



CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/COP/7/20/Add.1
30 November 2003

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
Seventh meeting
Kuala Lumpur, 9-20 and 27 February 2004
Item 26 of the provisional agenda*

FOLLOW UP TO THE WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, MULTI- YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES UP TO 2010, STRATEGIC PLAN AND OPERATIONS OF THE CONVENTION

The programme of work of the Convention and the Millennium Development Goals

Note by the Executive Secretary

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In its decision VI/26, the Conference of Parties adopted a Strategic Plan for the Convention including a target "to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level as a contribution to poverty alleviation and to the benefit of all life on Earth". The target was endorsed by the World Summit on Sustainable, which also recognized the key role played by biodiversity in poverty eradication.

2. In its recommendation 1 (b) (UNEP/CBD/COP/7/5, annex), the Inter-Sessional Meeting on the Multi-Year Programme of Work of the Conference of the Parties, recognizing that the Convention on biological diversity is the key instrument for the integration of biodiversity-related issues into the Millennium Development Agenda, requested the Executive Secretary to: prepare a report on the relevance of the Millennium Development Goals for the programmes of work under the Convention and to explore and articulate in each programme of work of the Convention the links between biodiversity and the Millennium Development Goals in order to identify and highlight the ways that biodiversity conservation and sustainable use can facilitate their achievement; and, identify modalities to ensure that the achievement of the Goals is consistent with the objectives of the Convention. At its ninth meeting, SBSTTA also made recommendations concerning the linkages between the 2010 target and the Millennium Development Goals (UNEP/CBD/7/4, annex I, recommendation IX/13, paragraph 1) which are incorporated into the suggested decision in paragraph 63 below.

3. In response to the request of the Inter-Sessional Meeting, the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with UNDP, has explored the relationships between the Convention on Biological Diversity, its programmes of work and the Millennium Development Goals.

* UNEP/CBD/COP/7/1 and Corr.1.

4. The present note also addresses ways and means to use the work programme of the Convention on Biological Diversity to collaborate with the Secretary General's WEHAB ("water, energy, health, agriculture, and biodiversity") initiative (recommendation 4, paragraph 3 of the Inter-Sessional Meeting), since this initiative has been subsumed under work for the promotion of the Millennium Development Goals and other follow-up activities to the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

5. An analysis has been made of the linkages between the programme of work of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Millennium Development Goals for each thematic area and cross-cutting issue. This analysis used a matrix of real or potential linkages between: (i) the subject area itself (e.g., forest biological diversity) and the Millennium Development Goals; and (ii) the linkages between the actual thematic programme of work (or cross-cutting issue) and the Millennium Development Goals. A comparison of these two approaches enables an analysis of where potential conflicts are (by subject area) and helps identify inconsistencies or gaps in the work programmes. This was an intricate process due to the complex relationships not only between subject areas and the Millennium Development Goals but also because of compounded linkages between the various subject areas themselves (e.g., increasing agricultural production may have an impact upon the biodiversity of forests or inland waters).

6. This resulted in a lengthy and informative review. The Executive Secretary proposes to publish the full review together with UNDP as a contribution to increasing awareness of the importance of biodiversity to the Millennium Development Goals and the role of the Convention on Biological Diversity in line with SBSTTA recommendation IX/14, paragraph 1. The findings will be made available through the Convention's website, the clearing house mechanism and by increasing awareness through other relevant mechanisms. An interim summary of these findings will be made available to the Conference of Parties as an information document.

7. The current note provides a summary of the activities and conclusions. In particular, it focuses on the implications for the programme of work and necessary activities to strengthen linkages between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Millennium Development Goals. In general, the review process resulted in common conclusions amongst the thematic areas and cross cutting issues of the programme of work.

II. BACKGROUND

8. The World Summit on Sustainable Development acknowledged the important role of biological diversity to sustainable development. Biological diversity is a resource that is used directly at present (as represented, for example, by the food we eat, or the products of animals and plants we rely upon such as timber). It has a future direct value (for example in increasing food production or as a source of new drugs). It is also important (both now and in the future) indirectly through providing essential ecosystem services (such as recycling nutrients essential to agriculture, maintaining the natural water balance etc.) and is important culturally, socially and aesthetically. Sustainable development, by definition, requires that future generations be able to benefit from resources in the same fashion as we can now.

