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WORKING GROUP ON ARTICLE 8(j) AND
RELATED PROVISIONS OF THE
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL
DIVERSITY

Eighth meeting

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Item 4(a) of the provisional agenda*

**ARTICLE 10, WITH A FOCUS ON ARTICLE 10(c), AS A MAJOR COMPONENT OF THE
PROGRAMME OF WORK ON ARTICLE 8(j) AND RELATED PROVISIONS OF THE
CONVENTION**

Addendum

1. Further to the note by the Executive Secretary on Article 10, with a focus on Article 10(c), as a major component of the programme of work on Article 8(j) and related provisions of the Convention (UNEP/CBD/WG8J/7), the Secretariat has received additional information from international organizations, namely the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The information provided by these organizations is reproduced below in the language in which it was received by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, for the information of the Working Group.

**I. CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A DRAFT PLAN
OF ACTION FOR CUSTIOMARY SUSTAINABLE USE**

E. Gap analysis

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

2. The Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources adopted in 2007 recognizes that “Pastoralists, farmers and breeders, individually and collectively, and indigenous and local communities, play a crucial role in the *in-situ* conservation and development of animal genetic resources.” In 2009, the FAO Conference stressed the importance of addressing the particular needs of small-scale livestock

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keepers and pastoralists and encouraged their full and effective participation in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action.

3. FAO's support to countries' implementation of the Global Plan of Action has included the preparation of the publication *Livestock Keepers — Guardians of Biodiversity* (2009), which describes the roles of small-scale livestock keepers and pastoralists in the sustainable use and development of animal genetic resources and their contributions to the conservation of wild biodiversity. FAO also produced the publication *Invisible guardian — women manage livestock diversity* (2012), which describes the particular contributions of women small-scale livestock keepers and pastoralists.

4. FAO's guidelines on *In vivo conservation of animal genetic resources* (2013) include advice on the establishment of community-based breeding programmes and on the development of biocultural community protocols in livestock-keeping communities, as well as on conservation strategies that capitalize on the roles of locally adapted livestock breeds as providers of traditional products, in the provision of supporting and regulating ecosystem services, and in local cultural activities.

5. In collaboration with the League for Pastoral Peoples and Endogenous Livestock Development (ILPP), LIFE Network and the International Union for Conservation of Nature-World Initiative for Sustainable Pastoralism (IUCN-WISP), FAO published the book *Adding value to livestock diversity - Marketing to promote local breeds and improve livelihoods* (2010), which presents a number of case studies on niche marketing of products from locally adapted breeds of livestock.

6. The indicator framework developed by FAO for measuring progress in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action, includes an indicator of "The state of efforts to support indigenous and local production systems and associated knowledge systems of importance to the maintenance and sustainable use of animal genetic resources". In 2012, about 70 per cent of the countries that submitted reports on their progress in implementing the Global Plan of Action indicated that they have at least some measures in place addressing this issue and 40 per cent indicated that they had made progress in this field since the adoption of the Global Plan of Action in 2007. In 2008, FAO published the report of a workshop organized by FAO and the World Association for Animal Production (WAPP) on the sustainable utilization of animal genetic resources. The workshop, taking the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for Sustainable Use of Biodiversity as a starting point, sought to formulate principles for the sustainable use of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture. The report includes papers on, *inter alia*, breeding and conservation programmes in local communities and on applying local knowledge and social mechanisms in animal genetic resources management.

Forest Genetic Resources (FGR)

7. The draft of the first report on *The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources* was considered by the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) at its 14th session in April 2013. The Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources was adopted by the Commission and further approved by the FAO Conference at its 38th session in June 2013.

8. The Global Plan of Action included 27 Strategic Priorities (SP) for actions for the conservation, sustainable use and development of forest genetic resources. It recognizes respectively the need in:

- Strategic Priority I: to develop national and subnational systems for the assessment and management of traditional knowledge on forest genetic resources;
- Strategic Priority 4: to promote the establishment and reinforcement of information systems for forest genetic resources and database to cover available scientific and traditional knowledge on uses, distribution, habitats, biology and genetic variation of species and species populations;

- Strategic Priority 8: to support and develop sustainable management and conservation of forest genetic resources on farmland;
- Strategic Priority 22: to promote the participation of indigenous and local communities in forest genetic resources management in the context of decentralization.

9. FAO is presently developing an implementation strategy for the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources. FAO is also working on Community-Based Fire Management also basing the work on existing traditional fire management and knowledge. In this respect, FAO also promoted a session on this same issue during the last International Wildland Fire Conference in South Africa in 2011.

