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### REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON BIODIVERSITY AND FINANCE IN SUPPORT OF THE NAGOYA OUTCOME

First meeting  
Cairo, 29-30 November 2010

### REPORT OF THE REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON BIODIVERSITY AND FINANCE IN SUPPORT OF THE NAGOYA OUTCOME

#### INTRODUCTION

1. The Arab Regional Workshop on Biodiversity and Finance was held in Cairo from 29 to 30 November 2010. The workshop has been initiated by the Technical Secretariat of the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment (CAMRE) of the League of Arab States and is co-organized by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Regional Office for West Asia and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The objectives of the regional workshop were to elaborate regional financial responses to the Nagoya outcomes adopted by the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, including an effective regional action plan for strategy for resource mobilization and innovative financial mechanisms, and provided a platform for developing common vision, shared commitments and concrete funding action for the Arab countries and their external partners to support implementation in the region of the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan and its associated targets.

#### ITEM 1 OPENING OF THE MEETING

2. The meeting was opened by the representative of the League of Arab States on behalf of Mr. Amre Moussa, the Secretary General. Dr. Djamal El Din Djaballah, Director of Environment, Housing and Sustainable Department stated that the region is the first to react to the Nagoya outcomes by holding this workshop. Biodiversity is being lost at unprecedented rates and the existing policies have become insufficient to overcome this crisis. The workshop is important to the Arab region, which provides a unique opportunity to consider the 20 headline targets adopted by the Nagoya Conference, elaborate national and regional corresponding targets in light of the Aichi Target, and develop or update national and regional biodiversity strategy and action plans in light of the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan of the Convention. The Arab environmental security has been the heart of the actions of the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment (CAMRE) since its establishment in 1992, and a number of Arab regional projects are under development like the Arab environment facility which was signed by 9 Arab states and will be based in Lebanon, the approval of the CAMRE to establish the Arab union for protected areas under the auspices of Saudi Arabia. He expected that the outcome of the workshop will be the basis and reference for the Arab governments and decision makers to update policies and determine financial priorities required in all concerned areas to implement the new strategy for biodiversity and set a future agenda for the region to protect the living organisms.

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3. Ms. Diane Klaimi, Programme Officer of United Nations Environment Programme, made an opening statement, on behalf of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, Mr. Achim Steiner, and the Regional Director for West Asia Dr. Habib El-Habr. She stated that biodiversity has always been at the heart of UNEP's work since it was established in 1972. UNEP allocated \$4 million to strengthen support to Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), via its network of regional offices. The Regional Office for West Asia, has engaged actively over the past 12 months in regional biodiversity activities in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the League of Arab States, and other biodiversity MEA Secretariats. The region would be the first in the world to react to the Nagoya outcomes and address the tremendous threats lingering on its biodiversity and degraded ecosystems. Enhancing the financial infrastructure to mobilize funds and innovative mechanisms is primary to achieving progress and reducing biodiversity loss, especially in a region characterized by a high population growth and an economy driven by technology, and a region ultimately suffering ecologically from adverse impacts of climate change and water scarcity.

4. Mr. Yibin Xiang, Programme Officer of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, read an opening statement of Mr. Ahmed Djoghla, Executive Secretary of the Convention. The statement said that the organization of this regional workshop on biodiversity and finance is a timely response to the increasing biodiversity challenges in the Arab region as well as to the Nagoya outcomes, by bringing together international targets and regional interests, and provides the first opportunity for the region to consider relevance, to the Arab region, of the 20 headline targets adopted by the Nagoya Conference, elaborate national and regional corresponding targets in light of the Aichi Target, and develop steps to develop or update national and regional biodiversity strategy and action plans in light of the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan of the Convention. The workshop offers a unique opportunity to explore the role of various multilateral and bilateral financial and development agencies in achieving the Aichi 2020 biodiversity target, not only in terms of national needs, but also in terms of regional and sub-regional collaboration. The outcome of the workshop can constitute a powerful voice that will lead the message of biodiversity to be heard and integrated by donors.

## **ITEM 2 ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS**

5. The participants adopted the agenda for the workshop (UNEP/CBD/RW-BF/1/1/Add.1) and introduce themselves to each other.

## **ITEM 3 THE NAGOYA OUTCOME AND FINANCIAL RESPONSE IN THE ARAB REGION: FUNDING NEEDS, GAPS, PRIORITIES AND PLANNING**

6. The workshop had before it the following documents UNEP/CBD/RW-BF/1/2, *Aichi Targets: Financial Implications for the Arab Region*, UNEP/CBD/RW-BF/1/3, *Indicative Guidelines for Country-Specific Resource Mobilization Strategies*, and UNEP/CBD/RW-BF/1/4, *Experiences in Developing Integrated Financing Strategies*.

