



Convention on Biological Diversity

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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Eleventh meeting

Hyderabad, India, 8-19 October 2012

Agenda item 8

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

XI/15. Review of the programme of work on island biodiversity

The Conference of the Parties,

Alarmed by the continued and ongoing loss of island biodiversity and the irreversible impacts of this loss for island peoples and the world, and *acknowledging* that 80 per cent of known species extinctions have occurred on islands and that more than 40 per cent of vertebrates currently threatened with extinction are island species,

Acknowledging progress made in the development and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans by small island developing States and least developed countries with islands and the support for this process provided by the enabling activity project of the United Nations Environment Programme and Global Environment Facility,

Noting that additional efforts and support are needed in order to fully engage relevant sectors of government and society, in particular indigenous and local communities and non-governmental organizations, in implementing and mainstreaming the programme of work on island biodiversity across all these sectors with a view to achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020,

Noting the importance of the implementation of the programme of work on island biodiversity to achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, including Target 12 on the prevention of species extinction and the improvement of their conservation status,

Aware that invasive alien species, climate change and unsustainable development including unsustainable tourism, are among the major drivers of biodiversity loss on islands, with complex linkages that are best addressed by collaborative and integrated action with other sectors,

Also aware that biodiversity loss is not restricted to islands with human populations, but is also of major concern in many uninhabited or seasonally inhabited islands,

Further aware that the sustainable management of marine, estuarine, terrestrial and freshwater resources in islands are interdependent and important to food security, adaptation to climate change, public health and livelihoods,

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Respecting the traditional/cultural knowledge, skills and management measures that have helped island populations use and manage their environment and resources over many centuries, and, in that context, *recognizing* that the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization provides an important instrument aimed at ensuring that islands benefit from the utilization of their genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge,

Appreciating the continued strong commitment and progress achieved by Parties and their partners committed to voluntary island “challenges”, especially the Micronesia Challenge, the Caribbean Challenge Initiative, the Coral Triangle Initiative and the Phoenix Islands Protected Area, which in turn inspired the development of the Western Indian Ocean Coastal Challenge and the Far West Africa Challenge, and the development of the Charter on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity on European Islands under the Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, and *recognizing* the value of high-level events and summits under these initiatives to galvanize political will and new funding arrangements and partnerships,

Noting the progress on sustainable financing mechanisms developed in island regions for climate change and biodiversity, including: the Micronesia Conservation Trust; the Mama Graun Conservation Trust Fund in Papua New Guinea; the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund; the Western Indian Ocean Coastal Challenge; the European Parliament’s Preparatory Action for a Voluntary Scheme for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Territories of European Overseas (BEST); and emerging “debt for adaptation to climate change swaps” in islands,

Noting with appreciation the activities of the Global Island Partnership (GLISPA) as a mechanism for implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and a partnership under the United Nations Commission for Sustainable Development,

Reaffirming the importance of adopting and implementing adequate legislation to address conservation issues on islands, along with measures to enforce it,

Reiterating the need for increased international, regional and national support for islands, in particular small island developing States, to implement the programme of work on island biodiversity and strengthen local capacity by providing new and additional financial resources, in accordance with Article 20 of the Convention, and incentives,

1. *Urges* Parties, and invites other Governments, financial institutions and other relevant organizations to strengthen the implementation of the programme of work on island biodiversity and to build on successful island approaches by:

(a) Promoting and supporting high-level regional commitments, such as the island challenges referred to above and other large-scale efforts, that have demonstrated success in rapidly increasing protected areas and achieving other Aichi Biodiversity Targets relevant to the programme of work on island biodiversity;

(b) Adapting and expanding proven, cost-effective mechanisms to strengthen local capacity, particularly peer-learning networks, learning exchanges, transfer of technologies, sharing of lessons learned and best practices, communication and information exchange tools, targeted technical assistance, formal training and education;

(c) Considering the development of innovative financial arrangements to mobilize additional resources, in accordance with Articles 20 and 21 of the Convention, through the strategy for resource mobilization, in line with decisions IX/11, X/3 and XI/4, in support of the implementation of the programme of work on island biodiversity, including trust funds, “debt for adaptation to climate change swaps”, payments for ecosystem services, and fees for tourism or natural resource use, dedicated to effective conservation;

(d) Maintaining and supporting key databases and information portals, such as the Global Island Database, the Threatened Island Biodiversity Database, the Database of Island Invasive Species Eradications, the Global Invasive Species Database, the Island Biodiversity and Invasive Species Database and Small Islands Developing States Network (SIDSNet), to enable effective invasive species monitoring and eradication prioritization on islands, as valuable tools in support of the implementation of the programme of work;

(e) Addressing in particular the gaps in implementation identified in the in-depth review that are listed in paragraph 19 of UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/4;

2. *Calls on Parties* to continue to focus international attention and action on the six priorities included in decision IX/21 as they affect livelihood and island economies: the prevention, eradication and control of invasive alien species; climate-change adaptation and mitigation activities; establishment and management of marine protected areas; capacity-building; access to, and fair and equitable sharing of, the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, and poverty alleviation, with particular attention to:

(a) Developing and strengthening international, regional, national and local collaboration to manage invasive alien species within and across jurisdictions, including the diversity of successful approaches to prevention, eradication and control where feasible, and in particular to consider a biosecurity approach that addresses the full range of invasive threats; and

(b) Mainstreaming ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change, ecosystem restoration and invasive species management for human health and well-being into all island development and conservation plans and projects and build capacity in their application;

3. *Also calls on Parties* to:

(a) Accord priority to the management of terrestrial protected areas, including inland waters;

(b) Enhance regional and international cooperation with a view to addressing transboundary pollution that has significant impacts on island ecosystems, including by reducing discharges from land-based sources, particularly with respect to excess nutrient inputs;

(c) Support subnational implementation of the Convention in islands by engaging subnational and local authorities through the Plan of Action for Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity, adopted in decision X/22, and as informed by the assessment of the links and opportunities between urbanization and biodiversity (the “Cities and Biodiversity Outlook”);

4. *Encourages Parties*, other Governments and relevant organizations to enter into partnerships across sectors to:

(a) Develop, disseminate and integrate appropriate tools and processes to apply the findings of the study of The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) and other valuation tools to support decision-making at the island level;

(b) Use the opportunity of revising national biodiversity strategies and action plans to further mainstream biodiversity conservation with other key sectors (e.g. mining, agriculture, fisheries, health, energy, tourism, integrated marine/coastal management, education and development) and to determine specific, measurable, ambitious, realistic and time-bound national targets, and related indicators, in line with the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, at island level and within the context of domestic priorities;

(c) Coordinate these efforts, where appropriate, with the process led by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs to assess implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the associated Mauritius Strategy for Implementation;

(d) Explore possibilities for engaging national and local leaders in public-private partnerships and encourage participatory approaches for the sustainable management of natural resources, such as integrated marine and coastal area management;

5. *Invites* Parties to recognize and engage with the Global Island Partnership (GLISPA) as an effective partner to support implementation of the programme of work;

6. *Takes note* of the “Small Islands, Big Difference” campaign coordinated by Island Conservation on invasive alien species launched at the sixteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body and *invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to engage with the campaign;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to cooperate with international and regional organizations and relevant convention secretariats with a view to promoting coherent and harmonized national information systems related to the reporting needs of the biodiversity-related conventions, and for joint reporting, as appropriate, for small island developing States and least developed countries with islands;

8. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of funding, to enable regional and global technical support networks to help the ongoing review, updating and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans in small island developing States and least developed countries with islands, with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, in particular for developing national targets and for mainstreaming national biodiversity strategies and action plans into broader national plans, programmes and policies to implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.
