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PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMMES OF WORK ON RELEVANT CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

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 work under the cross-cutting issues of the Convention since the last report submitted to the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (UNEP/CBD/COP/7/13).

The cross-cutting issues considered are:

- (a) Identification, monitoring, indicators and assessment;
- (b) Global Taxonomy Initiative;
- (c) Global Strategy for Plant Conservation;
- (d) Ecosystem approach;
- (e) Sustainable use;
- (f) Biological diversity and tourism;
- (g) Incentive measures;
- (h) Cooperation with other organizations, initiatives, and conventions;
- (i) Alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats and species;
- (j) Protected areas; and
- (k) Biodiversity and climate change.

* UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/10/1.

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

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 programmes of work on relevant cross-cutting issues under the Convention.

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PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORK UNDER RELEVANT CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

A. *Identification, monitoring, indicators and assessment (decisions, VII/6, VII/7 and VII/8)*

1. *Scientific assessments (decision VII/6)*

1. In decision VII/6, the Conference of the Parties took note of the progress of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and the outline for the synthesis report being for the Convention on Biological Diversity, and encouraged national focal points to participate in the review of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment process. In recommendation VI/5, SBSTTA decided to initiate a number of pilot assessments in order to advance assessments on current priority issues, and to test a range of methods and modalities for assessments:

(a) The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment process continued with the second round of reviews and the preparation of synthesis reports, including the biodiversity synthesis report, which will be reviewed by the Subsidiary Body at its tenth meeting (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/10/7);

(b) A review of the processes, methodologies and outcomes of the requested pilot assessments has been carried out (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/10/7), and on its basis, recommendations for the improvement of assessments in the framework of the Convention are suggested.

2. *Environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessments (decision VII/7)*

2. The Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to, *inter alia*, prepare, in collaboration with relevant organizations, in particular the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA), proposals for further development and refinement of guidelines for incorporating biodiversity-related issues into environmental-impact-assessment legislation or processes and in strategic impact assessment:

(a) At the twenty-fourth annual meeting of IAIA, held in Vancouver from 26 to 29 April 2004, IAIA members and the Netherlands Commission for Environmental Impact Assessment confirmed their interest in contributing case-studies and in assisting in the further development of the guidelines. The project on "Capacity-Building in Biodiversity and Impact Assessment in developing countries" (CBBIA), in which the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity is a member of the Steering Committee, has also been invited to contribute case-studies;

(b) FAO and EEA contributed to an electronic discussion forum on indicators relevant to the 2010 targets and participated in the AHTEG.

(c) The IAIA Biodiversity and Ecology Section has prepared a draft generic framework for sectoral guidance on biodiversity and impact assessment. Individual sectoral guidelines will be prepared in parallel to the further development of the guidelines annexed to decision VI/7 A;

(d) The IAIA Biodiversity and Ecology Section and its Trade Section have created a discussion group focusing on the impact of trade on biodiversity.

3. *National-level monitoring and indicators (decision VII/8)*

3. The Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to continue collaborating with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the European Environment Agency (EEA), and other relevant international and regional organizations and initiatives on the further development and consolidation of indicators relevant to the 2010 target:

(a) The final report on the Global Environment Facility (GEF)-funded project on "Biodiversity Indicators for National Use" (BINU) is being prepared and the information will be made available to SBSTTA. A side-event on the BINU experience is being organized and a follow-up project is being considered;

4. *Global-level monitoring and indicators (decision VII/30)*

4. The Conference of the Parties adopted a framework to enhance the evaluation of achievements and progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan. It includes: (i) seven focal areas; (ii) goals and sub-targets to facilitate coherence among the programmes of work, and to provide a flexible framework for national targets; and (iii) indicators for assessing progress towards, and communicating, the 2010 target at the global level. To undertake these requests, a meeting of an ad hoc technical expert group on indicators for assessing progress towards the 2010 target was held from 19 to 22 October 2004 to review the use of indicators adopted for immediate testing and to recommend the development of additional indicators within the seven focal areas. This meeting had been prepared through an electronic discussion forum, which reviewed draft documents on the various indicators. Relevant information will be used in the preparation of the Global Biodiversity Outlook.