9. In effect, the loss of biodiversity is perhaps the best indicator of unsustainable development. These relationships are well known to most specialists and to a large proportion of non-specialists and the public. The conservation of biological diversity and truly sustainable development go hand-in-hand, but this by no means ensures that activities undertaken under the auspices of sustainability actually achieve it. Compatibility between sustainability and development requires the analysis of often complex linkages between objectives, activities, causes and effects and often presents challenging policy options. Within this process, biodiversity and the wider environment are at stake, and with them sustainable development itself. However, biodiversity and the environment also represent a common platform upon which policy debate can be staged—a yardstick with which to compare policy options.

10. Concern over the rapid loss of biodiversity, and the need to conserve it in order to achieve sustainable development, was the driving force for the development of the Convention on Biological

Diversity itself. It embodies principles for, and mechanisms to achieve, the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the sharing of the benefits of genetic diversity. It is the “sustainable use” and “benefit-sharing” aspects of the Convention that make it have such direct relevance to the Millennium Development Goals. Above all, the Convention on Biological Diversity is about biodiversity as an asset for people.

11. In September 2000, at the United Nations Millennium Summit, world leaders agreed to a set of time-bound and measurable goals and targets for combating poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation and discrimination against women. These Millennium Development Goals focus the efforts of the world community on achieving significant, measurable improvements in people's lives by the year 2015. They establish a benchmark for measuring results, not just for developing countries but also for the rich countries that help fund development programs and for the multilateral and bilateral institutions that help countries to implement them. The Millennium Development Goals now stand at the centre of the global agenda, and provide a framework for the entire United Nations system to work coherently toward a common end.

12. The 2010 target of the World Summit, and the targets for the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, are already being incorporated into the programmes of work of the Convention (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/14/Add.1).

13. The Convention on Biological Diversity and the Millennium Development Goals are two of the most important initiatives of the world community in the development field. The question is whether they are compatible or are there conflicts between activities required in order to reach the targets for the Millennium Development Goals and the conservation of biodiversity. How does biodiversity contribute to poverty reduction? Do the work programmes of both initiatives maximize the synergies available? These and other important questions were explored by the Executive Secretary. The primary conclusion is that the principles embodied in the Convention on Biological Diversity and Millennium Development Goals are clearly mutually supportive. Nevertheless, as always, the dangers lie in implementation.

III. OVERVIEW OF THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND THEIR IMPLEMENTATION

14. There are eight Millennium Development Goals, which are reproduced in the annex to the present note. The first seven are aimed at reducing poverty in all of its forms, and are mutually reinforcing. Hence, goal 1 (“Eradicate extreme hunger and poverty”) is, in a sense the overarching goal and of special relevance. Also of special relevance to the Convention is goal 7 (“Ensuring environmental sustainability”). The eighth goal—a global partnership for development—concerns the means to achieve the first seven. Targets have indicators with which to measure progress.

15. The United Nations strategy for implementing the Millennium Development Goals consists of four linked components:

(a) *The Millennium Project*, which is a three-year initiative that will be completed by 30 June 2005, with a presentation of final recommendations to the Secretary-General. It analyses policy options and is developing a plan of implementation for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. It aims to identify the best strategies for reaching the Millennium Development Goals, and is working to identify the operational priorities, organizational means of implementation, and financing structures necessary to achieve them. Ten thematically-orientated task forces perform the bulk of the research. They are comprised of representatives from academia, the public and private sectors, civil society organizations, and United Nations agencies with the majority of participants coming from outside the United Nations system. The 15-20 members of each Task Force are all global leaders in their area, selected because of their technical expertise and practical experience;

(b) *The Millennium Campaign*, which is mobilizing support for implementing the Millennium Development Goals among developed and developing countries;

(c) *Country-level monitoring of progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals*, led by the United Nations and coordinated by UNDP. The main mechanism for this monitoring is the national Millennium Development Goals Reports. The purpose of the Millennium Development Goals Reports is to help countries raise public awareness; promote study, scholarship, and debate around the great development challenges; forge stronger alliances; renew political commitment; and help poor countries and donors create the deep, better financed and trusted partnerships that will be needed for success. The reports on the Millennium Development Goals show progress at a glance with a view to help focus the national debate on specific development priorities, which in turn will trigger action—in terms of policy reforms, institutional change and resource allocation. They build upon existing reports—such as common country assessments, poverty reduction strategy papers or national human development reports—in order to minimize the country's reporting burden. Responses have been encouraging and the target is to have at least one Millennium Development Goals Report per country by the end of 2004;

(d) *Operational country-level activities*, coordinated across agencies through the United Nations Development Group, which helps individual countries implement policies necessary for achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

