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WORKING GROUP ON ARTICLE 8(j) AND
RELATED PROVISIONS OF THE CONVENTION
ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
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PROGRESS REPORT ON THE SCBD-UNESCO JOINT PROGRAMME ON THE LINKS BETWEEN BIOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY

Note by the Executive Secretary

INTRODUCTION

1. Approaching biological and cultural diversity separately results in diverging and even conflicting agendas. Such dual approaches have led to varying interests within the same geographic location, different competencies and designated domains of authority, different instruments, policies, tools, and legal frameworks, different understandings of diversity among responsible authorities, and the different international movements dealing with biological and cultural diversity through individual agendas.

2. Reversing the current trends of dramatic loss of biodiversity and the weakening of cultural diversity clearly requires innovative approaches to bridge the artificial divide between biological and cultural diversity in management and policy-making processes.

I. BACKGROUND

3. Recognizing the importance of bridging this divide, a conference co-organized by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in June 2010 examined the links between biological and cultural diversity and pressed for biological and cultural diversity to be genuinely integrated into development cooperation strategies and programmes. The Conference resulted in the 2010 Declaration on Bio-Cultural Diversity and the draft Joint Programme of Work between UNESCO and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD).[1] This SCBD-UNESCO Joint Programme on the Links between Biological and Cultural Diversity was acknowledged by the World Heritage Committee at its meeting in Brasilia in July 2010 and welcomed by the tenth meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity[2] held in Nagoya, Japan in October 2010.

4. The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, in decision X/20, paragraph 16, recognized the Joint Programme as a useful co-ordination mechanism to advance the implementation of the Convention and to deepen global awareness of the interlinkages between cultural and biological diversity.

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* CBD/WG8J/10/1.

[1] Refer to https://www.cbd.int/lbcd/resources

[2] Decision X/20, paragraph 16, *Notes* the 2010 Declaration on Bio-cultural Diversity and *welcomes* the joint programme of work between UNESCO and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, as useful coordination mechanism to advance the implementation of the Convention and deepen global awareness of the inter-linkages between cultural and biological diversity and *invites* Parties and other relevant stakeholders to contribute to and support the implementation of this joint programme

5. Acknowledging that biological and cultural diversity are not only closely linked but also mutually reinforcing, the key objective of the programme is to strengthen the linkages between biological and cultural diversity initiatives, and to enhance synergies between interlinked provisions of conventions and programmes dealing with biological and cultural diversity at relevant scales.

6. In the context of the Joint Programme, the different types of linkages between biological and cultural diversity have been grouped under broader categories including languages and linguistic diversity, material objects, knowledge and technology, modes of subsistence, social and economic relations relating to natural resources and value and belief systems. Yet, the current decision and policy-making processes rarely take into account these fundamental links between biological and cultural diversity and continue to compartmentalize them and treat them as separate entities.

II. PROGRESS

7. The present report provides an overview of the Joint Programme of Work with a focus on progress made, and current plans leading up to 2020, in order to assist the Parties in determining post-2020 arrangements for this work under the Convention on Biological Diversity, taking into account the post-2020 arrangements for the programme of work on Article 8(j) and related provisions.

Progress through partnerships

8. Since 2010, the Joint Programme has made significant progress in elucidating the interlinkages between biological and cultural diversity thanks to the contribution from the Governments of Japan and Italy, and the contributions from a broad range of partners from the academia, community, international, non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations.

9. Particular focus has been given to bringing together a number of relevant initiatives relating to the links between biological and cultural diversity, including in the context of the Diversity Liaison Group[3] established to advise and support the work of the Joint Programme and the development of a dedicated web portal.[4]

First European Conference for the Implementation of the UNESCO-CBD Joint Programme on Biological and Cultural Diversity

10. Furthermore, considerable efforts have been devoted to exploring the meaning and the values of the links between biological and cultural diversity at regional level. The Government of Italy and the University of Florence, in partnership with SCBD and UNESCO initiated *the first European Conference for the Implementation of the UNESCO-CBD Joint Programme on Biological and Cultural Diversity,* in Florence, Italy, from 8 to 11 April 2014 to explore the linkages between biological and cultural diversity and cultural landscapes in the European context.[5]

