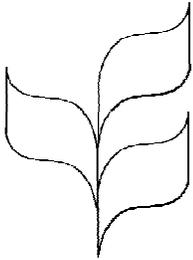




CBD



## CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE  
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY  
Fourth meeting  
Bratislava, 4-15 May 1998  
Item 7.3 of the provisional agenda\*

### DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR FOREST BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

#### Report of the Executive Secretary

##### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The present report by the Executive Secretary on progress in the draft programme of work for forest biological diversity, is prepared in compliance with paragraph 8 of decision III/12 of the Conference of the Parties. In developing this work programme, the Executive Secretary has drawn upon the assistance of Contracting Parties and countries, intergovernmental organizations and processes and major groups. The present report recalls the mandate for the work, including the relevant objectives of the Convention, decisions of the Conference of the Parties and the recommendations of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) and refers to ongoing work of relevant forums. Taking due account of that work and the views expressed by Parties and countries, as well as ongoing work in intergovernmental bodies and processes (see, inter alia, the submissions contained in document UNEP/CBD/COP/4/INF/11), the report then proposes a programme of work for forest biological diversity under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

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\* UNEP/CBD/COP/4/1

I. MANDATE

2. The Conference of the Parties, in paragraph 6 of decision III/12, requested the Executive Secretary to develop a focused work programme for forest biological diversity. Optional elements for such a work programme should initially focus on research, cooperation and the development of technologies necessary for the conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity. In addition the programme should:

(a) Take account of the outcome of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF) and other forest-related forums;

(b) Facilitate the application and integration of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity in the sustainable management of forests at the national, regional and global levels, in accordance with the ecosystem approach;

(c) Complement and not duplicate the work of relevant international forums, notably IPF;

(d) Complement existing national, regional or international criteria and indicator frameworks for sustainable forest management; and

(e) Incorporate traditional systems of forest biological diversity conservation.

3. In paragraph 9 of that decision, the Conference of the Parties requested SBSTTA to contribute advice on this draft focused programme of work for forest biological diversity and to report back to the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. SBSTTA, in providing this advice, was requested to bear in mind for possible future action, inter alia, the remaining forest research priority items listed in its recommendation II/8.

4. In paragraph 10 of the decision, the Conference of the Parties further directed SBSTTA, in the light of the proposed work programme and taking account of the research and technical priorities already identified in its recommendation II/8, to advance its scientific, technical and technological consideration of forest biological diversity by focusing initially on the synthesis and development of scientific information in the following areas:

(a) Methodologies necessary to advance the elaboration and implementation of criteria and indicators for the conservation of biological diversity as part of sustainable forest management; and

(b) Scientific analysis of the ways in which human activities, in particular forest management practices, influence biological diversity and assessment of ways to minimize or mitigate negative influences.

5. SBSTTA has provided advice on the draft programme of work in its recommendation III/3, contained in the report of its third meeting (UNEP/CBD/COP/4/2).

## II. ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY THE SECRETARIAT TO DEVELOP A FOCUSED WORK PROGRAMME FOR FOREST BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

6. In the development of the work programme for forest biological diversity, the Executive Secretary has drawn upon the active assistance of all Parties, in accordance with paragraph 7 of decision III/12. The secretariat has established a roster of experts on forest biological diversity, comprising names of experts submitted by Governments. As of December 1997, 96 countries had submitted the names of 370 experts to be included in the roster. In addition, a meeting of a liaison group on forest biological diversity to assist the Executive Secretary in the development of the work programme was held in Helsinki, from 25 to 28 May 1997, at the invitation of the Government of Finland. 1/

7. The Executive Secretary sent out a letter to the national focal points on 7 November 1997, by which Parties and countries were invited, in the light of decision III/12 and SBSTTA recommendation III/3, to express their views and priorities for the focused work programme for forest biological diversity. By 30 January 1998, nine replies had been received and these have been taken into account in the preparation of the present report. In addition, the Secretariat has developed a forest biodiversity homepage, which has been operational since September 1997. The forest biological diversity homepage can be found at <http://www.biodiv.org/forest.html>.

8. In developing this work programme, the Executive Secretary has collaborated with the secretariat of IPF and of its successor process, the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF), and with the Inter-Agency Task Force on Forests (ITFF). The Secretariat participated as an observer in the fourth session of IPF, held in February 1997, and in the first session of IFF, in October 1997.

## III. COMPLEMENTARITY AND COHERENCE OF EFFORTS

9. At its special session, the General Assembly stressed the management, conservation and sustainable development of forests as a crucial factor in economic and social development, in environmental protection and in the planet's life-support system and noted that forests are one of the major reservoirs of biological diversity. Forests are an integral part of sustainable development

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1/ For the report of the meeting, see document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/3/Inf.5.

and are essential to many indigenous people and other forest-dependent people practising traditional forest lifestyles, forest owners and local communities, many of whom possess important traditional forest-related knowledge. 2/

10. At the special session, the General Assembly decided to continue the intergovernmental policy dialogue on forests through the establishment of IFF.

A. Intergovernmental Panel on Forests

11. At its fourth session, IPF adopted sets of proposals for action under its twelve programme elements and acknowledged that coordination among all interested parties at the national and international levels was crucial for sustainable forest management. The Panel noted and welcomed further input from the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity with respect to forest biological diversity. 3/

12. The IPF proposals for action constitute a basis for the identification and elaboration of the activities under the work programme of the Convention. Of particular importance to the research component of the work programme is the IPF proposal on forest research:

"The Panel:

"(a) Requested the Centre for International Forestry Research, in collaboration with relevant organizations and in consultation with a group of internationally recognized experts, as well as in conjunction with national, regional, intergovernmental and non-governmental bodies, to develop as soon as possible mechanisms to:

"(i) Guide the identification and definition as well as prioritization of global and eco-regional interdisciplinary research problems, taking into account national priorities and closely linked to practical and operational forest management issues;

"(ii) Promote consortia or networks to lead and organize global forest research and ensure that results are made available to all users;

"(iii) Build global capacity for forest research and develop new and innovative means for disseminating information and technologies;

"(iv) Mobilize resources to accomplish the above objectives;

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2/ Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 (A/RES/S-19/2), paragraph 37.

3/ Report of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (E/CN.17/1997/12), paragraph 15.

"(b) Called on the Conferences of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention to Combat Desertification, within their areas of competence, to promote research and analysis undertaken by those Conventions and to address gaps in existing knowledge where relevant to their mandate;

"(c) Urged the United Nations system, international financial institutions and countries to examine the need to expand the capacity of existing research institutions at the regional and subregional levels, and where appropriate the establishment of new regional/subregional centres for research, development and extension, including for biological diversity and forest products and other forest goods and services;

"(d) Encouraged countries and regional and international research organizations to extend on-site research and to enhance its prioritization and the application of its results, with the involvement of all interested parties, in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of research so as to enhance its relevance and impact." 4/

#### B. Intergovernmental Forum on Forests

13. IFF held its first organizational session from 1 to 3 October 1997. The session agreed on its programme of work. 5/ Elements relevant to the programme of work of the Convention include:

(a) Promoting and facilitating the implementation of the proposals for action of IFF (Category I (a));

(b) Reviewing, monitoring and reporting on progress in the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests (Category I (b));

(c) Considering matters left pending on the programme elements of the IPF process (Category II), including, inter alia, analysis of underlying causes, in particular international causes, including transboundary economic forces of deforestation and forest degradation, taking into account the historical perspective and the pressures exerted on forests by other sectors, notably agriculture, in the quest for food security; traditional forest-related knowledge (TFRK), consistent with, inter alia, the terms of the Convention on Biological Diversity; valuation of forest goods and services; assessment, monitoring and rehabilitation of forest cover in environmentally critical areas; forest conservation, including conservation in protected areas; identification and definition of global and regional research priorities, taking into account

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4/ Ibid, paragraph 94.

5/ Report of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests on its first session (E/CN.17/IFF/1997/4).

national priorities; the use and application of the range of economic instruments, including tax policies and land tenure arrangements as a means of promoting sustainable forest management; and future supply and demand of wood and non-wood forest products and services (Category II (d)).

14. The topics left pending from the programme elements of IPF will be the subject of preliminary background discussion at the second session of IFF in August 1998 and of substantive discussion in February 1999. The Forum will report on its work to the Commission on Sustainable Development in 1999.

#### C. Inter-Agency Task Force on Forests

15. In order to ensure coherent support from the United Nations system for the IPF process and to contribute to the work of the Panel, an informal high-level Inter-Agency Task Force on Forests (ITFF) was established. Following the establishment of IFF, the Task Force has continued to carry out its tasks in support of IFF. The Secretariat is a member of ITFF. The other members are the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), the World Bank, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR). FAO carries out the secretariat functions of ITFF.

16. As a first response to the proposals for action adopted by IPF, the members of ITFF developed the Interagency Partnership on Forests, for the implementation of IPF proposals for action by ITTF, 6/ which was endorsed by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its fifth session. The objective of the implementation plan is to support the efforts of countries to implement the proposals for action of IPF through well-executed and coordinated activities by ITFF members in association with other international organizations, multilateral institutions and instruments, addressing needs at the national, regional and international level. In particular the plan identifies:

(a) Areas where concrete and coordinated action by ITFF member organizations is feasible and practical;

(b) Means by which existing resources can be used more effectively and efficiently; and

(c) Opportunities for participation by other potential partners, such as non-governmental organizations, private industry and other international organizations, for a more effective response to assisting Governments in the implementation of the IPF proposals for action.

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6/ This document is available on the CSD website at:  
gopher://gopher.un.org:70/00/esc/cn17/1997-98/itffplan.txt.

17. The members of ITFF have assumed responsibility for the follow-up and implementation of the IPF proposals for action for relevant specific programme elements and for the preparation of input to the IFF process. The Secretariat is the lead agency for traditional forest-related knowledge and will assist in the preparation of an information note to support background discussion on programme element II.d at the second session of IFF.

D. Ongoing work on criteria and indicators

18. IPF, in its proposals for action "urged countries and international organizations, in particular FAO, UNEP and other participants in international and regional initiatives, to undertake efforts to achieve a common international understanding on concepts, essential terms and definitions used in formulating and developing criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management (and to promote their adoption); on indicators for forests in similar ecological zones; on mutual recognition among sets of criteria and indicators as tools for assessing trends in forest management and conditions at the national level; and on transparent methods for the measurement of indicators and the collection, assembly, storage and dissemination of data". 7/

19. The Panel also emphasized the need for complementarity between the Convention and the IPF by requesting that the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity "take note of the work of the various existing initiatives on criteria and indicators to ensure that the work done by the Convention on Biological Diversity on developing and implementing biodiversity indicators would be consistent and complementary to them." 8/

20. Following the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) and the adoption of the Forest Principles, a number of national and regional initiatives have been taken to develop common criteria by which sustainable forest management can be defined, and to specify related indicators which can be quantified or described and regularly monitored, in order to evaluate the overall effects of forest management interventions, with a view to their gradual improvement. One such criterion relates to biological diversity, and a number of the processes have recognized that indicators for this could be improved.

21. Regional initiatives to develop appropriate criteria and indicators include: the Helsinki process for boreal, temperate and Mediterranean-type forests in Europe; the Montreal process for temperate and boreal forests outside of Europe; the Tarapoto proposal for the Amazon region; the UNEP/FAO-initiated processes for dry-zone Africa and the Near East; and the FAO/Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD)-initiated "Lepaterique" process for Central America.

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7/ Document E/CN.17/1997/12, paragraph 115 (d).

8/ Ibid., paragraph 115 (f).

22. National level criteria and indicators are being developed in many countries, while various systems of criteria and indicators applicable at the local level have been developed by governmental and non-governmental organizations.