IV. THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

16. The Convention on Biological Diversity has three objectives:

- (a) Conservation of biodiversity,
- (b) Sustainable use of the components of biodiversity, and
- (c) Sharing the benefits arising from the commercial and other utilization of genetic resources in a fair and equitable way

17. The Convention deals with an issue so vital to humanity's future that it stands as a landmark in international law. It recognizes, for the first time, that the conservation of biological diversity is “a common concern of humankind” and is an integral part of the development process. The Convention acknowledges the relationship of biodiversity to sustainable development and poverty alleviation. The preamble to the Convention states that “conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity is of critical importance for meeting the food, health and other needs of the growing world population”. The agreement covers all ecosystems, species, and genetic resources. It links traditional conservation efforts to the economic goal of using biological resources sustainably. It sets principles for the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the use of genetic resources, notably those destined for commercial use. It also covers the rapidly expanding field of biotechnology, addressing technology development and transfer, benefit-sharing and biosafety. Importantly, the Convention is legally binding; countries that join it are obliged to implement its provisions. The Convention reminds decision makers that natural resources are not infinite and sets out a new philosophy for the twenty-first century, one of sustainable use. While past conservation efforts were aimed at protecting particular species and habitats, the Convention recognizes that ecosystems, species and genes must be used for the benefit of humans. However, this should be done in a way and at a rate that does not lead to the long-term decline of biological diversity. In essence, the purpose and intention of the Convention on Biological Diversity is to promote or support sustainable development.

18. The Strategic Plan of the Convention, adopted by the Conference of the Parties in its decision VI/26 states that:

“Biodiversity provides goods and services that underpin sustainable development in many ways, thus contributing to poverty alleviation. First, it supports the ecosystem

functions essential for life on Earth, such as the provision of fresh water, soil conservation and climate stability. Second, it provides products such as food, medicines and materials for industry. Finally, biodiversity is at the heart of many cultural values.”

19. This linkage is also emphasized in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, which states that “managing the natural resources base in a sustainable and integrated manner is essential for sustainable development”, and notes that “biodiversity, which plays a critical role in overall sustainable development and poverty eradication, is essential to our planet, human well-being and to the livelihood and cultural integrity of people”. It then calls for action to “implement the Convention and its provisions, including active follow-up of its work programmes and decisions through national, regional and global action programmes, in particular the national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and strengthen their integration into relevant cross-sectoral strategies, programmes and policies, including those related to sustainable development and poverty eradication”.

20. The Strategic Plan is to be implemented primarily through the various programmes of work adopted by the Conference of the Parties. The thematic programmes of work are: marine and coastal biodiversity, agricultural biodiversity, forest biodiversity, the biodiversity of inland waters; biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands; and mountain biodiversity. A programme of work on biodiversity of islands is planned to be developed during the next biennium. Each thematic programme establishes: a vision for, and basic principles to guide, future work; sets out key issues for consideration; identifies potential outputs; and suggests a timetable and means for achieving these outputs.

21. Besides the thematic programmes there are a number of other items addressing key cross-cutting issues of relevance to all thematic areas. Essentially these correspond to the issues addressed in the Convention's substantive provisions in Articles 6-20. For example, work has been initiated on biosafety; access to genetic resources; traditional knowledge, innovations and practices (Article 8(j)); intellectual property rights; indicators; taxonomy; public education and awareness; incentives; and alien species. Some cross cutting initiatives directly support work under thematic programmes, for example the work on indicators. These cross-cutting issues have an important role to play in bringing cohesion to the work of the Convention as they provide the substantive links between the thematic programmes. Additionally the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation contains strategic targets that provide a framework for the implementation of various thematic and cross-cutting programmes.

22. At its second meeting the Conference of the Parties adopted the ecosystem approach as the primary framework for implementation. It developed principles and operational guidance for the application of the ecosystem approach at its fourth meeting. As explained below, the ecosystem approach offers a very powerful tool to address complex linkages between sectors and themes and enhances informed decision making.

V. BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY, POVERTY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

23. Sustaining biodiversity is critical for sustainable development, and to poverty reduction, for two broad reasons: (i) its current direct use, and in particular the extent to which poor communities currently depend upon it (and, therefore, its loss can contribute to increased poverty), and (ii) its potential use in alleviating poverty and contributing to development targets.

24. Because biodiversity is such an important asset for the poor, it follows that degradation of biodiversity will have a direct negative effect on their livelihoods. Sustaining biodiversity, therefore, is an essential pillar for any comprehensive strategy for poverty eradication. Any poverty-reduction programme must first and foremost maintain current livelihoods assets if net gains are to be achieved.

