CBD

Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/WGRI/5/3/Add.1
21 May 2014

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

AD HOC OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON
REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
CONVENTION
Fifth meeting
Montreal, 16–20 June 2014
Item 5 of the annotated agenda*

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

Note by the Executive Secretary

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Technical and scientific cooperation[1] and technology transfer have been part of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) since its inception. Article 18 of the Convention sets forth the primary commitments on technical and scientific cooperation under the Convention. It calls on Parties to promote technical and scientific cooperation, and prioritizes the strengthening of national capabilities. Article 16, on access to and transfer of technology, and Article 17, on exchange of information, are the other key provisions related to these issues.

2. Since the entry into force of the Convention, the Conference of the Parties has taken a number of decisions providing guidance on several aspects of scientific and technical cooperation and technology transfer. In addition, a number of important initiatives have been established, resulting in the evolution over the years of a substantial set of mandates, strategies, guidance and initiatives.

3. At its eleventh meeting, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to develop "a coherent, consistent and coordinated approach to technical and scientific cooperation", building on existing mechanisms, to develop operational options and proposals, and to report to the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention (WGRI) at its fifth meeting (decision XI/2, paragraph 15). The decision also requested the Executive Secretary to identify ways to act as a convenor to build partnerships and capacity, and thereby facilitate implementation of the Convention (decision XI/2, paragraph 16).

* UNEP/CBD/WGRI/5/1.

[1] This note uses the terminology of Article 18 of the Convention, "Technical and Scientific Cooperation"; Article 16 of the Convention deals with "Access to and Transfer of Technology".

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4. The decision further requested the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to engage in a process towards establishing a capacity-building network of national and regional centres of expertise in biodiversity, with a view to:

(a) Facilitating the compilation of knowledge, experiences and information on biodiversity-related and scientific and technological cooperation of relevance to the Convention, and making it available through the clearing-house mechanism (CHM); and

(b) Providing technical and technological support to Parties by responding to technology needs assessments submitted by Parties and other requests for technical and technological information in a tailored manner, by undertaking match-making, and by catalysing or facilitating partnerships for technology transfer and scientific and technological cooperation, including, as appropriate, the development of thematic and regional or subregional pilot initiatives for enhanced technical and scientific cooperation in support of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011—2020.

The decision asked the Executive Secretary to report to the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention at its fifth meeting on operational options and proposals developed, activities undertaken, and progress made.

5. In addition, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to work on needs assessment methodologies for implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (decision XI/2, paragraph 18), subject to the availability of resources.

6. Accordingly, this note provides an update on progress, including initial operational options and proposals aimed at improving technical and scientific cooperation under the Convention, and identifies where additional work may be warranted. Section II provides a brief update on technical and scientific cooperation activities under the Convention including with respect to regional cooperation. Relevant experiences of related Multilateral Environmental Agreements, United Nations agencies, international processes and organizations are contained in an information note (UNEP/CBD/WGRI/5/INF/2). Section III provides operational options and proposals for a coherent, consistent and coordinated approach to technical and scientific cooperation, including on arrangements with partners, including regional networks for delivery and the role that the Secretariat can play. (Although the Secretariat did not have adequate resources to review assessment methodologies, subsection III A presents a proposal based on various inputs outlined elsewhere in this document). Section IV suggests possible recommendations for the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention to propose to the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

II. TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION UNDER THE CONVENTION

7. Article 18 of the Convention sets forth the commitments of Parties to promote technical and scientific cooperation. Numerous decisions of the Conference of the Parties have called on the Secretariat to facilitate such cooperation, in conjunction with partners. The Secretariat, along with other agencies and partners, has supported the provision of support to technical and scientific cooperation in a wide range of areas. A number of important initiatives have been established over time, resulting in the evolution over the years of a substantial set of mandates, strategies, guidance and initiatives, including the programme of work on technology transfer and technological and scientific cooperation (decision VII/29), and activities towards its implementation, reflected in pertinent COP decisions (decision VII/29; VIII/12; IX/14; X/16). Other elements to consider include the mission, goals and objectives of the clearing-house mechanism for the period 2011-2020 (decision X/15), the work programme for the clearing-house mechanism (UNEP/CBD/COP/11/31), the Multi-Year Plan of Action on South-South Cooperation (welcomed in decision X/23), the LifeWeb Initiative, established by Germany at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Consortium of Scientific Partners created at the eighth

meeting of the Conference of the Parties by the Executive Secretary, and the emerging national biodiversity strategies and action plans and BesNet fora[1] to mention but a few.

