine ecosystems are effectively conserved, <b>including measurable progress towards a global target for the restoration of 10% of degraded island ecosystems</b>	3.1 – unchanged 5.1 – SBSTTA to consider whether to move to target 5 or 20 5.2 – replace “ecological” with “ecosystem” 5.3 – unchanged 5.4 – delete due to redundancy	
Target 2 (previous target 4)	4.1 – unchanged	
Target 3 (previous target 2)	2.1 – unchanged	Include priority action 7.9 – replace “sensitive” with “threatened and endangered”
Target 4 (previous target 1)	1.1 – unchanged 1.2 – unchanged 1.3-1.5 – delete as these are details of 1.6 1.6 – insert “ <b>national and regional</b> gene banks”	Consider additional supporting actions
Target 5 (previous target 6) rephrased to read By 2010, the components of Island Biodiversity are inventoried and regularly monitored	SBSTTA to consider whether to repeat actions relating to monitoring and inventory under all goals and targets or to aggregate these as critical cross cutting actions in Goal 5	

**GOAL 2:**

Target 6 (previous target 7)	7.8 unchanged 7.9 – move to supporting action under new target 3 7.10 – unchanged 7.13 – move to Goal 3 new target 9 7.14 – unchanged 7.15 – unchanged 7.11 – unchanged but moved to end of this list 7.12 – move to supporting action	7.12
Target 7 (previous target 9)	9.6 – unchanged 9.4 – unchanged 9.1 and 9.5 – moved to new target 18 9.2 move to new target 9 9.3 move to goal 5, new target 19	
Target 8 – unchanged	8.1 – unchanged 8.2 – unchanged 8.3 – delete specific reference to fish as these are biological resources	

**GOAL 3:**

Target 9 (previous target 10)	10.1 – “develop and implement integrated land and water use plans that take into consideration inter alia important biodiversity areas, geological hazards/features, existing resource use, <b>rates of land degradation, habitat loss, coastal erosion and siltation</b> ” 10.2 – unchanged 10.3 and 10.4 – incorporate in reformulated 10.1	
Target 10 (previous target 11) By 2010, the impact of pollution and waste on island biodiversity is reduced	11.1 – broaden to “environmentally friendly technologies” 11.2 - Replace with “ <b>Develop and implement pollution and waste management plans, including contingency plans, with special attention to solid waste,</b> ” 11.3 – unchanged 11.4 – combine with 11.2) 11.5 – unchanged 11.6 – delete “urban” 11.7 – incorporate with 11.2	Add “systems for management of human waste”
Target 11 (previous target 12) By 2010, the introduction, establishment, spread and negative impacts of invasive alien species to islands are reduced	12.1 – Replace “regional and state” with “Island specific” 12.2-12.3 – unchanged 12.4 – SBSTTA to consider moving to capacity building Goal 5 new target 18 12.5 – move to capacity building Goal 5 new target 18	
Target 12 (previous target 13)	13.1-13.3 – unchanged SBSTTA to consider additional priority actions	
Target 13 (previous target 14) SBSTTA to consider rewording reference to “risks and impacts” on the basis of Mauritius International Meeting and Kobe outcomes)	14.1 and 14.2 – unchanged	

**GOAL 4:**

Amend goal 4 to read: Access and benefit-sharing of island genetic resources

Target 14 (previous target 15)	Move supporting actions 15.3.1 and 15.3.2 to priority actions 15.1 – unchanged 15.2 – recommend deletion based on MIM discussion 15.3 – unchanged SBSTTA to consider the need for a priority action for capacity building related to <i>sui generis</i> systems for access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing	
Target 15 (previous target 16)	16.1 and 16.2 – unchanged Add a priority action “ <b>Promote the maintenance of linguistic diversity and connect to biological diversity</b> ”	

**GOAL 5:**

Target 16 (previous target 17)	17.1 – add “to finance the implementation of NBSAPs 17.2-17.4 – unchanged NEW priority action “ <b>Secure the engagement and financial support of the private sector</b> ”	
Target 17 (previous target 18)	18.1 – Replace “Assess” with “ <b>Transfer</b> ” 18.2 – unchanged	
Target 18 (previous target 19 and part of target 20) <b>By 2010, island capacity to implement this programme of work and all its priority activities is significantly strengthened</b>	19.1 – delete “the management of” 19.2 – unchanged SBSTTA to consider including specificity related to legislative measures from Goals 1-4 Include additional priority actions for capacity building from Goals 1-4, relating to, inter alia: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication, education and public awareness</li> <li>• Legal frameworks</li> <li>• Incentives</li> <li>• Human institutions and facilities</li> <li>• Integrated and interdisciplinary approaches and</li> <li>• Sharing of best practices</li> </ul> 20.2-20.5 – unchanged	Add “ <b>support for legislative options to address domestic trade in endangered species</b> ”
Target 19 (previous elements of target 20) <b>By 2010, this programme of work including its priority activities is fully integrated/mainstreamed in National biodiversity strategies and action plans and other national or island strategies and plans</b>	Move supporting action 20.1.1 to priority actions 20.1 – replace “related to CBD” with “ <b>biodiversity-related conventions</b> ” 9.3 – moved from previous target 9 unchanged	

Target 20 (previous target 21)	<p>21.1 - include <b>“and long-term impact”</b> SBSTTA to consider targets and priority actions for monitoring and inventories together Include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>“Build on existing indicators that are appropriate to establishing island baselines”</b></li> <li>• <b>“Reporting on regional and global trends in island biodiversity”</b></li> <li>• <b>“Appropriate arrangements and approaches to minimizing reporting burden and increase implementation capacity”</b></li> </ul>	<p>21.1.1 Include reference to National biodiversity strategies and action plans</p>
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