23. Activities in international organizations, agencies and processes include the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment 2000 and the Temperate and Boreal Forest Resources Assessment (TBFRA) of the United Nations Commission for Europe (ECE). ITTO is developing criteria and indicators associated with trade and the productivity of tropical forests. The African Timber Organization (ATO), in collaboration with CIFOR, is developing unit-level criteria and indicators to improve market competitiveness in connection with certification. CIFOR is conducting research on the application of criteria and indicators across different eco-regions, taking into consideration the needs of forest dwellers and how such criteria and indicators could be developed for community forestry. A number of international non-governmental organizations are engaged in ongoing activities for measuring the state of forests and the sustainability of forest management practices.

#### IV. FOCUSED WORK PROGRAMME ON FOREST BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY UNDER THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

24. In accordance with decision III/12 of the Conference of the Parties, a work programme on forest biological diversity is proposed, focusing on the research, cooperation and development of technologies necessary for the conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity in the programme elements and priority areas already identified.

25. The proposed work programme is based on recommendation III/3 of SBSTTA and incorporates the views and interests expressed by Parties and countries. The work programme should be action-oriented, demand-driven and flexible enough to reflect and respond to changing conditions, including the outcome of, and the priorities to be identified by, IFF. The work programme should also reflect the varied needs and circumstances of Parties, indicating that inclusion of an activity in the work programme does not necessarily imply full participation in that activity by all Parties. In carrying out work under the identified programme elements, Parties should recall the remaining research priorities listed in SBSTTA recommendation II/8.

##### A. Objectives

26. The objectives of the programme of work are:

(a) To enhance Parties' abilities to realize the objectives of the Convention through improved implementation, by encouraging and assisting Parties to develop national measures for integrating the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into national forest management systems;

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(b) To identify traditional systems of conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity and the wider application of such knowledge and the equitable sharing of benefits, in accordance with Article 8 (j) and other related provisions of the Convention;

(c) To identify mechanisms that facilitate the financing of activities for the conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity, taking into account that activities should be complementary to, and should not duplicate, existing efforts; and

(d) To contribute to ongoing work in other international and regional organizations and processes, in particular to the implementation of the IPF proposals for action, and to provide input to IFF.

#### B. Structure

27. The work programme is organized in a matrix structure, as proposed by SBSTTA. Each cell is thus to be elaborated during the three phases of the work programme. In accordance with the views expressed by many countries, the level of action has been included in the matrix, where the elements of the work programme are categorized as national, subregional, regional, or international.

#### C. Time-frame

28. The programme of work reflects a rolling three-year planning horizon in three phases, on the assumption that, in its consideration of a longer-term programme of work under item 13 of the agenda, the Conference of the Parties will identify a rolling ten-year programme of work. The first phase covers the period 1998-2000, the second phase 2001-2003 and the third phase extends to 2006/2007. The matrix has been used to prioritize and schedule the work programme.

#### D. Review and planning process

29. Each phase of the work programme should be subject to periodic review and the development of the work programme, including work in its future phases, should be based upon clear recommendations by SBSTTA. The phases and outputs should take into account, as appropriate, the time-frames and work process of IFF.

#### E. Ways and means

30. In its recommendation III/3, SBSTTA identified the following ways and means for carrying out the work programme: workshops, regional meetings, the clearing-house mechanism, scientific meetings and case studies. Other feasible ways and means include:

(a) Peer-review mechanisms, including networks of experts or liaison groups and interagency task force groups, relying to the extent possible on existing electronic communication systems;

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(b) Use of international data and meta-databases, 9/especially in the national and regional monitoring of forest biological diversity;

(c) Use of remote-sensing technologies to assist Parties to assess changes in their forest biological diversity, as well as to enhance their ability to report on certain aspects of criteria and indicators frameworks; and

(d) Use of the roster on forest biological diversity in a transparent and effective manner.

#### F. Collaborative efforts

31. The work programme should support and enhance cooperation on the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources at all levels, ranging from community to inter-organization level, nationally and internationally. It recognizes that the most important part of work is action at the national level.

32. In order to facilitate the complementarity of efforts, the work programme should be developed and implemented in collaboration with the ITFF member agencies, other international organizations, agencies, processes, mechanisms and major groups, including women, youth, indigenous peoples, non-governmental organizations, local authorities, workers and trade unions, business and industry, the scientific community, and farmers. 10/

33. Collaboration should be strengthened with the Convention to Combat Desertification and with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in order to advance the effective implementation of the Conventions.

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9/ For a list of selected international meta-databases, see UNEP Global Biodiversity Assessment, Cambridge University Press, 1995, p. 655.

10/ Identified in Agenda 21 as key actors outside the central Government who have a major role to play in the transition towards sustainable development.

V. WORK PROGRAMME

A. Matrix

34. The matrix of elements for the proposed work programme, as prepared by SBSTTA and as elaborated by the Secretariat, contains a proposal for a schedule of work to be undertaken. This can be found in the annex to this report.

B. Elements of the proposed work programme

35. The proposed work programme elaborates, as follows, the elements for inclusion in the first phase of the work programme.

1: Holistic and intersectoral ecosystem approaches that integrate the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity as well as social and economic considerations

1A: Research

Approach: Foster activities to synthesize existing knowledge of holistic and intersectoral ecosystem approaches and social and economic considerations, to set the context for the development of a science programme and to identify and prioritize remaining research needs.

Activities: Standardization of methodologies, which should focus more on scientific purpose and information generation. Development of methodologies to advance the integration of traditional forest-related knowledge into forest management.

Ways and means: Coordination, collaborative efforts and capacity-building. Complementarity should be ensured with the work under way on the conceptualization and interpretation of the ecosystem approach in the other areas of work under the Convention, to ensure that the work on forest biological diversity complements this work.

The integration of social and economic considerations into the conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity will bring the concept close to sustainable forest management. The issue should also be dealt with thoroughly in other forums, mainly within the work under IFF.

Outcome: A better understanding of the ecosystem approach as it relates to forest biological diversity, and an elaboration of the linkages to other work under the Convention. A better understanding of the complexity and interdependencies of biological communities and their dependencies on the abiotic site-specific factors. Methodologies to help ensure that forest plans and practices reflect the social values of forest as well as the views of forest stakeholders.

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1B: Cooperation

Approach: Foster activities that support cooperation on the conservation and sustainable use of forest biological resources at all levels, ranging from community to inter-organization level, nationally and internationally.

Activities: For example, incorporation of the UNEP guidelines for the preparation of country studies of biological diversity into the FAO document entitled "Basic principles and operational guidelines for the formulation, execution, and revision of national forestry programmes."

Outcome: Enhanced cooperation.

1C: Development of technologies

Approach: Foster activities to support the development of techniques and means for the effective conservation and use of biological resources, in particular, full support for technology transfer from developed to developing countries.

2: Scientific analysis of the ways in which human activities, in particular forest management practices, influence biological diversity (decision III/12, paragraph 10 (b))

2A: Research

Approach: Foster activities to synthesize existing knowledge to set the context for the development of a science programme and identify and prioritize remaining research needs. Foster activities for an enhanced understanding of human influences on forest ecosystems by policy-makers and scientists.

Activities: Identification of means and mechanisms to improve the identification and prioritization of research activities related to the influences of human activities on forest biodiversity.

Ways and means: Regional workshops and/or liaison meetings that bring together experts in forest management and science from the forestry sector with experts on biological diversity, bearing in mind the IPF proposal for action contained in paragraph 94 of the report on its fourth session (E/CN.17/1997/12).

Outcome: Expansion of research capacity to analyse human impacts on forest ecosystems, as well as an enhanced ability to prioritize research needs and apply results.

2B: Cooperation

(to be elaborated in phases 2 and 3)

/...

2C: Development of technologies

(to be elaborated in phase 3)

3: Assessment of ways to minimize or mitigate negative influences (decision III/12, paragraph 10 (b))

3A: Research

Approach: Foster activities to assemble management experiences and scientific information at the national level to provide for the sharing of approaches and tools that lead to improved forest practices with regard to forest biodiversity. Foster activities with the aim of providing options for mitigating human influences on forest biodiversity.

Activities and ways and means: Improved dissemination of research results through liaison group meetings entrusted with preparing synthesis reports of the best available scientific knowledge on key forest biodiversity issues. Guidelines for use by Parties' forest and land use planning agencies to ensure the fuller integration of genetic, species and habitat diversity into forest management regimes. Other ways and means specifically mentioned in the SBSTTA recommendation include, inter alia, electronic information network, the clearing-house mechanism and case studies.

Outcome: Expansion of research capacity to assess ways to minimize or mitigate negative influences.

3B: Cooperation

(to be developed in phases 2 and 3)

3c: Development of technologies

(to be developed in phases 2 and 3)

4: Methodologies necessary to advance the elaboration and implementation of criteria and indicators (decision III/12, paragraph 10 (a))

4A: Research

Approach: Foster activities to determine and advance the methodology for implementing the indicators of forest biological diversity that have already been developed or require further development, in coordination with IPF/IFF, and drawing upon existing and ongoing work to synthesize criteria and indicators. This includes measurement protocols and statistical sampling theory, to allow for the expression of national trends.

Activities: Assessment of experience gained in the regional processes, identifying common elements and gaps in the existing initiatives.

Ways and means: The Secretariat, in collaboration with relevant bodies and in coordination with the work on the general development of methods for implementing Article 7 under the Convention. Collaboration with ITFF member agencies; cooperating with and complementing existing criteria and indicators initiatives for sustainable forest management, including regional initiatives to develop appropriate criteria and indicators, such as the Helsinki process for boreal, temperate and Mediterranean-type forests in Europe; the Montreal process for temperate and boreal forests outside Europe; the Tarapoto proposal for the Amazon forest; the UNEP/FAO-initiated processes for dry-zone Africa and the Near East; and the FAO/CCAD-initiated "Lepaterique" process for Central America. 11/

Outcome: Methodologies to advance the elaboration and implementation of criteria and indicator frameworks and the improved capacity of countries to implement these frameworks.

Contribution to the regional initiatives in the development of suitable indicators under the criterion for forest biological diversity.

4B: Cooperation

Approach: Foster activities leading to improved cooperation with relevant bodies and initiatives and input into these initiatives.

5: Remaining research and technological priorities identified in the SBSTTA recommendation II/8

(to be developed in phases 2 and 3)

As additional scientific and technical priorities are identified, they can be incorporated in the periodic planning activities and reviews of the work programme. Views have been expressed by Parties as to the need to incorporate the following elements in the work programme:

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11/ See background document for the Intergovernmental Seminar on Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management, June 1996.

5A: Research

5A.1: Analysing measures for mitigating the underlying causes of forest biological diversity loss.

Besides forest management practices there are other major causes to the loss of biological diversity in forest ecosystems, such as habitat transformation, pollution and erosion. There is a need for a better understanding of the underlying causes of biological diversity loss and the improvement of measures for mitigating those causes.

5A.2: Integration of protected areas in the ecosystem approach to sustainable forest management and the representativeness and adequacy of protected areas network

Conserving the biological diversity of forests should be carried out both by establishing protected areas and by taking biological diversity into account in production forests. The outcome of this programme element would include the further development of methods to integrate protected areas into sustainable forest management, e.g., ecological landscape planning, and analysis of the representativeness and adequacy of the protected areas network.

The work should also contribute to the preparation of the discussions of the Conference of the Parties on in situ conservation.

## VI. FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND THE FINANCIAL MECHANISM

36. The Global Environment Facility (GEF), as a financial mechanism for biological diversity, opens new possibilities to developing countries to initiate projects which aim at the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in their forests. Accordingly, the development of national measures which integrate the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into national forest management systems is an urgent task for both developed and developing countries.

37. Appropriate guidance should be given to the operating entity of the financial mechanism for the support of capacity-building for the implementation of the work programme and the use of the clearing-house mechanism for a coordinated approach to the implementation of the Convention's work programme.

## VII. INDICATIVE COSTING

38. The approximate costs of implementation of the work programme are estimated as follows:

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Phase 1 - Costs to the Trust Fund

Studies for assessments:	\$300,000-\$500,000 per study
Scientific/technical meetings:	\$100,000-\$300,000 per meeting

Phase 2

To be decided on by the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Phase 3

To be decided on by the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

VIII. RECOMMENDATION TO THE FOURTH MEETING OF  
THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

39. The Conference of the Parties is invited to endorse the work programme as proposed.
40. The Conference of the Parties is invited to urge Parties, countries, international and regional organizations, major groups and other relevant bodies to collaborate in carrying out the tasks identified.
41. The Conference of the Parties is invited to request SBSTTA to consider the need for a global assessment on forest biological diversity, encompassing all the proposed programme elements, building on ongoing work in international organizations, as well as on contributions by Parties, States and major groups as the contribution of the Convention to IFF and other forest processes.
42. Alternatively, the Conference of the Parties could decide that, as a starting point, an assessment be carried out on one specific programme element of the work programme.
43. The Conference of the Parties is invited to provide guidance to SBSTTA on possible ways that such an assessment could be carried out and may wish to recommend that SBSTTA establish an ad hoc scientific group for this purpose.
44. The Conference of the Parties is invited to recommend that Parties and countries and international funding institutions, including GEF, give priority to the allocation of resources to activities that advance the objectives of the Convention in respect of forest biological diversity.
45. The Conference of the Parties might wish to invite its President to transmit this decision to the second meeting of IFF.

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Annex

Matrix of elements for the proposed work programme

		1	2	3	4	5
		Holistic and intersectoral ecosystem approaches that integrate the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity as well as socio-economic considerations	Scientific analysis of the ways in which human activities, in particular forest management practices, influence biological diversity (decision III/12, paragraph 10 (b))	Assessment of ways to minimize or mitigate negative influences (decision III/12, paragraph 10 (b))	Methodologies necessary to advance the elaboration and implementation of criteria and indicators (decision III/12, paragraph 10 (a))	Remaining research and technological priorities identified in SBSTTA recommendation II/8*
A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research</li> <li>• Approach</li> <li>• Activities</li> <li>• Ways and means</li> <li>• Collaborative efforts and capacity building</li> <li>• Outcomes</li> </ul>	1A Phase 1	2A Phase 1	3A Phase 1	4A Phase 1	5A Phases 2 and 3
B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cooperation</li> <li>• Approach</li> <li>• Activities</li> <li>• Ways and means</li> <li>• Capacity building</li> <li>• Outcomes</li> </ul>	1B Phases 1-3	2B Phases 2 and 3	3B Phases 2 and 3	4B Phases 1-3	5B Phases 2 and 3
C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of technologies</li> <li>• Approach</li> <li>• Activities</li> <li>• Ways and means</li> <li>• Collaborative efforts and capacity building</li> <li>• Outcomes</li> </ul>	1C Phase 3	2C Phase 3	3C Phases 2 and 3	4C Phase 3	5C Phases 2 and 3

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\* The following research and technological priorities identified in SBSTTA recommendation II/8 will be taken into consideration as future work is developed:

- (a) Analysing the role of biological diversity in ecosystem functioning;
- (b) Analysing measures for mitigating the underlying causes of biological diversity loss;
- (c) Advancing scientific and technical approaches to:
  - (i) Rehabilitating degraded and deforested ecosystems; and
  - (ii) Enriching biological diversity in forest plantations;
- (d) Identifying gaps in knowledge in the areas of fragmentation and population viability, to include mitigation options such as corridors and buffer zones;
- (e) Assessing ecological landscape models, the integration of protected areas in the ecosystem approach to sustainable forest management and the representativeness and adequacy of protected areas networks; and
- (f) Developing assessment and evaluation methodologies for the multiple benefits derived from forest biological diversity.

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