A. Capacity-building, tools and guidance

8. Various capacity-building workshops and other expert processes have promoted technical and scientific cooperation among Parties by facilitating the exchange of experience and expertise. Notable among these are regional workshops on the updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans with the support of the Japan Biodiversity Fund, workshops on the preparation of national reports, a series of regional expert workshops to describe areas meeting ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSA) criteria, workshops under the programmes of work on protected areas, invasive alien species, ecosystem conservation and restoration, and workshops on valuation and incentive measures and integration of biodiversity into efforts at the subnational level. Document UNEP/CBD/WGRI/5/3 provides a complete list of such efforts over the past three years. Other capacity-building activities have included workshops on Articles 8(j) and 10(c), access and benefit-sharing and the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization, and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

9. In addition to organizing workshops, the Secretariat has prepared compilations of best practices, reference and users' manuals, guidelines, training programmes and other written materials. A number of online resources and e-learning modules have also been prepared. The Secretariat also provides partners, including other United Nations agencies, with relevant information for their efforts in delivering support to countries relevant to implementation of the Convention and Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.

B. Collaboration with partners and experts

10. The Secretariat collaborates with a large number of partners, including other United Nations organizations and programmes, scientific institutions and networks, and governmental and non-governmental institutions and organizations, through a range of partnership agreements,[2] joint work programmes, memoranda of understanding, and task forces. These may include networks of institutions to address particular sets of issues, project-based collaboration, broader institutional cooperation, and other types of partnerships. Examples include the following:

(a) The Global Partnership for Plant Conservation[3] – a voluntary partnership to promote implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation;

(b) Cross-cutting initiatives under the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity such as on food and nutrition;[4]

(c) The Biodiversity Indicators Partnership[5] and the Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network;[6]

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[1] The NBSAP forum was established by the Secretariat of the CBD, UNDP and UNEP; BesNet is the proposed capacity-building initiative under IPBES.

[2] http://www.cbd.int/agreements/

[3] http://www.plants2020.net/gppc/

[4] http://www.cbd.int/agro/food-nutrition/default.shtml

[5] http://www.bipindicators.net/

[6] http://www.earthobservations.org/geobon.shtml

(d) The Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership;[1]

(e) The Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative, which facilitates the provision of the best scientific data and knowledge on marine biodiversity, and the Sustainable Oceans Initiative,[2] which provides capacity-building support, both for the Convention's programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity;

(f) The friends of the programme of work on protected areas;

(g) The Global Partnership for Subnational and Local Action on Biodiversity and the Maritime Innovative Territories' International Network,[3] at subnational level;

(h) The NBSAP forum, established jointly by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Secretariat to support the development and implementation of NBSAPs; The Global Islands Partnership (GLISPA);[4] the Global Partnership on Forest and Landscape Restoration – to support the Bonn Challenge to restore at least 150 million hectares, contributing to the achievement of Aichi Target 15. The partnership includes a learning network, and contributes to the capacity-building workshops on ecosystem conservation and restoration under the Convention on Biological Diversity;

(i) The Consortium of Scientific Partners, which brings together key science-based national biodiversity organizations such as CONABIO, Humboldt and SANBI;

(j) An initiative on Legal Preparedness for Achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets with the International Development Law Organization;

(k) Collaboration with regional initiatives such as the Micronesia Challenge, Caribbean Challenge Initiative, Coral Triangle Initiative, and the Gaborone Declaration;

(l) Collaboration in the development of biodiversity strategies and actions plans with official regional bodies and institutions such as the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), South African Development Community (SADC), South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP), the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) , and the Commission des forêts d'Afrique Centrale (COMIFAC);

(m) The Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity;

(n) The Global Partnership on Local and Sub-national Action for Biodiversity; and

(o) Systematic contributions to UN-led technology-focused efforts, such as the Global South-South Development Expo of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), and the China-supported Global South-South Development Expo (GSSD) 2013 hosted by UNEP in Nairobi.

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[1] http://www.cbd.int/invasive/giasipartnership/

[2] https://www.cbd.int/marine/doc/soi-brochure-2012-en.pdf

[3] http://www.cbd.int/en/subnational/partners-and-initiatives/mitin

[4] https://www.cbd.int/island/glispa.shtml

11. The Global Environment Facility (GEF), as the financial mechanism of the Convention, has provided funding over the years for a number of areas that support scientific and technical cooperation, including in its biodiversity focal area projects and enabling activities. Examples can be found in such project activities as development of community information systems through participatory mapping and use of a geographic information system (GIS), strengthening national enabling environments on biosafety, access and benefit-sharing, demonstrating replicable innovative models, and promoting appropriate technology including communication technology to help sustainable production. Its enabling activities generally provide for the identification of needs, capacity-building and promotion of clearing-house mechanisms. The Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel of the GEF also provides advice on scientific and technical cooperation and technology transfer.

C. Identifying needs for technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer

12. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, at its seventeenth meeting, identified key scientific and technical needs related to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (recommendation XVII/1). Key areas where the Subsidiary Body found that technical and scientific cooperation was needed included the following: application of the social sciences, data and information, evaluation and assessment, planning and mainstreaming, linking science and policy, maintenance, conservation and restoration of ecosystems, and economic instruments. Specific recommendations for what actions could be useful for specific targets were also elaborated by the Subsidiary Body, which provides useful guidance for the way forward.

13. The Subsidiary Body, through recommendation XVII/1, concluded that there is an abundance of policy support tools and methodologies available to Parties to enable implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. What was needed was to make such tools more readily available and better adapted to the specific national context. Consistent with decision XI/2, the Subsidiary Body recommended that the Conference of the Parties, at its twelfth meeting, request the Executive Secretary to prepare a report on existing and possible ways and means to address these key technical and scientific needs, and to strengthen scientific and capacities especially in developing country Parties.

14. In response to paragraph 2 of decision X/16, the Executive Secretary conducted a gap analysis of supportive activities with regard to technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer under the Convention. The outcome of this process was reflected in documents UNEP/CBD/COP/11/13/Add.1 and UNEP/CBD/COP/11/INF/9. Its main findings include:

(a) While there are activities supporting the transfer of technologies of relevance to the Convention, for the most part they are not connected to, nor refer to, the Convention on Biological Diversity directly;

(b) Relevant useful information is widely dispersed, which likely implies a knowledge gap;

(c) Given the nature of the information dispersal, closing or narrowing the knowledge gap is not straightforward. For instance and as mentioned above, the clearing-house mechanism, in its database on technology transfer and cooperation, already provides a collection of websites which contain relevant information. While the collection itself is searchable, e.g., by biome or region, prospective users will still have to search for relevant pieces of information to respond to their needs; and

(d) Some types of support seem to be well-covered for some sectors and relevant technologies, but the overall picture is uneven and patchy.

15. In paragraph 3 of decision X/16, the Conference of the Parties, recalling the importance of developing specific approaches to technology transfer and scientific and technical cooperation to address the prioritized needs of countries based on the priorities in national biodiversity strategies and action plans, invited Parties to consider including the preparation of needs assessments in the revision and updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and to submit these assessments to the Executive Secretary. The Executive Secretary was tasked to compile these assessments and to disseminate them through the clearing-house mechanism.

16. Needs assessments received were made available in the searchable online database on scientific and technological cooperation and technology transfer.[1] They were also reflected in document UNEP/CBD/COP/11/13/Add.1. At the time of reporting, the Secretariat was in the process of identifying pertinent sections in revised NBSAPs that highlight scientific and technical needs, and associated capacity-building needs, for implementation of the revised NBSAPs.

17. An informal meeting on scientific and technical cooperation on biodiversity was organized in the margins of SBSTTA-17 by the Secretariat to provide additional advice and input on the requests to the Executive Secretary in decisions XI/2 and XI/8. It included participation of 20 experts from five national centres of expertise, three regional and thematic scientific and technical institutions, three Universities and four representatives of Parties.[2] Substantive results of this consultation included:

(a) Traditional technology needs assessments, such as those requested for the fourth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention, often result in long lists of needs which risk not being taken up by donors or partners, or in lack of motivation for Parties to submit complex assessments in view of unclear links to possible supporting mechanisms. Identifying brightspots/solutions already developed and offered by active agencies and centres, on the other hand, mobilizes providers to identify and engage recipients;

(b) Several national centres in developing countries and regional institutions, notably Colombia's Humboldt Institute and ASEAN's Biodiversity Centre, mentioned that they are regularly solicited by neighboring Parties and their agencies to provide capacity-building and technology transfer support, but that they do not have resources to address these requests, and that it is difficult to raise resources for institutional capacity-building beyond direct project deliverables. At the same time, participants noted that the level of investment required to execute those preponderantly South-South and triangular staff and expertise exchanges is relatively low;

(c) Many global, regional, national and subregional agencies and networks already exist, and any additional network should support and not duplicate such efforts.

18. The consultation also concluded that the Secretariat could play a useful role in a number of areas, including:

(a) Building on the needs assessment prepared for COP-11;

(b) Continue to compile and disseminate cases, solutions and best practices through the clearing-house mechanism, and

(c) Facilitate exchanges and offer capacity-building; and

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[1] The database is searchable by country, region, subject area, keyword, and title content. See http://www.cbd.int/programmes/cross-cutting/technology/search.aspx .

[2] Content are included in UNEP/CBD/WGRI/5/INF/2

(d) Support "matchmaking" to connect demand and supply for technical and scientific cooperation, at the global and regional levels in particular.

D. Other relevant developments

19. The further development of the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention, established pursuant to Article 18.3, provides a platform for technical and scientific cooperation that could be further enhanced in the future, such as by further development of the online database on scientific and technical cooperation and technology transfer. Decision X/15 adopted a work programme for the mechanism linked to a mission, goals, and objectives for the period 2011-2020 and reiterated its mission to contribute significantly to the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, through effective information services and other appropriate means in order to promote and facilitate scientific and technical cooperation, knowledge sharing and information exchange, and to establish a fully operational network of Parties and partners. A progress report on the clearing-house mechanism is contained in document UNEP/CBD/WGRI/5/3/Add.2.

20. The *LifeWeb* Initiative, launched at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, facilitates the matching of funding and project proposals. It was established with an initial focus on supporting the implementation of the programme of work on protected areas through financial partnerships. In a subsequent phase launched at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the scope of *LifeWeb* was broadened to support the achievement of a broader range of Aichi Targets (targets 5-15). *LifeWeb* has increasingly provided technical support for the development of project proposals through workshops, donor roundtables, and through technical tools available through the *LifeWeb* clearing-house. Both the financial matching and the provision of technical support are facilitated both by the web-based clearing-house and by support from the Secretariat and partners. The experience of *LifeWeb* may be relevant to the future development of technical and scientific cooperation under the Convention, by providing a model or framework for a broader approach.

III. PROPOSED APPROACH TO TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION

A. Summary of proposed approach

21. The needs of Parties for technical and scientific cooperation vary widely, ranging from, for example, capacity development for protected area management to policy development at the national level. The proposals below are based upon the following assumptions:

(a) An approach that is country-driven will be more useful to Parties;

(b) An approach that encourages alignment with Party's national biodiversity strategies and action plans will be more efficient;

(c) Approaches will be more versatile and user friendly if facilitated through human intervention and supported by information technology linked strongly with the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention.

22. Based on the experiences summarized above, inputs from Parties and other entities at formal meetings of the Conference of the Parties, the Subsidiary Body, and the Working Group on Review of Implementation and at intersessional meetings and workshops, and a review of mechanisms used by other conventions (see UNEP/CBD/WGRI/5/INF/2), an effective approach to technical and scientific cooperation needs to include the following three key components:

(a) Identification and effective communication of Parties' needs of a technical and scientific nature relevant to the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020;

(b) A mechanism to capture and elicit relevant best practices and expertise from relevant organizations, initiatives, tools and other guidance materials in an effective manner; and

(c) A means of matching Parties' needs with the appropriate scientific and technical expertise, and of facilitating such matches.

23. Implementing each of these components can be facilitated by web-based platforms, but, to be effective, also requires the active interaction of experts, though various means such as workshops or roundtables, facilitated by the Secretariat or partners organizations

B. Identification and communication of user needs

24. A coherent, consistent and coordinated approach to technical and scientific cooperation must be driven primarily to address the needs of Parties, and bring these to the attention of those institutions and experts that can assist in overcoming scientific and technical challenges within the specific context in which they occur.

25. While the Convention, through its formal and informal meetings, offers opportunities for Parties to express scientific and technical needs, these are not a sufficient basis for targeted technical and scientific cooperation. To some extent, user needs can and have been identified, and cooperation facilitated, through workshops and existing CHM features. However, systematic mechanisms are required to better communicate the needs of Parties. These could include:

(a) Identification of scientific, technical and technological needs, and associated capacity-building needs, in NBSAPs (in line with decision X/16, paragraph 3), as well as, as appropriate, in their national reports. A preliminary analysis of the 25 revised NBSAPs that were received by the Secretariat at the time of reporting shows that many point to scientific and technical and technological needs, and associated capacity-building, for their effective implementation, some as part of their capacity development plans;

(b) A series of expert roundtables and workshops could be organized by the Secretariat to identify the most pressing challenges and needs;

(c) A web-based platform through which Parties can regularly describe scientific and technical needs that represent obstacles to the implementation of their NBSAPs. Such a platform could be provided as part of the central CHM, and, where possible, linked to national clearing-house mechanisms. This could build on the existing database on technical needs that the Secretariat has already established.

26. On request, the Secretariat could assist Parties in formulating their needs. While entries could be included from a wide group of users (e.g., any registered user of the CHM), classifications of the entity adding the inputs could be established in order to ensure that needs entered correspond to priorities of Parties.

27. Designing a registry of user needs in such a way that they can be searched by country and region, as well as thematically, with links to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, will enable potential providers of technical and scientific cooperation to identify quickly which needs fall within their areas of expertise.

28. In addition to providing the platform for such a database, the Secretariat could support such a registry by developing the filters and categories for entries, ensuring wide dissemination of its existence through the website, formal notifications and other means, responding to user feedback, and facilitating its active use by Parties and other users.

C. Mechanism for capturing best practices and expertise

29. In addition to identifying demand for technical and scientific cooperation, the Secretariat proposes to enhance access and search functions in existing compilations of best practices in the clearing-house mechanism, thereby making official guidelines, principles and training materials more effectively available. The Secretariat could also invite relevant institutions to provide for proposals and expressions of interest, solutions and offers.

30. Based on the needs identified through any of the mechanisms described in the previous section, the Secretariat could produce trends analyses and research recommendations, develop guidance materials and conduct training sessions, and develop, and/or compile, existing toolboxes for policy- and decision makers.

D. Facilitation of "matchmaking" of needs and provision of support

31. The Secretariat's experience with other past approaches is that developing information technology to communicate scientific and technical needs of Parties is not sufficient. Some level of active support is needed in order to fully implement Article 18 of the Convention.

32. The Secretariat can provide such a function with varying levels of engagement, as follows:

(a) *Facilitation* - the Secretariat can provide important management functions including promoting the needs platform to Parties through notifications and other forms of communication, monitoring implementation levels, tracking trends in inputs and usage, and communicating results to interested Parties and partner organizations. Likewise, the Secretariat could seek to make improvements to how best practices and tools are made available through the CHM. It could also establish a "helpdesk" to assist Parties seeking and providing expertise and support;

(b) *Assistance for enhancing proposals for requests and provision of support.* The Secretariat can play a more active role, soliciting contributions of best practices and innovations and identifying trends, coordinating with existing monitoring mechanisms, as well as engaging in limited match-making, for instance, through virtual activities to assist Parties in the development of their requests and in identifying possible providers of support and expertise. The Secretariat could help to ensure the common quality of proposals and their alignment to goals and objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets;

(c) *Convening activities for matching needs with support.* Based upon expressed needs submitted to the needs platform, the Secretariat could convene partnership development meetings, workshops, webinars and other events in order to match the needs and offers among Parties, as well as other and partners. These initiatives, partnerships and events could be linked to established meetings of the Convention or its partners, or, where resources allow, be developed specifically to meet the needs of Parties.

