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PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORK UNDER THE THEMATIC PROGRAMMES OF WORK OF THE CONVENTION

Note by the Executive Secretary

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The present note has been prepared by the Executive Secretary to briefly report on progress in the implementation of the thematic programmes of work of the Convention since the last report submitted to the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in February 2004 (UNEP/CBD/COP/7/11, UNEP/CBD/COP/7/12, UNEP/CBD/COP/7/12/Add.1, UNEP/CBD/COP/7/12/Add.2).

The thematic programmes considered are:

- (a) Biological diversity of inland water ecosystems;
- (b) Marine and coastal biological diversity;
- (c) Agricultural biodiversity;
- (d) Forest biological diversity;
- (e) Biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands;
- (f) Biological diversity of mountain ecosystems; and
- (g) Island biodiversity.

The present note has been prepared for reporting purposes only, as any substantive issues and recommendations relating to the thematic programmes of work concerned are presented in the other relevant working documents for the tenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (see UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/10/1/Add.1, annex II).

* UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/10/1.

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SUGGESTED RECOMMENDATIONS

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) may wish to take note of the progress in the implementation of the work under the thematic programmes of the Convention.

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PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE THEMATIC PROGRAMMES OF WORK**A. *Biological diversity of inland water ecosystems (decision VII/4)***

1. In decision VII/4, the Conference of the Parties approved the programme of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems (considered and revised at the eighth meeting of SBSTTA), and made some requests to the Secretariat and other bodies.

2. In response to these requests, the following activities were carried out:

(a) The Executive Secretary sent comments to relevant organizations informing them of relevant sections of decision VII/4;

(b) The review of the status and trends of biodiversity of inland water ecosystems was published as CBD Technical Series number 11;

(c) The draft outcome-oriented targets for the programme of work (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/14/Add.1) were revised following recommendations from the ninth meeting of SBSTTA and the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (UNEP/CBD/COP/7/20/Add.4). They were further revised and considered in detail at an expert meeting on outcome oriented targets held in Montreal from 25 to 27 October 2004 and are being submitted to the tenth meeting of SBSTTA (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/10/8/Add.2);

(d) A review of the impacts of invasive alien species on inland water ecosystems, incorporating the outputs of an earlier workshop held in Washington DC from 13 to 15 July 2003, has been prepared for publication in the CBD Technical Series (subject to funding);

(e) A progress report on the implementation of the joint programme of work with the Ramsar Convention was presented to the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (UNEP/CBD/COP/7/INF/27). Subsequent meetings have further strengthened the already good collaboration with Ramsar including joint efforts to initiate the River Basin Initiative. The implications of relevant decisions of the seventh meeting of the Parties on the Joint Programme of Work were reviewed by the two secretariats in April 2004;

(f) The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, being the lead partner for inland waters, has made major progress with the implementation of the programme of work including through its Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP), and in particular in the development of its "wise use" principles and approaches to wetlands management. This approach has greatly increased the effectiveness of implementation of the programme of work by working in partnership with related stakeholders, which include at the national level by Parties to the Ramsar Convention, major international organizations and initiatives, NGOs and others. The Secretariat continued to be actively involved in a number of ongoing STRP working groups and attended the STRP mid-term workshops in Wageningen, the Netherlands from 19 to 24 July, 2004. Good progress was made, particularly regarding: (i) inventory and assessment; (ii) Ramsar site designation; (iii) water resources (environmental flows, groundwater, and river basin management case-studies); and (iv) indicators of effectiveness of the Convention implementation (this group is developing ecological outcome-oriented indicators of wetland status and trends). The Secretariat was instrumental in drawing attention to the need to link Ramsar work on indicators to related processes of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Ramsar STRP was also alerted to the need to establish outcome-oriented targets under the Ramsar Convention and for those targets to enhance and be complementary to those being established under the Convention on Biological Diversity. In order to expedite this process, members of the Ramsar Secretariat attended the meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators from 19 to 22 October 2004 and the above-mentioned meeting of the Expert Group on Outcome-Oriented Targets. ;

(g) Secretariat staff made significant inputs into the World Water Development report (Phase Two) and two rounds of inputs into relevant chapters of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. Both of these will enhance the implementation of the programme of work by associated stakeholders;

(h) The Secretariat has assisted the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) training workshop series on “Biodiversity: Wetlands, biodiversity and water: new tools for ecosystem management” held in Kushiro, Japan, from 29 November to 3 December 2004;

(i) A working arrangement has been established between the Secretariat, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Fish Centre, to prepare a study of the linkages between conservation and sustainable use of inland water biodiversity and poverty alleviation/sustainable livelihoods, including human health considerations, to be considered at the eighth meeting of the Parties;

(j) A new section on inland waters has been drafted for the third national reports, which is designed to improve feedback on the implementation of the programme of work by Parties and place more emphasis on achieving relevant targets set, using appropriate indicators.