7. At the first session, Ms. Diane Klaimi made a presentation on the 20 headline targets, relevant programmes of the Convention, and examples of activities to be undertaken under each headline target. Participants raised questions on the targets as well as the overall objectives of the Convention.

8. Mr. Ahmed Skim chaired the third and fourth sessions on the Aichi target. Participants discussed targets 1-5 and put forward the following ideas:

Target 1 (awareness):

- Periodic national and regional assessments or surveys of public opinions on biodiversity and ecosystem services;
- Development of regional strategy on awareness raising;
- Translation of biodiversity materials into Arabic;
- Development of national strategies to promote awareness of the value of biodiversity;

- Regional organizations to support education, public awareness and communication;
- Awareness raising among all sectors on the importance of biodiversity and ecosystem services;
- Strengthening national cooperation with Green Wave Initiative of the Convention Secretariat to create awareness of educational programmes for the region;
- Strengthening national cooperation with Arab regional Media outlets such as Orbit and El Gezira;
- Creating national capacity building programs for media representatives and journalists on the importance values of biodiversity;
- National cartoon movies, using popular cinema celebrities;
- National awareness campaigns, involving TV programs on biodiversity;
- Enhancing Arab cooperation with regional & international nongovernmental organizations;
- Mainstreaming of biodiversity in educational curriculum and enhancing cooperation with regional educational organization such as the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALESCO) and non-governmental organizations;
- Motivating national and regional private sector to support media awareness campaigns and programs, involving the participatory role of some cinema celebrities to participate in such campaigns in states where media is very popular and advanced, e.g. Egypt
- Creating awareness programs directed to a all level of society, local communities, and decision makers.

#### Target 2 (integration):

- Development of methodologies for incorporating biodiversity and ecosystem services in national accounting;
- Identification of ecosystem services at national level and definition of priorities indicating why biodiversity and ecosystem services are more important, through inventory and valuation;
- Participation of biodiversity and ecosystem services sector in national development and sectoral planning;
- Consideration of vocabulary and approaches that are used by sectoral ministries;
- Capacity building for integration;
- Enhanced communication among different national ministries (water, agriculture, fisheries, environmental agencies, forestry);
- Capacity building programs to media announcers, and journalists on mainstreaming of biodiversity in cooperation with non-governmental organizations and private sector in the Arab region;
- Requesting the secretariat of UNEP/TEEB to translate the UNEP/TEEB reports into Arabic and disseminate to the different ministries in the Arab Region related to environment, water, agriculture, forestry, fisheries, including a regional workshop for decision makers on economic valuation of biodiversity;
- Enhanced synergies with multilateral environment agreements, including the Ramsar Convention, Convention on Migratory Species, and Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora, ACCOBAMS and International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

#### Target 3 (incentives):

- Consideration of positive incentives in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use;

- Consideration of negative impacts of perverse incentives on the poor;
- Application of strategic environmental assessment and environmental impact assessment in all national and regional projects;
- Vision to examine trade implications of foreign incentive schemes and integration of biodiversity into trade negotiations, including with European countries;
- Regional organizations such as FAO to support activities on incentives;
- Conducting national and regional workshops on the economics valuation of biodiversity and UNEP/TEEB report;
- Organization of a regional workshop on incentives, with participation of such countries as Mexico.

Target 4 (sustainability):

- Needs for comprehensive methodologies on ecological footprints and sustainability;
- Organization of a regional training workshop to transfer knowledge from the North to the region, on ecological footprints and sustainability in cooperation with the League of Arab States and the United Nations Environment Programme;
- Development of national projects on ecological footprints and sustainability as a way to communicate with decision makers.

Target 5 (natural habitats):

- Recognition of link with target 11, and support to protected areas for eligible habitats;
- Emphasis on forest, coral reef and drylands;
- Consideration of local mechanisms, regulations and protection effectiveness;
- Attention to transboundary protected areas;
- Establishment of centers responsible for land/water use planning.

9. Before closing the fourth session, Mr. Skim designated countries to prepare further discussions on each remaining target: Morocco for target 6, Syria and Iraq for target 7 and target 8, Egypt for target 9, Lebanon for target 10, Tunisia for target 11, Yemen for target 12, Jordan for target 13 and target 14, Libya for target 15, UNEP for target 16, Palestine for target 17, Comoros for target 18, Yemen for target 19, Convention Secretariat for target 20. At the fifth session, participants presented the following ideas on targets 6-20:

Target 6 (fisheries):

- Establishment of legislation to establish sustainable fishing methods and combat illegal fishing;
- Support to identification and monitoring impacts of various fishing practices;
- Implementation of bilateral and multilateral agreements between Arab countries (Mediterranean, Red Sea, Gulf countries) for fisheries and biodiversity
- Holding a regional workshop between biodiversity focal points and officials on fisheries resources and aquaculture in Arab countries in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;
- Regional mechanisms and institutions for sustainable fisheries.