B. Global Taxonomy Initiative (decisions IV/1 D, VI/8, and VII/9)

5. In the context of decisions IV/1 D, VI/8, and VII/9 on the Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI) and decision VII/31 on the multi-year programme of work of the Convention up to 2010, which specifies that the programme of work for the GTI will be under in-depth review at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and at a preceding meeting of the Subsidiary Body, the following activities reported to the Secretariat among others were carried out:

(a) In 2003, the Belgian Development Cooperation concluded a five-year agreement with the Belgian GTI focal point to facilitate the implementation of the Global Taxonomy Initiative in developing countries;

(b) The Executive Secretary developed, in collaboration with the Coordination Mechanisms, a process and guidelines for the in-depth review, including mechanisms for monitoring progress in the implementation of the programme of work for the GTI for consideration by SBSTTA at its tenth meeting (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/10/16);

(c) Regarding the coordination with existing initiatives:

(i) Collaboration has continued with the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) and the Pacific Biodiversity Information Forum (PBIF) and the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity, developing strong linkages. The GTI Coordination Mechanism has piggy backed two meetings in Mexico in 1 May 2004 and New Zealand from 9-10 October 2004 with GBIF and PBIF meetings to promote synergy, closer collaboration and resource sharing;

(ii) A memorandum of cooperation was signed between BioNET-INTERNATIONAL and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity on 19 July 2004;

(iii) At the margins of the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Kuala Lumpur in February 2004, meetings were organized in partnership with GBIF, UNESCO-MAB, BioNET-INTERNATIONAL, ASEANET network of BioNET-INTERNATIONAL, GTI national focal points (Belgium and Germany), the South Africa National Botanic Institute, and the Borneo Biodiversity and Ecosystem Conservation Programme;

(iv) A meeting on financial resources and capacity building for the GTI was also held on the margins of the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, involving the GTI Coordination Mechanism and representatives of the Global Environmental Facility and representatives of its implementing agency (UNEP, UNDP and the World Bank);

(d) GBIF continued to implement operational objective 3 of the GTI programme of work. It has developed an improved and effective infrastructure/system for access of taxonomic information to the scientific community but with a priority to ensure that countries of origin gain access to information concerning elements of their biodiversity;

(e) A consortium with international membership and the Secretariat for the Barcode of Life has been established under the coordination of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, with funding from the Sloan Foundation;

(f) The following regional meetings and networks were held to prioritise global taxonomic needs:

- (i) The second GTI Asian regional workshop, in Wellington, New Zealand, in October 2004; ^{1/}
- (ii) A European GTI regional workshop, held in the Isle of Vilm, Germany, in June 2004: “Building capacity for the GTI in a larger Europe”; ^{2/}
- (iii) EASIANET BioNET-SDC Seed Funding Capacity-building programme, IUCN-RBP (Asia) and BioNET-INTERNATIONAL formed a partnership to launch SACNET coordination;

(g) Regarding public awareness and education: BioNET-INTERNATIONAL has published a series of case-studies entitled “Why Taxonomy Matters”, available on its website at: www.bionet-intl.org (linked to the website of the Convention on Biological Diversity);

(h) The Coordination Mechanism for the GTI has held four meetings so far to advise the Executive Secretary and to encourage international cooperation. The reports of these meetings have been prepared, but only the second is currently published on the website of the Convention on Biological Diversity; ^{3/}

(i) In preparation for the in-depth review of the implementation of the GTI programme of work, 30 thematic reports had been submitted by Parties as at 15 October 2004. These reports and information from other sources will be used to assess the status and effectiveness in implementation of the GTI programme of work.

C. Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (decision VII/10)

6. In decision VI/9, the Conference of Parties: (i) invited relevant organizations to endorse the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation and to contribute to its implementation according to national priorities, capacities, and differences in plant diversity; (ii) further invited Parties and Governments to develop national and/or regional targets; (iii) emphasized the need for capacity-building; and (iv) invited funding organizations and the financial mechanism to provide support for the implementation of the strategy, particularly in developing countries, small island developing States, and countries with economies in transition.

7. In addition, the Conference of Parties in decision VII/10 welcomed the establishment of the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation (GPPC) and requested the Executive Secretary, with the support of members of the GPPC, to elaborate proposals for a toolkit, including a checklist to assist Parties in integrating the targets into their strategies, plans and programmes, for review by the Subsidiary Body prior to the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties encouraged Parties to nominate focal points for the strategy, or designate from among existing focal points, in order to: (i) promote and facilitate implementation and monitoring of the Strategy at national level, including the identification of national targets and their integration into national biodiversity strategies and action plans and sectoral and cross-sectoral plans programmes and activities; (ii) promote the participation of national stakeholders; and (iii) facilitate communication between national stakeholders and the Secretariat and the GPPC.

^{1/} See <http://www.niwa.co.nz/events/2gtir/>.

^{2/} See <http://www.gti-kontaktstelle.de/workshop.html>.