B. Marine and coastal biological diversity (decision VII/5)

3. In decision VII/5 the Conference of the Parties adopted the elaborated programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity, and requested the Secretariat and other bodies to undertake a series of activities.

4. In response to these requests, the following activities were carried out:

Programme element 1 - Integrated marine and coastal area management (IMCAM)

5. The Secretariat participated in two meetings related to the Global Marine Assessment: the International Workshop on the Global Marine Assessment (GMA), held from 7 to 11 June 2004 in New York; and the Group of Experts on the Draft Document Establishing a Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socio-Economic Aspects (GMA), held in New York from 23 to 26 March 2004. The GMA aims to produce a regular and comprehensive assessment of the status of the world’s marine environment.

6. The Secretariat has reviewed both the marine and coastal chapters of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and participated in the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Panel meeting, held in Montreal from 24 to 29 April 2004.

7. The Secretariat participated in a Round Table convened in Halifax, Nova Scotia, on 28 and 29 July 2004, in conjunction with the International Oceans Institute (IOI) course on Ocean Governance: Policy, Law and Management, to consider ocean policies and the role of conventions in oceans management. There is a Memorandum of Cooperation between the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the IOI.

8. The Global International Waters Assessment (GIWA) identified overexploitation of fish as the issue of highest priority. GIWA regional assessment reports can be accessed on-line at: <http://www.giwa.net/areas/reports.php>.

9. The guidance on Integrated Marine and Coastal Area Management (IMCAM), developed by the Government of the Netherlands, together with the Ramsar Convention, the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Pollution from Land-based Activities (GPA) and international agencies such as Wetlands International, has been published as: IMCAM Approaches for Implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD Technical Series No.14), and is available at: <http://ww.biodiv.org/programmes/outreach/awareness/ts.asp>.

10. The White Water to Blue Water Initiative (<http://www.ww2bw.org/>) in the Wider Caribbean Region is stimulating partnerships to promote integrated watershed and marine-based management in

support of sustainable development, including wastewater and sanitation, sustainable agricultural practices, integrated coastal management, sustainable tourism, and environmentally sound marine transportation.

11. The UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre is in the process of developing marine and coastal biodiversity indicators for the Philippines, as part of a Global Environmental Facility (GEF) project, and for European large marine ecosystems (funded by the United Kingdom Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and the European Environment Agency (EEA)).

Programme element 2 - Marine and coastal living resources

Coral reefs

12. The Secretariat participated in three coral reef-related meetings, which took place back-to-back in Okinawa, Japan: the meeting of the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) Management Group from 27 to 29 June 2004; the tenth International Coral Reef Symposium from held from 28 June to 2 July; and the meeting of the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) Coordinating and Planning Committee on 3 and 4 July 2004. The participation aimed at strengthening the implementation of the work plan of the Convention on Biological Diversity on coral bleaching by ICRI and its partners, including joint implementation strategies, presentation of the relevant outcomes of the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties at each of these meetings, including appendices I and IV of annex I to decision VII/5, as well as outcomes related to marine and coastal protected areas.

13. The Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network's report *Status of Coral Reefs of the World 2004* will be published in November 2004 (see <http://www.gcrmn.org>).

14. During the period 2003-2005, the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) has passed resolutions and decisions on small island developing States, cold water coral reefs, international trade, and its marine protected areas ad hoc committee.

15. The Coral Reef Targeted Research and Capacity-Building for Management Programme is a new GEF/World Bank project, which aims to conduct specific, targeted research to fill critically important information gaps in the fundamental understanding of coral reef ecosystems so that management and policy interventions can be strengthened globally. The program has a strong capacity-building component through regional centres of excellence located in the Caribbean, East Africa, South-east Asia and Australasia (see www.gefcoral.org).

16. The new Initiative for the Protection and Sustainable Management of Coral Reefs in the South Pacific (CRISP) will support protection and adaptive management of coral reefs as a basis for sustainable development, with a strong technology and knowledge transfer component. It is financed by the French Development Agency, the French GEF and a number of other partners (9.2 million Euro). Ten Pacific island countries and three French territories will be involved.

