



Convention on Biological Diversity

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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

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Agenda item 15

DECISION ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AT ITS EIGHTH MEETING

VIII/2. Biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands

The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Recognizing the need for adequate technical, institutional and financial capacities, including support from the Secretariat for the implementation of the programme of work on the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands,

Also recognizing the importance of the conservation of dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity to adaptation to climate change,

Emphasizing the need for continued collaboration with relevant partners, in particular the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD),

Recognizing that a major shortcoming in the current review of the implementation of the programme of work on the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands has been the limited availability of recent information on each of the activities of the programme of work, including the insufficient number of third national reports submitted until the time of this review,

Also recognizing that the lack of precise information should not prevent implementation of targeted activities of the programme of work,

Noting relevant recommendations by the Open-Ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention and other initiatives on the streamlining and harmonization of national reporting and on the reviews of implementation of the Convention and its programmes of work,

Also noting the Paris Declaration on aid effectiveness, *urges* Parties to give priority to dry and sub-humid lands issues in their development plans, in order to facilitate donor support,

Welcoming decision 12 of the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification inviting the executive secretaries of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the Convention on Biological Diversity to strengthen the Joint

Work Programme on the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands including efforts to achieve the relevant 2010 biodiversity targets,

1. *Welcomes* the progress made in the implementation of the programme of work on the biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands, including the joint work programme of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, and the assessment of status and trends of, and threats to, the biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands, as reported in the note by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/4) and the information document on review of implementation of the programme of work (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/INF/7);

2. *Requests* Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to strengthen the synergy between the two conventions in implementing the joint work programme of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification;

3. *Encourages* Parties to consider the programme of work and the joint work programme of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification on the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands as a basis for developing joint activities at the national level to achieve the objectives of the three Rio conventions;

4. *Recognizes* the urgent need for the systematic collection of biodiversity data at all three levels (genetic, species and ecosystem) and across all representative biomes of the programme of work on the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands as a basis for decision-making on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands and to facilitate the assessment of progress towards the 2010 targets and other global goals, with due respect to national legislation on access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing, as well as the protection of traditional knowledge and associated genetic resources and relevant provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

5. *Encourages* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to improve national, regional and global data on dry and sub-humid lands ecosystem goods and services, their uses and related socio-economic values; on species at lower taxonomic orders including soil biodiversity; and on the threats to which dry and sub-humid lands ecosystems are subjected in view of the ongoing assessment of progress towards the 2010 targets and other global goals;

6. *Requests* Parties and other Governments, and invites other relevant organizations to strengthen implementation of relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral plans and programmes, including through the incorporation of relevant activities and strategies into national development plans, in order to conserve dry and sub-humid lands ecosystem goods and services, and to respond to the threats to the biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands in view of the important role it plays in poverty alleviation and in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, taking into account the findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment;

7. *Further encourages* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to develop or implement activities, such as capacity-building and national, subregional, regional and global partnerships, that will facilitate and streamline implementation of the programme of work, and overcome the identified obstacles, and accordingly, *requests* the Executive Secretary to support these initiatives including by compiling and disseminating through the clearing-house mechanism, lessons learned and success stories on such activities in the implementation of programmes and projects on the biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands;

8. *Requests* Parties, and invites other relevant organizations and donors, to provide technical and financial support, as appropriate, to support the implementation of the programme of work on the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands by developing countries, in particular the least

developed and small island developing States, among them, and countries with economies in transition, in accordance with Article 20 of the Convention;

9. *Notes* the importance of activities 7 (f) (*in situ* and *ex situ* conservation), 8 (a) (strengthening local institutional structures), 8 (b) (decentralization of management), 8 (d) (bilateral subregional cooperation), 8 (e) (policies and instruments) and 9 (sustainable livelihoods) of Part B of the programme of work on dry and sub-humid lands contained in decision V/23, which are identified as facilitating conditions for the implementation of many other activities, and, accordingly *requests* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to give particular attention to supporting the scaled-up implementation of these activities;

10. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, recalling in particular decision VII/15, paragraph 13 and decision VIII/30, to develop proposals, for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties and a progress report to the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the incorporation of climate-change adaptation considerations into the programme of work on dry and sub-humid lands, in particular in:

- (a) Activities 1 and 2 (Climate change as a threat to dry and sub-humid land biodiversity);
- (b) Activity 4 (Potential impacts of climate change on biodiversity, and the role of biodiversity in maintaining the resilience of dry and sub-humid lands to climatic variability, including prolonged drought, and other natural events, and on the role of dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity in climate change adaptation measures,);
- (c) Activity 7 (i) (Integration of climate change considerations in training and education programmes); and
- (d) Activity 7 (m) (Consideration of dry and sub-humid lands by the Joint Liaison Group of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the Convention on Biological Diversity);

11. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) In collaboration with relevant organizations and conventions, in particular the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, and Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands (LADA), and taking into account the findings and lessons learned from the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and experiences in transboundary and community based natural resource management, to present proposals for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice during the preparation of the next in-depth review of the implementation of the programme of work on the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands on:

- (i) Existing sources of information and projects, programmes and processes generating such information for a comprehensive global-level assessment of the status and trends of dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity, including baseline information needed for assessing trends of biodiversity within the framework of the 2010 targets and proposing cost-effective ways to fill remaining gaps;
- (ii) How to review ongoing and planned assessments in dry and sub-humid lands and facilitate the application, within these assessments, of indicators adopted in decision VII/30; and

- (iii) Land-use options that promote biodiversity and generate income for indigenous and local communities, particularly options for transboundary and community based natural resource management;

(b) To promote the implementation of the programme of work and the joint work programme of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, including activity C, on the streamlining of national reporting, and in the context of the International Year of Deserts and Desertification, in 2006;

(c) To continue developing and strengthening collaboration, in the framework of the annex to decision VII/2, with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas, and other relevant organizations, institutions and conventions, as a way to streamline many of the activities contained in the programme of work, promote synergies and avoid unnecessary duplications;

(d) To draw on, when assessing the global status of implementation of the programme of work on the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands, national reports submitted under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, including national and regional action plans, and national reports submitted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, as well as relevant reports submitted in the framework of other programmes of work under the Convention on Biological Diversity and biodiversity-related agreements and conventions, in particular the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna, the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar, Iran, 1971), particularly in view of the fragile and ephemeral nature of wetlands in drylands, and the World Heritage Convention;

(e) Drawing on the outcomes of regional synergy workshops organized jointly by the three Rio Conventions and on a consultative workshop to be organized by the Executive Secretaries of the Convention on Biological Diversity and The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (subject to the availability of funding), to prepare a document for review by the Conference of the Parties, and to invite the Conference of the Parties to the UNCCD to do likewise, which:

- (i) Identifies priority activities to be implemented by Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations, including supporting actions to be undertaken by the executive secretaries of the Convention on Biological Diversity and United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, to promote the achievement of the 2010 biodiversity targets with respect to dry and sub-humid lands;
- (ii) Identifies capacity needs, and opportunities to satisfy these needs, so as to facilitate implementation of the activities referred to under subparagraph (i) above;
- (iii) Identifies major obstacles that may prevent achievement of the 2010 biodiversity targets with respect to dry and sub-humid lands and further identify ways to overcome these obstacles;

and to subject the resulting document to review by focal points of the two conventions;

12. *Adopts* the goals and targets for the programme of work on the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands contained in the annex to this decision.

Annex

**PROVISIONAL GOALS AND TARGETS FOR THE PROGRAMME OF WORK ON
THE BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY OF DRY AND SUB-HUMID LANDS**

<i>Provisional goals and targets as per the framework</i>	<i>Dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity</i>
Focal Area 1: Protect the components of biodiversity	
<i>Goal 1. Promote the conservation of the biological diversity of ecosystems, habitats and biomes</i>	
Target 1.1: At least 10% of each of the world's ecological regions effectively conserved.	At least 10% of each of the dry and sub-humid lands ecosystems are effectively conserved.
Target 1.2: Areas of particular importance to biodiversity protected.	Areas of particular importance to dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity are protected through comprehensive, effectively managed and ecologically representative national and regional protected area networks.
<i>Goal 2. Promote the conservation of species diversity</i>	
Target 2.1: Restore, maintain or reduce the decline of populations of species of selected taxonomic groups.	Restore, maintain, or substantially reduce the decline of populations of the most vulnerable and threatened dry and sub-humid lands species.
Target 2.2: Status of threatened species improved.	Status of threatened dry and sub-humid lands species substantially improved.
Target 3.1: Genetic diversity of crops, livestock, and of harvested species of trees, fish and wildlife and other valuable species conserved, and associated indigenous and local knowledge maintained.	Genetic diversity of crops, livestock, harvested species of trees, fish and wildlife and other valuable dry and sub-humid lands species is conserved, and associated indigenous and local knowledge is protected and maintained.
Focal Area 2: Promote sustainable use	
<i>Goal 4. Promote sustainable use and consumption</i>	
Target 4.1: Biodiversity-based products derived from sources that are sustainably managed, and production areas managed consistent with the conservation of biodiversity.	Dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity-based products are derived from sources that are sustainably managed, and production areas managed so as to be consistent with the conservation of biodiversity.
Target 4.2: Unsustainable consumption, of biological resources, or that impacts upon biodiversity, reduced.	Unsustainable consumption of biological resources and its impact upon dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity is reduced.
Target 4.3: No species of wild flora or fauna endangered by international trade.	No species of dry and sub-humid lands wild flora and fauna are endangered by international trade.
Focal Area 3: Address threats to biodiversity	
<i>Goal 5. Pressures from habitat loss, land-use change and degradation, and unsustainable water use, reduced</i>	
Target 5.1: Rate of loss and degradation of natural	Current rate of loss and degradation of natural habitats in

<i>Provisional goals and targets as per the framework</i>	<i>Dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity</i>
habitats decreased.	dry and sub-humid lands substantially reduced and the impact on dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity of human-induced uncontrolled/ unwanted fires substantially reduced.
<i>Goal 6. Control threats from invasive alien species</i>	
Target 6.1: Pathways for major potential alien invasive species controlled.	Pathways for major potential alien invasive species are identified and controlled in dry and sub-humid lands.
Target 6. 2: Management plans in place for major alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species.	Management plans in place and implemented for major alien species that threaten dry and sub-humid lands ecosystems, habitats or species.
<i>Goal 7. Address challenges to biodiversity from climate change, and pollution</i>	
Target 7.1: Maintain and enhance resilience of the components of biodiversity to adapt to climate change.	Resilience of the components of biodiversity to adapt to climate change in dry and sub-humid lands maintained and enhanced.
<i>Provisional goals and targets as per the framework</i>	<i>Dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity</i>
Target 7.2: Reduce pollution and its impacts on biodiversity.	The adverse impact of pollution on dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity substantially reduced.
Focal Area 4: Maintain goods and services from biodiversity to support human well-being	
<i>Goal 8. Maintain capacity of ecosystems to deliver goods and services and support livelihoods</i>	
Target 8.1: Capacity of ecosystems to deliver goods and services maintained.	Capacity of dry and sub-humid lands ecosystems to deliver goods and services maintained or improved.
Target 8.2: Biological resources that support sustainable livelihoods, local food security and health care, especially of poor people, maintained.	Biological resources that support sustainable livelihoods, local food security and health care, especially of poor people living in dry and sub-humid lands, maintained.
Focal Area 5: Protect traditional knowledge, innovations and practices	
<i>Goal 9. Maintain socio-cultural diversity of indigenous and local communities</i>	
<i>Provisional goals and targets as per the framework</i>	<i>Dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity</i>
Target 9.1. Protect traditional knowledge, innovations and practices.	Measures to protect traditional knowledge, innovations and practices associated with dry and sub-humid lands biological diversity implemented, and the participation of indigenous and local communities in activities aimed at this promoted and facilitated.

Target 9.2: Protect the rights of indigenous and local communities over their traditional knowledge, innovations and practices, including their rights to benefit sharing.	Traditional knowledge, innovations and practices regarding dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity respected, preserved and maintained, the wider application of such knowledge, innovations and practices promoted with the prior informed consent and involvement of the indigenous and local communities providing such traditional knowledge, innovations and practices, and the benefits arising from such knowledge, innovations and practices equitably shared.
Focal Area 6: Ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources	
<i>Goal 10. Ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources</i>	
Target 10.1: All access to genetic resources is in line with the Convention on Biological Diversity and its relevant provisions	All access to genetic resources derived from dry and sub-humid lands is in line with the Convention on Biological Diversity and its relevant provisions and, as appropriate and wherever possible, with the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. *
Target 10.2: Benefits arising from the commercial and other utilization of genetic resources shared in a fair and equitable way with countries providing such resources in line with the Convention on Biological Diversity and its relevant provisions.	Benefits arising from the commercial and other utilization of dry and sub-humid lands genetic resources shared in a fair and equitable way with the countries providing such resources in line with the Convention on Biological Diversity and its relevant provisions.
Focal Area 7: Ensure provision of adequate resources	