^{3/} See <http://www.biodiv.org/doc/meeting.aspx?mtg=GTICM-02&print=1>.

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

(a) *Nomination of national focal points for the GSPC.* The Secretariat sent out a notification requesting the nomination of national focal points for the strategy, and received thirty nominations;

(b) *Progress in the development of proposals for the elaboration of a toolkit.* The Secretariat prepared stakeholder consultations for identifying available scenarios, milestones and indicators, sub-targets and resources and tools, for the implementation of the GSPC. The outputs of these consultations may give guidance to Parties and relevant agencies on the scope and priorities for the implementation of the strategy at national and regional level and will provide the baseline for the development of a toolkit. In the process, a website dedicated to the Strategy was set up (www.plants2010.org), to be used as an interim tool in order to enhance communication and cooperation for monitoring progress by the members of the partnership;

(c) *Progress in the national and regional implementation of the strategy:*

- (i) The second World Botanic Gardens Congress was organized by Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) and collaborating institutions in Barcelona, in April 2004, in order to develop a series of 20 targets for botanic gardens to be achieved by 2010; ^{4/}
- (ii) The IV European Conference on the Conservation of Wild Plants, organized by Planta Europa, was held on 17-20 September 2004, in Valencia, and provided an opportunity to harmonize further the European Strategy targets with those of the GSPC, and to produce an action plan for the next three years for Plant Conservation in Europe in the light of the GSPC; ^{5/}
- (iii) The International Ecoagriculture Conference and Practitioners' Fair was held in Nairobi, from 27 September to 1 October 2004, ^{6/} contributing to the achievement of targets 3, 6, 14 and 16 of the Strategy;
- (iv) The GBIF Science Symposium and Outreach and Capacity-Building Committee were held in Mexico in April 2004 addressed targets 1, 2, 14, and 15;
- (v) A workshop on target 1 was held at the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew from 28 to 30 June 2004, and in Reading, United Kingdom, on 7 and 8 January 2005, a conference on implementing the GSPC, organized by Plantnet;
- (vi) Various Regional Important Plant Areas Workshops have been organized by Plantlife International with a focus on targets 2 and 5;
- (vii) An international stakeholder consultation is ongoing to facilitate the revision of the 1993 Guidelines on medicinal plants by WWF, TRAFFIC, IUCN and WHO (target 13);

(d) *Development of national strategies and targets:* Parties undertook various initiatives to develop a national response to the GSPC in Seychelles, New Zealand, Ireland, South Africa and China.

(e) *Communication and public awareness of the Strategy:*

- (i) In an effort to make the GSPC more widely available to Parties, the GSPC brochure has now been translated into French, Russian and Spanish, while discussions are ongoing for Arabic, Chinese, Japanese and Italian translation by volunteers;
- (ii) The Global Species Invasive Programme has produced a leaflet and brochure for target 1; Botanic Gardens Conservation International is facilitating a consultation on target 14 and has initiated a publicity campaign on plant diversity; ^{7/}

^{4/} See http://www.bgci.org.uk/events/congress_conclusions.

^{5/} See <http://www.nerium.net/plantaeuropa.htm>.

^{6/} See www.ecoagriculturepartners.org.

- (iii) The GSPC brochures were distributed at the CITES Conference of Parties and the 2nd World Conservation Congress (IUCN) to raise awareness for GSPC and promote integration of targets;

(f) *Building capacity for the implementation of the Strategy especially in developing countries.* Pursuant to decision VI/9, paragraph 10, the Secretariat in collaboration with Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, United Kingdom, and Makerere University, Uganda, coorganized the African Regional Expert Course in Plant Conservation Strategies from 8-26 November 2004. The course may be used as a model for other regions;

(g) *The Global Partnership for Plant Conservation.* The Executive Secretary officially invited Dr. Peter Wyse Jackson of Botanic Gardens Conservation International to be the interim chair of the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation (GPPC). An initial meeting was held in London on 6 and 7 May 2004;

(h) *Other matters.* The Executive Secretary invited the World Conservation Monitoring Centre of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP-WCMC) to provide support in monitoring the implementation of the strategy. It also invited the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture to consider how the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture contributes to the implementation of the strategy, in particular target 9.