Target 7 (production sectors):

- Building capacity for sustainable management for sustainable agriculture, aquaculture and forestry;

- Development and application of agreed criteria and standard for integrated sustainable management;
- Legislations to implement sustainability criteria for agriculture, aquaculture and forestry.

#### Target 8 (pollution):

- Promotion of organic agriculture to reduce chemicals input and nutrient overloading;
- Promotion of integrated water resources management (both quality and quantity);
- Regional support to sharing ecosystems such as marine and coastal areas and river basin.

#### Target 9 (invasive alien species):

##### National:

- Inventory of invasive alien species lists in different taxonomic areas;
- Development and implementation of a national strategy and action plans for every country;
- Increased public awareness on economic and environmental problems caused by invasive alien species, such as publishing case studies on harmful effect of some species;

##### Regional

- Holding a regional workshop to share international experiences on invasive alien species, learn from each other, and develop a regional strategy on invasive alien species;
- Determination of the pathways of invasive alien species in the Arab Region and development of regional cooperation to control invasive alien species.

#### Target 10 (coral reefs and climate change):

- Building capacity in high development areas, focusing on anthropogenic impacts/damage;
- Attention to development in adjacent areas and support to agricultural programs (especially mangrove along the red sea);
- Importance of establishing cooperation between Convention Secretariat and water management authorities in the region.

#### Target 11 (protected areas):

##### National

- Inventory of most important ecosystems to integrate into protected areas;
- Gap analysis of protected area network;
- Promotion of effectiveness and representativeness and financial sustainability of protected areas;
- Promotion of legal, regulatory and administrative framework for creating terrestrial and marine protected areas;
- Diversification of categories of protected areas, like IUCN categories 6 and 7;
- Promotion of approaches of management more integrative of local populations to share benefits related to protected areas by ecotourism and traditional knowledge;
- Using guidelines and orientation of CBD POWPA;
- Implementation of programmes and activities to raise awareness;

##### Regional:

- Promotion of transboundary protected areas;
- Exchange experience and best practices, lessons learned within the region related to promoting the network of protected areas;

- Activation of Arab Union of Protected areas;
- Inventory Arabic red list for endangered and threatened species;
- Importance of enhancing cooperation with life web initiative, UN REDD-plus program, and Arab – MAB under UNESCO for creation of man and biosphere protected areas as well as the Arab Union for Protected Areas;
- Conducting a detailed regional study on economic and environmental values of wetlands in Arab region.

Target 12 (threatened species):

- Implementation of a regional project for monitoring and protecting threatened species, that are vulnerable to extinction, in their original habitats;
- National assessment for Red list of endangered species;
- Development of national regulations and action plans and guidelines for endangered species;
- Protection of endangered species through ex situ conservation such as gene banks;
- Reintroduction of endangered to original habitats;
- Use of training workshops by IFAW;
- Awareness campaigns through media with celebrities and the private sector;
- Adopting national media awareness campaign and adopting educational programs on extinct species. Egypt is urged to adopt such media campaigns, since television is very powerful tool of creating awareness, by using cinema celebrities and popular figures in society to adopt a TV program on endangered species, and motivating private sector to invest in this domain;
- Combating illegal trade by adopting strict national measures on wild life. Cooperation is needed with CITES and nongovernmental organizations, taking note of the Media Awareness campaigns undertaken by WWF on extinct species in London TV.

Target 13 (genetic diversity):

- Definition of reasons of degradation of cultivated plants;
- Database to include the diversity of cultivated plants, building awareness and capacity;
- Development of national policies on genetic diversity;
- Establishment of protected areas for wild relatives;
- Preparation of a gene bank network project at the regional and subregional level, to link the national gene banks with the subregional genebank (League of Arab States and ACSAD);
- At regional levels unify the legislation on exchange of genetic resources and efficient participation;
- Implementation of global plans on genetic resources with support of such organizations as ICARDA;
- taking note of ICARDA field of work on agrobiodiversity and the Arab Center for the Study of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD) Arab gene bank that will be hosted in one of the Arab states;
- Taking note of the need for the support of international donors and GEF to the Arab Gene bank on genetic plant resources project that has been endorsed by the CAMRE and will be established in one of the Arab States.