10. Customary sustainable use of wildlife is an important aspect of participatory wildlife management and as such a core interest and area of FAO's wildlife work. FAO-led projects, which have recently been prepared or started implementation, aim to integrate and strengthen customary sustainable use of wildlife, including through review and revision of respective policies and legislation. Such projects are still in an early stage of implementation and results are not yet available. They will be monitored and evaluated during their whole lifecycle.

Fisheries

11. In terms of fisheries, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), FAO has developed guidelines on a community-based ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF) management that tried to pull together community-based traditional practices in Pacific island States with the sustainability principles and methodologies of the EAF.

The Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) Initiative

12. The Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) Initiative has very strong links with Articles 10(c) and 8(j) under the Convention on Biological Diversity. These articles are the backbone/rationale of the individual GIAHS projects. In particular, GIAHS outputs at country levels are divided into two levels of intervention:

- I. National level: mainstreaming of GIAHS into policy and programmes (which essentially include the traditional knowledge, culture and intellectual properties and/or farmers rights); and
- II. Local/community level: empowerment of communities, to manage conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity and associated biodiversity harboured in traditional, evolving agricultural systems.

13. Additional information on GIAHS and its activities and results can be found on the GIAHS Webpage (www.giahs.org). More specifically:

- Global GIAHS Project Concept <http://www.fao.org/docrep/field/009/apOI9e/apOI9e.pdf>
- GIAHS - a legacy for the future <http://www.fao.org/docrep/014/i2232e/i2232eOO.htm>
- Success stories <http://www.giahs.org/giahs-inforesources/success-stories/en/>
- Stories from the field, newsletter <http://www.giahs.org/giahs-news-events/newsdetail/nen/c/1746191>

Legal matters

14. FAO, through a series of collaborations between its Development Law Service and the technical departments, has worked to encourage and enable the use of customary or traditional tenure including sustainable use in respect of land, fisheries and forestry (and other natural resources). The most recent work has been to promote and enable the use of customary marine tenure in the context of co-management (including community based management) in fisheries (in the Pacific as already mentioned) and forests (in Africa) and to enable legal recognition of traditional land rights (e.g. in Mozambique).

15. FAO has compiled a few legislative studies and reports that relate directly or indirectly to the subject matter including the following:

- 2010 Statutory recognition of customary land rights in Africa.
- 2010 Wildlife law and the empowerment of the poor.
- 2010 Wildlife Law in the Southern African Development Community.
- 2010 Wildlife legislation and the empowerment of the poor in Asia and Oceania.
- 2009 Wildlife law and the legal empowerment of the poor in Sub-Saharan Africa:
New case studies 79.
- 2009 Wildlife law and the legal empowerment of the poor in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- 2008 Customary water rights and contemporary water legislation: Mapping out the
Interface.
- 2008 Principles for developing sustainable wildlife management laws.
- 2008 Pacific land tenures: new ideas for reform.
- Creating legal space for community-based fisheries and customary marine tenure in the Pacific:
issues and opportunities. FishCode Review. No. 7 (En). Rome, FAO. 2004. 65p.

The International Treaty's Benefit-sharing Fund projects

16. Sustainable use is one of the three agreed priorities of the Benefit-sharing Fund (BSF) of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Treaty) that collects financial resources in support of projects and initiatives aimed at the conservation and the sustainable use of crop diversity. The BSF is currently sponsoring 19 projects in 31 developing countries with the aim of building resilience in the face of climate change and food insecurity through the management of PGRFA. Recognizing the importance of agro-biodiversity to climate change adaptation, BSF projects address the development of appropriate strategies and actions that will ensure that agro-biodiversity supports the resilience and adaptability of local communities, thus underscoring its effective conservation and sustainable use. The activities that are currently being implemented by BSF partners are addressing the challenges of guaranteeing food security through better management of PGRFA, generating income for the rural poor through the implementation of sustainable agricultural practices, and providing a foundation for protecting agro-biodiversity.

17. The projects' executing agencies are adopting multi-sectorial, participatory and gender sensitive approaches that have resulted in 476 among grassroots organizations, civil society organizations,

governmental institutions, NGOs, universities, gene-banks, research institutions, rural community groups and farmers being involved at all stages of project implementation. This is contributing to establishing innovative partnerships as to develop integrated approaches to global challenges from a PGRFA perspective. Project activities and interventions are shaped according to the identified needs and priorities and are carried out in the areas that are most vulnerable to genetic erosion, poverty and climate change.