25. Biodiversity directly underpins the livelihoods and future opportunities of nearly half the global population, i.e., 3 billion people. Ecosystems and the biodiversity they harbour provide most of the daily

needs of the rural poor, from fuelwood, fodder and building materials, to food, medicines and potable water. Ultimately, everyone on earth is dependent on healthy ecosystems to keep planetary life support systems intact and functioning.

26. Poverty can also contribute to biodiversity loss, as indeed can economic growth. As poor people struggle to survive they often over-exploit biodiversity which threatens its sustainability. The impacts of poverty on biodiversity loss invariably escalate poverty itself, as the basic needs of the vulnerable poor are undermined as the sustainability of natural resources declines. The resulting poverty trap typifies unsustainable growth. Almost every developing country Party has identified poverty as a major threat to biodiversity in their national reports under the Convention on Biological Diversity. Most of these have poverty eradication as one of their key aims or goals in their national biodiversity strategy and action plan.

27. Biodiversity is necessary for maintaining ecosystem goods and services. For example, maintaining ecosystems (such as forests), supporting food security and health, providing income opportunities and reducing the vulnerability of the poor to environmental stresses.

28. Sustainable development, a pattern of development that meets current needs without undermining the prospects for future generations, will depend on ensuring that a wide range of goods and services are available from ecosystems. Unfortunately, many conventional development initiatives inadvertently turn out to be “win-lose” situations. The challenge is to turn them into “win-win” scenarios, so that we can point to net gains for human development, while at the same time not reducing the net benefits and services provided by ecosystems. We need to make sure that the trade-offs, which inevitably have to be made in the development process, do not diminish or impede critical ecosystem functions necessary to maintain and advance human development now and in the future.

29. Intact, functioning ecosystems contribute to both rural and urban economies by providing a host of services and products. Ecosystem services and products have been valued at \$33 trillion a year, more than the total value of all economic goods and services. ^{1/} Recent studies have suggested that the overall benefit to cost ratio of an effective global programme for the conservation of remaining wild nature is at least 100:1. ^{2/}

30. Sustainable use of biodiversity can also contribute directly to improved livelihoods, that is, poverty reduction.

VI. BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AND THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

A. *How biodiversity contributes to achieving the Millennium Development Goals*

31. Biodiversity is essential to sustaining ecosystem goods and services, without which the sustainability of natural resources, and the economies and societies that depend upon them would collapse. Therefore, an argument can be made that sustaining biodiversity is essential to achieving all of the Millennium Development Goals.

32. Maintenance of ecosystem services is of central importance to achieving goal 1 (“Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger”).

^{1/} R. Costanza, et. al. , The Value of the World’s Ecosystem Services and Natural Capital. *Nature* 387: 253-260, May 15, 1997: V97.

^{2/} Balmford, A., Bruner, A., Cooper, P., Costanza, R., Farber, S., Green, R. E., Jenkins, M., Jefferiss, P., Jessamy, V., Madden, J., Munro, K., Myers, N., Naeem, S., Paavola, J., Rayment, M., Rosendo, S., Roughgarden, J., Trumper, K., and R. K. Turner. 2002. Economic reasons for conserving wild nature. *Science*: 297, 950-953.

33. Biological diversity is most obviously relevant to goal 7 (“Ensuring environmental sustainability), for which two key indicators are “proportion of land areas covered by forest” and “ratio of area protected to maintain biological diversity to surface area”.

34. Goal 8 (“Develop a global partnership for development”) is particularly important in relation to the Convention on Biological Diversity. It embodies, *inter alia*, the commitment of the developed countries to increase official development assistance (ODA) and increased market access for developing countries. Currently, however, none of the indicators for achieving goal 8 touch on measuring the extent to which changes in ODA and trade arrangements either support or harm the biological resource base on which achievement of the Millennium Development Goals ultimately depends.

35. However, the “partnership” also requires that all the various Governments, bi- and multilateral agencies, institutions, non-governmental organizations and the public and private sector work together in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. This is very relevant to the Convention on Biological Diversity as it: (i) forms the common basis of a global partnership for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity as a contribution to achieving the Millennium Development Goals; and (ii) requires that the Convention process be in harmony with, and support, other activities and initiatives that aim to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. The credentials of the Convention process in developing, enhancing and implementing this partnership are already well proven.