17. The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO, through its Working Group on Coral Bleaching and Related Indicators of Coral Reef Health is undertaking the following activities: (i) critical review of scientific knowledge on tolerance limits and potential mechanisms of corals to adapt/acclimatize to environmental change, and long-term responses of coral reefs to large-scale changes in environmental stress; (ii) development of stress indicators and rapid assessment tools; (iii) scenario building projecting the effects of environmental stress on coral ecosystems, and implications for wider societies; and (iv) capacity building in developing countries. Some activities will be undertaken in partnership with the GEF Coral Reef Targeted Research and Capacity-Building project.

18. The International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN) continues its work on exchange of experience in good management practices in over 30 demonstration and target sites in the Wider Caribbean, Eastern Africa, East Asian Seas and the South Pacific regions. Latest activities include the finalization of work plans to initiate the implementation of the Mesoamerican Reef Project. A plan for

inclusion of South Asia and Arabian Regional Seas to ICRAN is also under development. Additional information is available at: <http://www.icran.org>.

19. The Coral Reef Degradation in the Indian Ocean (CORDIO) project has developed a series of compact discs (CD) on the biodiversity of the shallow coastal areas of the Indian Ocean. So far six CDs are available on soft corals, corals, crabs, echinoderms, fish, mangroves and seagrasses (<http://www.cordio.org>).

20. The World Resources Institute (WRI) has released its “Reefs at Risk” analysis of the Wider Caribbean Region. According to the analysis, nearly two thirds of coral reefs in the Caribbean are threatened by human activities ranging from warming of oceans to over-fishing and run-off of pollution and sediments from the land. The report is available on-line at: <http://reefsatrisk.wri.org/>.

21. The UNEP-WCMC has published a report titled Cold-water Coral Reefs: Out of Sight - No Longer Out of Mind. This report presents comprehensive and up-to-date information and data on cold-water coral reefs from around the world, and is available at: <http://www.unep-wcmc.org>.

Other living resources

22. The Secretariat participated in the fifth meeting of the United Nations Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea, held in New York from 7 to 11 June 2004, which addressed, inter alia, the issue of governance of the biological diversity of the seabed beyond national jurisdiction.

23. The Marine Aquarium Council (MAC) has developed a Training Manual for Collectors to help them meet the MAC Standard for Collection, Fishing and Holding. A Training of Trainers workshop was conducted for collectors in the Philippines in April 2004, and a first training session for Pacific Island collectors was conducted in Fiji in June 2004 (www.aquariumcouncil.org).

24. The Census of Marine Life is a growing global network of researchers in more than 70 countries engaged in a 10-year initiative to assess and explain the diversity, distribution and abundance of marine life in the oceans. Information can be found at: <http://www.coml.org/coml.htm>, while the associated Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS) is available at: <http://www.iobis.org/>.

25. The Sea Around Us Project’s web-based database and associated maps (www.seaaroundus.org) have been updated to contain marine fisheries catches by species, groups of species, and country fishing, as well as information about associated treaties. Geo-referenced databases with information about distribution of cephalopods and cetaceans are included, as is information about primary production, trophic pyramids, coral reefs, estuaries, seamounts, historic expeditions and scientific surveys.

Programme element 3 - Marine and coastal protected areas (MCPA)

26. The Secretariat finalized and submitted its input to the report called for by the General Assembly in resolution 58/240, paragraph 52. This report pertains to marine protected areas in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction.

27. In order to develop further technical advice on network design and in particular ecological coherence of networks (requested in paragraph 37 of decision VII/5), the Secretariat is participating in the Steering Committee of the theme on “developing comprehensive and representative marine protected area networks” for the First International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC 1), in Geelong, Australia, from 2 to 27 October 2005. The following process for developing technical advice has been agreed upon in collaboration with the SBSTTA Bureau: (i) review of the current state of knowledge relating to network design and ecological coherence of networks; (ii) critical analysis of existing case-studies to extract lessons learned on effective network design; (iii) identification of available tools that can assist in network design; (iv) meeting of a Liaison Group (in the margins of the Congress) to review and finalize results from steps 1-3; (v) production of a technical report for distribution at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and a web-based sourcebook to be demonstrated at a side event at that meeting.

28. The Secretariat participated in the Fourth Meeting of Experts on Marine and Coastal Protected Areas in the South East Pacific, held from 25 to 27 August 2004 in Guayaquil, Ecuador, in order to enhance collaboration between the Secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS) in the context of the existing Memorandum of Cooperation.

29. The Secretariat participated in the World Heritage Marine Policy Workshop, held in Paris, on 9 and 10 September 2004, in order to promote closer collaboration between the Secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the World Heritage Convention (WHC).

30. The WHC is implementing a project in the Central Pacific to promote serial and transboundary nominations of the islands and atolls of the U.S. territories, Kiribati, Cook Islands and French Polynesia. Another WHC project is taking place in the Southern Caribbean to support a transboundary nomination between Netherlands Antilles and Venezuela. The World Heritage Marine Site Manager's Network has been set up, and a website is under preparation at: www.unesco.org.

31. The Man and Biosphere programme of UNESCO's project on Asia-Pacific Co-operation for Sustainable Use of Renewable Natural Resources in Biosphere Reserves and Similarly Managed Areas (ASPACO), regarding integrated management and sustainable development of coastal areas, mangrove forest environmental protection, sustainable use and conservation of renewable natural resources, and strengthening international and regional cooperation and coordination, is operable in the Pacific realm, and 22 countries of the region are directly involved.

32. UNEP-WCMC is currently fundraising towards the marine protected areas database called for in paragraph 38 of decision VII/5. This work is undertaken in collaboration with WWF and the Fisheries Centre of the University of British Columbia.

33. The Caribbean Fishery Restricted Areas (FRA) Project coordinated by UNEP-WCMC aims to create a web-based database of FRAs, to enable sharing of information and facilitate the identification of regional, national and local conservation priorities.

34. IUCN has published a book called "How is Your MPA doing? A Guidebook of Natural and Social Indicators for Evaluating Marine Protected Area Management Effectiveness". The guidebook provides a field-tested, step-by-step process for planning and evaluating the management effectiveness of MPAs, and can be ordered from <http://www.iucn.org/bookstore/>.

Programme element 4 - Mariculture

35. In response to paragraph 47 of decision VII/5, the Secretariat has collected mariculture case studies and is disseminating those through the clearing-house mechanism.

36. To promote use of techniques, which minimize adverse impact of mariculture on marine and coastal biological diversity, FAO, in collaboration with international experts on marine ranching, has produced a technical paper on marine ranching, addressing genetic resource management, evaluation, cost effectiveness, and biodiversity concerns. ^{1/} The paper also addresses policies and good management practices for coastal shrimp farming. ^{2/} Additionally, FAO continues work on assessment and management of environmental impacts of coastal aquaculture, by supporting present efforts of the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP) on Environmental Risk Assessment and Communication in Coastal Aquaculture.

Programme element 5 - Alien species and genotypes

^{1/} Marine Ranching. FAO Fisheries Technical Paper N. 429. D.M. Bartley and K.M. Leber (eds). FAO Rome, Italy, 2004.

^{2/} World Bank/WWF/NACA/FAO Consortium Program "Shrimp Farming and the Environment" <http://www.enaca.org/modules/news/index.php?storytopic=2&storynum=10>.

37. A diplomatic conference held from 9 to 13 February 2004 adopted the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, a new international convention to prevent the potentially devastating effects of the spread of harmful aquatic organisms carried by ships' ballast water (see www.imo.org).

38. The Secretariat is working together with the Global Invasive Species Programme, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the Regional Seas Programmes to produce an initiative for the management of marine invasive alien species in accordance with activity (a) of operational objective 5.2 of the programme of work (decision VII/5, annex I).

39. To maintain an incident list on introductions of alien species, FAO has expanded its Database on Introductions of Aquatic Species (DIAS) and has convened expert groups ^{3/} and published reviews ^{4/} to address further how to use responsibly and control alien species in fisheries and aquaculture.

Programme element 6 - General

40. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity is collaborating with the Regional Seas Coordinating Unit to produce a publication on synergies between the Convention on Biological Diversity and regional seas conventions and action plans.

C. Agricultural biological diversity (decisions VI/5 and VII/3)

41. In response to decision VI/5 and decision VII/3, which contains the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity, the following major activities have been undertaken. ^{5/}

(a) The Executive Secretary and main partner institutions (including FAO, the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)) discussed collaborative arrangements for the full implementation of the programme of work. Deadlines and milestones have been reviewed in the light of institutional capacity, timing of the third national reports and the multi year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties;

(b) The Executive Secretary finalised the format for the thematic report to be included in the third national report, taking into account review comments from the SBSTTA Bureau, SBSTTA focal points, Parties and other Governments;

(c) The Executive Secretary consulted the Bureau on how to consider the issue of Genetic Use Restriction Technologies (GURTs) at the tenth meeting of SBSSTA;

(d) During the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Ecoagriculture Partners organized a side event on the importance of agricultural biological diversity, and IPGRI and collaborators hosted one on management of agricultural biodiversity for sustainable development;

(e) Immediately following the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Executive Secretary sent letters to the relevant organizations and key collaborators informing them of relevant sections of decisions of the Conference of the Parties;

^{3/} International Mechanisms for the Control and Responsible Use of Alien Species in Aquatic Ecosystems. FAO Non-Serial Publication. D.M. Bartley et al. (eds and comps). FAO Rome, Italy. 2004. Building capacity to combat impacts of aquatic invasive alien species and associated trans-boundary pathogens in ASEAN countries. ASEAN/NACA/FAO et. al. workshop, Penang, Malaysia, 12-16 July 2004. Report of the Joint APEC/FAO/NACA/OIE/DOF-Thailand/INP/CONAPESCA/SAGARPA Workshops. APEC FWG 01/2002. NACA, Bangkok, Thailand. 203 p.

^{4/} Briggs et al. 2004. Arthur, J.R., M.G. Bondad-Reantaso, F.C. Baldock and C.J. Rodgers. 2004. Manual on risk analysis for the safe movement of aquatic animals (FWG/01/2002). APEC/DoF/NACA/FAO, 59 p. FAO Fisheries Technical Paper Nos. 402 (2000), 402/1 (2001), 402/2 (2001), 451 (2004). Arthur, J.R. and M.G. Bondad-Reantaso (eds). 2004. Capacity and Awareness Building on Import Risk Analysis (IRA) for Aquatic Animals. Proceedings of the Workshops held from 1 to 6 April 2002 in Bangkok, Thailand and 12-17 August 2002 in Mazatlan, Mexico.

^{5/} Activities have been constrained by the absence of a programme officer for agricultural biodiversity.

(f) The Executive Secretary has contacted FAO for further actions under the Memorandum of Understanding, including the secondment of an FAO staff to the Secretariat;

(g) The Secretariat organized a Regional Workshop on Synergy among the Rio Conventions and Other Biodiversity Related Conventions in Implementing the Programmes of Work on Dry and Sub-humid Lands and Agricultural Biodiversity, held in Gaborone from 13 to 17 September 2004. At that workshop the World Agro-Forestry Centre (ICRAF) presented an excellent case study demonstrating how the programmes of work of the Convention on Biological Diversity on agricultural biodiversity and dry and sub-humid lands, and relevant provisions of the UNCCD and UNFCCC, were incorporated into its work programme and subsequently have influenced its partners and other stakeholders. ICRAF has agreed to present the case study formally to the Secretariat;

(h) The Secretariat participated in the 36th Biennial IFAP World Farmers Congress (in Washington DC, on 2 June 2004) and delivered a statement on “How to Strengthen Farmers Involvement in Conserving Biodiversity”. There was much interest by this farmers’ organization to implement relevant provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity, including in particular the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity;

(i) The Secretariat reviewed relevant chapters of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment on food and cultivated systems and dry lands (which includes a section on agro-biodiversity aspects in dry lands);

(j) A statement by the Executive Secretary was delivered at the Special EUROSIL Symposium and Workshop “Putting soils higher on the international agenda: New mechanisms in support of sustainable land management” held in Germany, on 9 September 2004;

(k) Elements of the programme of work have been incorporated into the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS) prepared by the Council for the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy for the Third Inter-Governmental Conference “Biodiversity in Europe” held in Barcelona, Spain, from 19 to 21 January 2004.

42. In its decision VI/6, the Conference of the Parties appealed to Parties and other Governments to give priority consideration to the signature and ratification of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (paragraph 3).

43. Discussions on a Memorandum of Understanding with FAO, including an annex on the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture have continued. The annex has been agreed and is due to be signed by the two organizations.

