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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
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Sixth meeting

The Hague, 7-19 April 2002

Item 24 of the provisional agenda*

**STRATEGIC PLAN, NATIONAL REPORTING AND OPERATIONS OF THE
CONVENTION**

Multi-year programme of work for the Conference of the Parties up to 2010

Note by the Executive Secretary

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In paragraph 4 of its recommendation 1, the Open-ended Inter-Sessional Meeting on the Strategic Plan, National Reports and Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (MSP), held in Montreal in November 2001, requested the Executive Secretary to prepare for the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties a multi-year programme of work for the Conference of the Parties up to 2010, on the basis of decision IV/16, suggestions by Parties received by 1 March 2002 and taking into account recommendation VII/12 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) on topics for future work. The present note has been prepared in response to that request.

2. At its first meeting, in decision I/9, the Conference of the Parties adopted a medium-term programme of work for the period 1995-1997, and outlined principles that such work programmes should follow. The programme of work was reviewed at the second and third meetings of the Conference of the Parties (decisions II/18 and III/22), and has proven to be a useful tool for organizing and coordinating the work of the Convention. Several thematic work programmes were adopted in the period covered by the first medium-term programme of work. At its second meeting, the Conference of the Parties, in decision II/10, adopted the Jakarta Mandate on marine and coastal biological diversity, leading to a programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity in decision IV/5. At its third and fourth meetings, the Conference of the Parties decided to develop a multi-year programme of work on agricultural biodiversity (decisions III/11 and IV/6), which was later adopted at the fifth meeting (decision V/5). At its fourth

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meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopted the work programmes on biological diversity of inland water ecosystems (decision IV/4) and forest biological diversity (decision IV/7).

3. During this period, the Conference of the Parties also addressed many of the cross-cutting issues under the Convention, including access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing (decisions II/11, III/15 and IV/8), invasive alien species (decision IV/1), implementation of Article 8 (j) and related provisions (decisions III/4 and IV/9), incentive measures (decisions III/18 and IV/10), the ecosystems approach (decision II/8), impact assessment (decision IV/10), indicators (decision III/10 and IV/1), protected areas (decision IV/15), consideration of Articles 6 (General measures for conservation and sustainable use) and 8 (*In-situ* conservation) (decisions II/7 and III/9), access to, and transfer and development of technology (decisions II/4 and III/16), and public education and awareness (decision IV/10), among others.

4. At its fourth meeting, in 1998, the Conference of the Parties, in decision IV/16, established a new medium-term programme of work to cover the period from the fifth until the seventh meeting, identifying three items, consisting of one thematic area and two cross-cutting issues, for in-depth consideration at each meeting. Dry and sub-humid lands; sustainable use, including tourism; and access to genetic resources were the items for in-depth consideration at the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

5. To facilitate the preparation of a new medium-term programme of work, SBSTTA at its seventh meeting, proposed, in recommendation VII/12, a number of topics as potential themes for in-depth discussion at the eighth and subsequent meetings of the Conference of the Parties. These themes are:

- (a) Restoration and rehabilitation of degraded ecosystems and recovery of rare and threatened species;
- (b) The importance of biodiversity for human health;
- (c) Importance of biosecurity in preserving biodiversity through the control of invasive alien species;
- (d) The role of biodiversity in natural disaster prevention and relief;
- (e) Island biodiversity; and
- (f) Biodiversity of urban and peri-urban areas.

6. In recommendation VII/12, SBSTTA also invited Parties to provide to the Executive Secretary comments on these possibilities, and/or additional suggestions, as appropriate, for inclusion in an information document to be made available to the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting. The following additional topics were suggested by one Party:

- (a) Impact of globalization on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and ways to mitigate negative effects;
- (b) Impact of wars on biodiversity and ways to mitigate negative effects; and
- (c) Impact of changes in ozone layer on biodiversity, and ways to mitigate negative effects.