4th World Congress of Biosphere Reserves

11. Under the umbrella of the Joint Programme, the issue of the links between biological and cultural diversity has been the focus of a dedicated side event at the 4th World Congress of Biosphere Reserves resulting in "The Lima Challenge for Action on Biocultural Diversity in Biosphere Reserves". The Congress was held from 14 to 17 March 2016 in Lima, Peru. It was organized by the Secretariat of UNESCO's Man and Biosphere Programme (MAB), the Ministry of Environment of Peru (MINAM) and its National Service of Natural Areas Protected by the State (SERNANP), and the MAB National Committee of Peru. The Congress, brought together more than 1,000 representatives of Governments, biosphere reserves, local communities, United Nations agencies, NGOs, academic institutions, and organizations and institutions from 115 countries working with the MAB Programme. As learning sites for sustainable development, Biosphere Reserves are indeed special places for people and nature where the linkages between biological and cultural diversity take a central stage in management and policy strategies.

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[3] Refer to: https://www.cbd.int/lbcd/partners

[4] Refer to: https://www.cbd.int/lbcd/

[5] Refer to: https://www.cbd.int/portals/culturaldiversity/docs/florence-report-2014-en.pdf

The Nature-Culture Journey at 2016 IUCN World Conservation Congress

12. The Joint Programme provided significant support to the development of the Nature-Culture Journey, which was jointly coordinated by IUCN and ICOMOS from 1 to 5 September 2016 as a part of the 2016 IUCN World Conservation Congress in Hawaii. Held for the first time in the history of the Congress, the Journey featured 27 sessions dedicated to the links between biological and cultural diversity and brought together a range of participants, including indigenous peoples and local communities, and natural and cultural heritage experts, to explore synergies and exchange experiences and ideas. Drawing on key messages and lessons learned, the Journey resulted in the *Mālama Honua – to Care for our Island Earth*, a Statement of Commitments from participants on strengthening partnerships and advancing conservation practice through better integration of Nature and Culture.

13. Furthermore, to promote incorporation of interlinked diversity in conservation training and learning, the Joint Programme partnered with the Center for Biodiversity and Conservation (American Museum of Natural History) during the Congress to hold an interactive learning session with educators and practitioners on developing holistic approaches that integrate the links between biological and cultural diversity in conservation and protected areas.

1st Asian Conference on Biocultural Diversity

14. Building on the success of the Florence regional conference, the 1st Asian Conference on Biocultural Diversity[6] was organized by the Governments of the Ishikawa Prefecture and Nanao City (Japan), in collaboration with UNESCO,[7] the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the United Nations University. This significant regional event was also able to benefit from discussions on the links between biological and cultural diversity held previously at the Regional Training Workshop for the Asian Region on Community Protocols, Indicators on Traditional Knowledge and Customary Sustainable Use of Biodiversity under the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Bhutan from 17 to 21 October 2016.[8]

15. The 1st Asian Conference on Biocultural Diversity adopted a Declaration and Annex,[9] which contains practical actions to recognize *Biocultural Diversity* and strengthens the links between biological and cultural diversity. For ease of reference, the Declaration and Annex are annexed to the present document. The Annex contains advice on practical actions at different levels that can be taken across the following thematic areas: Education, Capacity Development and Knowledge Sharing, Traditional Knowledge, Belief Systems and Cultural Values, Economy and Local Livelihoods, Governance and Institutions, Partnerships and Networks Land Use/Management.

16. To assist in the implementation of the Ishikawa Declaration and Annex, the United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS) and Ishikawa Prefectural Government have committed to enhancing capacity development for local government officials and practitioners in Asia, through exchanges and other mechanisms, in order to mainstream biocultural diversity considerations into local development policies. The initiative includes effective implementation of international designation systems, such as Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) and the Man and Biosphere programme (MAB) at local level, as well as the co-creation of a mutual learning platform on biocultural diversity for the Asian region. The Operating Unit Ishikawa/Kanazawa (OUIK-UNU-IAS)[10] will be the focal point of the initiative in partnership, with the Joint Programme.

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[6] Refer to http://bcd2016.jp/english/index.html

[7] http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/about-us/single-view/news/the_first_asian_conference_on_biocultural_diversity_highligh/

[8] Refer to: https://www.cbd.int/tk/cb/trainingprogramme/asia.shtml

[9] For ease of reference, the Declaration and annex are annexed to this progress report.

[10] Refer to: http://ouik.unu.edu/en/

16th Session if the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

17. Together with partners, the Joint Programme organized the side event on Mainstreaming Traditional Knowledge and Biological and Cultural Diversity in the Implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in the margins of the 16th Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, which took place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 25 April to 5 May 2017. Featuring a panel of experts, the event explored issues relating to the nexus between biological and cultural diversity and its role in the achievement of the CBD objectives, the SDGs and the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, and presented the outcomes from the "Múuch'tambal" Summit held during the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Partnership with the American Museum of Natural History

18. The Center for Biodiversity and Conservation (CBC) at the American Natural History Museum (ANHM) has approached UNESCO (New York Office) and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, to join forces with the Joint Programme of Work on the Links between Biological and Cultural Diversity, to organize the 1st International Action Dialogue on Biological and Cultural Diversity. Envisioned as an innovative series of distributed meetings, the Dialogue will convene a range of diverse stakeholders across multiple regions to exchange knowledge and contribute to understandings of links between biological and cultural dimensions of diversity in resource management and decision-making processes, and think about future action and research directions.

19. The AMNH is also exploring, with partners, the possibilities of various events to highlight the links between biological and cultural diversity in the Norther American context, in order to contribute to the International Action Dialogue and to complement other regional initiatives.

20. In order to develop these proposals, the AMNH together with UNESCO and the SCBD facilitated a planning event on 30 April 2017, in New York, bringing together experts, including indigenous peoples who worked on biological and cultural diversity issues. The planning meeting worked in two steering committee groups and reported back at the end of the day to a plenary. The first committee explored opportunities for North American regional dialogues in 2018-2019 and the second committee commenced preparations for an International Action Dialogue.

21. These dialogues are part of series of events organized within the framework of the UNESCO-SCBD Joint Programme to explore the meaning and values of the links between biological and cultural diversity at regional levels and implications for solutions for global problems facing humanity (such as Climate Change, desertification, unsustainable use of limited natural resources).

22. The International Action Dialogue together with various regional initiatives will feed into a major parallel event on biological and cultural diversity, "The Nature and Culture Summit", to be held at the fourteenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in November 2018.

23. From a CBD perspective, the goal of these activities, culminating with "The Nature and Culture Summit" at the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, is to encourage the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to embed considerations of the links between biological and cultural diversity and the concept of "biocultural diversity" into the post-2020 arrangements for the Convention, taking into account the broader global processes, including the sustainable development goals and the Paris Agreement on climate change agreement.

Capacity development and peer exchanges for biological and cultural diversity

24. Lessons learned from these regional events are being integrated into relevant capacity-development opportunities for national focal points of the Convention and indigenous peoples and local communities, and at relevant UNESCO workshops and events, and will also contribute to the further development of the web pages and tools, such as training materials for policymakers.

25. In addition, numerous outreach activities have been organized to increase awareness and understanding of the links between biological and cultural diversity and to learn about their

contribution to the CBD's Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011-2020), the Aichi Targets and the Sustainable Development Goals more broadly. These include the biennial training programme for Article 8(j) and related provisions,[11] through regional workshops for CBD national focal points (for traditional knowledge and customary sustainable use) and indigenous peoples, local and traditional communities, held in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Pacific in 2014-2016.[12]

Biological and cultural diversity at the Conference of the Parties

26. The Joint Programme has also organized significant international events including a two-day programme of activities dedicated to the links between biological and cultural diversity during the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties held in the Republic of Korea in 2014. The programme of activities was an interactive participatory experience including multi-stakeholder international and local perspectives. The programme was designed to bridge the gap between nature and culture in the context of the issues considered by the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting.

27. Building on the success of the above-mentioned weekend programme of activities dedicated to the links between biological and cultural diversity, UNESCO and SCBD facilitated, in partnership with the Government of Mexico,[13] and significant partners,[14] a major parallel event during the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, referred to as the *"Muuchtanbal Summit on Indigenous Experience: Traditional Knowledge, Biological and Cultural Diversity"*, which was held in Cancun, Mexico, from 9 to 11 December 2016. The four-day programme drew attention to and considered the possible contributions of biological and cultural diversity, community conservation, customary sustainable use and the power of local action to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and the Aichi Targets, as well as provided advice on the four themes of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties - agriculture, fisheries, forests and tourism - and more broadly, to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.[14]

28. Regarding the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Secretariat has entered into discussions with the Government of Egypt to host, on the margins of the Conference of the Parties, the Nature and Culture Summit - *Biological and Cultural Diversity for Biodiversity and Human Resilience - Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement*, which will be held over three days during the meeting. The goal of the Nature and Culture Summit is to present and share experiences from indigenous peoples and local communities, Parties and international organizations on lessons learned from the *Links between Biological and Cultural Diversity for Biodiversity and Human Resilience, and for Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement*, in order to influence the development of the post 2020 arrangements for the Convention on Biological Diversity. In particular, the Summit will highlight the African Local Experience in an international solutions oriented dialogue placing indigenous peoples and local communities and Biocultural Diversity as central to the success of the Convention and post-2020 arrangements, the Sustainable Development Goals and climate change action.

Future possibilities

29. As well as the aforementioned plans for the Nature and Culture Summit at the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Secretariat of the Convention, together with UNESCO, are in discussions with the World Tourism Organization, to explore the possibility of jointly hosting a global conference on *Nature, Culture and Tourism* in 2019, in order to highlight the importance of the

[11] On traditional knowledge and customary sustainable use of biological diversity.

[12] Refer to the Progress Report on Capacity-Building and Development and Participation of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in the Work of the Convention, available at: https://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=SBI-01

[13] Through the Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (SEMARNAT), Comisión Nacional para el Desarrollo de los Pueblos Indígenas (CDI).

[14] Including: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Red Indígena de Turismo de Méxicoo (RITA), the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB), SwedBio at Stockholm Resilience Centre, Conservation International; Indigenous Women's Biodiversity Network; UNDP's Equator Initiative, and the GEF Small Grants Programme.

links between biological and cultural diversity or biocultural diversity in the context of tourism and its significance for the 2030 Development Agenda.

Engaging faith-based communities

30. Building on the success of previous engagements with Hindu faith-based communities at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in India, a highlight of the programme at the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Korea included engaging with faith–based Communities on biological and cultural diversity, in this case, the Buddhist faith at Woljeong Temple. In preparation for the meeting, the Buddhist community produced the 2014 Pyeongchang Buddhist Declaration for Life-Peace, a Declaration on Buddhism and Biodiversity.[15] The programme was designed to bridge the gap between nature, culture and spirituality in the context of the issues considered by the Conference of the Parties.

31. In the light of the success of the faith-based events held on the margins of the eleventh and twelfth meetings of the Conference of the Parties, the Executive Secretary, Mr. Braulio Dias, reached out to the Holy See in 2016, to explore how the Holy Roman Catholic Church and the Secretariat might find synergies in common messaging regarding "Nature" and sustainable lifestyles. In Rome in September 2016, the Executive Secretary delivered a keynote address to the Pontifical Council on Peace and Justice and used the opportunity to meet with the Foreign Affairs Minister for the Holy See (Cardinal Turkson) and the Holy Father, Pope Francis, where he invited the Holy See to participate in the thirteen meeting of the Conference of the Parties. As a result of these initiatives by the Executive Secretary, the Holy See participated in a meeting of the Convention for the first time and presented on the panel of the interactive dialogue on "Living in harmony with Nature" held during the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Representing the Holy See, the Monsignor Ramón Macías said that the concept of 'living in harmony with nature', was linked to the concept of 'integral ecology' outlined in the recent Encyclical Letter *Laudato Si'* of the Holy Father, Pope Francis on "Care For Our Common Home".

32. In order to keep the momentum on this initiative, the incoming Executive Secretary, Ms. Cristina Pasca-Palmer, also arranged a meeting with Cardinal Peter Turkson, the Foreign Affairs Minister for the Holy See, at the Vatican, on 6 July 2017, where she reiterate the invitation made by the previous Executive Secretary of the CBD, for the Holy See to become a Party to the Convention. The Executive Secretary also explored the possibility of cooperation on the post-2020 process to develop concrete actions and initiatives. Overall, these engagements have led to positive responses from the Holy Roman Catholic Church on taking action for Biodiversity, including at the parish and diocese levels.