(d) *Matchmaker*. The Secretariat could develop, implement and report on brokering projects and partnerships with biodiversity-support institutions,[1] through results-oriented joint work programmes, and through focused organization of exhibitions and events to match needs with support. It could also develop and maintain rosters of centres of expertise to assist Parties with their needs.

E. Cooperation with other partners and networks

33. While providing a centralized database and support mechanism has many benefits, technical and scientific cooperation can be made more effective by complementing this with a decentralized approach. Parties and partners already cooperate through a wide variety of networks, both geographically and thematically, and any new activities should support and not duplicate ongoing cooperation initiatives.

34. The Secretariat has developed and maintains a large number of cooperative arrangements at the global, regional and subregional levels and on thematic areas, from formal multi-year memoranda of understanding to more flexible exchanges on work programmes. The Secretariat could build on these to develop networks, particularly at the regional level, for delivery of support for technical and scientific cooperation.

35. The Secretariat has had effective cooperation through regional entities, such as UNEP regional offices and secretariats of the Regional Seas conventions and programmes. Partnering with regional entities can also help address such variables as language, geographical commonalities, and similarities in legal systems.

36. The Secretariat could also seek to develop new partnerships for this purpose with global entities such as other Rio and biodiversity-related conventions, IPBES/BESNet, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets Task Force, and individual United Nations agencies which have a regional or country-specific base unavailable to the Secretariat.

37. In its work of identifying and evaluating potential partners for such cooperation, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity may take into account criteria, such as:

(a) Relevant experience: track record (volume, diversity and effectiveness) of technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer programmes over time, both in developing and preparing methodologies (ownership of "soft" and "hard" technologies, including capacity-building) and in disseminating/replicating them at regional and subregional levels;

(b) Direct and institutionally established cooperative links with Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, their national focal points and relevant national and regional policymakers.

38. Regional initiatives could build upon the experience, expertise and knowledge bases of existing national and regional institutions working on biodiversity, within an appropriate enabling framework that would involve relevant regional cooperation organizations. The aim would be to facilitate technical and scientific cooperation at various levels, through, *inter alia*, access to good practice cases, tools, and methodologies; regional networking and help desks; training workshops; and direct exchange of experts. Clearly these levels would have different cost implications, and a mechanism would need to be developed to cover these costs.

[1] Examples of these institutions include the Southern African Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), Mexico's National Commission for Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (CONABIO), etc.

39. Pilot activities to strengthen technical and scientific cooperation could be developed and implemented in a limited number of regions. These could build on existing cooperative activities, and would seek to partner with institutions that have the potential to support the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans in countries throughout the region.

IV. SUGGESTED RECOMMENDATIONS

The Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention may wish to adopt a recommendation along the following lines:

The Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention

1. *Takes note* of the progress report by the Executive Secretary on enhancing technical and scientific cooperation described in document UNEP/CBD/WGRI/5/3/Add.1;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare an updated report in time for consideration by the Conference of the Parties, at its twelfth meeting;

3. *Recommends* that the Conference of the Parties, at its twelfth meeting, adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with partners, and subject to the availability of resources, to enhance technical and scientific cooperation under the Convention by, *inter alia*:

(a) Providing a platform to facilitate the communication of the needs of Parties for technical and scientific cooperation;

(b) Further enhancing the provision of information with respect to best practices and expertise for technical and scientific cooperation to make its support more readily and effectively available;

(c) Facilitating "matchmaking" of the needs of Parties with tailored support for technical and scientific cooperation by relevant global, regional and national organizations and initiatives;

(d) In the context of paragraph 1 (c) above, promoting thematic and regional pilot programmes for technical and scientific cooperation, and

(e) Reporting on progress made to the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention at its sixth meeting.

2. *Urges* Parties, other Governments, international organizations, stakeholders and other entities to participate in and contribute to the technical and scientific cooperation under the Convention with a view to supporting the effective implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets, as well as revised national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and in particular to:

(a) Submit to the Executive Secretary pertinent information on good practices and provision of expertise for technical and scientific cooperation to achieve the objectives of the Convention;

(b) Consider using the information on technical and scientific needs, and associated capacity-building needs for the provision of tailored support for technical and scientific cooperation.

3. *Invites* donor agencies, and Parties in a position to do so, to provide the necessary financial resources to enable the further enhancement of technical and scientific cooperation among Parties.