D. Ecosystem approach (decision VII/11)

9. In decision VII/11, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the relevant international and regional organizations, to: (i) undertake an analysis of the range of existing tools and approaches, that are consistent with the Convention's ecosystem approach, in order to learn from their experiences and build upon their approaches, and identify any gaps in the coverage of such tools; (ii) where needed, facilitate development of new tools and techniques to enable the implementation of the ecosystem approach in each sector and biome; (iii) continue collection of case-studies at national, sub-regional, regional and international level, and develop, in cooperation with the clearing-house mechanism, a database of case-studies, searchable by biome/ecoregion and sector; and (iv) make the above widely available to Parties through the development of a web-based "sourcebook" for the ecosystem approach, accessible through the clearing-house mechanism.

10. The Executive Secretary was also requested to collaborate with the Coordinator and Head of the United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat and the Collaborative Partnership on forests in order to further integrate the concepts of the ecosystem approach and sustainable forest management (decision VI/22, paragraph 19 (a)).

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

(a) In collaboration with the Government of the United Kingdom, which is kindly providing assistance in the implementation this decision, activities (iii) and (iv), a concept note for the sourcebook has been drafted, and a template for submission of further case studies prepared. In addition, a prototype database populated by a small number of existing case-studies has been developed. The database will now need to be reviewed and further refined, and then populated with additional case-studies. The database is being presented to the tenth meeting of SBSTTA for feedback at a side-event;

(b) The following guidance documents relating to the ecosystem approach have been produced in 2004:

- (i) *Integrated Marine and Coastal Area Management (IMCAM) Approaches for Implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity* (CBD Technical Series No. 14) by the Dutch Coastal Management Centre (RIKZ) and AIDEnvironment; ^{8/}

^{7/} See www.bgci.org.

^{8/} Available for download at <http://www.biodiv.org/doc/publications/cbd-ts-14.pdf>.

- (ii) *The Ecosystem Approach: Coherent Actions for Marine and Coastal Environments*, a report to the Government of the United Kingdom, the European Commission and the Convention on Biological Diversity, by Laffoley, D., Maltby, E., Vincent, M.A., Mee, L., Dunn, E., Gilliland, P., Hamer, J., Mortimer, D., and Pound, D;
- (iii) *The Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management* by A.D. Hawkins, a background paper for the fourteenth meeting of the European Sustainable Use Specialist Group's Fisheries Working Group.
- (iv) *Penang Statement: Adopting the Ecosystem Approach to Inland Fisheries* by the World Fish Center; ^{9/}
- (v) *Ecosystem Approaches and Sustainable Forest Management* by IUCN, PROFOR and World Bank. ^{10/}

E. Sustainable use (decision VII/12)

12. The Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity and related recommendations, endorsed by SBSSTA at its ninth meeting, were adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting and are contained in annex II of decision VII/12.

13. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties invited Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to initiate a process for the implementation of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines at the national and local levels. The Conference of the Parties also requested the Executive Secretary to: (i) collect information on successful efforts made to implement Article 10 of the Convention, as well as success stories, best practices and lessons learned in the application of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines, including information on how sustainable use of biodiversity can contribute to the achievement of the 2010 target; (ii) undertake further work on issues pertaining to use of terms for sustainable use, adaptive management, monitoring and indicators; and (iii) convene a series of technical expert workshops on ecosystem services assessment, financial costs and benefits associated with conservation of biodiversity, and sustainable use of biological resources.

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

(a) *Collaboration with the IUCN:* As a measure to increase public education and awareness of stakeholders regarding the Addis Ababa Guidelines, the Secretariat participated in a panel session at the third IUCN World Conservation Congress, held in Bangkok, from 17 to 25 November 2004;

(b) *Information-gathering and experiences:* Parties, other Governments, other relevant organizations, indigenous and local communities and stakeholders were invited to provide the Secretariat with information on success stories, best practices and lessons learned in the application of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines no later than 31 March 2005 (notification 2004-072);

(c) *Further work on the use of terms and on associated instruments for sustainable use:* The Secretariat has organized an electronic forum in order to gather further comments and proposals on issues pertaining to use of terms for sustainable use, adaptive management, monitoring and indicators, and invited experts to submit comments that are being integrated in a revised document for consideration at the eleventh meeting of SBSTTA; ^{11/}

(d) *Technical expert workshops on sustainable use:* In response to paragraph 5 of decision VII/12, the Secretariat is presently working on the organization of the workshops including the drafting of the training

^{9/} The statement is available for download at: http://www.worldfishcenter.org/news/PDF/PR_16Jan04.pdf.

^{10/} Information is available for download at http://www.iucn.org/info_and_news/press/UNFF%204_final_SFM_EsA.pdf.

^{11/} The restricted website as well as instructions on how to participate in the forum are available at: <http://www.biodiv.org/doc/subd-forum.asp>.

manual, in collaboration with relevant organizations and financial support from the Government of the Netherlands.