Target 14 (ecosystems for development):

- Compilation and review of information on ecosystem services;
- Identification of sensitive areas and preparation of action plans to manage, conserve and restore these ecosystems;
- Engagement of local communities in biodiversity and ecosystem mgmt.

Target 15 (restoration):

- Definition, classification and types of ecosystems that are resilient to climate change;
- Development of national plans for ecosystem restoration, in particular for forest ecosystems;
- Implementation of the Arab Green Belt Project for the Arab region to combat desertification, sand storms and drought;
- Importance of hosting national workshops on UNEP/TEEB report in the Arab region, and make it available in Arabic language by the TEEB unit.

Target 16 (Nagoya Protocol):

- All countries to join the Nagoya protocol;
- Organization of a technical workshop on the Nagoya Protocol in early 2011;
- Use of outreach materials available from the Convention Secretariat;
- Development of national frameworks to implement the Nagoya Protocol;
- Sharing of experiences of the Pan African Workshop organized by GTZ next February;
- Development and implementation of indicators to measure progress made in awareness raising;
- Adopting national & regional awareness campaigns on access and benefit sharing to all levels of society, and enhancing adoption educational programs in school and universities.

Target 17 (NBSAPs):

- Review of national strategies and plans on biodiversity, climate change and land degradation;
- Development of financial plans and resource mobilization strategies for national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- Organization of a regional workshop for national focal points on development of national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- Development of a regional biodiversity strategy and action plan;
- Building capacities for all stakeholders, including civil society organizations and their awareness.

Target 18 (traditional knowledge):

- Development and implementation of national legislation on traditional knowledge.

Target 19 (knowledge sharing):

- Every country will establish a clearing house mechanism to promote common knowledge and exchange, and conduct research;
- Establishment of an Arab clearing house mechanism, building on experiences of Arab countries and supported by Belgium and other donors;
- Hosting a regional workshop in Morocco on clearing house mechanism and transfer of technologies among Arab countries, in cooperation with Belgium and with support of the League of Arab States and United Nations Environment Programme;
- Importance of creating a hub base to link all national data base and Egypt proposed to host this hub unit.

Target 20 (resource mobilization):

- Development of a regional template for resource mobilization and financial planning for use in national biodiversity planning;
- Development of funding needs assessment;
- Production and dissemination of outreach materials in Arabic on resource mobilisation;
- Development of national financial strategies with support of the UNCCD Global Mechanism;
- Development of a regional project to support national preparation of financing biodiversity strategies and action plan;
- Training of environmental economists and share of experience;
- Conducting national and regional workshops on innovative financial mechanisms: payment for ecosystem services, biodiversity offsets, green development initiative, fiscal reforms;
- Enhancing Arab cooperation with REDD, Life Web, UN convention on climate change;
- A regional workshop may be hosted in an Arab state that has successfully adopted one or two of these schemes;
- Inviting countries to benefit from the projects developed by the REDD plus initiative on deforestation and LifeWeb Initiative (taking note of Red project in Tanzania to establish protected areas with 500 million dollars & life web existing funds) and the pledged funds of US\$4 billion by Norway and other donors in this regard;
- Enhancing cooperation with the Arab –MAB (Man & Biosphere) project for protected areas under the auspices of UNESCO, Arab union for protected Areas, and life web initiative.

#### **ITEM 4            EXPLORATION OF INNOVATIVE FINANCING FOR BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES**

10. The workshop had before it the following documents UNEP/CBD/RW-BF/1/5, *Innovative Financial Mechanisms: Potentials in the Arab Region*; UNEP/CBD/RW-BF/1/5/Add.1, *Paying for Biodiversity: Enhancing the cost-effectiveness of payments for ecosystem services*; UNEP/CBD/RW-BF/1/5/Add.2, *Biodiversity Offsets: a tool for Parties to consider and a briefing on the Business and Biodiversity Offsets Programme (BBOP)*, and UNEP/CBD/RW-BF/1/5/Add.3, *Green Development Mechanism - Toward a market-based financial mechanism to support biodiversity and development*.

11. Dr. Moustafa Fouda chaired the sessions on innovative financial mechanisms. Mr. Francis Vorhies made a presentation on innovative financial mechanisms including payment for ecosystem services, biodiversity offsetting mechanisms, market for green products, environmental fiscal reforms, innovative financing for development, climate change funding and global consideration of innovative financial mechanisms, including green development initiative. Mr. Simone Quatrini introduced the role and activities of the UNCCD Global Mechanism in the Arab region. General discussions were held on the needs and potentials of innovative financial mechanisms in the region.

12. At its third session, the workshop proposed the following ideas:

- Development of basic knowledge or outreach materials concerning innovative financial mechanisms and translation to Arabic, and dissemination to parties;
- Organization of a regional workshop regarding innovative financial mechanisms to be hosted by a member country, with focus on one or more innovative financial mechanisms, for instance, biodiversity offsets;
- Conduct of economic valuation of biodiversity in Arab region and key habitats, such as the proposal on economic valuation of wetlands for the Arab region



- Organization of national workshops on innovative financial mechanisms;
- Exploration of ecotourism used as an instrument for innovative financial mechanisms;
- Enhancing Arab cooperation with Danone on carbon issues;
- Calling on the Secretariat of the Convention, the League of Arab States and United Nations Environment Programme Regional Office of West Asia to encourage hosting a number of regional workshop on innovative financial mechanisms, hosted in one of the Arab states that has successfully adopted one of this schemes;
- Calling on the Secretariat of the Convention, the League of Arab States and United Nations Environment Programme Regional Office of West Asia to encourage holding international workshop in one of the developed countries that has wide expertise in the domain of innovative financial mechanisms, similar to the one held in Bonn- Germany, January 2010;
- United Nations Environment Programme Regional Office of West Asia is requested to ensure that the basic knowledge material or outreach innovative financial mechanisms principles be translated to Arabic, and made available to parties.

## **ITEM 5           ROLE OF EXTERNAL FINANCING FOR BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES**

13.     The workshop had before it the following documents :

UNEP/CBD/RW-BF/1/6, *Resource Mobilization at the National Level*

UNEP/CBD/RW-BF/1/7, *Support of the Global Environment Facility to the Arab Region*

UNEP/CBD/RW-BF/1/8, *Official Development Assistance to Biodiversity in the Arab Region*

UNEP/CBD/RW-BF/1/9, *Arab Environment Facility*

UNEP/CBD/RW-BF/1/9/Add.1, *Arab Regional Financial Organizations Pertaining to Biodiversity,*

UNEP/CBD/RW-BF/1/10, *United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN REDD)*

UNEP/CBD/RW-BF/1/11, *Lifeweb*

14.     At the sixth session, the representatives of the UNCCD Global Mechanism, Mr. Simone Qautrini and Ms. Siv Øystese made a presentation on integrated financing strategies. The Global Mechanism (GM) is the financial mechanism established under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) to support developing countries affected by land degradation and drought in their efforts to mobilize financial resources for sustainable land management (SLM). To discharge this mandate, the GM has developed an innovative approach to resource mobilization, which is anchored in the concept of integrated financing strategies (IFS). The integrated financing strategy aims to create an enabling environment for mobilizing financial resources to fund relevant projects and programmes. The strategy recommends measures to overcome existing barriers to resource identification, allocation and disbursement, and identifies priority actions to increase the effectiveness of existing financial sources and seize new and innovative financing opportunities. The IFS approach is equally valid for the development of country-specific resource mobilization strategies for the CBD, given the similarities between the issues of biodiversity and land degradation, but also the vast resource mobilization potential from joint action based on synergies and common objectives, including through the establishment of innovative financial mechanisms.

15.     The GM has designed a specific capacity building programme to assist UNCCD country Parties in the development of integrated financing strategies and enhance their resource mobilization capacities, including through mainstreaming and policy advocacy. Since 2005, this capacity building programme has supported more than 50 developing countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. In 2008-9, 15 sub-regional workshops were organized for approx. 1000 government officials from about 90

developing countries. Furthermore, the GM provides technical support in the implementation of the national resource mobilization strategies for sustainable land management, which takes the form of a dedicated country assistance programme. This is delivered through a multi-disciplinary resource mobilization team led by a programme coordinator. With adequate financing from the GEF, the CBD Secretariat and/or other development partners, both the capacity building programme and GM's country assistance programmes could be expanded to also cover biodiversity-related issues, and deployed in all regions and countries that decide to follow this resource mobilization approach. This would support meeting Aichi target no. 20. More specifically, through the above programmes the GM can contribute to:

- The development of country-specific resource mobilization strategies following the IFS approach in a number of countries in the Arab region;
- The organization and delivery of capacity building workshops on resource mobilization at regional and/or country level on specific issues such as external sources of financing, Innovative Financing Mechanisms (IFMs) in collaboration with the CBD Secretariat and other partners in the Arab region, such as the League of Arab States;
- The training of environmental economists, practitioners and other professionals in the economic valuation, incentives, mechanisms and other tools that are instrumental to the mobilization of resources;
- Broadening the network of partners involved in the resource mobilization process, including sector partners (agriculture, land, forestry, water, etc), international financial partners, and the private sector;
- The development of communication material for awareness raising on the issue of resource mobilization, and for the transfer of know-how and experience to regional and national stakeholders (e.g. workshop material, case studies, etc.). This could be undertaken in collaboration with the CBD secretariat and UNEP/ROWA.

16. Mr. Ali Abdul-Zahra Al-Lami made a presentation on the preparation of Iraq's Master Plan on Biodiversity. He stated that Iraq Government planned to allocate US\$25 million for the implementation of the Master Plan for Biodiversity.

17. Mr. Hany El-Shaer made a presentation on Arab Environment Facility. He stated that the basic structure and operational modalities of the Facility have been established, but the pledged funding has not been deposited. Currently available funds can only cover the operational costs of the Facility Secretariat.

18. Mr. Chucuri Sayegh made a presentation on biodiversity and financial mainstreaming. Poor consideration of biodiversity in planning can lead to: economic development model based mostly on responsive approaches to environmental issues; missed opportunities side-lining proactive initiatives which can generate new income; poor understanding of vulnerable groups and their dependence on biodiversity and associated ecosystem services; risk of sudden collapse of ecosystems. Environmental ministries contribute to this situation, because they are mostly regarded as green police, have no political weight, have limited resources, do not take active part in budget planning, rely on donor project funding, lack data for argumentation, have scientific language barriers and "conflicting" objectives as they focus on long term rather than short term benefits, and many environmental initiatives fall in the hands of other ministries (e.g. forestry, agriculture, water...). Finance and planning ministries are also part of the problem, because of poor environmental governance, weak environmental vision, difficulty in assessing impact of environmental initiatives, environment Ministry regarded as a cost, lack of awareness and capacities, and that they have to respond to a number of environmental strategies (e.g., Multilateral Environmental Agreements) poorly integrated. He suggested transforming the way other Ministries understand look at the Ministry of Environment/Agency, and demonstrate that environmental ministries can participate actively in the development process by generating short term income or savings. He called for more assessment and better understanding of economic values of biodiversity and ecosystem services and development of innovative financial mechanisms as a tool to mainstream biodiversity and ecosystem services within the different levels of the planning and budgeting process.

19. Mr. Ahmed Thaher, Palestine Authority, requested the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to ensure the allocation of funding for updating the Palestinian national biodiversity strategy and its action plan. In addition, Palestine Authority requested the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to allocate financial resources for Palestine to prepare the fifth national biodiversity report.

#### **ITEM 6 FURTHER REGIONAL ACTIONS ON BIODIVERSITY AND FINANCE FOR THE PERIOD 2011-2020**

20. At the seventh session, participants had before them a draft statement on 2020 targets and innovative financing, which read:

“The regional workshop on biodiversity and finance, held in Cairo from 29-30 November 2010, discussed the regional responses to the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan of the Convention adopted by the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and agreed to the following statement:

1. Globally speaking, economic values of biodiversity and ecosystem services, across all biomes, have been estimated to be over US\$34 trillion annually. There is a need to value Arabic ecosystem goods and services to be fully incorporated into development sectors and national financing. National and regional workshops on the results of the UNEP/TEEB initiative, which should be available in Arabic, should be organized for decision-makers.
2. There is a widespread lack of understanding and awareness to the importance of biodiversity and ecosystems services in the region. There is a need to launch communication, education and public awareness campaigns by using different media outlets targeting all sectors of society (e.g. communities, schools), for instance, by creating cartoons videos or electronic games.
3. The key to mobilizing resources is to integrate consideration of biodiversity and ecosystem services in national development planning and budgetary processes, in particular in agriculture, fisheries and forestry, as well as at all levels of society. Environment impact assessments should be widely applied in all national and regional fishery projects
4. Invasive alien species impose major threats to Arab ecosystems, and are not well understood by the region. There is an urgent call for a regional workshop to communicate the global experiences on invasive alien species and major threats caused by invasive species, share experience and identify priorities, define joint action, and define next steps.
5. The potentials of innovative financial mechanisms are recognized in the Arab region. National and regional workshops should be further organized to promote better understanding of the concepts of innovative financial mechanisms and their implementation.
6. The establishment of the Arab Union for Protected Areas will contribute to the achievement of the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan of the Convention. The Arab Union for Protected Areas should collaborate with LifeWeb, UNESCO Arab-MAB and other regional and international donors and initiatives.
7. Marine and coastal ecosystems are severely under-represented in the Arab network of protected areas. There is an urgent need to substantially increase the number and coverage of protected areas for marine and coastal ecosystems;
8. The Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit sharing provides new momentum for implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity. All Arab countries are called to ratify the Nagoya Protocol as soon as possible, but no later than 2012, raise awareness at all levels of society, and develop national policy framework on access and benefit sharing accordingly.
9. All countries are called to update their national biodiversity strategies and action plans, including country-specific resource mobilization strategies, as the first step to respond to the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan of the Convention in two years. There is a need to develop an Arab regional biodiversity strategy and action plan, including organization of a regional workshop for national focal points on development of national biodiversity strategies and action plans.”

