

**CONVENTION ON  
BIOLOGICAL  
DIVERSITY**Distr.  
GENERALUNEP/CBD/COP/6/12  
18 January 2002

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

**CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE  
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

Sixth meeting

The Hague, 7-19 April 2002

Item 17 of the provisional agenda\*

**CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES: PROGRESS REPORTS ON IMPLEMENTATION***Note by the Executive Secretary***I. INTRODUCTION**

1. The present note describes progress since the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the following cross-cutting issues that are included under item 17 of the provisional agenda for the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties:

- (a) Identification, monitoring, indicators and assessments (item 17.1);
- (b) Global Taxonomy Initiative (item 17.2);
- (c) Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (item 17.3);
- (d) Article 8(j) and related provisions (item 17.4);
- (e) Liability and redress (Article 14, paragraph 2) (item 17.5);
- (f) Ecosystem approach; sustainable use; and incentive measures (item 17.6).

2. It also draws attention to the recommendations made for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) at its sixth and seventh meetings and by other inter-sessional bodies:

3. The Conference of the Parties may wish to:

- (a) Take note of the progress under the cross-cutting issues;
- (b) Consider and endorse the relevant recommendations on these matters of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), as reflected in the following table:

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

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<i>Subject</i>	<i>SBSTTA recommendation</i>
Scientific assessments: development of methodologies and identification of pilot studies	VI/5, para. 14
Assessment processes: progress report on ongoing assessments	recommendation VII/2, para. 9
The Global Taxonomy Initiative: programme of work	VI/6
Progress in the development of practical principles, operational guidance and associated instruments on sustainable use	VII/4, paras 3 and 4
Global Strategy for plant conservation	VII/8 (taking also into account the proposals that the Executive Secretary will put forward, based on the views of the Parties and informal consultations with experts, for the refinement of the quantitative elements of the targets in the draft strategy)
Incentive measures	VII/9
Further development of guidelines for incorporating biodiversity-related issues into environmental impact assessment legislation and/or processes and in strategic environmental assessment	VII/10
Designing national level monitoring programmes and indicators	VII/11

(c) Consider and endorse the recommendations contained in the report of the second meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-Sessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention On Biological Diversity, to be held from 4 to 8 February 2002 (UNEP/CBD/COP/6/7);

(d) Consider lessons learned from case-studies on the sustainable use of biological resources and recommendations in the reports of the regional workshops convened by the Executive Secretary on sustainable use relating to practical principles, operational guidelines and associated instruments, and guidance specific to sectors and biomes, which could assist Parties and other Governments to develop ways to achieve the sustainable use of biological diversity, within the framework of the ecosystem approach;

(e) Consider and endorse the recommendation on liability and redress contained in note by the Executive Secretary on the update of the synthesis report on submissions from Governments and international organizations on liability and redress (UNEP/CBD/COP/6/12/Add.1).

4. It should be noted that draft decisions under all these items, incorporating the relevant recommendations of the inter-sessional bodies, will be contained in the compilation of draft decisions for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties (UNEP/CBD/COP/6/1/Add.2).

## **II. IDENTIFICATION, MONITORING, INDICATORS AND ASSESSMENTS**

### ***A. Designing national level monitoring programmes and indicators***

5. In its decision V/7, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to carry out the pending activities set out in the work programme on indicators of biological diversity (decision IV/1 A).

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It further requested the Executive Secretary to produce an interim progress report on ongoing work on indicators in the thematic and other work programmes for review by SBSTTA prior to the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and to submit a final report on the conclusions of this initiative to the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting.

6. The pending activities include the development of:

(a) A set of principles for designing national-level monitoring programmes and indicators;

(b) A key set of standard questions and a list of available and potential indicators, covering the ecosystem, species and genetic levels, taking into account the ecosystem approach, that may be used by Parties at their national level and in national reporting, and that also allow for regional and global overviews on the state and trends of biological diversity and, if possible and appropriate, any responses from policy measures.

7. In response to decision V/7, the Executive Secretary sent out a questionnaire to Parties in May 2001. The questionnaire contained a set of principles and questions for designing national-level monitoring programmes and a generic list of indicators that had been compiled from various initiatives. Parties were requested to comment on the principles, questions and the set of indicators. The Executive Secretary also prepared a note for the consideration of SBSTTA at its seventh meeting (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/7/12), which contained a progress report on (i) the pending activities set out in the work programme on indicators of biological diversity, and (ii) ongoing work on indicators in the thematic and other work programmes also including the analysis of the 32 replies to the questionnaire received until 9 August 2001. Since then additional eight replies were received from Belgium, Costa Rica, Denmark, Mauritius, The Netherlands, South Africa, Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe.