D. Forest biological diversity (decisions VI/22 and VII/1)

44. In decision VI/22, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to: (i) clarify the conceptual basis of the ecosystem approach in relation to the concept of sustainable forest management; (ii) compile best practices in form of toolkit to promote integrated and cross-sectoral approaches between forest biological diversity and other policies; (iii) initiate collaborative actions towards the implementation of the expanded work programme; (iv) establish a liaison group on non-timber forest resources; (v) develop an internet portal; (vi) support the work of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), and, in particular, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD); and (vii) invite relevant organizations to collaborate on issues related to forest fire prevention and management.

45. In decision VII/1, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to: (i) continue its work on the report on the effects on forest biological diversity of insufficient forest law enforcement; and (ii) propose, in collaboration with the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on the Review of Implementation of the Programme of Work on Forest Biological Diversity, outcome-oriented targets to be integrated into the work programme.

46. In response to the above decisions, the Secretariat undertook the following activities:

(a) Participated in the Third International Symposium on Sustainable Management of Forest Resources held in Cuba in April 2004, to collect information on sustainable forest management, particularly from Central and South America;

(b) Continued the compilation of best practices in form of toolkit to promote cross-sectoral integration through bibliographic and web-based researches;

(c) Launched the forest web portal in May 2004, ^{6/} which will cover, on a periodic basis, discussions on a topic drawn from each of the 27 objectives of the forest work programme;

(d) Attended the Joint UNECE/FAO Workshop on Illegal Logging and Trade of Illegally-derived Forest Products in the UNECE Region: Causes and Extent, held in Switzerland in September 2004, in order to meet representatives of the UNECE countries and collect information and additional case studies;

(e) Continued the work on the report on effects of insufficient forest law enforcement on forest biological diversity, also on the basis of the outputs of the above-mentioned workshop;

(f) On the basis of the outputs of the first AHTEG meeting, held in November 2003, the Executive Secretary prepared a draft format for the review of implementation of the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity, which was adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting as a part of the third national report;

(g) With the help of the AHTEG, prepared a draft document on the integration of outcome-oriented targets into the forest work programme to be discussed at its second meeting in July 2005 and taking into account the framework contained in decision VII/30;

(h) Participated in the review of the first and second versions of relevant chapters on forest biodiversity from the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment;

(i) Participated in the 32nd International Forestry Student Symposium, held in Montreal in September 2004, with a presentation on “The Convention on Biological Diversity and the protection and conservation of forest biodiversity”.

47. In addition, the Secretariat undertook the following collaborative activities:

(a) Contributed to the FAO/ITTO Expert Consultation on Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management, held in March 2004 in the Philippines;

(b) Hosted the third meeting of the CPF Task Force on Streamlining Forest-related Reporting in Montreal, 29-30 March 2004, which produced a proposal entitled “Forest Reporting Information Service” endorsed by CPF at its twelfth meeting in May 2004;

(c) Participated in the Interlaken Workshop produced on Decentralization in Forestry, held in Interlaken on 27-30 April 2004, in support of United Nations Forum on Forestry (UNFF);

(d) Participated in the fourth session of UNFF, organized a side-event on progress in implementation of the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity, presented at the CPF side-event a proposal on behalf of the CPF Task Force on Streamlining Forest-related Reporting; and presented the main findings of the Secretary General’s report on Traditional Forest-related Knowledge;

(e) Participated in the UNFF ad hoc expert group meeting on consideration with a view to recommending the parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests, held in September 2004 in New York;

^{6/} <http://www.biodiv.org/programmes/areas/forest/portal/home.shtml>.

(f) In collaboration with the UNCCD and the UNFCCC secretariats, organized the workshop “Forests and Forest Ecosystems: Promoting Synergy in the Implementation of the Three Rio Conventions”, held in Viterbo, Italy, from 5 to 7 April 2004;

(g) At the margins of the Viterbo workshop, a meeting was organized between the Executive Secretary, the Executive Secretaries of the other Rio conventions, and the Director of the Global Fire Monitoring Centre (GFMC), to discuss collaborative actions on capacity-building and training in wild land fire management, and support to the FAO/GFMC Global Wildland Fire Assessment 2005;

(h) In collaboration with the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) produced a draft report on conservation and use of wildlife-based resources, which addresses the unsustainable harvesting of bushmeat;

(i) In conjunction with UNEP-WCMC, produced a report on protected areas and biodiversity, including relevant information on forest ecosystems.

48. The following activities were undertaken by other bodies and contributed to the implementation of decisions VI/22 and VII/1 of the Conference of the Parties:

(a) On the basis of the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) Work Programme and the Pan European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS) Forest Biodiversity Action Plan, an ad hoc working group on “Development of Pan-European Understanding of the Linkage Between the Ecosystem Approach and Sustainable Forest Management” met from 19 to 21 April 2004 in Krakow and produced a discussion document on the linkage between the ecosystem approach and sustainable forest management at the regional pan-European level;

(b) The Global Environment Facility (GEF) presented its 2004 report “Forests matter” which provides an overview of GEF’s forest programme focusing on its support for protected areas and mainstreaming biodiversity in forest management systems and landscapes, and highlighting how funded activities have improved livelihoods and ecosystem health;

(c) GEF and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) also published in 2004 their report “Conserving forest biodiversity” that presents lessons learned and elements of good practice related to project design and implementation on forest biodiversity issues;

(d) The World Bank-PROFOR initiative is further reviewing the relationship between the Ecosystem Approach and sustainable forest management. The preliminary findings of the study were presented in November 2004 at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Thailand;

(e) In June 2004, the International Symposium “The Evaluation of Forest Policies and Programmes” was organized by the European Forest Institute and IUFRO in France (see <http://www.efi.fi/events/2004/forestpolicies-epinal/>);

(f) The World Bank-PROFOR initiative sponsored in May 2004 in Honduras a policy workshop on “Forests: a resource for development” to disseminate the experiences of recent forest sector reforms from other countries in Latin America and the world.

E. Biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands (decisions V/23 and VII/2)

49. In decisions V/23, which contains the programme of work on dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity, and VII/2 the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary, Parties, other Governments and relevant organisations and stakeholders to undertake a number of activities.

50. In response to those requests, the following activities were carried out and contributed to the implementation of the programme of work:

Activity 1: Assessment of status and trends

(a) The Secretariat participated actively in the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) combined working groups meeting, held in Montreal from 25 to 29 April 2004, and contributed to the finalization of the dry lands chapter of the MA;

(b) The Secretariat also contributed to the preparation of a meeting of partners, stakeholders and technical resource persons in the Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands (LADA) project, held from 24 to 26 May 2004 at the FAO Headquarters in Rome, Italy.

Activity 2: Areas of particular value and/or under threat

51. UNEP-WCMC, in collaboration with UNCCD and the Convention on Biological Diversity, prepared a project concept for a “dryland watch”, as proposed in the information document submitted to the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (UNEP/CBD/COP/7/INF/30), to assess biodiversity and risk in the world’s major arid zones, and identify possible global priorities for management intervention. Dryland watch could provide useful information for the report on status and trends of biodiversity in dry and sub-humid lands, which is being prepared as part of the in-depth review of the programme of work on dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity, and also serve as a baseline for monitoring pressures/risks to dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity over longer periods and thereby contribute information to the indicator on trends in extent of selected biomes, ecosystems, and habitats. The Secretariat and UNEP-WCMC are currently seeking additional funds for the undertaking.

Activity 3: Indicators

52. The ongoing work of the MA, LADA and UNEP-WCMC considered possible indicators on trends in biodiversity in dry and sub-humid lands.

Activity 4: Knowledge on processes that affect biodiversity

53. The dry lands chapter of the Conditions and Trends volume of the MA contains a review of the knowledge on processes that affect biodiversity on dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity and identify gaps.

Activity 5: Benefits derived from biological diversity and activity 6: Best management practices

54. The Secretariat provided comments to the Third-World Network of Scientific Organizations on a draft proposal for a second phase of their initial biodiversity in arid and semi-arid areas support programme.

Activities 7 to 9: Measures for conservation and sustainable use - Promotion of responsible resource management - Support for sustainable livelihoods

55. The Secretariat provided the organizers of the fourth Regional Biodiversity Forum for Southern and Eastern Africa, the IUCN East Africa Regional Office (EARO), with updated information on recent decisions of the Conference of the Parties of relevance to the meeting agenda, including on dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity. The Forum took place from 9 to 11 June 2004 in Dar-es-Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania.

56. A report on activities of the Convention on Biological Diversity and recent decisions of the Conference of the Parties relevant to environmental management in Africa was prepared as a background document by the Secretariat and submitted to the tenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), which took place from 29 to 30 June 2004 in Tripoli. Desertification and other issues relevant to the programme of work on dry and sub-humid lands were identified as key areas of the agenda.

