



CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/COP/6/INF/32
19 March 2002

ENGLISH ONLY

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Sixth meeting

The Hague, 7-19 April 2002

Item 16 of the provisional agenda*

INTEGRATED MARINE AND COASTAL AREA MANAGEMENT AND THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY: AN ANALYSIS OF INTEGRATED MARINE AND COASTAL AREA MANAGEMENT DOCUMENTS IN RELATION TO THE CONVENTION'S OBJECTIVES

Note by the Executive Secretary

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity have identified integrated marine and coastal area management (IMCAM) as an important tool to achieve the objectives of the Convention in regards to marine and coastal biological diversity. In decision II/10, paragraph 2, the Conference of the Parties 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. Paragraph 3 of the same decision provides a broad outline for action by encouraging 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.

2. The programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity was adopted by the Conference of the Parties in its decision IV/5 and contains five main programme elements, which reflect global priorities. Not surprisingly, the implementation of integrated marine and coastal area management is the first of these programme elements.

3. Operational objective 1.1 of the programme of work calls for a review of the existing instruments relevant to integrated marine and coastal area management (IMCAM) and their implication for the implementation of the Convention. An analysis produced by the Executive Secretary for the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (UNEP/CBD/COP/5/INF/6) indicated that the existing guidelines do not

* UNEP/CBD/COP/6/1 and Corr.1/Rev.1.

/...

make adequate specific reference to the biological diversity of the resources being managed. As a result, in paragraph 9 of its decision V/3, the Conference of the Parties endorsed the conduct of further work on developing guidelines for coastal areas, taking into account its decision V/6 on the ecosystem approach.

4. In this context, and in view of its commitments to the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Government of the Netherlands offered its assistance in undertaking activities leading to better integration of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity in IMCAM projects. The offer of assistance by the Government of the Netherlands was made at the sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) and is recorded in the report of that meeting (UNEP/CBD/COP/6/3, para. 39).

5. As a first step in this process, the Government of the Netherlands has, in response to operational objective 1.1 of the programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity and to decision V/3, paragraph 9, submitted an analysis of existing key documents providing guidance on the implementation of IMCAM. The documents were analysed according to a number of criteria established in accordance with the text of the Convention and the main decisions relating to marine and coastal biological diversity. The present note contains a summary of the conclusions and recommendations of the analysis. The full document (UNEP/CBD/COP/6/NL/RPT) is available on the Secretariat's website (www.biodiv.org) under the section containing "other" documents for the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

6. The analysis presented in the document is the first step in a set of planned activities to be undertaken by the Government of the Netherlands, in cooperation with the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA), and international agencies such as Wetlands International. These activities aim at better integration of the Convention's objectives in IMCAM projects at the regional, national and local levels. Progress reports will be submitted to future meetings of SBSTTA, and the final report will be presented to the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting. Additionally, several case-studies on IMCAM projects from different regions will be presented at a side-event during the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and will also be made available in writing and on the Secretariat's website.

II. SUMMARY OF MAIN CONCLUSIONS

7. On the basis of an extensive evaluation of 25 documents providing guidance on the implementation of IMCAM, the following main conclusions were drawn:

(a) Large differences exist among the documents in their coverage of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

(b) Although the majority of the criteria (based on established Convention objectives and decisions) were well covered, several get very little attention in IMCAM documentation. These criteria included the rehabilitation and restoration of degraded ecosystems and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources;

(c) There were no documents found that cover all the criteria;

(d) Hence, a guide with complete but concise coverage would be a most useful contribution to furthering the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity in marine and coastal areas.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS

8. On basis of the analysis and the conclusions reported above, the following recommendations are made:

(a) A guidance document on the implementation of IMCAM in the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity, paying systematic attention to the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity should be developed. The following aspects should be included in this guidance:

- (i) The guidance should address both the objectives and means of operation, at national and local scales, for IMCAM;
- (ii) It should be based on an elaboration of economic, ecological and social aspects of sustainable development;
- (iii) It should include a systematic elaboration of the ecosystem approach for marine and coastal area management;
- (iv) Annotated reference to existing guidance on specific topics would be an essential element of such a document;

(b) In preparing further guidance on the implementation of IMCAM in the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity, particular attention should be paid to the gaps identified in existing IMCAM guidance documents (as specified in the conclusions of the Netherlands analysis referred to in paragraph 5 above);

(c) General issues on conflict resolution, enforcement and participatory approaches, and economic sectors also deserve due attention;

(d) Drafting of such a guidance document should be embedded within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and in particular its SBSTTA, in order to acquire maximum support. Involvement of relevant stakeholders in the further process should be actively sought. Collaboration with other international forums, such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities should be considered;

(e) Both for the development and for the dissemination of guidance on IMCAM, optimal use should be made of the opportunities that the internet offers, including the Convention's clearing-house mechanism. With use of the internet, an enabling environment can be created to assist and support institutions in integrating CBD objectives.