8. SBSTTA considered, at its seventh meeting, the report prepared by the Executive Secretary and adopted recommendation VII/11, which is being submitted to the Conference of the Parties for its consideration in the report of the seventh meeting of the Subsidiary Body (UNEP/CBD/COP/6/4). SBSTTA recommendation VII/11 includes suggestions to facilitate and direct further implementation of the pending activities.

***B. Further development of guidelines for incorporating biodiversity related issues into environmental impact assessment legislation and/or processes and in strategic environmental assessment***

9. At its fifth meeting, the Conference of the Parties considered the cross-cutting issue of impact assessment. In para. 5 of its decision V/18, it requested the Executive Secretary to disseminate case-studies on environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment received from Parties; renew the call for further case-studies; compile and evaluate existing guidelines, procedures and provisions for environmental impact assessment; and make the information available through *inter alia*, the clearing house mechanism.

10. In paragraph 4 of the same decision, the Conference of the Parties requested SBSTTA to develop guidelines for incorporating biodiversity-related issues into legislation and/or processes on strategic environmental assessment and impact assessment in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, and to further elaborate the application of the precautionary approach and the ecosystem approach, taking into

account needs for capacity-building, with a view to completing these activities by the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

11. In response to the request of the Conference of the Parties in paragraphs 4 and 5 of decision V/18, the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Biodiversity and Ecology Section of the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) and other relevant organizations, prepared a note on impact assessment for the seventh meeting of SBSTTA (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/7/13). The note includes a compilation of lessons learned from existing guidelines, procedures and provisions for environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment with respect to impacts on biological diversity, together with draft guidelines for incorporating biodiversity-related issues into environmental impact assessment legislation and/or process and in strategic environmental assessment. SBSTTA considered the draft guidelines and adopted recommendation VII/10, which is annexed to the report of the seventh meeting of the Subsidiary Body (UNEP/CBD/COP/6/4).

### *C. Progress report on pilot assessment projects*

12. In paragraph 25 of its decision V/20, the Conference of the Parties recognized that there is a need to improve the quality of the scientific, technical and technological advice provided to it. In paragraph 29(a) of the same decision, the Conference of the Parties requested SBSTTA to identify, and where needed, further develop procedures and methods to undertake or participate in scientific assessments, or make use of existing ones. In response to this, SBSTTA, at its sixth meeting adopted recommendation VI/5, on the development of methodologies and identification of pilot studies for scientific assessments. The note on the subject prepared by the Executive Secretary for the seventh meeting of SBSTTA (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/7/3) contained a report on the progress made on activities relating to scientific assessments. These activities included the development of an assessment procedure and methods for the rapid assessment of biodiversity in inland waters and in marine and coastal areas; assessments of the status and trends of forest biodiversity; and assessment of the impacts of invasive alien species, and the interlinkages between climate change and biodiversity, as well as the development and maintenance of a list of ongoing global and regional assessments. The role of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment in the assessments of the Convention was emphasized, together with the need to support the participation of developing countries in its work.

#### *1. Development of rapid assessment methods for biological diversity of inland water ecosystems*

13. In paragraph 8 (b) of decision IV/4, the Conference of the Parties requested SBSTTA to develop and disseminate regional guidelines for rapid assessment of inland water biological diversity for different types of inland water ecosystems, in cooperation with relevant organizations, Governments and Parties and building upon the ongoing efforts in inland water ecosystem conservation. In its recommendation VI/2, SBSTTA noted the need to facilitate the progress in preparation of guidelines for rapid assessment methodologies of biological diversity of inland water ecosystems, paying special attention to early cooperation with small island developing States.

14. In paragraphs 6 and 8 of recommendation VI/5, SBSTTA decided to initiate assessments on a number of priority issues including development of rapid assessment methods for the biodiversity of inland water ecosystems, in cooperation with the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat and requested the Executive Secretary to initiate pilot projects, drawing,

as appropriate, on briefs in annex III to the note by the Executive Secretary on scientific assessments prepared for the sixth meeting of SBSTTA (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/9).

15. In response, the Executive Secretary developed for the seventh meeting of SBSTTA a project brief outlining how this work would be undertaken (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/7/3, annex II, section A 1). In collaboration with the Ramsar Convention, the Executive Secretary is currently considering means to implement this project brief. As a first step, the Executive Secretary has started compiling information on existing methods for the rapid assessment of biodiversity in inland water ecosystems and has requested assistance of Conservation International for the preparation of a document containing:

- (a) A list of existing assessment methods for inland water ecosystems;
- (b) Guidelines for application of these methods, and
- (c) Elements of good practices.

16. A detailed report on the subject will be presented at the eighth meeting of SBSTTA.

### 2. *Development of rapid assessment methods for biodiversity of marine and coastal areas*

17. In response to paragraph 6 (c) of SBSTTA recommendation VI/5, the Executive Secretary developed for the consideration of SBSTTA at its seventh meeting a project brief for the development of rapid assessment methods for biodiversity of marine and coastal areas (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/7/3, annex II, section A 2).

18. The implementation of the pilot project described in the project brief is now in progress. As a first step, the Executive Secretary has begun compiling a list of existing assessment methods. In this task, the Executive Secretary has requested the assistance of relevant organizations, institutions and programmes, including the Global International Waters Assessment, the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network, the Ad Hoc Benthic Indicator Group of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC).

19. As a next step, a list of those assessment methods that are truly rapid is being developed. The list considers rapid assessments on the level of ecosystems, habitats, species and genes. The main focus of the inventory will be on ecosystem assessment.

20. The remaining steps of the pilot assessment will be completed as described in section A 2 of annex II to the above-mentioned note by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/7/3). It is expected that a number of outputs resulting from this process will be prepared in time for the eighth meeting of SBSTTA.

### 3. *Assessment of forest biodiversity*

21. Three pilot assessment projects, including two assessments of specific threats, were carried out in the area of forest biological diversity, as recommended by the Conference of Parties in its decision V/4, namely:

- (a) Assessment of the status and trends of, and major threats to, forest biological diversity;

(b) Assessment of the causes and impacts of human-induced uncontrolled forest fires on forest biological diversity, and

(c) Assessment of the impact of unsustainable harvesting of non-timber forest resources, including bushmeat and living botanical resources.

**(a) *Status and trends of, and major threats to, forest biological diversity***

22. The assessment of the status and trends, and major threats to, forest biological diversity was carried out by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Forest Biological Diversity established by the Conference of the Parties in decision V/4. The members of the Group came from a total of 18 countries. Some members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) and non-governmental organizations participated in the work of the Group as observers. The Group held two meetings, and produced inter-sessionally a draft review document. The chapters of the review were peer-reviewed, and they were also posted on the website of the Convention for comments by the scientific community at large.

23. The review summarizes our current knowledge of the status and trends of forest biodiversity, including broad-scale information about forest loss and studies on the effects of loss on ecosystem functions. The Group also took a broad approach to the assessment by reviewing the underlying causes of change and their effects on local communities, including indigenous peoples. This review was presented as an information document (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTSA/7/INF/3) at the seventh meeting of SBSTTA. The report of the Group (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/7/6) includes a summary and the main conclusions of the review as well as the recommendations of the Group. These documents were largely used as the basis for the elements for the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity contained in the annex to SBSTTA recommendation VII/6.

**(b) *Assessments of specific threats to forest biological diversity***

24. The assessments of the causes and impacts of human-induced uncontrolled forest fires on forest biological diversity of the impact of unsustainable harvesting of non-timber forest resources, including bush meat and living botanical resources, were commissioned by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR). The review on forest fires had some additional input from the Australian National University and the IUCN/WWF Fire Fight Project. The United States Forest Service, Southern Research Station, made substantive contributions to the review of the impact of unsustainable use of non-timber forest resources. The reviews included analyses of main causes and impacts of these specific threats to forest biological diversity, and a number of proposals to address the negative effects caused by these threats. The draft assessments were reviewed externally through the peer-review process. They were also posted on the website of the Convention for comments by the scientific community at large.

25. The revised documents were presented to SBSTTA as information documents (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/7/INF/1 and 2, respectively). The conclusions and proposals resulting from the reviews, with some additional material, were also presented in the note by the Executive Secretary on Consideration of specific threats to forest biological diversity (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/7/7), and they were used in the preparation of the elements for the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity.

#### 4. *Assessment of the impacts of invasive alien species*

26. Arrangements are being made to start implementing the pilot assessment of the impact of invasive alien species as soon as the Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP) launches its phase II (see also UNEP/CBD/COP/6/18).

#### 5. *Assessment of the interlinkages between biological diversity and climate change*

27. At its fifth meeting, the Conference of the Parties requested SBSTTA, in decisions V/3, V/4 and V/6, to consider the interlinkages between biodiversity and climate change, and to prepare scientific advice in order to integrate biodiversity considerations, including biodiversity conservation, into the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol. In response to this request, SBSTTA, in recommendation VI/7, called for the promotion of a wider assessment of these interlinkages, taking into account the ecosystem approach. As a first step in this wider assessment, SBSTTA decided to carry out a pilot assessment of the interlinkages between biodiversity and climate change and, for this purpose, established an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biological Diversity and Climate Change.

28. In June 2001, the Executive Secretary invited national focal points to submit names of experts who might be called upon to participate in the expert group. Nominations for the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biological Diversity and Climate Change were made in December 2001. The Expert Group will have its first meeting in Helsinki, from 21 to 25 January 2002. The work of the Group will build upon, *inter alia*, relevant work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which is being compiled by the IPCC into a technical paper for the consideration of the experts. In addition, the Secretariat has prepared on the basis of a literature study a review of the impact of climate change on forest biological diversity.

### III. THE GLOBAL TAXONOMY INITIATIVE

29. The Conference of the Parties has recognized the lack of taxonomic knowledge as one of the key obstacles in the implementation of the Convention. In order to address this problem, the Conference of the Parties, at its fourth meeting, endorsed, as initial advice, a set of suggestions for action to develop and implement a Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI), and requested SBSTTA to provide advice on the further advancement of a GTI, recognizing that implementation should occur on the basis of country-driven projects at the national, regional and subregional levels. At its fifth meeting, the Conference of the Parties established the Global Taxonomy Initiative Coordination Mechanism to assist the Executive Secretary in developing a work programme for the GTI, convening regional meetings of scientists, managers and policy makers to prioritize global taxonomic needs, and establishing mechanisms to use the GTI as a forum to promote the importance of taxonomy and taxonomic tools in the implementation of the Convention's programmes of work. The Conference of the Parties also urged identification of national and regional priority taxonomic information requirements, assessments of national taxonomic capacities, establishment of regional and national taxonomic reference centres, building of taxonomic capacity particularly in developing countries, and communication to the Executive Secretary for consideration of potential pilot projects under the GTI. Parties and Governments were urged to designate national focal points for the GTI, and support for the GTI by interested international and regional conventions, initiatives and programmes was invited. The Conference of the Parties further requested the financial mechanism to continue promoting awareness of the GTI.

30. On the basis of the suggestions for action of the fourth Conference of the Parties, the Executive Secretary obtained external funding from Australia and Sweden from December 1999 to December 2000 for a Programme Officer to further develop the GTI, through the network of relevant existing global, regional and national institutions and organizations. The Executive Secretary obtained further funding from the United Kingdom and Sweden in 2001, and an acting Programme Officer has been in position since January 2001. At its meeting in November 2000, the GTI Coordination Mechanism expressed great concern that budgetary constraints precluded continued employment of the Programme Officer, and recommended that the Conference of the Parties urge Parties and Governments to promptly consider possibilities to assist the Secretariat by allocating permanent funds for this position, or through the secondment of personnel.

31. Following the establishment of the GTI Coordination Mechanism, the Executive Secretary, in accordance with decision V/9, requested nominations from Parties, and invited participation of a limited number of relevant organizations. The Executive Secretary convened a meeting in November 2000, attended by experts from 10 countries (Canada, China, Costa Rica, France, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Namibia, Netherlands, Russian Federation), as well as participants from BioNET INTERNATIONAL, DIVERSITAS, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF), the SBSTTA Bureau, and a representative of indigenous and local communities. The meeting addressed the issues recommended to it by the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The meeting also discussed mechanisms to improve international cooperation and coordination in carrying out work under the GTI.

32. At its sixth meeting, SBSTTA considered a note by the Executive Secretary on the draft programme of work of the GTI (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/10), and adopted recommendation VI/6, in which it, *inter alia*, recommended that the Conference of the Parties endorse the programme of work for the GTI annexed thereto.

33. Following decision V/9 of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties urging communication to the Executive Secretary and Global Taxonomy Initiative Coordination Mechanism, by 31 December 2001, of suitable programmes, projects and initiatives for consideration as pilot projects under the GTI, 22 submissions have been received. The Coordination Mechanism has proposed an appraisal mechanism to assess the suitability of proposals, and selection is in progress.

34. Following the request by the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties that Parties and Governments designate a national GTI focal point by 31 December 2001, national focal points have been designated by 32 Parties and three intergovernmental organizations. The Executive Secretary prepared an outline of expected responsibilities of the National Focal Point to assist Parties in their selection.

35. At its fifth meeting, the Conference of the Parties invited all interested international and regional conventions, initiatives and programmes to indicate their support for the Global Taxonomy Initiative and its Coordination Mechanism, and to specify their particular areas of interest and any support for the Initiative that could be forthcoming. BioNET INTERNATIONAL, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), GEF, UNEP, DIVERSITAS and the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) have expressed such interest. BioNET INTERNATIONAL, DIVERSITAS and Species 2000 Asia-Oceania have provided support for GTI activities, and discussions are taking place with BioNET INTERNATIONAL and GBIF, and other non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations, including the Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP), Species 2000 and others.

36. The Conference of the Parties invited Governments to submit any reviews or studies on specific taxonomic needs identified within each country, as well as any information on national taxonomic needs assessments that may have been undertaken. To facilitate a response from countries, the Executive Secretary in April 2000 requested all national focal points for the Convention to provide relevant information by 8 October 2000, using a short questionnaire. A reminder on the subject was sent in September 2000. Responses were received from 60 countries and an analysis of the responses provided to the sixth meeting of SBSTTA as an information document (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/INF/4). The majority of Parties have not yet compiled full national needs assessments.

37. At its fifth meeting, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to initiate regional meetings of scientists, managers and policy makers in order to prioritize the most urgent global taxonomic needs and facilitate the formulation of specific regional and national projects to meet the needs identified. The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) provided funding for two regional meetings, in addition to background research and the preparation of meeting reports. The first meeting was held in Costa Rica in February 2001 for the seven Central American countries, with additional representation from three "Northern" institutions and two international non-governmental organizations, and the second in South Africa in February/March 2001 with representation from 23 African countries, at least six African international networks, seven "Northern" institutes or networks, and one "Southern" institute. A report on the first of these meetings was provided to the sixth meeting of SBSTTA (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/INF/4/Add.1). Reports from the meetings will, when published, be used to identify regional and global priorities and needs. Similar meetings are currently in the planning stage for South east Asia and North America. A workshop is planned for July 2002 in South Africa, in conjunction with BioNET-INTERNATIONAL, which will address global taxonomic impediments, needs and priorities.

38. In November 2000, a one-day workshop on establishing global and regional taxonomic networks was organized by DIVERSITAS, in conjunction with the Secretariat. The GTI was represented at several key meetings which dealt with this issue, including:

(a) A meeting in China, organized by BIONET-INTERNATIONAL, in which reports were made by China, Japan, Mongolia, North Korea and South Korea, and a partnership proposed between the Parties represented specifically in terms of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

(b) A workshop in Japan, organized by Species 2000 Asia-Oceania, in which partnerships between a number of East Asian countries were discussed;

(c) A meeting in Mexico, organized by the All-Species Foundation, Conservation International, and CONABIO, at which the taxonomic needs of megadiverse developing countries were discussed and concepts of new and appropriate taxonomic tools debated, together with possible funding sources.

39. In its suggestions for action, the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting stressed the importance of electronic information systems, and suggested the involvement of the Clearing House Mechanism of the Convention (in collaboration with the OECD Megascience Forum's Biodiversity Informatics Subgroup Initiative). Collaboration has continued between the GTI, CHM and the Global Biodiversity Information Facility, established in March 2001. Linkages have also been established with other initiatives, including Species 2000, ITIS, the GISP Information Management Working Group, and

BioNET-INTERNATIONAL Group on Computer-Aided Taxonomy, and the GTI has been represented at a number of meetings in 2001.

40. Since the November meeting, the GTI Coordination Mechanism has developed ideas on the use of the GTI as a forum to promote the importance of taxonomy and taxonomic tools in the implementation of the Convention's programmes of work through e-mail discussion, based on a preliminary document prepared by the Secretariat. A GTI web page was launched in October 2000, and is currently under redevelopment based on ideas developed with the Coordination Mechanism. A guide to the GTI is being prepared and will include examples of taxonomic components of activities under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

41. The GTI Coordination Mechanism has advised the Executive Secretary to facilitate such efforts of international cooperation for taxonomic research as are needed to help implementing activities of the Convention by, *inter alia*, establishing clear and unambiguous mechanisms for granting the necessary permissions for approved research projects, field work, collection of biological specimens, and free exchange of personnel, data and relevant materials. The Executive Secretary issued a notification on 23 July 2001 pursuant to decision V/26, on access to genetic resources, and noting the issue highlighted by the GTI Coordination Mechanism. A document was sent with this notification to elucidate the particular issues concerning taxonomic research and proposing some solutions. The Executive Secretary also prepared a note on access and benefit-sharing and the Global Taxonomy Initiative for the consideration of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing at its first meeting, in Bonn in October 2001 (UNEP/CBD/WG-ABS/1/INF/2).

#### IV. GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR PLANT CONSERVATION

##### A. Introduction

42. In its decision V/10, the Conference of the Parties decided to consider at its sixth meeting the establishment of a global strategy for plant conservation and requested SBSTTA to make recommendations regarding the development of such a strategy aimed at halting the current rate of loss of plant diversity. To this end, the Conference of the Parties also requested the Executive Secretary to solicit the views of Parties and to liaise with relevant organizations, in order to gather information regarding plant conservation, including information on existing international initiatives. Accordingly, the Executive Secretary invited Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to provide information on international, regional and national initiatives.

43. At its seventh meeting, SBSTTA considered a proposal for a global strategy for plant conservation prepared by the Executive Secretary in collaboration with various organizations through informal consultations, and taking into account the views of Parties (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/7/10). In its recommendation VII/8, SBSTTA recommended a draft Global Strategy for Plant Conservation for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting.

44. In paragraph 2 of recommendation VII/8, SBSTTA requested the Executive Secretary, with the support of technical experts and on the basis of advice from Parties, to refine the quantitative elements of the targets in the draft strategy providing a scientific and technical rationale in each case, and clarifying terms as necessary.

45. Additionally, in paragraph 3 of recommendation VII/8, SBSTTA requested the Executive Secretary to prepare an analysis of the opportunities for implementation of the strategy through the thematic and cross-cutting programmes of work of the Convention, including in particular the ecosystem approach and the Global Taxonomy Initiative, as well as through existing relevant international, regional and national initiatives, and of any gaps in these programmes and initiatives.

***B. Implementation of the elements of the programme of work***

46. The strategy is expected to provide a framework to facilitate harmony between existing initiatives aimed at plant conservation, to identify gaps where new initiatives are required, and to promote mobilization of the necessary resources. The strategy will also be a tool to enhance the application of the ecosystem approach to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. The strategy will also provide a pilot exercise under the Convention for the setting of targets that relate to the three objectives of the Convention.

47. With a view to gathering documents that would be taken into account in refining the quantitative elements of the targets, the Executive Secretary invited Parties, international organizations and other relevant organizations to provide advice on the quantitative elements of the 16 targets in the draft strategy.

48. In addition, the Executive Secretary is organizing, in collaboration with the Jardín Botánico Canario Viera y Clavijo and the Botanic Gardens Conservation International, a technical expert meeting to be held from 11 to 13 February 2002, in Gran Canaria, Spain. The aim of the meeting is to make proposals for the refinement of the quantitative elements of the targets contained in the annex to recommendation VII/8, taking into account the advice from Parties and international organizations, and to prepare an analysis of the opportunities for implementation of the strategy.

**V. ARTICLE 8(j) AND RELATED PROVISIONS**

49. In paragraph 8 of decision V/16, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to facilitate the integration of the relevant tasks of the programme of work in the future elaboration of the thematic programmes of the Convention and provide a report of the progress of the thematic programmes to the Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-Sessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions.

50. This report (UNEP/CBD/WG8J/2/2) has been prepared by the Executive Secretary and will be taken up by the Working Group at its second meeting, to be held in Montreal from 4 to 8 February 2002. The report of that meeting, which is expected to include recommendations on the further implementation of the programme of work on Article 8(j) and related provisions, will be submitted to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its sixth meeting (UNEP/CBD/COP/6/7).

51. The Executive Secretary has also prepared a report on the progress in the integration of relevant tasks of the programme of work on Article 8(j) and related provisions into the cross-cutting areas of the Convention for the meeting of the Working Group (UNEP/CBD/WG8J/2/INF/2). The purpose of this document is to provide additional information concerning the implementation of the priority tasks of the programme of work on Article 8(j) in the cross-cutting areas dealt with under the Convention to complement the information provided in relation to the thematic areas.

## **VI. LIABILITY AND REDRESS (ARTICLE 14, PARAGRAPH 2)**

52. At its fifth meeting the Conference of the Parties, by decision V/18, decided “to consider at its sixth meeting a process for reviewing paragraph 2 of Article 14, including the establishment of an ad hoc technical expert group, taking into account consideration of these issues within the framework of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and the outcome of the workshop referred to in paragraph 8” of the decision, in which the Conference of the Parties welcomed the offer of the Government of France to organize an inter-sessional workshop on liability and redress in the context of the Convention.

53. By the same decision, the Conference of the Parties also renewed the call it had made, through its decision IV/10 C, to Parties, Governments and relevant international organizations to submit information to the Executive Secretary regarding existing measures and agreements on liability and redress. It further requested the Executive Secretary to update the synthesis report submitted to the Conference of the Parties (UNEP/CBD/COP/5/16) to include information contained in further submissions by Parties, Governments and relevant international organizations.

54. The Workshop on Liability and Redress in the Context of the Convention on Biological Diversity was held in Paris from 18 to 20 June 2001 pursuant to paragraph 8 of decision V/18. The Workshop had before it a note by the Executive Secretary reviewing relevant international legal instruments and issues for consideration (UNEP/CBD/WS-L&R/1/2). The report of the workshop will be available to the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting as an information document.

55. The Executive Secretary has, on the basis of submissions received from Parties, Governments and relevant international organizations and of other information available, updated the synthesis report as requested by the Conference of the Parties. The updated report is available to this meeting as an addendum to the present document (UNEP/CBD/COP/6/12/Add.1). The report contains a summary of additional submissions received by the Executive Secretary, reviews relevant developments in international law since the preparation of the above-mentioned review considered by the Paris Workshop, provides an overview of the conclusions of the Paris Workshop, and presents a recommendation on the issue for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties.

## **VII. ECOSYSTEM APPROACH; SUSTAINABLE USE; AND INCENTIVE MEASURES**

### ***A. Ecosystem approach***

56. In its decision V/6, on the ecosystem approach, the Conference of the Parties invited Parties, other Governments and relevant bodies to identify case-studies and implement pilot projects, and to organize, as appropriate, regional, national and local workshops, and consultations aiming at enhancing awareness, sharing experiences, including through the clearing-house mechanism, and strengthening regional, national and local capacities on the ecosystem approach.

57. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to collect and prepare a synthesis of case-studies referred to above as well as lessons learned for submission to SBSTTA prior to the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

58. In addition, the Conference of the Parties requested SBSTTA to review, at a meeting prior to the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the principles and operational guidelines of the ecosystem approach, to develop guidelines for its implementation, on the basis of case-studies and lessons

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learned, and to review the incorporation of the ecosystem approach into the programmes of work of the Convention.

59. Work on the ecosystem approach is ongoing through the elaboration of the concept in the different programmes of work on the thematic areas and cross-cutting issues of the Convention. This was done for example in the consideration of the integration of biodiversity considerations in impact assessment procedures and in the development of elements for guidelines for sustainable tourism.

60. Collection and analysis of case-studies on ecosystem approach are in progress. The results of these activities will be submitted for consideration by SBSTTA prior to the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

### ***B. Sustainable use of biological diversity***

61. At its fifth meeting, the Conference of the Parties, in paragraph 5 of its decision V/24, invited Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to undertake actions to assist other Parties to increase their capacity to implement sustainable use practices, programmes and policies. In response to this invitation, the Secretariat organized, with financial support from the Government of the Netherlands, a series of three workshops on the sustainable use of biological diversity. The first workshop was held in Maputo in September 2001 and focused on sustainable use of dryland resources and game utilization. The workshop produced the Maputo Principles of Sustainable Use, consisting of a set of axioms and guiding principles. The second workshop, held in Hanoi in early January 2002 focused on forest biodiversity, including timber and non-timber forest resources. The workshop has further developed the practical principles and operational guidelines produced in the first meeting. The third workshop will be held in Ecuador in February 2002 and focus on marine and freshwater capture fisheries.

62. At its seventh meeting, SBSTTA considered a note by the Executive Secretary on the development of practical principles, operational guidance and associated instruments for sustainable use of the components of biological diversity (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/7/5). Following its consideration of the matter, SBSTTA adopted recommendation VII/4, in which it notes with appreciation the convening of the three regional workshops by the Executive Secretary and encourages Parties to support the organization of an additional meeting to conclude the synthesis of the practical principles, operational guidance and associated instruments on the basis of the conclusions of these regional workshops; SBSTTA also urged the implementation of other tasks requested in decision V/24 of the Conference of the Parties.

63. In addition, pursuant to paragraph 1 of decision V/24 of the Conference of the Parties, the Secretariat has been gathering and compiling case-studies and lessons learned on the sustainable use of biological resources. Twenty-five case-studies provided by Parties and relevant organizations have been made available through the clearing-house mechanism of the Secretariat. Due to the limited number of submissions, the Secretariat is carrying out further research, based on recent publications and ongoing projects and programmes, focusing on initiatives, approaches and management practices for the sustainable use of biodiversity.

### ***C. Sustainable use and tourism***

64. In response to decision V/25 of the Conference of the Parties, the Secretariat convened a Workshop on Biological Diversity and Tourism in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, from 4 to 7 June 2001, with the financial support provided by the Governments of Germany and Belgium. The purpose of

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the Workshop was to develop draft international guidelines for activities related to sustainable tourism development in vulnerable terrestrial, marine and coastal and mountain ecosystems, as contemplated in paragraph 2 of decision V/25 of the Conference of the Parties. The guidelines are meant to be a practical tool to provide technical guidance to policy makers, decision makers and managers with responsibilities in the fields of tourism and biodiversity, whether in national or local governments, as well as the various stakeholders involved in tourism development planning and management. The draft guidelines cover all forms of activities of tourism, which should all come under the framework of sustainable development, in all geographic regions. These include conventional mass tourism, eco-tourism, nature- and culture-based tourism, cruise tourism, leisure and sports tourism.

65. The Secretariat has forwarded the draft guidelines to the tenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development serving as the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development for consideration at its second meeting, to be held in New York from 28 January to 8 February 2002, as requested by SBSTTA in its recommendation VII/5. In the same recommendation, SBSTTA also requested the Secretariat to submit the elements for guidelines to the preparatory process for the World Summit on Ecotourism, to be held in Quebec City in May 2002. To this end, the Secretariat has prepared a brochure in all United Nations languages with a summarized text of the draft guidelines to be delivered to the preparatory meetings for the World Summit on Ecotourism and to be presented to the final meeting in May. Moreover, an electronic consultation to gather further reactions to the guidelines has been organized by the Secretariat. Comments received will be compiled and presented to the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

#### *D. Incentive measures*

66. In its decision V/15, the Conference of the Parties decided to establish a programme of work intended to promote the development and implementation of social, economic and legal incentive measures. In this connection, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to collaborate with relevant organizations, such as FAO, OECD, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and IUCN-The World Conservation Union, in order to engage in a coordinated effort, and undertake through such an effort, as a first phase:

(a) To gather and disseminate additional information on instruments in support of positive incentives and their performance, and to develop a matrix identifying the range of instruments available, their purpose, interaction with other policy measures, and effectiveness, with a view to identifying and designing relevant instruments, where appropriate, in support of positive measures;

(b) To continue gathering information on perverse incentive measures, and on ways and means to remove or mitigate their negative impacts on biological diversity, through case-studies and lessons learned, and consider how these ways and means may be applied;

(c) To elaborate proposals for the design and implementation of incentive measures, for consideration by SBSTTA at its sixth or seventh meeting and by the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting.

67. Pursuant to the request of the Conference of the Parties, the Executive Secretary established a liaison group composed of representatives of competent international organizations, which met on 13 March 2001. Participants provided a brief overview of work carried out by their organizations on

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incentive measures or related issues. It was agreed that a substantial amount of work had been carried out by a number of organizations on incentive measures, including analytical work, case-studies and the development of guidelines. It was also recognized that, in keeping with the letter and spirit of the decision of the Conference of the Parties, there was now a need to move to a more action oriented phase and to identify means to put in practice lessons learned from this work. In this respect, the liaison group agreed on the desirability of organizing a workshop before the seventh meeting of SBSTTA in order to elaborate proposals for the design and implementation of incentive measures and to make recommendations on future action at the international level to support Parties, Governments and organizations in developing practical policies and projects, consistent with decision V/15.

68. Through the support of the Government of the Netherlands, this workshop was held in Montreal from 10 to 12 October 2001. Participants in the Workshop were selected from among government-nominated experts from each geographic region with a view to achieving a balanced regional distribution. In addition, representatives of competent intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as stakeholders, were invited to participate as observers.

69. The conclusions of the workshop were submitted to the seventh meeting of SBSTTA. On the basis of these conclusions, SBSTTA adopted recommendation VII/9 in which it submits proposals for the design and implementation of incentive measures (annex I) to the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and also suggests recommendations for further cooperation on incentive measures (annex II). The recommendations with respect to the design and implementation of incentives measures propose the following steps: identification of the problem; design of the measure; provision of capacity and building of support to facilitate implementation; management, monitoring and enforcement; and guidelines for selecting appropriate and complementary measures. The suggested recommendations on future cooperation revolve around the following elements: information, the involvement of stakeholder including indigenous and local communities, capacity-building, valuation, interlinkages between multilateral environmental agreements, linking biodiversity to macro-economic policies, categories of incentive measures, ecosystem focus, pilot projects/case-studies/workshops, the role of international organizations and financial support. SBSTTA suggests the establishment of an inter-agency coordination committee, based on the liaison group established by the Executive Secretary, to coordinate activities at the international level, thus avoiding overlapping initiatives and activities while providing support to Parties.

70. In paragraph 6 of recommendation VII/9, SBSTTA called upon the Executive Secretary to make information gathered on perverse incentives available to the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. In paragraph 9 of the same recommendation, SBSTTA invited Parties to submit case-studies and best practices on incentive measures and their implementation before the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and stated that this information should be made available by the Executive Secretary before the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

71. In response to these requests, the Executive Secretary sent notification 2001-11-30/01, in which Governments are requested to submit relevant information on perverse incentives as well as case-studies and best practices on incentive measures and their implementation, no later than 31 January 2002. On the basis of these submissions, the Executive Secretary will prepare for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting a synthesis report of the information received from Parties and other sources (UNEP/CBD/COP/6/12/Add.3). The information is also available on the Convention website.

72. The Conference of the Parties may wish to further consider and endorse the proposals for the design and implementation of incentive measures and the recommendations for further cooperation on

incentive measures contained, respectively, in annexes I and II to SBSTTA recommendation VII/9, as far as they are consistent with the national policies and legislation of Parties, as well as their international obligations.

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