III. CONCLUSION

33. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity together with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization continues discussions with Governments, indigenous peoples, local and traditional community organizations, and members of the Diversity Liaison Group, to explore possibilities for further regional and subregional initiatives in the Pacific and the Americas in the 2017-2018 biennium. The Joint Programme is also developing training materials in the form of a Biocultural Diversity Toolkit for policymakers and policy briefs focusing on the added value of recognizing and strengthening the links between biological and cultural diversity across sectors such as education, health and food production. All the training materials will be launched in 2018.

34. The plethora of initiatives and events stimulated by the Joint Programme demonstrates widespread and increasing interest in the intersectionality of biological and cultural diversity. The outcomes of the various initiatives are demonstrative of the need to link the agendas of biodiversity and cultural diversity, as a recipe for success. The results of the Joint Programme will also help inform Parties and Governments about the nature of the links between biological and cultural

[15] Refer to: https://www.cbd.int/portals/culturaldiversity/docs/2014-Pyeongchang-Buddhist-Declaration-en.pdf

diversity and how those links can best be integrated in the development of the post-2020 agenda for the Convention on Biological Diversity

Annex I

2016 ISHIKAWA DECLARATION ON BIOCULTURAL DIVERSITY

We, the participants of the 1st Asian Conference on Biocultural Diversity, held in Nanao City, Ishikawa Prefecture, Japan, an area with rich biocultural diversity in its *satoyama-satoumi* landscapes and seascapes, from 27 to 29 October 2016:

1. *Welcome* and *fully endorse* the conclusions and recommendations of the 1st Asian Conference on Biocultural Diversity as presented in the Annex of this Declaration in view of enhancing urban and rural communities towards maximizing the vitality of local creativity based on the use of local biocultural resources for present and future generations;

2. *Recognize* the contribution of biological and cultural diversity to our health and well-being as well as to building resilient and sustainable societies;

3. *Recognize* further the critical role that biocultural diversity plays in achieving sustainable development and in advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals;

4. *Welcome* the outcomes of the youth session of the 1st Asian Conference on Biocultural Diversity, which was held on 28 October 2016 with the objective of providing an opportunity for youth to acquire knowledge, a sense of value and a positive outlook;

5. *Acknowledge* the importance of the UNESCO-SCBD Joint Programme on the Links between Biological and Cultural Diversity in advancing our understanding of Biocultural Diversity as the complex interplay between biodiversity and cultural diversity, and its vital impacts on economic, political, environmental, social and cultural sustainability;

6. *Commit* to further exploring and implementing integrated approaches to conservation, sustainable use and the equitable sharing of benefits arising from Nature, through strengthening the resilience of local biocultural diversity, including by enhancing and supporting local and traditional knowledge systems, technologies and cultural practices;

7. *Commit* to promoting diverse, local, sustainable and culturally appropriate development through dialogue, mutual exchange and learning, and especially through the local implementation of international designation systems such as FAO GIAHS, UNESCO Biosphere Reserves and Geoparks, UNESCO World Heritage sites and others;

8. *Recognize* the importance of enhancing mechanisms for learning opportunities, that build the capacity of human resources, to incorporate biocultural approaches in sustainable development strategies and policies in the Asian region;

9. *Invite i*nternational and regional organizations, national and local authorities to establish or further develop and support platforms for dialogue, where citizens, indigenous and local communities, municipalities, business entities and researchers, can build networks and foster exchanges and partnership, towards better policy development regarding biocultural diversity and urban-rural linkages; and

10. *Welcome*, in this regard the partnership between Ishikawa Prefecture and the United Nations University to create a local platform model that can contribute to global agendas regarding practical experiences with local implementation;

11. *Commit* to disseminate locally, nationally and globally the outcomes of the 1st Asian Conference on Biocultural Diversity, including at the Thirteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP 13);

12. *Encourage* further elaboration and dissemination of the cases, policies and concepts presented at the 1st Asian Conference on Biocultural Diversity, including Ishikawa Prefecture's efforts towards conservation and utilization of *satoyama-satoumi* landscapes and seascapes, through mutual learning platforms such as the International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative and the UNESCO-SCBD Joint Programme on the Links between Biological and Cultural Diversity;

13. *Invite* the United Nations Member States, in partnership with the United Nations University, Secretariats of the CBD and UNESCO, to consider and support these and similar initiatives in other regions.