18. Vulnerability assessments and household surveys have been carried out at community level, involving more than 1,170 farmers to assess perceptions on climate change and adaptation mechanisms, document traditional knowledge and identify the appropriate coping strategies from a bottom up perspective.

19. Farmers' knowledge and their socio-cultural dimensions, systems and institutions are integrated in all project activities and the role of local communities in securing access to and control over their biological diversity is being broadly recognized and highly prioritized. As at today, 12,507 farmers and 114 grassroots organizations have been directly involved in the Treaty field activities, surveys, seed fairs, community biodiversity registers, training and capacity-building, participatory variety selection, plant breeding and establishment of community seed banks.

20. The importance of gender-differentiated traditional knowledge is recognized through the implementation of gender-equitable approaches. Moreover, the BSF Treaty projects, through training and capacity-building are increasing farmers' awareness of the available solutions to adapt to climate by testing populations of crops in respective fields; collecting, evaluating and characterizing local varieties against preferable agronomic and socio-economic criteria; improving seeds and making them available at local level; and documenting existing diversity and farmers' knowledge.

21. All these activities are projected to be consistent with national strategies and priorities and rely on existing scientific and policy back-up. The main activities implemented by BSF partners that could be considered as customary practices for sustainable use include, *inter alia*:

- (a) Conduct on-farm conservation in farmers' fields;
- (b) Participatory breeding and selection with the active and constant involvement of women farmers;
- (c) Genetic enhancement and base-broadening, characterization, evaluation;
- (d) Documentation of genetic varieties in farmers' fields;
- (e) Organization of biodiversity fairs as to showcase and exchange farmers collections of produced and conserved varieties;
- (f) Support seed production and distribution;
- (g) Commercialize and develop outlets for local varieties;
- (h) Establish seed banks at community level;
- (i) Link farmers nationally, regionally and internationally to exchange material and information related to climate change;
- (j) Build capacity and improve skills in characterization, evaluation and plant breeding, as well as in seed management and distribution; and

(k) Exchange and share information, know-how, best practices and traditional knowledge on plant genetic resources among all stakeholders involved.

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

22. The following is a summary of UNCCD's current and future work on the issue of customary sustainable use. Articles 17, 18 and 19 of the UNCCD's Convention Text refer to traditional knowledge, methods, technologies and best practices in sustainable land management relevant to research and development, transfer, acquisition, adaptation and development of technology and capacity-building, education and public awareness.

23. Under research and development, the Convention stresses the importance of know-how, practices and traditional and local knowledge through its Article 17 and through Article 18, which calls for the protection, compilation, promotion and dissemination of traditional and local knowledge. Decision 15/COP.1, in the terms of reference of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST), requests that the CST make recommendations for promoting participative research on relevant traditional and local technology, knowledge know-how and practices to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought through, *inter alia*, the utilization of information and services provided by local populations and other competent bodies, including intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

Current work being undertaken by UNCCD related to the issue of traditional sustainable land management practices includes:

24. In response to a specific request by COP (decision 15/COP.10) and guidance of the Bureau of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) (report CRIC Bureau), the Secretariat has opened a call for expressions of interest on two thematic topics of the UNCCD best practices:

- (a) Sustainable land management technologies, including adaptation;
- (b) Funding and resource mobilization.

25. The call was open to any agency, institution and organization - whether national or international, governmental or non-governmental - which has a legal personality and which maintains publicly accessible databases relating to one of the two aforementioned themes of best practices is eligible to participate.

26. The aim of this exercise is to provide Parties with an overview on existing expertise and capacity which could support CRIC in its tasks of compiling, reviewing and disseminating best practices. The outcome of this call was considered at the second meeting of CRI in April 2013, with a view to recommending to the Conference of the Parties a number of primary organizations and databases. The 10-Year Strategy (2008-2018) of UNCCD foresees that CST, in cooperation with relevant institutions, creates and steers knowledge management systems aiming to improve the brokerage of scientific and technical information from and to institutions, Parties and end users. Additionally, it was decided that the secretariat develop its capacity to service CST effectively by, *inter alia*, supporting the knowledge management systems established by CST and performing information and knowledge brokering functions. Also decision 4/COP.9 requests the secretariat to continue building up efficient knowledge management and knowledge brokering systems to serve as tools for successful implementation of the comprehensive communication strategy. The UNCCD secretariat has also launched a call for expressions of interest to become a partner in UNCCD scientific knowledge brokering. This call targets organizations and institutions that are in a position to provide information through the UNCCD portal.