21. Participants decided to highlight the term “innovative financial mechanisms” in the title of the document, and re-order the sequence of paragraphs in light of the Nagoya outcomes. Additional points were also suggested, with respect to regional database, funding needs of Palestine, synergies among environmental issues, innovative financial mechanisms, Arab Environment Facility, resource mobilization strategies, natural capitals and national budgetary consideration, endangered species, capacity building for valuation, and media campaigns and awareness raising. It was decided that the revised statement would be circulated for comments for two days, and then submitted to attention of environmental ministers at the upcoming meeting of CAMRI.

#### **ITEM 7          OTHER MATTERS**

22. No other matters were raised at the workshop.

#### **ITEM 8          ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

23. It was agreed that a draft report of the workshop will be circulated for comments for one week following the workshop.

#### **ITEM 9          CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

24. The workshop was closed at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, 30 November 2010.

## *Annex I*

### **ARAB REGIONAL STATEMENT FOR ACTION ON THE 2020 BIODIVERSITY TARGETS, FUNDING STRATEGIES AND INNOVATIVE FINANCIAL MECHANISMS**

The Arab regional workshop on biodiversity and finance, held in Cairo from 29-30 November 2010, discussed the regional responses to the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan of the Convention adopted by the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in October 2010, including innovative financial mechanisms, and agreed to the following statement for action:

1. The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization provides new momentum for implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity. All Arab countries are called to sign and ratify the Nagoya Protocol as soon as possible, but no later than 2012, raise awareness at all levels of society, and develop national policy framework on access and benefit sharing accordingly, including through a regional workshop on the Nagoya Protocol as well as subsequent national workshops.
2. All Arab countries are called to update, and adopt as policy instruments, by making full use of existing resources, their national biodiversity strategies and action plans as the first step to respond to the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan of the Convention in two years. There is a need to develop an Arab regional biodiversity strategy and action plan, including organization of a regional workshop for national focal points on development and revision of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, to be used by Governments as overarching frameworks for all biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements. In this regard, all countries are urged to ratify all biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements.
3. All Arab countries are urged to appoint resource mobilization focal points by 2012 and develop country-specific resource mobilization strategies to support the achievement of the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan of the Convention, with financial support of the Global Environment Facility as well as technical assistance from the Convention Secretariat and the Global Mechanism on the basis of its experience with integrated financing strategies for the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.. An Arab strategy for resource mobilization needs to be developed as a tool to coordinate regional and sub-regional resource mobilization efforts and as a reference guide to support and complement national action to mobilize resources.
4. The potentials of innovative financial mechanisms are recognized in the Arab region. National and regional workshops should be organized to promote better understanding of the concepts of innovative financial mechanisms and explore possible modalities of application and identify actions on payment for ecosystem services, biodiversity offset mechanisms, markets for green products, green development initiative, environmental fiscal reforms, carbon financing schemes, new and innovative sources of international development finance.
5. Arab Environment Facility represents a significant step in demonstrating regional solidarity and determination to address common environmental concerns, and provides an innovative example of mobilizing financial cooperation for environmental objectives at the regional level. Arab Environment Facility can play an important role in delivering resources to support the implementation of the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan of the Convention in the Arab region, and all regional and international donors are called to give priority consideration to enable the early and full operationalization of the Arab Environment Facility.
6. The values of biodiversity and ecosystem services as natural capitals have not been reflected appropriately in current accounting methods for economic growth and human well-being, and irreversible loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services has not been treated as a permanent loss of natural capitals. The lack of appropriate accounting and valuation does not prevent further increasing national budgetary allocations to economically and ecologically justified biodiversity programmes. The key to mobilizing resources is to integrate consideration of biodiversity and

ecosystem services in national development planning and budgetary processes, in particular in agriculture, fisheries and forestry, as well as at all levels of society.