Annex to Declaration

The First Asian Conference on Biocultural Diversity recommends the following actions, at relevant levels (international, regional, national and/or local levels) to strengthen the links between biological and cultural diversity for a sustainable future living in harmony with Nature

Education, Capacity Development and Knowledge Sharing

- Educate and develop capacity at all levels for sustainable and equitable use of biological and cultural resources;

- Promote participatory and experiential learning, across generations, youth to youth and peer to peer, to promote the intergenerational transfer of traditional knowledge[16];
- Preserve, restore and encourage the use of local and traditional languages and "mother tongue", especially in early childhood education;

- Integrate where appropriate, diverse knowledge systems with the prior, informed consent of knowledge holders;

- Learn from indigenous peoples, local and traditional communities living sustainable lifestyles, including by e.g. incorporating traditional knowledge and local culture in curricula;

- Support and develop cultural, educational and recreational initiatives for the promotion and conservation of biocultural diversity;

- Promote innovative ways of raising public awareness of the value of traditional knowledge and culture;

- Promote mutual learning opportunities from and between international designation systems such as Global Important Agricultural Heritage Systems, Biosphere Reserves, Geoparks, World Heritage Sites and others to improve implementation.

Traditional Knowledge

- Take action to respect, protect and promote traditional knowledge, including knowledge for traditional medicine, food security, nutrition, health and well-being related to plants, animals, soil fertility and pest control, as well as for spiritual and cultural fulfilment;
- Use traditional and local calendars to reconnect with Nature and the seasons to promote understanding of cultural, cultivation and life-cycles.

Belief Systems and Cultural Values

- Recognize and promote diverse belief systems and cultural and spiritual values[2] and their significance for conservation, environmental stewardship, care for Nature and all living things.

[16] Also referred to as indigenous and local knowledge

Economy and Local Livelihoods

- Support local and traditional production systems that sustainably use biological and cultural resources by creating economic incentives and opportunities through e.g. unique product labelling, payment for ecosystem services, as well as grants and subsidies for small-scale farmers;

- Mainstream biocultural diversity into economic development across all sectors;
- Provide start-up funds and support for local sustainable tourism in its many forms[3] for local economies.

Governance and Institutions

- In support of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) develop Local Participatory Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (LBSAPs) to encourage local empowerment and responsibility;

- Implement international designation systems such as Global Important Agricultural Heritage Systems, Biosphere Reserves, Geoparks, World Heritage Sites and others to integrate conservation and sustainable development with natural values and cultural values;

- Respect customary laws of indigenous peoples, local and traditional communities relevant for conservation and sustainable use and cultural transmission;

- Recognize land/sea/water tenure, rights and collective commons, especially for indigenous peoples and traditional and local communities;

- Improve information systems and the knowledge-base for policy and decision-making by disaggregating data, including through initiatives such as community-based monitoring and information systems;

- Encourage local participatory inventories of biological and cultural resources by indigenous peoples, local and traditional communities, where they wish to do so;

- Address root causes of loss of biocultural diversity, including declining rural populations and unsustainable use of biodiversity;

- Develop and implement participatory, holistic and integrated land- and seascape level approaches for planning and implementation of culturally appropriate development and conservation strategies that do not fragment ecosystems or disrupt ecosystem services.

Partnerships and Networks

- Encourage cross-sector collaborations for mainstreaming biological and cultural diversity, including by engaging the private sector;

- Recognizing the important role of local authorities in coordinating across sectors and levels;

- Promote multi stake- and rights holder partnerships and community-based approaches that empower indigenous peoples, local and traditional communities to protect and promote their biocultural heritage;

- Support networks that contribute to mutual learning, capacity development and collaborations, such as community exchanges, South-South and regional cooperation.

Land Use/Management

- Recognize and support the stewards and custodians of biocultural diversity, including indigenous peoples, local and traditional communities;

- Encourage and fund botanical, cultural and community gardens, especially in urban areas;

- Restore degraded land- and seascapes including abandoned farm lands, and provide practical incentives for people to return to and revitalize rural landscapes, inland waters and seascapes.

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