57. A number of presentations on dry and sub-humid land related issues were given by the Secretariat at a number of Montreal-area schools and colleges in the framework of the 2004 International Biodiversity Day, which focused on “Biodiversity: food, water and health for all”.

58. The following activities were carried out in order to facilitate the synergistic implementation of the Rio conventions and other biodiversity related conventions:

(a) The Secretariat prepared a report for the third session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (CRIC 3).

(b) The Secretariat, in collaboration with the secretariats of UNCCD, UNFCCC and the Global Environment Facility, organized a Regional Workshop for Africa on Synergy among the Rio conventions and Other Biodiversity-Related Conventions in Implementing the Programmes of Work on Dry and Sub-humid Lands and Agricultural Biodiversity held in Gaborone, Botswana from 13-17 September 2004, in order to develop proposals for the synergistic implementation of the programme of work.

F. Biological diversity of mountain ecosystems (decision VII/27)

59. In decision VII/27 the Conference of Parties adopted the programme of work on mountain biological diversity and requested Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations and the Secretariat to undertake activities towards its implementation.

60. In response to this decision the Secretariat carried out the following activities:

(a) Sent letters to relevant international and intergovernmental organizations, conventions, non-governmental organizations inviting them to collaborate in the implementation of the programme of work on mountain biological diversity and to provide case-studies, best practices for dissemination to the Parties. No feedback has been received so far;

(b) Provided inputs to the questionnaire on building mountain partnership initiative and technical material for display and distribution during the side event on Mountain partnership on the margins of the twelfth session of the Commission Sustainable Development (CSD 12);

(c) Participated actively in the review workshop of MA held in April and contributed to the revised chapter 27 on mountain systems;

(d) Prepared the questionnaire on mountain biological diversity work programme for the third national reports;

(e) Participated in an electronic consultation on the Cuzco Plan of Action of the Mountain partnership and provided inputs, including through the participation in the meeting held in Cuzco, Peru, on 28-29 October 2004.

61. The following activities that contributed to the implementation of the programme of work were undertaken by other bodies:

(a) The Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment (GMBA) of DIVERSITAS is: (i) carrying out monitoring and assessment of mountain biodiversity; synthesizing knowledge on the biological richness of the mountains and impact of human influences on these knowledge systems; and (ii) coordinating research on mountain biodiversity and identification of research needs and priorities of mountain ecosystems. GMBA also coordinated preparation of Chapter 27 on Mountain Systems of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and scheduled several international workshops on specific mountain biodiversity themes;

(b) The International Centre of Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) is implementing a biodiversity conservation project of Kangchenjunga complex, adopting ecosystem/landscape approach and development of biological corridors. The centre is developing a comprehensive database on biodiversity and protected areas of Hindu Kush Himalayan region to facilitate sharing of information among member countries. ICIMOD is also implementing a project on “Regional

programme to strengthen equity and livelihood security through sustainable management of biodiversity resources for the indigenous people of eastern Himalayas”;

(c) The Mountain Partnership, an umbrella alliance supporting transfer of knowledge and collaboration on mountain sustainable development, organized a series of meetings and workshops on sharing of knowledge and information; sustainable agriculture and rural development in mountains; and research initiatives for mountains. The Mountain Partnership conducted an e-consultation on the draft Cuzco Plan of Action, which is a framework document for collaboration among members in sustainable mountain development.

G. Island biodiversity (decision VII/31)

62. In its decision VII/31 on the multi-year programme of work up to 2010, the Conference of the Parties identified island biodiversity as the new thematic area to be developed for in-depth consideration at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to be held in 2006. To this end, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to develop a preparatory process for the work of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) of the Convention in order to develop a programme of work on island biodiversity.

63. In response to this request, the following activities were carried out:

(a) The Executive Secretary organized the Island Biodiversity Electronic Forum, collecting a series of proposals on the issues as well as case studies. Information on the above was included in the relevant documentation to be considered at the meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Island Biodiversity, which is to be convened by the Executive Secretary in the Canary Islands, Spain, in December 2004, with the support of the Government of Spain;

(b) A liaison group will also be convened in January 2005 during the Mauritius International Meeting for the Review of the Barbados Programme of Action to gather further comments and proposals on the draft programme of work developed by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group.

64. In this regard, the Secretariat has also participated in the preparatory meetings for the Mauritius International Meeting and it takes part in the meeting of the Inter Agency Task Force (IATF) on Mauritius 2005 including several other United Nations agencies.
