

Decisions adopted by the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties

JAKARTA, INDONESIA, 6-17 NOVEMBER 1995

DECISION II/1 | Report of the first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

The Conference of the Parties

1–2. [RETIRED as per decision VI/27, paragraph 3]

3. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to keep under review its *modus operandi* with a view to improving its functioning on the basis of experience gained;

4–6. [RETIRED as per decision VI/27, paragraph 3].

RECOMMENDATION I/6: GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY OUTLOOK

In view of the need for a large dissemination of scientific and technical information relevant to the conservation and the sustainable use of biological diversity;

In view also of the importance of scientific and technical research in achieving the goals and objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

The first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), held in Paris from 4 to 8 September, recommends that the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held in Jakarta, Indonesia, from 6 to 17 November 1995, consider:

1. Requesting the Secretariat to prepare, under the guidance of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties and the SBSTTA, a periodic report on biological diversity. Such a report, which may also reflect the views of the scientific community, may include, *inter alia*:

- (a) A brief summary of the status and trends of biological diversity at global and regional level;
- (b) An analysis of the global and regional trends in the implementation of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity on the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources;

- (c) A summary of the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity at the national level on the basis of the information contained in national reports to be submitted by Parties in accordance with Article 26 of the Convention;
 - (d) An overview of the cooperation with other biological-diversity-related conventions and intergovernmental processes; and
 - (e) A presentation on the implementation of the decisions of the Conference of the Parties and the recommendations adopted by the SBSTTA.
2. The implications of this proposal in terms of financial and human resources in relation to other tasks to be fulfilled by the Secretariat.

DECISION II/2 | Publication and Distribution of Scientific and Technical Information

[RETIRED as per decision VI/27, paragraph 3]

DECISION II/3 | Clearing-house Mechanism

The Conference of the Parties

1. [RETIRED as per decision VI/27, paragraph 3]
2. *Notes* that many information systems and activities relevant to the objectives of the Convention have been and are being established at international, sub-regional, regional and national levels;
3. *Notes* that the enhanced cooperation between these information systems and activities will contribute to capacity-building, and notes that, in this context, the role of the Secretariat is to promote and facilitate access to this clearing-house mechanism;
4. *Decides*, as a contribution to the implementation of the objectives of the Convention, that the clearing-house mechanism, established by decision I/3 adopted at its first meeting in accordance with Article 18, paragraph 3 of the Convention, should be developed:
 - (a) [RETIRED as per decision VI/27, paragraph 3]
 - (b) Through specific and focused areas of activities related to the promotion of international technical and scientific cooperation;
 - (c) By gradually building up its functions in response to clear and identified demand based on experience gained and resources available;
 - (d) In a neutral, transparent, cost-effective, efficient and accessible manner;
 - (e) As a decentralized mechanism using such resources as print and electronic media, including the Internet;
 - (f) By making full use of existing facilities, which will avoid any duplication or overlap of activities and allow for the early implementation of the mechanism;

- (g) In close cooperation with relevant international organizations and entities as active partners in the clearing-house mechanism to maximize the existing experience and expertise;
- (h) By enhancing networking between existing national, regional, subregional and international centres of relevant expertise, as well as governmental and non-governmental institutions and the private sector;

5–6. [RETIRED as per decision VI/27, paragraph 3]

7. *Takes note* of the designation by Parties of their national focal point for the clearing-house mechanism (document UNEP/CBD/COP/2/Inf.5) and calls upon those who have not designated their focal point to do so, where appropriate, as soon as possible, and no later than February 1996;

8. *Invites* all relevant international, regional, subregional and national organizations and entities willing to offer their cooperation as active partners in the operation of the clearing-house mechanism to communicate the details of their offer and requests the Executive Secretary of the Secretariat to enter into collaborative arrangements and to report to its third meeting on the results of such arrangements;

9. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility to explore the modalities of providing support through the financial mechanism to developing country Parties for capacity-building in relation to the operation of the clearing-house mechanism and report to the Conference of the Parties at its third meeting;

10–11. [RETIRED as per decision VI/27, paragraph 3].

DECISION II/4 | Ways and means to promote and facilitate access to, and transfer and development of technology

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note* of recommendation I/4 on ways and means to promote and facilitate access to, and transfer and development of technology as envisaged in Articles 16 and 18 of the Convention, adopted by the first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, held in Paris, at the headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, from 4 to 8 September 1995;

2–4. [RETIRED as per decision VI/27, paragraph 3].

DECISION II/5 | Consideration of the need for and modalities of a protocol for the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms

[RETIRED as per decision VI/27, paragraph 3]

DECISION II/6 | Financial Resources Mechanism

The Conference of the Parties,

Taking note of the information provided by the reports contained in documents UNEP/CBD/COP/2/9 and UNEP/CBD/COP/2/8 and the collaboration between the Secretariat of the Convention and the Secretariat of the restructured Global Environment Facility,

1. *Decides* that the restructured Global Environment Facility shall continue to serve as the institutional structure to operate the financial mechanism under the Convention on an interim basis, in accordance with Article 39 of the Convention, until a decision will be taken on which institutional structure is to be designated in accordance with Article 21 of the Convention. The Conference of the Parties shall endeavour to make such a decision at its third meeting;
2. *Decides* to undertake the first review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism at its fourth meeting in 1997 and a review every three years. The first review will be carried out within the basic approach described in document UNEP/CBD/COP/2/9;
- 3–4. [RETIRED as per decision VI/27, paragraph 3]
5. *Requests* the interim institutional structure operating the financial mechanism to facilitate urgent implementation of Article 6 of the Convention by availing to developing country Parties financial resources for projects in a flexible and expeditious manner;
6. *Requests* the interim institutional structure to incorporate fully, on an ongoing basis, guidance from the Conference of the Parties into the further development of the Operational Strategy and programmes to ensure that the objectives of the Convention are addressed. The Conference of the Parties requests the Global Environment Facility to take the following comments into account when preparing the report to be submitted to the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties:
 - (a) Detailed information should be provided on the conformity of the approved work programmes with the guidance of the Conference of the Parties;
 - (b) A list of projects submitted by eligible country Parties and information on their status should be included;
7. [RETIRED as per decision VI/27, paragraph 3]
8. *Requests* participation of a representative of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the Convention and of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel of the Global Environment Facility in respective meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel on a reciprocal basis, as provided for in the *modus operandi* of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and in the terms of reference of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel;
9. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to:

- (a) Further explore possibilities to identify additional financial resources to support the objectives of the Convention;
- (b) Continue to monitor the availability of additional financial resources and further identify where and how country Parties might gain access to these resources;
- (c) Study characteristics specific to biodiversity activities to allow the Conference of the Parties to make suggestions to funding institutions on how to make their activities in the area of biodiversity more supportive of the Convention;

10. *Recommends*, for more effective implementation of its policies, strategies and programme priorities, that the Global Environment Facility explore the possibility of promoting diverse forms of public involvement and more effective collaboration between all tiers of government and civil society, including the feasibility of a programme of grants for medium-sized projects. Such exploration should take into account the eligibility criteria set out by the Conference of the Parties in Annex I to decision I/2 on financial resources and mechanism, contained in document UNEP/CBD/COP/1/17;

11. *Requests* the interim institutional structure to implement the relevant provisions of the following decisions: II/3 on clearing-house mechanism, II/7 on consideration of Articles 6 and 8 of the Convention, II/8 on preliminary consideration of components of biological diversity particularly under threat and action which could be taken under the Convention, and II/17 on form and intervals of national reports by Parties;

12. [RETIRED as per decision VI/27, paragraph 3].

DECISION II/7 | Consideration of Articles 6 and 8 of the Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Mindful of the crucial importance of the provisions of Articles 6 and 8 in the fulfillment of the objectives of the Convention,

1. *Urges* all Parties and Governments and other interested stakeholders to exchange relevant information and share experience on measures taken for the implementation of Articles 6 and 8;
2. *Stresses* the importance of regional and international cooperation for the implementation of Articles 6 and 8 of the Convention;
3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to make available through the clearing-house mechanism such information and lessons drawn from national experience and also to make available relevant information on the implementation of Articles 6 and 8 contained in national reports submitted by Parties in accordance with Article 26 of the Convention as well as decision II/17 adopted at its second meeting;
4. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary:

- (a) To compile and disseminate that information as widely as possible, including experience of relevant conventions, United Nations bodies and intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations in dealing with the provisions of Articles 6 and 8;
 - (b) To prepare, on the basis of available information, suggestions on how the collection and sharing of relevant information and experience might be enhanced;
5. *Encourages* Parties, in preparing and implementing their national strategies and action plans, to collaborate with relevant organizations and, if so desired, to take into consideration existing guidelines such as “National Biodiversity Planning” published by the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Resources Institute and the World Conservation Union (IUCN);
 6. *Emphasizes* the importance of capacity-building as well as the availability of adequate financial resources to assist Parties in the implementation of Articles 6 and 8 of the Convention, and in this context requests the interim financial mechanism under the Convention to facilitate urgent implementation of Articles 6 and 8 of the Convention by availing to developing country Parties financial resources for projects in a flexible and expeditious manner;
 7. [RETIRED as per decision VI/27, paragraph 3].

DECISION II/8 | Preliminary consideration of components of a Biological Diversity particularly under threat and action which could be taken under the Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Reaffirms* that the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and its components should be addressed in a holistic manner, taking into account the three levels of biological diversity and fully considering socio-economic and cultural factors. However, the ecosystem approach should be the primary framework of action to be taken under the Convention;
2. *Endorses* paragraphs 2, 4 and 5 of recommendation I/3 on preliminary consideration of components of biological diversity that are particularly under threat and the action that could be taken under the Convention, adopted by the first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, held in Paris, at the headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, from 4 to 8 September 1995;
3. *Stresses* that, as reflected in paragraph 3 of recommendation I/3, it is essential to identify the driving forces determining the status and trends of components of biological diversity, so that appropriate action can be taken to control them;
4. *Stresses* also the importance of making full use of existing knowledge and available expertise;

5. *Emphasizes* the need for capacity-building as well as adequate financial resources for the implementation of the tasks identified in this decision;
- 6–7. [RETIRED as per decision VI/27, paragraph 3].

PARAGRAPHS 2, 4, AND 5 OF SBSTTA RECOMMENDATION I/3

2. Assessment of the status and trends of components of biological diversity and causes of biodiversity losses provides baseline data which can assist countries to formulate their biodiversity strategies, plans and programmes to implement the provisions of the Convention. This activity leads to the identification of both components under threat and those components that might become threatened, and for which urgent action might be needed to stop or prevent their loss. There is, however, a need to identify, evaluate, develop and share methods needed for the assessment and conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. Specifically there is a need to:

- (i) Further describe the categories of components of biological diversity set down in Annex I of the Convention;
- (ii) Evaluate methodologies for identification, characterization and classification of biological diversity and their components so as to identify methods suitable for different conditions of data availability and how their effectiveness can be enhanced;
- (iii) Identify methodologies for detecting national and international negative trends in biological diversity;
- (iv) Promote exchange of information on existing methodologies through various information systems including electronic mail;
- (v) Identify and develop methods for integration of biodiversity concerns into all relevant sectoral policies, plans and actions; integrate biodiversity considerations into area planning mechanisms and processes; and to develop methods for an integrated management approach;
- (vi) Develop methods for identifying the links between socio-economic and cultural factors and biological diversity change or loss, and also identify how these factors should be included when deciding upon effective action to correct for unsustainable use/influence, including environmental impact assessment;
- (vii) Develop methods for management of biological diversity based on limited knowledge;
- (viii) Develop or refine models of processes responsible for biological diversity maintenance and those relating to ecological services provided by biological diversity for different ecosystems through multidisciplinary groups consisting, *inter alia*, of ecologists, natural history experts, oceanographers, economists and sociologists. Identification and targeting of ecological processes and functions should be the basis for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and its components;

(ix) Encourage Governments to carry out case studies to learn about ecosystem management efforts, identifying barriers to implementing the ecosystem approach as well as ways and means of overcoming such barriers. Major issue areas influencing the effectiveness of the ecosystem approach may be examined in such studies, including, *inter alia*, budget issues, institutional issues, public participation, science and information as well as legal authorities. The results of such studies should be reported to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity for dissemination and further methodological work.

4. There is a need for each Party to start assessing the effectiveness of measures taken under the Convention. However, methods for assessing the effectiveness of measures to conserve or sustainably use biological diversity should be reviewed. The use of indicators of biological diversity and the status of its components is particularly time- and cost-effective. Several indicators are currently being used and developed. They should be reviewed and their use promoted.

5. The Conference of the Parties should organize international cooperation:

- (i) To respond to the needs formulated under paragraphs 1 to 4 above and, more specifically, to compile and assess the above-mentioned methodologies, taking into account existing data, processes and reference materials;
- (ii) To identify possible concrete actions for the conservation of biological diversity and to use its components sustainably;
- (iii) To make these studies available through the clearing-house mechanism established by the Convention to promote technical and scientific cooperation, and to promote a regional approach to further enhance the collection and analysis of relevant information.

DECISION II/9 | Forests and Biological Diversity

The Conference of the Parties

1. [RETIRED as per decision VI/27, paragraph 3]
2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:
 - (a) To provide advice and information pertaining to the relationship between indigenous and local communities and forests, as invited by the Inter-Agency Task Force of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests;
 - (b) [RETIRED as per decision VI/27, paragraph 3]
 - (c) To invite all Parties, relevant intergovernmental agencies and bodies to contribute to the preparation of the documents on forests and biological diversity to be prepared by the Executive Secretary, and to welcome the input of other Governments, non-governmental organizations and indigenous and local communities;

3. *Invites* all Parties to include expertise on forest biological diversity in their delegations to the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests;
4. [RETIRED as per decision VI/27, paragraph 3].

ANNEX TO DECISION II/9

STATEMENT ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AND FORESTS FROM THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY TO THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON FORESTS

1. The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity welcomes the decision by the Commission on Sustainable Development to establish an open-ended Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF) to pursue consensus and coordinated proposals for action to support the management, conservation and sustainable development of forests.
2. Wishing to avoid duplication of efforts and coordinate with other relevant organizations on issues of biological diversity, the Conference of the Parties stands ready to contribute to the fulfilment of the mandate of the IPF.
3. Keeping in mind the crucial role of forests in maintaining global biological diversity, the Conference of the Parties wishes to establish a dialogue with the IPF on issues related to forests and biological diversity.
4. Together, tropical, temperate and boreal forests provide the most diverse sets of habitats for plants, animals and micro-organisms, holding the vast majority of the world's terrestrial species. This diversity is the fruit of evolution, but also reflects the combined influence of the physical environment and people.
5. The maintenance of forest ecosystems is crucial to the conservation of biological diversity well beyond their boundaries, and for the key role they play in global climate dynamics and bio-geochemical cycles. Forests provide ecological services and, at the same time, livelihoods or jobs for hundreds of millions of people worldwide.
6. Forest biological diversity results from evolutionary processes over thousands and even millions of years which, in themselves, are driven by ecological forces such as climate, fire, competition and disturbance. Furthermore, the diversity of forest ecosystems (in both physical and biological features) results in high levels of adaptation, a feature of forest ecosystems which is an integral component of their biological diversity. Within specific forest ecosystems, the maintenance of ecological processes is dependent upon the maintenance of their biological diversity. Loss of biological diversity within individual ecosystems can result in lower resilience.
7. Forests are becoming degraded and their biological diversity is being lost. The loss of forest biological diversity is linked to the substantial deforestation, fragmentation and degradation of all types of forests. The reasons for the loss of forest biological diversity are many, both direct and indirect, and the Conference of the Parties takes note of the Terms of Reference of the IPF in this regard (IPF Agenda item I.2.).
8. Forests and forest biological diversity play important economic, social and cultural roles in the lives of many indigenous and local communities. The Convention

on Biological Diversity addresses specifically the need to respect, preserve and maintain knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, as well as the need to protect and encourage customary use of biological resources in accordance with traditional cultural practices. It also encourages countries to cooperate in the development and use of indigenous and traditional technologies, and encourages the equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of such knowledge, innovations and practices, in pursuance of the objectives of the Convention. Articles 8(j), 10(c) and 18.4 of the Convention provide the general framework for this.