F. *Biological diversity and tourism (decision VII/14)*

15. At its seventh meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopted decision VII/14 on biological diversity and tourism, and the Guidelines on Biodiversity and Tourism Development annexed thereto.

16. The Conference of the Parties in the same decision requested the Executive Secretary to:

(a) Develop a user's manual, checklists and, on the basis of experience gained, including the contribution of indigenous and local communities, produce and make available a streamlined and user-friendly core set of improved voluntary guidelines.

(b) Prepare a glossary and definitions of terms used in the Guidelines.

(c) Promote the use of the clearing-house mechanism to collect and disseminate information on:

(i) Specific case-studies on the implementation of the Guidelines that make clearer reference to the use and application of specific analytical management tools;

(ii) Best practices, lessons learned and case-studies on the involvement of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles in sustainable-tourism and eco-tourism activities and projects.

17. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties invited: (i) The World Tourism Organization, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank, the World Trade Organization, regional development banks and other relevant international organizations to take these Guidelines into account in undertaking their activities and provide technical and financial assistance in the implementation of the Guidelines and pay due regard to the Guidelines when preparing, approving and funding tourism development projects having potential implications on biological diversity.

18. Pursuant to this decision, the following activities have been carried out:

(a) *Development of a user's manual:* The Secretariat has initiated work in developing the manual;

(b) *Liaising with other relevant organizations:*

(i) The Secretariat has informed relevant organizations to take the Guidelines on Biodiversity and Tourism Development of the Convention on Biological Diversity into account in undertaking their activities. To this end, the Guidelines were forwarded to financing agencies, regional development banks and developers;

(ii) In addition, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity was invited to deliver an opening statement and make a presentation in one of the working sessions on "Tourism, Cultural Diversity, and Sustainable Tourism", which was organized within the Forum on Cultures Barcelona 2004;

(c) *Case-studies on the implementation of the Guidelines:*

(i) The Secretariat continues to collect, analyse and make available case-studies through the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention;

(ii) The Secretariat is being kept informed about progress on a research project pertaining to the implementation of the Guidelines at the national level in Bulgaria, and a pilot project for the implementation of the Guidelines in Panama.

G. *Incentive measures (decision VII/18)*

19. In decision VII/18, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to: (i) prepare an analysis of existing and new instruments that provide positive incentives, to develop proposals on the application of such positive incentives and their integration into relevant policies, programmes or strategies; (ii) explore existing methodologies for valuation of biodiversity and biodiversity resources and functions as well as other tools for prioritisation in decision-making, by preparing a compilation of existing valuation tools, and to prepare proposals for the application of such tools. All documents are to be submitted to the Subsidiary Body prior to the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

20. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties also invited Parties, other Governments and international organizations to: (i) submit to the Executive Secretary case-studies, best practices and other information on the use of non-monetary positive incentive measures for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and on the application of methodologies for the assessment of values of biodiversity and its functions, as well as other tools for prioritisation in decision-making; (ii) make them available through the clearing-house mechanism and other means, if appropriate; and (iii) prepare a synthesis report for consideration by the Subsidiary Body prior to the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

21. Further to these requests, the Executive Secretary sent a series of notifications to Parties, Governments and international organizations, inviting them to take action as outlined above.

22. In the period under review, collaborating partners carried out the following activities:

(a) FAO is undertaking work on seed supply systems and seed sector policies and how they impact on farm-level incentives to conserve crop genetic diversity. In addition, FAO is assisting member countries to identify, access and produce for emerging environmental service markets for agricultural and wild biodiversity;

(b) IUCN—The World Conservation Union has been working on a broad range of issues related to incentive measures for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity;

(c) The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has been carrying out an important programme on environmentally harmful subsidies for three years in the context of its horizontal activity on sustainable development, and, through its Working Group on Economic Aspects of Biodiversity, has been considering the role of harmful subsidies in impeding the creation of markets that would benefit biodiversity;

(d) The BioTrade Initiative of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD/BioTrade), through a network of national partners, enhances the supply capacity for biodiversity-based goods and services by applying positive incentive measures as mentioned in decision VI/15 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;

(e) The Economics and Trade Branch of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/ETB) published the studies: (i) “Economic Instruments in Biodiversity-related Multilateral Environmental Agreements” (UNEP, 2004), which analyses the current and potential role of economic instruments in the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity, CITES and the Ramsar Convention; and (ii) “The Use of Economic Instruments in Environmental Policy: Opportunities and Challenges” (UNEP, 2004), a guide for developing countries in identifying, evaluating and applying economic instruments to address their environmental problems;