7. In light of the draft Strategic Plan for the Convention on Biological Diversity, annexed to recommendation 1 of the Meeting on the Strategic Plan, and in particular the sections headed “the issue”,

“vision” and “operational goals”, the following issues can also be considered as possible topics for in-depth consideration by the Conference of the Parties:

(a) Targets, baselines and indicators of biodiversity status and trends; and

(b) Mainstreaming of biodiversity concerns into relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies, which was identified as a major challenge to the implementation of the Convention.

8. The proposed multi-year programme of work, presented in section II below, is based on recommendation VII/12, the report of the MSP, and additional comments from the Parties. The proposed topics have been prioritized based on their perceived urgency and the way they fit in with the existing programmes of work of the Conference of the Parties.

9. At its meetings, the Conference of the Parties considers a number of agenda items, grouped under the following headings: organizational matters, reports, review of the implementation of the programmes of work, priority issues and final matters. Under the heading “Review of the implementation of the programmes of work”, the Conference of the Parties may decide to carry out an in-depth review of on-going programmes of work on selected thematic areas and cross-cutting issues. The Meeting on the Strategic Plan provided guidance by outlining a number of specific activities that should be undertaken to facilitate such reviews, as part of the agreed procedures for reviewing the implementation of the Strategic Plan of the Convention (recommendation 1, annex, para 19). At its seventh meeting, for example, the Conference of the Parties will consider the advice of SBSTTA on the further elaboration and refinement of the programme of work on biological diversity of inland water ecosystems, with due regard to a number of issues requiring specific attention of the Conference of the Parties. ^{1/} Section III below contains a suggested timetable for the review of selected programmes of work on thematic areas and cross-cutting issues.

10. The Conference of the Parties may wish to decide to adopt the timetable for the in-depth review of the programmes of work and the multi-year programme of work for the period between 2006 and 2010 contained in sections II and III of this note.

II. THE PROPOSED MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES FOR 2006-2010

11. This multi-year programme of work (also see Annex) only lists priority matters for in-depth consideration. The other items are considered standing issues.

12. In 2006, the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties may wish to consider, *inter alia*, the following items in-depth:

(a) Island biodiversity:

(i) To assess status and trends of island biological diversity;

(ii) To provide guidance on best practices on island ecosystem management;

(iii) To develop a programme of work based on priority actions;

^{1/} See decision V/2, para. 5.

(b) Restoration and rehabilitation of degraded ecosystems and recovery of rare and threatened species:

- (i) To identify degraded ecosystems and rare and threatened species;
- (ii) To compile information on relevant technologies and related costs for restoration and rehabilitation of degraded ecosystems and recovery of species;
- (iii) To provide guidance on options and techniques for rehabilitation and restoration of major ecosystems;

(c) Targets, baselines, indicators and mainstreaming:

- (i) To develop proposals for incorporation of targets in all work programmes under the Convention;
- (ii) To approve principles and a set of standard questions for designing national-level indicators of the status and trends of biodiversity, and methods for baseline determination;
- (iii) To produce operational guidelines for mainstreaming of biodiversity concerns into relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies.

13. In 2008, the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties may consider, *inter alia*, the following items in-depth:

(a) Biodiversity of urban and peri-urban areas:

- (i) To assess status, trends and role of biodiversity, including exotic species, in urban and peri-urban areas;
- (ii) To assess impact of urbanization and peri-urban activities on biodiversity;
- (iii) To develop guidance for the maintenance of biodiversity in urban and peri-urban areas, including a programme of work;

(b) The importance of biodiversity for human health:

- (i) To assess the goods and services of biodiversity for human health, including e.g., medicines, nutrition, biodiversity and human infectious diseases;
- (ii) To develop options and best practices, including a programme of work;

(c) Importance of biosecurity in preserving biodiversity through the control of invasive alien species:

- (i) To compile case studies in light of the guiding principles for the control and prevention of invasive alien species and mitigation of their impacts;
- (ii) To develop options for the implementation of biosecurity through control of invasive alien species.