27. The Capacity Building Marketplace website was established and is owned, operated, maintained and managed by the UNCCD secretariat in accordance with its mandate to support capacity-building

activities as granted by the Convention. It strives to be the central point and exchange for all knowledge, resources and activities related to capacity-building within the framework of UNCCD. The site forms an integral part of the secretariat's website as well as its Comprehensive Communication Strategy and knowledge management system.

Future work to be undertaken by UNCCD related to the issue of traditional sustainable land management practices contained in the 2014-2017 work plan:

28. By its decision 1S/COP.10, the Conference of the Parties (COP) decided that future sessions of the Committee for the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) should review the accessibility of the information on best practices and to develop guidelines for Parties to validate best practices at the national level under the following thematic topics:

- (a) SLM technologies including adaptation;
- (b) Desertification, land degradation and drought and Sustainable Land Management (SLM) monitoring and assessment/research;
- (c) Knowledge management and decision support.

29. By the same decision, the COP encouraged Parties to submit best practices to new and existing best practice databases and requested the secretariat, and the Global Mechanism (GM) in the case of theme 6, to identify a recommended database for new information for each of these themes, to support reporting entities in the submission of best practices to the recommended primary database, and to facilitate the partnership between Scientific Knowledge Brokering Portal (SKBP) and the institution(s) database(s) that will be tasked with the compilation and dissemination of relevant best practices.

Recommendations to the COP that are currently being considered:

(a) Exploring and piloting cost-effective knowledge management and community engagement practices, such as webinars, to better facilitate the capture and transmission of local and traditional Knowledge on DLDD matters from and between various UNCCD stakeholders; and

(b) Continue developing the SKBP in cooperation with partners to expand the collection of information aggregated to the SKBP and to plan future enhancements to the portal that may include: multilingual search capabilities, improvements to the accuracy of search results, personalized search profiles, usability enhancements and potential connections to social networks.

30. The COP decided, in decision 18/COP 10, that the UNCCD 3rd Scientific Conference shall take place in 2014 at the fourth special session of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST 5-4) on the topic of "Combating DLDD for poverty reduction and sustainable development: the contribution of science, technology, traditional knowledge and practice". Five key research networks and institutions, working in the field of desertification and land degradation, are joining their efforts under the umbrella of the "Scientific & Traditional Knowledge for Sustainable Development" (STK4SD) consortium, to support the UNCCD secretariat in the organization of the 3rd UNCCD scientific conference. The STK4SD consortium brings together:

(a) Agropolis International, a French association, supported by the State and the Languedoc-Roussillon Regional Council, working in the field of agriculture, food, biodiversity and the environment, with a focus on Mediterranean and tropical regions;

(b) DesertNet International, a scientific network for international research on desertification, offering a platform for science-policy dialogue across the world;

(c) The CGIAR Consortium, a global partnership that unites organizations engaged in research for a food secure future;

(d) The Sahel and Sahara Observatory, an Independent international organization based in Tunisia, founded in 1992 to improve early warning and monitoring systems for agriculture, food security and drought in the Sahel and Sahara regions of Africa;

(e) The Instituto Argentino de Investigaciones de las Zonas Andes (IADIZA), Argentinean institute of the National Council of Scientific and Technical Research (CONICET) conducting scientific research to better understand and explain the structure and functioning of drylands, and promoting the links with the society through transfer, capacity-building and training.

United Nations Framework Climate Change Convention (UNFCCC)

31. The UNFCCC has included consideration of customary sustainable use on a number of instances. In regard to adaptation, the secretariat of UNFCCC organized a technical workshop on ecosystem-based approaches for adaptation to climate change (and how the terminology is being used instead of ecosystem approach), which also discussed synergy between three Rio conventions. The secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity was an active contributor. The full report is available at: http://unfccc.int/adaptation/workshops_meetings/nairobi_work_programme/items/7379.php

32. In regard to linkages between gender and customary sustainable use, the secretariat has a local coping strategies database for adaptation to climate change (<http://maindb.unfccc.int/public/adaptation/>), which includes some examples of the use of natural products for adaptation by women, such as the following:

http://maindb.unfccc.int/public/adaptation/adaptation_casestudy.pl?id_project=192&id_hazard=&id_impact=&id_strategy=12&id_region=

33. In terms of REDD+, the principles and safeguards and guidance in decision 1/CP.16 available at <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2010/cop16/eng/07a01.pdf#page=2>, include references to participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, conservation of biodiversity and adaptation, including consideration of customary use of forest resource. As such the guidance is focused on REDD+, but may be interpreted as guidance provided for all uses, customary or other). It would be up to the implementing country to decide how customary use is sustained and protected.