(f) The World Bank: (i) continues to undertake work on payments for environmental services provided by landowners, which can generate positive incentives for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity; (ii) helps to design systems of payments for environmental services in a number of

countries, and further supporting these efforts through loans, often in conjunction with financing by the Global Environment Facility (GEF); and (iii) provides capacity-building support approaches to improve incentives for conservation;

(g) The thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES, held from 2 to 14 October 2004 in Bangkok, decided that the CITES Secretariat shall invite all Parties and relevant organizations to provide information on their use of economic incentives and report thereon to the 53rd meeting of the Standing Committee. Furthermore, the CITES Secretariat shall, contingent on the availability of external funding, continue its cooperation on incentive measures with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and other biodiversity-related conventions, as well as with the private sector and relevant governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, with a focus on, *inter alia*, the exchange of experiences in the design and use of economic incentives for sustainable management of wild fauna and flora as well as the development of targeted recommendations, operational guidelines and associated instruments for the sustainable use of wild flora and fauna.

H. Cooperation with other organizations, initiatives and conventions (decision VII/26)

23. The Chair of the SBSTTA Bureau of the Convention on Biological Diversity participated in the following meetings:

(a) Workshop on Forests and Forest Ecosystems: Promoting Synergy in the Implementation of the Three Rio Conventions, held in Viterbo, Italy, from 5 to 7 April 2004, organized by the secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity and UNCCD, in collaboration with UNFCCC Secretariat. The Chair of the Bureau was elected co-chairperson, together with Prof. Riccardo Valentini, chairperson of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) of the UNCCD;

(b) Twelfth meeting of the Scientific Council of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), held in Glasgow, Scotland, United Kingdom, from 31 March to 3 April 2004;

(c) Workshop on Charting the Way Forward for Improved Synergy between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), held in the Isle of Vilm, Germany, from 20 to 24 April 2004.

24. The Secretariat participated in the second meeting of the Steering Committee for the “International Conference on Biodiversity: Science and Governance” organized by the Government of France, to be held in Paris, from 24 to 28 January 2005. The Secretariat is also involved in the preparation of workshops that will be organized during the conference.

25. In addition, it will be recalled that, at its sixth meeting, in its decision VI/20, the Conference of the Parties welcomed the establishment of the joint liaison group among the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the Convention on Biological Diversity and urged the joint liaison group to become fully operational in order to facilitate cooperation between the conventions both at national and international levels.

26. At its seventh meeting, in its decision VII/26, the Conference of the Parties urged further enhanced cooperation between the Convention on Biological Diversity and all relevant international conventions, organizations and bodies, strengthening and building on existing cooperative arrangements to enhance synergies and reduce inefficiencies in a manner consistent with their respective mandates, governance arrangements and agreed programmes, within existing resources.

27. At its fifth meeting, in January 2004, the joint liaison group agreed that a paper on options for enhanced cooperation among the three Rio conventions would be prepared jointly by the three convention secretariats. This paper has now been finalized and will be submitted to SBSTTA at its tenth meeting as an information document (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/10/INF/9).

I. *Alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats and species (decision VII/13)*

28. In decision VI/23, ^{12/} the Conference of the Parties: (i) adopted the Guiding Principles for the Prevention, Introduction and Mitigation of Impacts of Invasive Alien Species and requested the Executive Secretary to carry out specific activities with the Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP); (ii) invited Parties, other countries and relevant organizations to contribute to the creation and maintenance of the global information network through the clearing-house mechanism, in particular to enable international expertise sharing, to assist countries to perform effective risk analysis and provide information on potential pathways of invasive alien species.

29. In decision VII/13, the Conference of the Parties recognized the need to strengthen further institutional coordination among international organizations and requested the Executive Secretary to: (i) collaborate with relevant organizations, initiatives and Conventions, particularly with the Global Invasive Species Programme and its participating organizations, to address the priorities for practical actions identified in the decisions; (ii) develop a joint work plan with the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC); (iii) establish closer linkages with the Office International des Epizooties. In addition, the Conference of the Parties requested SBSTTA to establish an ad hoc technical expert group to address gaps and inconsistencies in the international regulatory frameworks at global and regional levels.