7. Globally speaking, economic values of biodiversity and ecosystem services, across all biomes, have been estimated to be over US\$34 trillion annually. There is a need to value Arabic biodiversity and ecosystem services to be fully incorporated into development sectors and national financing. United Nations Environment Programme is thus invited to undertake an Arab TEEB initiative, drawing on the results of the UNEP/TEEB initiative, and organize national and regional workshops for decision-makers in this region.
8. Mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services needs to consider vocabulary and approaches of sectoral ministries, with a focus on capacity building and awareness for integration, and enhance synergies on identified priority ecosystem services with all multilateral environmental agreements, including the Ramsar Convention, Convention on Migratory Species and Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. Strategic environmental assessments and environment impact assessments are effective tools, and should be widely applied in all national and regional projects that may have adverse impacts on biodiversity. All Arab countries are invited to mitigate the negative impacts of unsustainable tourism on biodiversity in the natural areas, and to promote ecotourism in these areas.
9. The Arab region is witnessing, and living with, the severe impact of climate change and land degradation, combined with loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services, such as massive migration due to drought and sand storms. Many countries are particularly vulnerable to the consequences of environmental degradation. Arab ministers are called to launch a major regional programme with the Rio conventions to mitigate concurrent challenges of biodiversity loss, climate change and land degradation, and enhance adaptability of the region to environmental changes, for instance, to expeditiously implement the approved green belt project and Arab Gene Bank Initiative, and undertake ecosystem restoration in the Arab region. All Arab countries are invited to promote clean and alternative energies projects, especially in the rural areas close to the natural areas, where there is great richness of biodiversity components.
10. Marine and coastal ecosystems are of particular importance to the Arab region, but are severely under-represented in the Arab network of protected areas. There is an urgent need to substantially increase the number and coverage of protected areas for marine and coastal ecosystems. The ecosystem approach needs to be applied widely and comprehensively in development design and planning of marine and coastal areas, in order to prevent, avoid and minimize human-introduced damage to marine and coastal ecosystems in the region.
11. The Arab Union for Protected Areas launched by the League of Arab States represents a welcome trend in expanding the Arab protected areas system as a significant contribution to achieving the 2020 global target on protected areas. Further expansion of the Arab protected areas system can emphasize on forest, wetlands, coral reef and drylands, give due consideration to local mechanisms, regulations and conservation effectiveness, and pay attention to transboundary protected areas. Arab countries are encouraged to establish centers responsible for land/water use planning. There are opportunities to collaborate with other partners such as LifeWeb, UNESCO Arab-MAB and other regional and international initiatives, noting the recent pledge of US\$4 billion by Norway and other donors to save forests.
12. Invasive alien species are among the major threats to Arab biodiversity, and are not well managed by the region. There is an urgent call for regional workshops to communicate the global experiences on invasive alien species and major threats caused by invasive alien species, identify priorities, and define joint action, particularly on identified most dangerous invasive alien species.
13. Arab countries are encouraged to conduct national assessment for Red List of endangered species, and develop national regulations and action plans and guidelines for endangered species, including ex situ conservation such as gene banks, reintroduction of endangered species to their original habitats, and combating illegal trade in wildlife, particularly those being regulated by the

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. There is a need to implement a regional project for monitoring and protecting threatened species, that are vulnerable to extinction, in their original habitats.

14. There is limited knowledge of and inadequate awareness to the importance and values of biodiversity and ecosystem services at all levels in the region. The development of a regional awareness raising strategy in cooperation with major Arab regional medias, educational organizations such as the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALESCO) and the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the League of Arab States and United Nations Environment Programme should include communication, education and public awareness campaigns by using different media outlets targeting all stakeholders, for instance, by creating cartoons, videos or electronic games. Participatory management of biodiversity and ecosystem services is an effective approach to promoting public awareness and education. Periodic regional assessments or surveys of public opinions on biodiversity and ecosystem services can be developed, in collaboration with regional and international non-governmental organizations, to measure progress made in awareness raising and support decision making. A regional training workshop needs to be organized with the League of Arab States to transfer knowledge from the North to the Arab region, on ecological footprints and sustainability, and support development of national projects on ecological footprints and sustainability as a way to communicate with decision makers.
15. All Arab countries are advised to establish or update a clearing house mechanism to promote exchange of knowledge and information, facilitate research and provide for biodiversity database, building on experiences of the Arab countries supported by Belgium and other donors. An Arab clearing house mechanism will be established to provide an Arab hub in Egypt for all national databases, including a regional workshop on clearing house mechanisms and transfer of technologies among Arab countries, with support of the League of Arab States and United Nations Environment Programme.
16. Palestine biodiversity and ecosystem services are an integral part of the Arab biodiversity and ecosystem services, and Palestine situation should receive appropriate attention and flexible consideration in international and regional development and financial cooperation. Financial resources available under the Convention on Biological Diversity are thus requested to enable Palestine Authority to prepare national reports and undertake the biodiversity planning exercise.

*Annex II*

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