14. In 2010, the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties may consider, *inter alia*, the following items in-depth:

(a) Role of biodiversity in natural disaster prevention and relief:

- (i) To assess the function and services of components of biodiversity in natural disaster prevention and relief;
 - (ii) To develop guidance, and compile case-studies and good practices on utilization of biodiversity in natural disaster prevention and relief;
- (b) Impact of conflicts/wars on biodiversity and ways to mitigate negative effects:
- (i) To compile information on the impact of conflicts/war on components of biodiversity;
 - (ii) To develop options for mitigating the negative effects of conflicts/war on biodiversity;
- (c) Impact of globalization on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and ways to mitigate negative effects:
- (i) To assess the influence of globalization, including international trade and communication, on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity;
 - (ii) To develop options for promoting the positive effects and mitigating the negative impacts of globalization on biodiversity;
- (d) Impacts of changes in ozone layer on biodiversity, and ways to mitigate negative effects:
- (i) To assess the impacts of ozone layer thinning on biodiversity;
 - (ii) To develop options for mitigating the negative effects of the thinning of the ozone layer on biodiversity, and for adaptation.

III. TIMETABLE FOR THE IN-DEPTH REVIEW OF THE PROGRAMMES OF WORK

15. In 2006, the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties may wish to consider for in-depth review the following programmes of work:

- (a) Agricultural biological diversity;
- (b) Biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands;
- (c) Article 8(j) and related provisions.

16. In 2008, the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties may wish to consider for in-depth review the following programmes of work:

- (a) Forest biological diversity
- (b) Invasive alien species
- (c) Access and benefit sharing

17. In 2010, the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties may wish to consider for in-depth review the following programmes of work

- (a) Mountain biological diversity;

- (b) Sustainable use of components of biological diversity;
- (c) Protected areas;
- (d) Technology cooperation and transfer of technology.

Annex

DRAFT MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK 2006-2010

Meeting of the Conference of the Parties	Issue for in-depth consideration	Expected outcome	Main partners for preparation
Eighth (2006)	Island biodiversity	-Assessment of status and trends -Guidance and best practices on island ecosystem management -Work programme based on priority actions	Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), UN/DESA, UNDP/SDNP, UN Division for Sustainable Development, International Center for Island Studies
	Restoration and rehabilitation of degraded ecosystems	Guidance on options and techniques for rehabilitation and restoration of major ecosystems and threatened species	UNEP, UNESCO, IUCN, WRI, CGIAR, DIVERSITAS, Gran Canaria Group
	Targets, baselines and indicators -Principles and a set of standard questions for designing national-level indicators	-Proposals for incorporation of targets in all work programmes under the Convention -Principles for indicators - Operational guidelines for mainstreaming	Parties, key organizations and agencies active in each thematic area
Ninth (2008)	Biodiversity of urban and peri-urban areas	-Assessment of status and trends in urban areas -Work programme	UNEP, ICSU-SCOPE, CGIAR, World Bank, UNCHS (Habitat), UNESCO, ECG
	Importance of biodiversity for human health -Assessment of ecosystem services for human health, including medicines, role of species in medical research;	Biodiversity and human infectious diseases; and role of biodiversity in world food production. -Options and best practices	UNEP, WHO, Harvard University, SCOPE
	Importance of biosecurity in preserving biodiversity through control of invasive alien species	Options for the implementation of biosecurity through control of invasive alien species	FAO, GISP, IPPC, WHO, IMO

Meeting of the Conference of the Parties	Issue for in-depth consideration	Expected outcome	Main partners for preparation
Tenth (2010)	Role of biodiversity in natural disaster prevention and relief	-Assessment of the role of biodiversity in natural disaster prevention and relief -Guidance, case-studies and best practices	UNESCO-MAB, DIVERSITAS, UNEP
	Impact of wars on biodiversity and ways to mitigate negative effects	-Assessment of the influence of war on biodiversity -Options for mitigating negative effects	UNEP, MAB
	Impact of globalization on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and ways to mitigate negative effects	-Assessment of influence of globalization on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity -Options for mitigating negative effects	SCOPE
	Impact of changes in ozone layer on biodiversity, and ways to mitigate negative effects	- Assessment of the impacts of ozone layer thinning on biodiversity - Options for mitigating the negative effects of the thinning of the ozone layer on biodiversity	The Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer