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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**

Addendum

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

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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 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 to 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 the Democratic Republic of Congo and the European Union:

- (a) Impact of globalization on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and ways to mitigate negative effects;
- (b) Impact of armed conflicts on biodiversity and ways to mitigate negative effects;
- (c) Impact of changes in ozone layer on biodiversity, and ways to mitigate negative effects;
- (d) Polar ecosystems;

- (e) Deep seabed ecosystems;
- (f) Capacity building: training and research; and
- (g) *Ex situ* conservation.

7. Topics (a) to (d) in paragraph 6 above are included in the proposed multi-year programme of work in section II below and in the annex. 'Polar ecosystems' is considered a distinct thematic area, with the understanding, as noted by the European Union in its submission, that aspects of the activities on polar biodiversity can be included in the ongoing work on interlinkages between biodiversity and climate change. Topics (e) to (g) can be integrated into the ongoing activities as follows:

(a) Deep seabed ecosystems may be considered under the ongoing programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity. SBSTTA plans to review the Jakarta Mandate at its eighth meeting and may consider integrating deep seabed ecosystems in one of the elements of the programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity;

(b) Capacity building is a cross-cutting issue applicable to all the programmes of work of the Convention;

(c) During the period of the proposed multi-year programme of work, *ex-situ* conservation will be partly considered under the topic "restoration and rehabilitation of degraded ecosystems and recovery of rare and threatened species" (Articles 8 (f) and 9 (c) of the Convention) and as part of the implementation of decision V/26 C, on *ex situ* collections acquired prior to the entry into force of the Convention and not addressed by the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

8. In its submission, the European Union noted that specific work programmes, global strategies or action plans (e.g. regarding forests or the global strategy for plant conservation) are foreseen as achievable targets through all thematic programmes and lines of action. For themes aimed at interpreting Convention articles, in particular, the key articles, work should pursue the drawing up of guiding principles or guidelines, which would provide guidance to the Parties for the effective implementation of the Convention. With regard to cross-cutting issues, where possible, they should also lead to the drawing up of working plans or guidelines.

9. In addition, the European Union proposed that

- (a) The themes to be addressed for in-depth review preferably be arranged as follows:
 - (i) One concerning ecosystems;
 - (ii) One concerned with development of one of the Convention articles; and
 - (iii) A third related to cross-cutting questions;

(b) As a fourth priority matter, one or at least two of the items dealt with in the past should be taken up again to be subjected to an in-depth review and, if necessary, provided with the implementation proposed as per work programme, global strategy, action plans or guidelines/guiding principles.

10. Section III of the present note provides elements for the latter proposal

11. 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.

12. The proposed multi-year programme of work, presented in section II below and the Annex, 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.

13. 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.

14. 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, and in the Annex of this note.

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

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

16. 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;

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

- (iii) To develop a programme of work based on priority actions;
- (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, including for *ex-situ* conservation, 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 and recovery of rare and threatened species;
- (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.

17. 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 to human health:
 - (i) To assess the goods and services of biodiversity to 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) 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;

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

- (a) Polar ecosystems
 - (i) To assess the status and trends of biodiversity, and identify components of biodiversity important for its conservation
 - (ii) To enhance the understanding of polar biodiversity functioning and assess impacts of human activities, in particular extractive activities.
- (b) 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;
- (c) Impact of armed conflicts on biodiversity and ways to mitigate negative effects:
 - (i) To compile information on the impact of armed conflicts on components of biodiversity;
 - (ii) To develop options for mitigating the negative effects of armed conflicts 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

19. In 2004, the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties may wish to consider for in-depth review the following programmes of work:

- (a) Biodiversity of inland water ecosystems
- (b) Jakarta Mandate (programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity), including possible integration of deep seabed ecosystems in the programme of work;
- (c) Biodiversity and climate change. This review may include consideration of aspects of polar biodiversity;

20. 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;
- (d) Incentives.

21. 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. In reviewing this issue, the Conference of the Parties may wish to also consider the importance of biosecurity in preserving biodiversity through the control of invasive alien species, a topic listed in SBSTTA recommendation VII/12, and consider the following tasks:

- (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; and
- (ii) To develop options for the implementation of biosecurity through control of invasive alien species.

- (c) Access and benefit sharing;
- (d) Ecosystem approach;

22. 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 (indicative)	Issues for in-depth review
Seventh (2004)	Mountain ecosystems	-Assessment of status and trends of biodiversity -Case studies and good management practices -Programme of work	Convention on the Protection of the Alps, Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment of DIVERSITAS, International Centre of Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), IUCN Inter-Agency Group on Mountains, GEF, UNESCO, FAO, indigenous and local community organizations.	Programme of work on biodiversity of inland water ecosystems
	Protected areas	-Scientific basis for international cooperation -Guidelines for establishment and management -Options and priority actions for protected areas	IUCN WCPA; UNEP-WCMC; WRI, UNESCO-MAB; World Heritage Convention; Ramsar Convention, CMS; GEF	Jakarta Mandate (programme of work on marine and costal biodiversity)
	Transfer of technology and technology cooperation	- Compendium of technologies and their assessment -Enhanced cooperation and technology transfer	UNEP, UNFCCC, UNCTAD, International Environmental Technology Centre	Biodiversity and climate change

Meeting of the Conference of the Parties	Issue for in-depth consideration	Expected outcome	Main partners for preparation (indicative)	Issues for in-depth review
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; SPREP	Agricultural biological diversity;
	Restoration and rehabilitation of degraded ecosystems and recovery of rare and threatened species	-Guidance on options and techniques for rehabilitation and restoration of major ecosystems and threatened species	UNEP, UNESCO, FAO, Ramsar, IUCN, WRI, CGIAR, DIVERSITAS, Gran Canaria Group	Biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands;
	Targets, baselines and indicators; and mainstreaming of biodiversity concerns	-Proposals for incorporation of targets in all work programmes under the Convention -Principles for indicators and baselines - Operational guidelines for mainstreaming	Parties, key organizations and agencies active in each thematic area	Article 8(j) and related provisions
				Incentives
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	Forest biological diversity
	Importance of biodiversity to human health	Biodiversity and human infectious diseases; and role of biodiversity in world food production. -Options and best practices	UNEP, WHO, Harvard University, SCOPE	Invasive alien species including “importance of biosecurity in preserving biodiversity through control of invasive alien species”

Meeting of the Conference of the Parties	Issue for in-depth consideration	Expected outcome	Main partners for preparation (indicative)	Issues for in-depth review
	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	Access and benefit sharing
				Ecosystem approach
Tenth (2010)	Polar ecosystems	-Assessment of status and trends of biodiversity; and of impacts of human activities -Increased understanding of polar biodiversity functioning	Antarctic Treaty, Arctic Council, IUCN, Inuit Circumpolar Conference	
	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, Ramsar Convention, DIVERSITAS, UNEP	Mountain biological diversity
	Impact of armed conflicts on biodiversity and ways to mitigate negative effects	-Assessment of the influence of armed conflicts on biodiversity -Options for mitigating negative effects	UNEP, MAB, IUCN	Sustainable use of components of biological diversity
				Protected areas

Meeting of the Conference of the Parties	Issue for in-depth consideration	Expected outcome	Main partners for preparation (indicative)	Issues for in-depth review
	Impact of changes in ozone layer on biodiversity, and ways to mitigate negative effects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	Technology cooperation and transfer of technology