9. In addition, the Convention on Biological Diversity recognizes in Article 15 the sovereign rights of States over their genetic resources and also recognizes that the authority to determine access to these resources rests with the national Governments and is subject to national legislation. It also states that each Contracting Party shall endeavour to create conditions to facilitate access to genetic resources for environmentally sound uses by other Contracting Parties and not to impose restrictions that run counter to the objectives of the Convention. Such access, including forest-based genetic resources, shall be subject to prior informed consent by the Party providing such resources and shall be on mutually agreed terms. Measures shall be taken with the aim of sharing in a fair and equitable way the results of research and development and the benefits arising from the commercial and other utilization of genetic resources with the party providing such resources. Such sharing shall be on mutually agreed terms.

10. The Conference of the Parties emphasizes and requests the IPF to acknowledge the need to integrate the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies (Convention on Biological Diversity Article 6(b)). The Conference of the Parties requests the IPF to note that it intends to explore how the conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity could be assisted by the establishment of specific environmental goals in the forest and other sectors. The Conference of the Parties also requests the IPF to consider appropriate Environmental Impact Assessment of sectoral activities, plans, programmes and policies with expected negative impact on forest ecosystems (Convention on Biological Diversity Article 14) (IPF Agenda item I.2).

11. The Conference of the Parties notes the mandate of the IPF concerning methods for the proper valuing of the multiple benefits derived from forests. In this context, it requests the IPF to consider the economic (monetized and non-monetized) benefits, the environmental services and non-consumptive values provided by forest biological diversity, including the important cultural, religious and recreational values of forests (IPF Agenda items III.1 and IV.1.).

12. The Conference of the Parties recognizes the need to develop and implement methods for sustainable forest management which combine production goals, socio-economic goals of forest-dependent local communities, and environmental goals, particularly those related to biological diversity. Sustainable forest management should ensure that components of biological diversity are used in a way and at a rate that does not lead to the long-term decline of biological diversity, thereby maintaining its potential to meet the needs of present and future genera-

tions (Convention on Biological Diversity Article 2). Sustainable forest management should take an ecosystem approach and aim at securing forest quality as related to the Convention on Biological Diversity, comprising such elements as forest composition, natural regeneration, patterns of ecosystem variation, ecosystem functions and ecosystem processes over time. Special attention should be paid to components of biological diversity under threat (IPF Agenda items III.2 and I.5.).

13. *In situ* forest conservation activities in accordance with Article 8 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, including the establishment and management of protected areas, have an important role to play in the achievement of biological diversity goals for sustainable forest management, and should be integrated in national forest and land-use plans. In this context, the conservation of primary/old-growth and ecologically mature secondary forest ecosystems is of particular importance. All stakeholders, in particular managers, should engage in an open, transparent and participatory decision-making process that can explicitly incorporate the multiple functions of forests and involve all interested parties, including indigenous and local communities (IPF Agenda item I.1.).

14. The issue of public education and awareness has not been explicitly addressed in the Terms of Reference of the IPF. The importance of education and awareness-raising at all levels of society, including local communities, local and national policy makers, forest managers, and users of forests and forest products, related to the importance of biological diversity, especially those components under threat, should have a high priority in both national and international efforts (Convention on Biological Diversity Article 13.).

15. More effort on biological diversity is needed in research, training and other capacity-building activities (Convention on Biological Diversity Article 12). Important topics include development of policies, criteria and indicators, methodologies and technologies for sustainable forest management, and the impact of utilization of components of biological diversity, particularly those under threat, on ecological processes (IPF Agenda items III.1 and III.2.).

16. In response to the invitation of the IPF, the Conference of the Parties has requested its Executive Secretary to provide advice and information pertaining to the relationship between indigenous and local communities and forests. The Conference of the Parties has further requested the Executive Secretary to provide advice and information concerning the contents, work and medium-term programme of work of the Convention relevant to the Terms of Reference of the IPF. Such advice and information will be provided in time for the Panel's third session.

17. The IPF may also receive substantive inputs from the Convention following the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties on, *inter alia*, the underlying causes of biological diversity loss in forest ecosystems, components and dynamics of biological diversity, and ways and means for the effective protection and use of traditional forest-related knowledge, innovations and practices of forest dwellers, indigenous and local communities, as well as fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from such knowledge, innovations and practices.

DECISION II/10 | Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling that the Conference of the Parties decided to address, at its second meeting, advice from the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice on the scientific, technical and technological aspects of the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity,

Being deeply concerned at the serious threats to marine and coastal biological diversity caused by factors including physical alteration, destruction and degradation of habitats, pollution, invasion of alien species, and over-exploitation of living marine and coastal resources,

1. *Takes note* of recommendation I/8 on scientific, technical and technological aspects of the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity, adopted by the first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, held in Paris at the headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, from 4 to 8 September 1995, and;

(a) *Affirms* that it represents a solid basis for future elaboration of the issues presented;

(b) *Supports* the recommendations in paragraphs 10-19 of recommendation I/8, subject to Annex I of the present decision and its further elaboration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the Conference of the Parties;

(c) *Reaffirms* the importance of future work by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to provide a balanced perspective on the remaining issues presented by the recommendations in I/8 and Annex I of the present decision relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity;

2. *Encourages* the use of integrated marine and coastal area management as the most suitable framework for addressing human impacts on marine and coastal biological diversity and for promoting conservation and sustainable use of this biodiversity;

3. *Encourages* Parties to establish and/or strengthen, where appropriate, institutional, administrative, and legislative arrangements for the development of integrated management of marine and coastal ecosystems, plans and strategies for marine and coastal areas, and their integration within national development plans;

4. *Takes note* of the recently finalized Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 Relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, and the Washington Declaration and Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, and supports their implementation, including

that by Parties, in ways that are consistent with, and conform to, the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

5. *Welcomes* the International Coral Reef Initiative as a means to address threats to coral reefs and related ecosystems and encourages participation in International Coral Reef Initiative activities to implement its Framework for Action;

6. *Reaffirms* that under Article 25 the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice is the only scientific, technical and technological authority under the Convention to provide advice to the Conference of the Parties;

7. [RETIRED as per decision VI/27, paragraph 3]

8. *Offers* the Executive Secretary the following guidance for conducting the work described in paragraph 6:

- (a) Solicit input from all Parties and, as appropriate, from other countries and relevant bodies;
- (b) Establish, on the basis of country input, a roster of experts with specialization appropriate to the work described in paragraph 6;
- (c) The roster will draw upon expertise from scientific, technical, technological, social, management, economic, policy, legal, and indigenous and traditional knowledge;
- (d) Convene, as appropriate, meetings of experts, drawn from the roster to support the Secretariat in advancing the work described in paragraph 6. Each meeting shall be for a duration of no longer than five days, and shall be comprised of no more than 15 experts with due regard to geographical representation and to the special conditions of least-developed countries and small island developing States;

9–10. [RETIRED as per decision VI/27, paragraph 3]

11. *Decides* to forward this decision and annexes to the Global Environment Facility, other funding agencies and other relevant international bodies, to be taken into account in considering activities related to the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity;

12. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the United Nations Office for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, to undertake a study of the relationship between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea with regard to the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources on the deep seabed, with a view to enabling the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to address at future meetings, as appropriate, the scientific, technical, and technological issues relating to bio-prospecting of genetic resources on the deep seabed;

13. *Invites* international and regional bodies responsible for legal instruments, agreements and programmes which address activities relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity, including the United Nations General Assembly, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme, the International Maritime Organization,

the United Nations Office for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization including its Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, the World Conservation Union (IUCN), the Commission on Sustainable Development, the International Coral Reef Initiative, regional fisheries bodies, migratory species agreements, secretariats of regional agreements for the conservation of the marine environment and other relevant international and regional organizations and institutions, to review their programmes with a view to improving existing measures and developing new actions which promote conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity, taking into account the recommendations for action by the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its second meeting, and provide information on their actions on a regular basis to the Conference of the Parties and, in a first instance, as soon as possible through the Executive Secretary. Furthermore, these various institutions are invited to cooperate with the Conference of the Parties through the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice in planning and implementation of programmes affecting marine and coastal biological diversity, so as to reduce any unnecessary duplication or gaps in coverage;

14. [RETIRED as per decision VI/27, paragraph 3].

ANNEX I

ADDITIONAL CONCLUSIONS ON RECOMMENDATION I/8 ADOPTED BY THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE AT ITS FIRST MEETING (UNEP/CBD/COP/2/5)

- (i) Some delegations indicated their concern that paragraphs 10–19 were unbalanced in that they over-emphasized fishery issues, rather than some other issues such as pollution. Other delegations had an interest in highlighting the impacts of unsustainable fishing activities on marine and coastal biodiversity.
- (ii) In relation to paragraph 10, crucial components of integrated marine and coastal area management are relevant sectoral activities, such as construction and mining in coastal areas, mariculture, mangrove management, tourism, recreation, fishing practices and land-based activities, including watershed management. Parties should, where appropriate and practical, prevent physical alteration, destruction and degradation of vital habitats and pursue restoration of degraded habitats, including spawning areas, nurseries of stocks of living marine resources, bearing in mind the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the need to provide a balanced approach to the use and conservation of marine and coastal biological diversity.
- (iii) Parties are encouraged to undertake and exchange information on demonstration projects as practical examples of integrated marine and coastal area management.

- (iv) In relation to paragraph 11, critical habitats for living marine resources should be an important criterion for the selection of marine and coastal protected areas, within the framework of integrated marine and coastal area management, taking into consideration the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Conservation measures should emphasize the protection of ecosystem functioning, in addition to protecting specific stocks.
- (v) In reference to paragraph 12, the present mono-species approach to modelling and assessment should be augmented by an ecosystem process-oriented approach, based on research of ecosystem processes and functions, with an emphasis on identifying ecologically critical processes that consider the spatial dimension of these processes. Models of ecosystem processes should be developed through trans-disciplinary scientific groups (ecologists, oceanographers, economists, and fisheries experts) and be applied in the development of sustainable land and coastal resource use practices.
- (vi) Paragraph 13 refers to the draft Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. The Code was adopted by the 28th session of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, in October 1995. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations is now undertaking the development of technical guidelines for the implementation of the Code. The Conference of the Parties can offer the technical expertise of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice in the elaboration and implementation of these guidelines, in line with the objectives and provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
- (vii) In relation to paragraph 14(a), the inclusion of subsidies was contentious. Some delegates stressed that the issue of subsidies was politically sensitive, with potential trade implications. It was noted that these issues address one of the underlying causes of biological diversity loss, *viz*, the result of over-fishing, and this consideration remained an important recommendation from the report of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice. It was also noted that there were a variety of other subsidies which had impacts on the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity. The Executive Secretary is entitled to evaluate these aspects using a meeting of experts. Some delegations argued that the phrase “subsidies for fisheries” appeared ambiguous. Government subsidies related to fishing activities have a great variety in their modalities. In addition, subsidies should not be evaluated alone. Evaluation of subsidies for fisheries should be conducted in relation to, or in conjunction with, considerations of fisheries management. It would be most appropriate to examine the various existing subsidies in the light of Article 11, which refers to economically and socially sound incentive measures.

- (viii) Also, in relation to paragraph 14, cooperation between regional fisheries bodies and regional organizations for protection and conservation of the marine environment should be promoted.
- (ix) In relation to paragraph 15, the Parties should enhance and improve the knowledge regarding the genetic structure of the local populations of marine species subjected to stock enhancement and sea-ranching activities. Considering that the captive-bred populations are likely to interact genetically and ecologically with wild populations, this knowledge should be used in the management of breeding stocks according to sound genetic principles that take into account the use of local populations for stock selection, minimum breeding numbers and the renewal frequency of the breeding stock from the wild population.
- (x) Mariculture (paragraph 15) is assumed to include culture-based fisheries and is defined here to be aquaculture in marine or brackish water. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, “aquaculture is the farming of aquatic organisms including fish, molluscs, crustaceans and aquatic plants. Farming implies some form of intervention in the rearing process to enhance production, such as regular stocking, feeding, protection from predators, etc. Farming also implies individual or corporate ownership of the stock being cultivated”. Although the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations requires “ownership of the stock being cultivated” in its definition, no such restriction is adopted here for the purpose of this document.
- (xi) Some Parties thought paragraph 15(I)(e) would be better expressed as “because of the difficulties of complete containment, introduction of alien species, products of selective breeding, and living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology that may have adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity should be responsibly conducted using the precautionary approach. Therefore, adherence to international codes of practice such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, the International Commission for the Exploration of the Sea, and the Organisation Internationale Epizootique should be a minimum requirement. Assessments and an appropriate monitoring programme should be put in place if introduction goes ahead. Preference should be given to the use of local species. Furthermore, development of technology to ensure a more complete containment should be encouraged.”

ANNEX II
DRAFT PROGRAMME FOR FURTHER WORK ON MARINE AND COASTAL BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

1. The Executive Secretary will use as the basis of work recommendation I/8 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (contained in document UNEP/CBD/COP/2/5), this decision and further inputs, if any, from the Conference of the Parties.
2. The Executive Secretary should use the roster of experts on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity to address the following topics:
 - (a) Identify options for a pragmatic but comprehensive approach in addressing marine and coastal biological diversity on the basis of an ecosystems approach, including its components at the levels of species and genetic resources, distinguishing regions at relevant scales. Use the results from this activity in identifying the gaps in knowledge of the distribution and abundance of marine and coastal biodiversity;
 - (b) Identify the particular needs for conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity in the context of activities which will impact on marine resources;
 - (c) Review the mandates and activities under international agreements that affect marine and coastal biological diversity, and develop analyses that can be offered by the Conference of the Parties to the relevant institutions as to the implications of the Convention on Biological Diversity for these activities.
3. In addressing these issues, the following approaches should be applied:
 - (a) The work should not be impeded by the lack of full scientific information and will incorporate explicitly the precautionary approach in addressing conservation and sustainable use issues;
 - (b) The Executive Secretary may interact with a wide range of agencies and organizations competent in the aspects of marine and coastal biodiversity under deliberation to avoid unnecessary duplication and ensure effectiveness and cost-effectiveness;
 - (c) Recommendations should be made for scientific, technical and technological needs for capacity-building and technology transfer for the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal resources at the national, regional, and international levels in the context of the issue being addressed;
 - (d) The scientific, technical, and technological knowledge of local and indigenous communities should be incorporated, as appropriate, as well as community and user-based approaches, in the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity;
 - (e) Use should be made, as appropriate, of the clearing-house mechanism and national reports of Parties.
4. The Executive Secretary shall produce, among other relevant documents, the following outputs:

- (a) Options for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and its components in the implementation of marine and coastal management and planning practices, including options for the development of integrated marine and coastal area management at regional and national levels;
- (b) Annual reports to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, submitted 90 days prior to each meeting of that body. The first annual report will include a three-year work plan.

**SBSTTA RECOMMENDATION I/8
SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF THE
CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF COASTAL AND MARINE
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

Recalling that the Conference of the Parties decided to address, at its second meeting, advice from the SBSTTA on the scientific, technical and technological aspects of the conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine biological diversity;

Recalling further that, in its decision I/7 taken at its first meeting, the Conference of the Parties requested the SBSTTA to advise on how the Conference of the Parties could start the process of considering those aspects;

1. In order to advance this work the SBSTTA has before it a number of papers on marine and coastal biological diversity. From these papers and a detailed discussion in plenary, a number of key areas were selected for consideration. Included in the overall aspect of integrating coastal and marine area management were the more specific issues of sustainable use of living coastal and marine resources, mariculture and the control of alien organisms. Recommendations on all these issues are included below. The rationale for these recommendations, which was based on the documentation before the SBSTTA and, in particular, document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/1/8, is included in the annex.

2. Although education, training and raising public awareness at the international and regional level were regarded as key delivery mechanisms, it was felt that, due to the insufficient time and complexity of issues in question, they should be comprehensively considered at the next session of the SBSTTA. The same session of the SBSTTA should also address the questions related to bio-prospecting on the deep sea bed, including access to its genetic resources.

3. The SBSTTA considers the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity to be of such significance that it recommends the establishment of an ad hoc expert panel to provide advice on current issues. The expert panel shall be established for a period of three years and shall make an annual progress report. Issues which should be immediately reviewed by this panel are: the gaps in knowledge of the distribution and abundance of marine and coastal biodiversity; the particular needs for marine and coastal conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the context of threat alleviation, technology transfer; the linkages between the status of marine and coastal biodiversity and management of watersheds as well as pollution from marine vessels. It should also review the

achievements of the scientific bodies associated with other international legal agreements, programmes and bodies dealing with aspects of marine and coastal biodiversity. abundance of marine and coastal biodiversity; the particular needs for marine and coastal conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the context of threat alleviation, technology transfer; the linkages between the status of marine and coastal biodiversity and management of watersheds as well as pollution from marine vessels. It should also review the achievements of the scientific bodies associated with other international legal agreements, programmes and bodies dealing with aspects of marine and coastal biodiversity.

4. The SBSTTA intends to review this panel's conclusions at its fourth session in order to provide the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties with recommendations on this issue.

5. The following recommendations in this report for the Conference of the Parties are issues on conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity that the Conference of the Parties may wish to suggest to the fourth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD).

6. The SBSTTA recommends to the Conference of the Parties to forward the following statements to the next session of the CSD:

- (a) The Conference of the Parties endorses integrated marine and coastal area management as the most suitable framework for addressing human impacts on marine and coastal biological diversity and for promoting conservation and sustainable use of this biological diversity. Governments are encouraged to establish and/or strengthen, as appropriate, institutional, administrative, and legislative arrangements for the development of integrated management of marine and coastal ecosystems, plans and strategies for coastal and marine areas, and their integration within national development plans.
- (b) Research and monitoring are urgently needed to assess the status and trends of marine and coastal biodiversity, evaluate the success of management and conservation actions, and develop more effective management practices. Research and monitoring programmes should include biological, physical, social, cultural and economic studies, consistent with the time-frame commensurate with their objectives. They should be supported by information management, interpretation and dissemination. Resource owners, users and managers should be involved to the maximum extent possible.
- (c) Recognizing the need for global and regional action to address the loss of coastal and marine biodiversity, the Conference of the Parties recommends that the CSD call for the implementation of existing national and regional strategies to conserve coastal and marine biodiversity. The Conference of the Parties further recommends that the CSD recognize the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) and other similar initiatives and endorse the ICRI Call to Action.
- (d) The Conference of the Parties endorses and highlights the inclusion of representative systems of marine and coastal protected areas within integrated area management, consistent with the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

7. The SBSTTA further recommends to the Conference of the Parties that it recommend to the CSD the need for the CSD to evaluate the world-wide over-capitalization of fishing fleets and its impact on marine and coastal biodiversity, and to review the role of national government subsidies in contributing to the over-capitalization.

8. The SBSTTA further recommends to the Conference of the Parties that it recommend to the CSD to highlight and urge the need for international cooperation to stem the adverse impacts of alien species introductions.

9. The following recommendations are recommended for the consideration of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

10. On integrated marine and coastal area management, the SBSTTA recommends to:

- (a) Promote integrated marine and coastal area management as the framework for addressing impacts of land-based activities on marine and coastal biodiversity by, *inter alia*, minimizing or eliminating inputs of pollutants (including persistent organic and radioactive substances, excessive nutrients and sediments), in particular those arising from municipal waste, industrial effluents, deforestation, watershed degradation, unsustainable forms of agriculture and mining.
- (b) Promote integrated marine and coastal area management as the framework for addressing human impacts on marine and coastal biological diversity and encourage governments, communities, and users to develop and adopt integrated management measures, including:
 - (i) land/habitat use capability analysis and planning for multiple use;
 - (ii) environmentally sound land and coastal resource use practices based on precautionary ecosystem management approaches and best management practices; and
 - (iii) sustainable tourism planning and management.
- (c) Carry out environmental impact assessment of all major coastal and marine development activities with special attention to marine and coastal biological diversity, and taking into account cumulative impacts. Undertake systematic monitoring and evaluation of project impacts during implementation.
- (d) Address socio-economic needs of coastal communities in the planning and implementation of the marine and coastal area management.
- (e) Promote rapid appraisal techniques to improve the conservation and management of marine and coastal biological diversity.
- (f) Address impacts of land-based activities on marine and coastal biological diversity and identify methodologies and research to assess these impacts, in close cooperation with the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Environment from Land-Based Activities, the major product of the UNEP Conference on Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities.

- (g) Address impacts of desludging and pollution by maritime vessels on marine and coastal biological diversity, in particular in those countries which border international waterways, and adopt measures to mitigate adverse effects.
- (h) Consider the effectiveness of both area management and species management as tools to provide a balanced approach to use and conservation of marine and coastal biological diversity.

11. On marine and coastal protected areas the SBSTTA recommends to:

- (a) Based on consideration of biogeography and scale, and the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, establish or consolidate representative systems of marine and coastal protected areas. Enhance linkages and information exchange among the sites.
- (b) Promote research and monitoring of marine and coastal protected areas to assess their value for the conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity. Apply, as appropriate, rapid assessment techniques to identify and improve the management of protected areas.
- (c) Explore means to incorporate marine and coastal protected areas within a broader framework for multiple use planning, as exemplified by UNESCO MAB Biosphere Reserves.
- (d) Encourage the participation of local communities concerned and of resource users in the planning, management and conservation of coastal and marine areas.
- (e) Consider all three levels of biological diversity, and factors determining their structure and function, in the development and implementation of management plans.

12. On sustainable use of coastal and marine living resources, the SBSTTA recommends to the Conference of the Parties that, as far as possible and appropriate, Parties should include in their national plans and programmes the following basic management elements ensuring that:

- (a) Management decisions are based on application of the precautionary approach;
- (b) Management decisions are based on the best available and sound scientific knowledge, research and information, taking into account ecosystem impacts;
- (c) Waste (such as waste through discard, spoilage, or mortality in the trade in living organisms) is reduced;
- (d) Local communities, users and indigenous people are involved in the conservation and management of resources;
- (e) National legislation ensuring the conservation and sustainable use of living marine and coastal resources in conformity with the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and Agenda 21, and that the provisions of the draft FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries once approved, will be followed;

- (f) Existing international agreements addressing over-exploitation and conservation of marine and coastal resources, are acceded to, and fully implemented and enforced, especially the Agreement on Straddling and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks; and
- (g) Monitoring mechanism are used or established to assist sustainable management of marine and coastal living resources.

13. Regarding the management and technology tools recommended by FAO's Code of Conduct, the SBSTTA recommends that the Conference of the Parties support the efforts of FAO to provide advice on these tools, and request an opportunity for the input of the Conference of the Parties into the draft Code of Practice in order to ensure that the Code becomes fully consistent with the objectives and provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

14. In addition, the SBSTTA recommends to the Conference of the Parties:

- (a) To identify constraints, including economic, for conversion of fishing gear and phase-out of fishing over-capacity, and the possibility of reducing subsidies for fisheries;
- (b) To offer the technical expertise of the SBSTTA to offer advice on the draft FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries in order to ensure its consistency and conformity with the objectives and provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity;
- (c) To take into account the ecosystem functions and processes identifying and targeting critical processes for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity;
- (d) To ask the FAO, or other appropriate bodies, to collate information on the availability of selective fishing gear and methods, possibly through the convening of an ad hoc intersessional panel on marine and coastal biodiversity; and
- (e) To urge the Parties not yet signatories to the Agreement on Straddling and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks to sign the Agreement.

15. On mariculture, the SBSTTA recommends to the Conference of the Parties:

I. Parties should, as far as possible and as appropriate, implement environmentally sustainable mariculture practices, including the following:

- (a) mariculture should be incorporated into integrated marine and coastal zone management plans, particularly taking into account the vulnerability of areas of high biological value;
- (b) mariculture should be subject to prior environmental and social impact assessments (in accordance with Article 14) and regulations (Article 10) and should incorporate the participation and needs of local and indigenous communities;
- (c) use of chemicals for therapeutics and other applications, high nutrient release and freshwater diversion should be minimized. Eutrophication should be avoided. Specific steps to achieve this include use of chemicals only in a prescribed and responsible manner, improvement in waste treatment, improvement in feed technology, and in promotion of integrated farming and polyculture;

- (d) mariculture operations should not result in the overexploitation of natural stocks through harvesting of wild larvae;
- (e) because of the difficulties of complete containment, introduction of alien species, products of selected breeding and living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology should be treated as an introduction into the wild. Therefore, adherence to international codes of practice such as the International Commission for Exploration of the Sea and the “Organisation Internationale Epizootique” should be a minimum requirement. Because of the potentially high risks, assessments should be rigorous, must correspond with the precautionary principle, and an appropriate monitoring programme must be put in place if introduction goes ahead. Preference should be given to the use of local species. Furthermore, development of technology to ensure a more complete containment should be encouraged;
- (f) the conservation of genetic diversity in the wild stocks which farmed populations are derived should be an objective of overall management; and
- (g) in areas where unsustainable mariculture operations have already substantially reduced or destroyed natural habitats and ecosystems, Parties should, where possible, undertake restoration programmes.

II. The clearing-house mechanism should be used to link databases and information networks to collect, share and disseminate data related to responsible mariculture measures.

III. The Conference of the Parties is invited to request the SBSTTA to monitor the development and provide input into the draft FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, in order to ensure that the Code is consistent with the objectives and provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

IV. National reports (Article 25) and national biodiversity strategies and action plans (Article 6) should include an examination of mariculture operations within the jurisdiction of Parties, and steps to avoid significant adverse impacts on marine and coastal biodiversity in the above ways.

16. On alien species, the SBSTTA recommends to the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties that, consistent with Articles 8(h) and 8(l) of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Parties should, as far as possible and appropriate:

I. Include in their national plans:

- (a) Means to prevent, control, or eradicate, where possible, those alien species which threaten ecosystems, habitats or species (Article 8, paragraph (h)). These means might include the implementation of international protocols and guidelines (e.g. the International Maritime Organization (IMO) ballast water guidelines or the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) Code of Practice).
- (b) Conduct of environmental impact assessments, including risk assessment, prior to the intentional introduction of alien species (Article 14.1, paragraph (a)) and consult with neighboring States before introducing alien species into shared waters. To minimize unintentional introductions, components of an

assessment might include identification of primary pathways for unintentional introductions; identification of types of organisms with the greatest potential to be dangerous; mitigation techniques to minimize unintentional introductions; monitoring to identify the establishment of alien species; and development of means for elimination of hazardous alien species.

- (c) Prior to intentional introduction, an assessment should be made of possible indigenous species alternatives, whether the introduced species can be adequately monitored (per Article 7, paragraph (c)), and whether adverse effects can be reversed within two human generations (as recommended by the draft FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries). Additional assessment should include: (i) biological information on the species in its native habitat, including life stages and trophic level; (ii) results of previous introductions elsewhere; (iii) potential impact on indigenous species, through, e.g. predation and competition, or on ecosystem function; (iv) associated pathogens and parasites and ability to treat or screen for such organisms; (v) potential for habitat modification; and (vi) the potential for interbreeding with and deleterious genetic impacts on indigenous species/stocks. The assessment should take into account that organisms transferred from one ecosystem to another may not maintain the same characteristics in the new ecosystem.
- (d) Conduct of environmental impact assessments prior to constructing canals linking coastal water bodies.
- (e) Education of the general public to the possible dangers to the ecosystem that could result from the release of ornamental species and unauthorized releases of species for sport fisheries.

II. Be encouraged to conduct research (Article 12) where additional targeted studies would further the understanding of the impacts of alien species on *in situ* conservation, including, for example:

- (a) undertake ecological surveys and ballast discharge water surveys to help establish baseline data and level of risk associated with introductions through ballast water, including on the effects of introduction of harmful algal species through ballast water;
- (b) undertake research on the long-term effects of species replacements due to introductions on ecosystem functioning.

17. Furthermore, the SBSTTA recommends that, consistent with Article 18 (Technical and scientific cooperation), the Conference of the Parties:

- (a) Establish under the Clearing-house mechanism (CHM), or other data exchange mechanism, information on normal or pathogenic flora and parasites of aquatic species being introduced for mariculture or stocking programmes. Information to be included in the clearing-house would be on infectious agents detected in indigenous, wild or alien cultured stocks, parasitic life-cycles, pathogen-specific methods of detection, and information on disease outbreaks and immune status in commercially shipped stocks. An existing mechanism for epizootics has been established in France (Organisation Internationale Epizootique);

- (b) Establish, under the CHM, information from results of environmental impact assessments or similar assessments on introduced species to provide a means of evaluating effective and ineffective methodologies for preventing the introduction of, controlling, and eradicating alien species and minimizing their adverse effects.
18. Additional recommendations for future action by the Conference of the Parties:
- (a) The SBSTTA suggests that the Conference of the Parties support efforts of the IMO to draft ballast water guidelines and request an opportunity for the input of the Conference of the Parties into those guidelines. The Conference of the Parties should ensure that the guidelines are consistent with the objectives and provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity;
- (b) The Conference of the Parties should contact relevant international bodies and instruments (for example, FAO) with a view to ensuring adequate controls of intentional introductions of alien or living modified organisms that have adverse effects on marine biodiversity.
19. Recommendations for the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to consider for the medium-term work programme:
- (a) Review the draft IMO ballast water guidelines to ensure that the guidelines are consistent with the objectives and provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity;
- (b) Review information provided by Parties and other sources on the assessment of alien species introduction to gain from past experience.

ANNEX TO RECOMMENDATION I/8

I. Integrated Marine and Coastal Area Management

Introduction

1. Coastal and marine areas contain some of the world's most diverse and productive systems. They include extensive areas of complex and specialized ecosystems, such as enclosed seas and tidal systems, estuaries, salt marshes, coral reefs, seagrass beds and mangroves that are sensitive to human activities, impacts and interventions.
2. Pressures on these systems are growing more intense. As rapid development and population growth continue in coastal areas, increasingly heavy demands will be placed on the natural resources and remaining natural habitats along the coasts. Unless corrective measures are taken, environmental degradation and over-exploitation will erode marine and coastal biological diversity, undermine productivity, and intensify conflicts over the increasingly scarce resources of the coastal zone.
3. The most important present and potential threats to marine and coastal biological diversity are well known:
 - (a) alteration and loss of habitat, including destruction of watersheds;

- (b) chemical pollution and eutrophication, including from land-based activities;
- (c) global climate change;
- (d) invasions of alien species; and
- (e) over-exploitation of living marine and coastal resources.

4. These threats cannot be treated separately, as ecosystem functions and processes are connected over wide distances. Singly, or in combination, these human perturbations can lead to structural and functional transformations of ecosystems.

5. Since threats will vary between regions and countries, depending on differences in ecological processes, level of availability of funding and economic and social activities, the Parties will need to tailor management regimes to the specific needs of each area.

Integrated Marine and Coastal Area Management

6. Current sectoral approaches to the management of marine and coastal resources have generally not proven capable of conserving marine and coastal biological diversity. New models are needed to move planners toward multiple-use, systems-oriented modes of management, based on precautionary approaches and ecosystem management principles. Wide adoption and implementation of integrated marine and coastal area management are necessary for effective conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity.

7. Integrated marine and coastal area management is a participatory process for decision-making to prevent, control, or mitigate adverse impacts from human activities in the marine and coastal environment, and to contribute to the restoration of degraded coastal areas. It involves all stakeholders, including: decision makers in the public and private sectors; resource owners, managers and users; nongovernmental organizations; and the general public. Community-based management approaches have proven particularly important. Integrated management programmes have already demonstrated their potential as an effective tool in developed and developing countries around the world.

8. On the regional level, integrated management of marine and coastal ecosystems could be promoted through the Large Marine Ecosystem approach to monitor and evaluate ecosystem health. Through ensuring the integrity and productivity of large-scale ecosystems, continuous benefits can be derived from the vast array of biological resources they contain.

Marine and Coastal Protected Areas

9. Within the context of national and regional efforts to promote integrated marine and coastal area management, networks of marine and coastal protected areas, other conservation areas, and biosphere reserves, provide useful and important management tools for different levels of conservation, management and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity and resources, consistent with customary international law.

II. Sustainable Use of Living Marine and Coastal Resources

10. Many of the world's fishery resources are in danger of depletion. The impacts of these activities can be direct and indirect. In addition, other living resources, for example mangroves, coral species and species amenable to bio-prospecting, are subject to or under threat of over-exploitation. The principal impact of over-exploitation is unsustainable removal of living marine and coastal resources. The most significant indirect impacts on biodiversity include habitat destruction, bycatch and ancillary impacts on interacting species or ecosystems. The overall goal is to achieve conservation and long-term sustainable use of living marine and coastal resources in a manner that respects both societal interests and the integrity of ecosystems.

III. Mariculture

11. Mariculture production worldwide is growing at the rate of about 5 to 7 per cent annually. Currently, the main types of marine organisms being produced through mariculture include seaweeds, mussels, oysters, shrimps, prawns, salmon and other species of fish. Mariculture offers possibilities for sustainable protein-rich food production and for economic development of local communities. However, mariculture on an industrial scale may pose several threats to marine and coastal biodiversity due to, for example, wide-scale destruction and degradation of natural habitats, nutrients and antibiotics in mariculture wastes, accidental releases of alien or living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology, transmission of diseases to wild stocks, and displacement of local and indigenous communities. Noting this situation, a precautionary approach should be applied to any mariculture development, in accordance with the preamble of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

IV. Alien Species

12. Alien components of biodiversity, including species, genetic strains, mixed genetic stock and living modified organisms, have the potential for significant, non-reversible, adverse impacts on marine and coastal biodiversity. Such impacts generally tend to be unpredictable. When they are adverse, they tend to homogenize and simplify biotic communities. Eradication of established alien species is difficult, if not impossible. One means to mitigate damage due to these components is to make introductions subject to rigorous prior environmental impact assessments.

13. Alien species can be introduced inadvertently and intentionally. Non-intentional introductions primarily result from the discharge of ballast water, escapees from mariculture, organisms associated with species introduced intentionally, and unauthorized releases by the public. Furthermore, it should be recognized that introductions result from the engineering of waterways connecting previously separate bodies of water.

14. Intentional introductions occur primarily for mariculture production, including marine ranching, although an additional significant pathway is by release of hatchery-spawned organisms into the wild for the purpose of augmenting wild pop-

ulations, generally for future capture in fisheries or in an attempt to enhance a population that is under threat. Particularly in the case of intentional introductions, alien species may include those resulting from the interbreeding of different genetic stocks or that have been genetically modified.

DECISION II/11 | Access to genetic resources

The Conference of the Parties

Recalling that the charge from its second meeting is to prepare for agenda item 6.6.1 of the programme of work for its third meeting where the Secretariat is asked to compile the views of Parties on possible options for developing national legislative, administrative or policy measures, as appropriate to implement Article 15;

Noting that regional efforts, based in part on the similarity of the genetic resources found in the region, are important to common strategies and therefore should be encouraged;

1. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to:
 - (a) [RETIRED as per decision VI/27, paragraph 3]
 - (b) Compile an annotated list of studies and other relevant information on the social and economic valuation of genetic resources, including the demand by industry for genetic resources;
2. *Reaffirms* that human genetic resources are not included within the framework of the Convention;
3. *Urges* Governments to send information on national measures to the Secretariat at their earliest convenience;
4. *Recommends* that the Secretariat not duplicate work underway in other forums.

DECISION II/12 | Intellectual Property Rights

The Conference of the Parties

Requests the Executive Secretary to:

- (a) [RETIRED as per decision VI/27, paragraph 3]
- (b) Consult with all stakeholders, in particular the private sector and indigenous and local communities, in order to gain understanding of the needs and concerns of those groups whose participation will be required for cooperative arrangements to be meaningful and effective in achieving the Convention's objectives. These consultations may take place in the form of roundtable discussions;
- (c) [RETIRED as per decision VI/27, paragraph 3].

DECISION II/13 | **Cooperation with other Biodiversity-Related Conventions**

The Conference of the Parties

1. [RETIRED as per decision VI/27, paragraph 3]
2. *Stresses* the need to make mutually supportive the implementation of activities undertaken by the Convention on Biological Diversity and by other international and regional conventions and agreements related to biological diversity and its components, building particularly on the consultations which have already taken place with certain key conventions, as outlined in UNEP/CBD/COP/2/Inf.2;
3. *Stresses also* the need to avoid unnecessary duplication of activities and costs on the part of Parties and of the organs of the Convention;
4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to coordinate with the Secretariats of relevant biodiversity-related conventions with a view to:
 - (a) Facilitating exchange of information and experience;
 - (b) Exploring the possibility of recommending procedures for harmonizing, to the extent desirable and practicable, the reporting requirements of Parties under those instruments and conventions;
 - (c) Exploring the possibility of coordinating their respective programmes of work;
 - (d) Consulting on how such conventions and other international legal instruments can contribute to the implementation of the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity;
- 5–7. [RETIRED as per decision VI/27, paragraph 3].

DECISION II/14 | **Convening of an open-ended Intergovernmental workshop on cooperation between the Convention on Biological Diversity and other international conventions on related issues**

[RETIRED as per decision VI/27, paragraph 3]

DECISION II/15 | **FAO Global System for the conservation and utilization of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture**

[RETIRED as per decision VI/27, paragraph 3]

DECISION II/16 | Statement to the International Technical Conference on the Conservation and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

[RETIRED as per decision VI/27, paragraph 3]

DECISION II/17 | Form and Intervals of National Reports by Parties

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note* of the note prepared by the Secretariat on form and intervals of national reports by Parties, document UNEP/CBD/COP/2/14;
2. *Endorses* recommendation I/5 on “Scientific and Technical Information to be contained in the national reports”, adopted by the first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice;
3. *Decides* that the first national reports by Parties will focus insofar as possible on the measures taken for the implementation of Article 6 of the Convention, “General Measures for Conservation and Sustainable Use”, as well as the information available in national country studies on biological diversity, using as a guide the annex to this decision;
- 4–5. [RETIRED as per decision VI/27, paragraph 3]
6. *Decides* that Parties shall submit their national reports in one of the working languages of the Conference of the Parties and, for the benefit of others, encourages Parties to also make available their reports electronically and, where possible, on the Internet;
7. *Decides* that national reports submitted by Parties will not be distributed as official documents of the Conference of the Parties, but will be made available to Parties, upon request, and in the language of submission;
8. *Requests* that the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice instruct any technical panels that it may establish on topical issues to comment on the feasibility and practicalities of developing technical guidelines for national reporting on the subject matter being considered by the panels, and report to the meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 1997;
9. [RETIRED as per decision VI/27, paragraph 3]
10. *Requests* also the Executive Secretary to make available to Parties, through the clearing-house mechanism for technical and scientific cooperation, relevant information contained in national reports submitted by Parties in accordance with Article 26 of the Convention;
11. [RETIRED as per decision VI/27, paragraph 3]
12. *Urges* the financial mechanism under the Convention to make available financial resources to developing country Parties to assist in the preparation of their national reports;

13. *Commends* the guidance provided in the document “Guidelines for Preparation of Biodiversity Country Studies”, prepared by the United Nations Environment Programme, and the document “National Biodiversity Planning: Guidelines Based on Early Country Experiences”, prepared by the World Resources Institute, the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Conservation Union (IUCN), and its relevance in assisting Parties to implement Article 6 of the Convention and in the preparation of national reports.

ANNEX

SUGGESTED GUIDELINES FOR NATIONAL REPORTING ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 6

- (a) *Executive summary*: a brief summary of the action plan report, stating succinctly the importance of biodiversity, the commitment to the Convention, the mandate, the participants list, the biotic wealth and national capacity, the goals and gaps, strategic recommendations and characteristics of the action (who will do what, when, where, with what means and funding).
- (b) *Introduction*: describe why biodiversity is important to the country and its local communities. Explain the Convention and the nation’s commitment to its provisions. Present the aim of the national biodiversity action plan and specify to whom it is directed.
- (c) *Background*: describe the legal and policy framework that provides the mandate and instructions for preparing the action plan report. Provide a short summary of the nation’s biotic assets, capacity (human resources, institutions, facilities, and funding) and ongoing programmes. Explain the institutional arrangements and responsibilities, with a view to informing people of the manner in which the strategic recommendations will be implemented.
- (d) *Goals and objectives*: state the vision for biodiversity and its place in the society, focusing on its protection, scientific understanding, sustainable use, and on the equitable sharing of its benefits and costs. The specific targets to meet the local, national, and international goals in terms of protecting, assessing, utilizing, and benefiting from biodiversity and its components need to be determined.
- (e) *Strategy*: summarize the gaps between the current situation in the country and the stated vision, goals and objectives. Summarize the strategic recommendations, including the activities, policies, and tasks that have been selected for implementation to cover the gaps. Assign relative priorities to each.
- (f) *Partners*: describe the public and private entities, communities and industries that have participated in the process and have agreed to be responsible for particular activities and investments.
- (g) *Action*: present the detailed activities, tasks and policies to be implemented. Explain which partner (Ministry, industry, indigenous group, NGO, or university) will implement each item, where, and what measures the partners will employ.

- (h) *Schedule*: present a timetable for the implementation of the various tasks, reflecting the priorities that have been assigned. Note signposts to help signal progress or delay.
- (i) *Budget*: provide the budget for the plan of action, showing funding requirements for operating expenses, capital purchases, transport, field costs, etc. List the personnel needed by category of skill or background, the facilities and services required, and possible international technical and financial cooperation.
- (j) *Monitoring and evaluation*: explain the measures to be used for tracking the results of the action plan and for monitoring changes in the economy, environment and society. Give the indicators that will be used. Present the individuals and organizations who will carry these responsibilities and how they were selected. Note the audience for the reports, along with the document's content and timing of implementation.
- (k) *Sharing of national experience*: present information and case studies which reflect the range of experiences of countries encountered in the implementation of Article 6, taking into account local and external factors.

SBSTTA RECOMMENDATION I/5
SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION TO BE CONTAINED IN THE NATIONAL REPORTS

Recalling Article 26 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, as well as Article 20, paragraph 4;

Recalling also decision 1/7 of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties which requested the first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) to consider as a matter of priority what kind of scientific and technical information should be contained in national reports on measures taken for the implementation of the provisions of the Convention and their effectiveness in meeting the objectives of the Convention;

The first meeting of the SBSTTA recommends to the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to consider the following elements in deciding on the form and intervals of national reports:

1. The scientific and technical information to be contained in national reports will depend on the expected decisions of the Conference of the Parties on the form and intervals of national reports;
2. Such decisions on the form of national reports should take into account:
 - (a) the three-fold objectives of the Convention;
 - (b) the different socio-economic conditions of Parties, as well as the various stages of the implementation of the Convention at the national level;
 - (c) the evolving tasks required under the Convention, as well as the evolutionary character of the reporting requirement contained in Article 26 of the Convention;

- (d) the comprehensive scope of the Convention, as well as its multisectoral and multidisciplinary approach;
 - (e) the need for an agreed standard and methodologies for reporting, with particular regard to biological diversity data gathering;
 - (f) the purposes of reporting, as well as the need to share national experiences and relevant information between Parties;
 - (g) the need for a flexible form of reporting so that it may be adjusted in the light of progress achieved and experience gained in the implementation of the Convention at the national level;
3. Such decisions on intervals of reporting should take into account the following elements:
- (a) the human, technical and financial implications related to the interval of reporting agreed upon;
 - (b) the time required for the preparation by the Parties and, in particular, the developing countries and countries with economies in transition Parties, of their national reports;
 - (c) the need to avoid placing a heavy burden on Parties with regard to reporting requirements;
 - (d) the need also to streamline information contained in national reports of Parties addressed to various fora related to biological diversity, including the Commission on Sustainable Development, so as to avoid duplication of efforts and overlap of reporting activities;
 - (e) the need to proceed in a step-wise approach.
4. In the light of paragraphs 2 and 3 above, the Conference of the Parties may wish to recommend that the first report of Parties may focus on the measures taken for the implementation of Article 6 of the Convention, as well as the information available in the national country studies on biological diversity. In this regard, the Conference of the Parties may wish to recommend the format contained in the annex of this recommendation. The content of such subject-oriented reports will be based on the outcome of the deliberations of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties on approaches and experiences related to the implementation of Article 6.
5. The subsequent national reports may focus on selected subjects contained in the medium-term programme of work of the Conference of the Parties and the programme of work of the SBSTTA.
6. Such subject-oriented reports may lead, at a later stage, to a comprehensive report to be submitted by Parties on the implementation of the Convention.
7. In deciding on the form and intervals of national reports, due regard should also be paid to the need to strengthen capacity-building of developing countries and countries with economies in transition Parties, as well as to reflect the financial implications of such decisions in the budget of the Convention on Biological Diversity, so as to establish adequate administrative and human capacities.

ANNEX TO RECOMMENDATION I/5
POSSIBLE FORMAT OF NATIONAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
ARTICLE 6

- (a) *Executive summary*: a brief summary of the action plan report, stating succinctly the importance of biodiversity, the commitment to the Convention, the mandate, the participants list, the biotic wealth and national capacity, the goals and gaps, strategic recommendations and characteristics of the action (who will do what, when, where, with what means and funding).
- (b) *Introduction*: describe why biodiversity is important to the country and its local communities. Explain the Convention and the nation's commitment to its provisions. Present the aim of the national biodiversity action plan and specify to whom it is directed.
- (c) *Background*: describe the legal and policy framework that provides the mandate and instructions for preparing the action plan report. Provide a short summary of the nation's biotic assets, capacity (human resources, institutions, facilities, and funding) and ongoing programmes. Explain the institutional arrangements and responsibilities, with a view to informing people of the manner in which the strategic recommendations will be implemented.
- (d) *Goals and objectives*: state the vision for biodiversity and its place in the society, focusing on its protection, scientific understanding, sustainable use, and on the equitable sharing of its benefits and costs. The specific targets to meet the local, national, and international goals in terms of protecting, assessing, utilizing, and benefiting from biodiversity and its components need to be determined.
- (e) *Strategy*: summarize the gaps between the current situation in the country and the stated vision, goals and objectives. Summarize the strategic recommendations, including the activities, policies, and tasks that have been selected for implementation to cover the gaps. Assign relative priorities to each.
- (f) *Partners*: describe the public and private entities, communities and industries that have participated in the process and have agreed to be responsible for particular activities and investments.
- (g) *Action*: present the detailed activities, tasks and policies to be implemented. Explain which partner (ministry, industry, indigenous group, NGO, or university) will implement each item, where, and what measures the partners will employ.
- (h) *Schedule*: present a timetable for the implementation of the various tasks, reflecting the priorities that have been assigned. Note signposts to help signal progress or delay.
- (i) *Budget*: provide the budget for the plan of action, showing funding requirements for operating expenses, capital purchases, transport, field costs, etc. List the personnel needed by category of skill or background, the facilities and services required, and possible international technical and financial cooperation.
- (j) *Monitoring and evaluation*: explain the measures to be used for tracking the results of the action plan and for monitoring changes in the economy, envi-

ronment and society. Give the indicators that will be used. Present the individuals and organizations who will carry these responsibilities and how they were selected. Note the audience for the reports, along with the document's content and timing of implementation.

- (k) *Sharing of national experience*: present success stories on the implementation of Article 6 which might be useful for other Parties.

DECISION II/18 | Medium-Term Programme of Work of the Conference of the Parties for 1996–1997

[RETIRED as per decision VI/27, paragraph 3]

DECISION II/19 | Location of the Secretariat

The Conference of the Parties

1. [RETIRED as per decision VI/27, paragraph 3]
2. *Decides* to accept the offer of the Government of Canada, contained in document UNEP/CBD/COP/2/Rev.1, to host in Montreal the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, established under Article 24 of the Convention;
3. [RETIRED as per decision VI/27, paragraph 3]
4. *Stresses* that such a transfer should, to the maximum extent possible, minimize the negative impact on the substantive preparation by the Secretariat of the meetings to be convened in 1996 under the auspices of the Convention, and other related activities;
5. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to negotiate and finalize the headquarters agreement with the Government of Canada;
6. [RETIRED as per decision VI/27, paragraph 3].

DECISION II/20 | Financing of and Budget for the Convention

The Conference of the Parties

- 1–10. [RETIRED as per decision VI/27, paragraph 3]
11. *Decides* to transfer to the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties, for further consideration, paragraph 4 of the Financial Rules contained in annex II of the present decision;
 12. Also decides to transmit paragraph 16 of the Financial Rules to the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties for further consideration.

ANNEX I:

[RETIRED as per decision VI/27, paragraph 3]

Appendix I to Annex I:

[RETIRED as per decision VI/27, paragraph 3]

Appendix II to Annex I:

[RETIRED as per decision VI/27, paragraph 3]

ANNEX II:

**FINANCIAL RULES FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE TRUST FUND
FOR THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY***

**DECISION II/21 | Venue and Date of the Third Meeting of the Conference
of the Parties**

[RETIRED as per decision VI/27, paragraph 3]

**DECISION II/22 | Convening of Regional and Subregional meetings for
Parties to the Convention**

[RETIRED as per decision VI/27, paragraph 3]

**DECISION II/23 | Tribute to the Government and People of the Republic
of Indonesia**

[RETIRED as per decision VI/27, paragraph 3]

* The financial rules for the administration of the Trust Fund for the Convention on Biological Diversity are reproduced in section V of this handbook.