30. In response to these decisions and SBSTTA recommendations, the following activities were carried out:

- (a) *Collaboration with the Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP):*
 - (i) *Scientific assessments:*
 - a. The assessment of ecological and socio-economic impacts of invasive alien species on island ecosystems was completed and submitted as an information document to the ninth meeting of the SBSTTA (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/INF/33). The report is undergoing a second peer-review process before publishing it as a CBD Technical Series;
 - b. The key elements relating to the impact on inland water ecosystems, which were identified in an expert consultation in Washington, 14-15 July 2003, were expanded through a web-based discussion forum. The report prepared from the discussion forum was peer-reviewed and submitted for consideration to SBSTTA at its tenth meeting as an information document;
 - (ii) *Information-sharing.* In collaboration with GISP, the Secretariat is gathering from partners and other organizations existing information on elements related to paragraphs 24 and 25 of decision VI/23 for dissemination through the clearing-house mechanism. In addition, GISP has developed a Global Interactive Map which links to the invasive alien species pages of the website of the Convention on Biological Diversity and provides support to the Global Invasive Species Information Network.
 - (iii) GISP developed concept papers on several requested priority actions: (i) capacity-building; (ii) implementation of target 10 of the Global Plant Conservation Strategy; (iii) support to the Global Taxonomy Initiative; (iv) research and assessment; (v) development of a joint work programme between the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, GISP and other relevant international agreements and organizations; (vi) development of a financial mechanism for the management of invasive alien species; (vii) support to the development of the Global Invasive Species

^{12/} One representative entered a formal objection during the process leading to the adoption of this decision and underlined that he did not believe that the Conference of the Parties could legitimately adopt a motion or a text with a formal objection in place. A few representatives expressed reservations regarding the procedure leading to the adoption of this decision (see UNEP/CBD/COP/6/20, paragraphs. 294-324)

Information Network (GISIN); (viii) support for the Global Initiative on Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA); and (ix) incorporation of invasive alien species issues into the thematic programmes of the Convention. The GISP is seeking financial support from Parties and funding agencies to enable the implementation of these activities;

- (iv) *Publications*. GISP has developed some recent publications, mostly available in English, French and Spanish. These include GISP newsletters, pamphlets, fact sheets, and awareness raising publications such as *Africa Invaded*, *Tropical Asia Invaded*, and a collaborative brochure to brief policymakers entitled *Invasive Alien Species: a challenge to NEPAD - New Programme for Africa's Development*;

(b) *Collaboration with the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)*. A memorandum of cooperation was concluded between IPPC and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in February 2004, and a joint meeting was held on 20 May 2004 to discuss and identify areas for joint work, such as: (i) a glossary of terms, with regard to which IPPC secretariat has prepared a list of terms used in the International Plant Protection Convention, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety as a step towards developing a shared glossary of terms between Conventions to be disseminated through the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity; (ii) international standards for phytosanitary measures; (iii) cooperation of national focal points (iv) information-sharing, interoperability between websites and attendance of each other's meetings; (v) capacity-building; (vi) establishment of a liaison group on invasive alien species; (vi) indicators for the 2010 target; and (vii) contributions by the IPPC to the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group meeting on gaps and inconsistencies in the international regulatory framework;

(c) *Collaboration with the Office International des Epizooties (OIE)*. A joint meeting between OIE and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity was held on 3 June 2004 in Paris to discuss matters of mutual interest on risk assessment regarding the impacts of various pressures on biodiversity and in the framework of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and a draft memorandum of cooperation has been prepared;

(d) *The Global Invasive Species Information Network*. A meeting of experts for the implementation of a Global Invasive Species Information Network (GISIN), was held in Baltimore, Maryland, United States of America, from 6 to 8 April 2004, to determine the interconnection of existing invasive alien species databases and to develop a user-friendly information network that will facilitate decision-making for addressing invasive alien species problems; ^{13/}

(e) *The meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group to Address Gaps and Inconsistencies in the International Regulatory Frameworks at Global and Regional Levels*. As reflected in paragraph 10 of decision VII/13 of the Conference of the Parties, the Government of New Zealand offered to fund the meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group that SBSTTA was requested to establish in paragraph 9 of the same decision. Preparations for the meeting are under way between the Secretariat and the New Zealand national focal point. A host Government agreement has been finalized, and SBSTTA is invited to formally establish the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group, with the terms of reference set out in paragraph 9 of decision VII/13.

J. Protected areas (decision VII/28)

31. In decision VII/28, the Conference of the Parties adopted the programme of work on protected areas and, *inter alia*: (i) requested the Executive Secretary to undertake supporting activities aimed at facilitating its implementation; (ii) established an Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group on Protected Areas to support and review implementation of the programme of work; and (iii) requested the Executive Secretary to arrange an open-ended working group meeting before the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

^{13/} See <http://invasivespecies.nbio.gov/as/gisin.htm> and <http://www.gisnetwork.org>.

32. In response to these decisions, the Secretariat:

(a) Sent letters to relevant international and intergovernmental organizations, conventions, non-governmental organizations and IUCN-WCPA inviting them to collaborate in the implementation of the programme of work on protected areas and to provide case-studies, best practices for dissemination to the Parties;

(b) Held a meeting with the Director of the World Heritage Centre (WHC) at the Secretariat premises on 23 March 2004. Discussions centred on how to make operative the memorandum of cooperation between the Convention Biological Diversity, the World Heritage Centre and the UNDP-GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP), and to further strengthen collaboration between the two conventions. The Secretariat also participated in a teleconference with representatives of WHC, UNDP-GEF SGP on this matter;

(c) Prepared an information document entitled on the outcomes of the seventh meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity relating to guidance on establishment of protected areas for Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife for Caribbean Region of the Cartagena Convention in April 2004;

(d) Provided inputs concerning the priority themes of the programme of work on protected areas for the UNDP-GEF SGP meeting on the community management of protected areas conservation project, held in Mexico in June 2004;

(e) Reviewed chapter 4—Biodiversity—volume 3: Responses and Assessment of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA), provided comments and suggestions and participated actively in the review workshop of MA;

(f) Participated in a meeting with the Head of the IUCN Protected Area Programme and held detailed discussions on the ways and means for collaboration with IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) for implementation of the programme of work on protected areas including marine and coastal protected areas. An annex to the memorandum of cooperation between the Secretariat and IUCN on implementation of decisions VII/5, on marine and coastal biological diversity, and VII/28, on protected areas, is being developed;

(g) Prepared two publications on protected areas: (i) *Protected Areas and Biodiversity: an Overview of Key Issues*; and (ii) CBD Technical Series No. 15 *Biodiversity Issues for Consideration in the Planning, Establishment and Management of Protected Area Sites and Networks*.

33. The following activities were also carried out:

(a) The UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) continued to work closely with IUCN and a consortium of non-governmental organizations to improve the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) to improve the delivery of database over internet and the quality of data and to consider the future structure and operation of the database. The UNEP-WCMC developed a draft funding strategy for the WDPA and is seeking support from a range of stakeholders. The UNEP-WCMC undertaken reviewing the use of IUCN protected area management categories in light of the recommendations aroused from the World Parks Congress and decision VII/28 of the Conference of the Parties, at the request of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas. This review is in its final stages and shall be concluded by November 2004;

(b) The steering committee meeting of the IUCN-WCPA was held in Finland in June 2004. The objectives of the meeting included, *inter alia*, the review the key outcomes of the World Parks Congress (WPC) and the programme of work on protected areas adopted at the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity; and a revision of the strategic plan of WCPA in light of WPC and outcome of the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The WCPA steering committee adopted implementation of the programme of work on protected areas as one of the main goals and objectives of its strategic plan. The Secretariat participated in the meeting;

(c) The UNESCO-World Heritage Centre is implementing various activities that facilitate implementation of activities pertaining to goals 1.1, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1, and 3.2, of the protected areas programme of work. The Centre organized an international donors conference in support of the cultural and natural heritage of the Democratic Republic of the Congo on 16-17 September 2004. A representative of the Secretariat participated in the meeting as a resource person;

34. The NGO consortium convened and participated in various meetings towards facilitation of implementation of programme of work. The Nature Conservancy commissioned the preparation of two guides on the protected areas programme of work: (i) overview guide to the programme of work on protected areas; and (ii) guide to completing national gap assessments.

K. Biodiversity and climate change (decision VII/15)

35. In decision VII/15, the Conference of the Parties requested SBSTTA to develop advice or guidance for promoting synergy among activities to address climate change, including activities to combat desertification and land degradation, and activities for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Furthermore, the same decision requested the Executive Secretary to gather relevant material for promoting synergy between climate change mitigation and adaptation options and biodiversity conservation.

36. In response to this decision, the Secretariat discussed with the Government of Finland the possibility of organizing a meeting of an ad hoc technical expert group to provide practical advice in the implementation of climate change activities, biodiversity considerations, and land degradation. The Executive Secretary has prepared a note (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/10/18) on the proposed terms of reference for the expert group for the consideration of SBSTTA at its tenth meeting. In July 2004, it also sent a notification to the national focal points of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification requesting the submission of case-studies illustrating the role of biodiversity in mitigating and adapting to global climate change, including lessons learned from these experiences.