B. How the Millennium Development Goals may impact biodiversity

36. When setting development policies and priorities it is important to evaluate how the implementation of measures to achieve the Millennium Development Goals might have an impact upon biodiversity. Two lines of reasoning are central to this. First, that sustaining biodiversity is essential to achieve sustainable development (as already substantiated), and, second, it is assumed that the Millennium Development Goals refer to sustainable goals (that is, to sustainable development targets). If both points are accepted, achieving the Millennium Development Goals cannot result in significant long-term reductions in biodiversity (if it did—the Millennium Development Goals as sustainable targets are not met). However, this does not imply that there should be no change in ecosystems (for example the location or absolute abundance of biodiversity or resources) or in some components of biodiversity, but that reduction in biodiversity should not pass certain thresholds.

37. However, in practice the inter-relationships between biodiversity and development are complex. Achieving the Millennium Development Goals as such is not necessarily a threat to biodiversity, but the implementation of specific development activities may well be. If development is inconsistent with the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, then it cannot be argued that it is sustainable or is contributing to the Millennium Development Goals. Some examples of potential conflicts between development activities and biodiversity are explored and illustrated for each thematic programme of work of the Convention on Biological Diversity in interim summary of the findings of the review of the linkages between the programme of work of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Millennium Development Goals, referred to in paragraph 6 above.

38. The challenge for Governments is to respond to the urgent need for actions to achieve the Millennium Development Goals in ways that are consistent with the Convention on Biological Diversity including: (i) maintaining biodiversity and its current contribution to livelihoods of the poor, and (ii) using biodiversity to contribute to poverty reduction. Both of these goals are consistent with the goals of the convention of conservation, sustainable use and equitable sharing of benefits.

VII. CONCLUSIONS REGARDING THE PROGRAMME OF WORK AND THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

39. The entire programme of work, of course, is designed to contribute to sustaining biodiversity and, therefore, significantly supports the Millennium Development Goals. The five individual thematic programmes of work under the Convention, and the cross-cutting themes, all have important linkages to the Millennium Development Goals, both in terms of what they offer for achieving the goals and the risks to their objectives that may arise from unsustainable development.

40. The programmes of work of the Convention on Biological Diversity for thematic areas and cross cutting issues should more explicitly draw links to the Millennium Development Goals where necessary and appropriate, including linkages between targets for the Convention and the goals.

41. The Executive Secretary has already incorporated improved linkages with the Millennium Development Goals into the proposed revised programme of work on the biological diversity of inland waters (UNEP/CBD/COP/7/3, annex I, recommendation VIII/2) and is currently achieving the same during the elaboration and further refinement, as appropriate, for all programmes of work.

42. The Executive Secretary has also incorporated improved linkages through the outcome oriented targets for the programmes of work (UNEP/CBD/COP/7/20/Add.3), including through related targets for the programme of work for the biological diversity of inland waters (UNEP/CBD/COP/7/12/Add.3). This process is continuing for all thematic areas and cross-cutting issues. The Executive Secretary will be vigilant to reinforce these relationships at every opportunity.

43. The various bodies of the Convention and the Executive Secretary have done a considerable amount of technical and policy work under each of the thematic areas and cross-cutting issues. Collectively, they offer the elements for a “road map” to ensure that implementation of the Millennium Development Goals takes advantage of the contribution that biodiversity can make to their achievement and to ensure that it is consistent with the objectives of the Convention.

44. The products of this work also provide important tools for achieving the Millennium Development Goals in a sustainable way. For example, as outlined above, the “ecosystem approach” can help decision makers evaluate appropriate “trade-offs” in their efforts to maximize benefits from ecosystems (e.g., “integrated river basin planning”).

45. Some other tools developed under the Convention that can be useful in ensuring sustainable achievement of the Millennium Development Goals include:

(a) “Incentive measures”, which can help properly value biodiversity so that sustainable, long-term decisions are made;

(b) The Addis Ababa principles on sustainable use, which promote a “livelihoods”-based approaches that is preferable to simplistic macro-economic assessments;

(c) Guidelines for environmental impact assessment;

(d) The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, which offers a framework under which to address the benefits and risks arising from the use of the products of biotechnology.

46. Some other tools specific to the programmes of work are listed in the interim summary of the findings of the review of the linkages between the programme of work of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Millennium Development Goals, referred to in paragraph 6 above. The tools currently and potentially on offer through the Convention process should be promoted more widely as an important

contribution of the Convention on Biological Diversity to practical methods of achieving sustainable development targets, including the Millennium Development Goals.

47. The text, decisions and programmes of the Convention, as well as the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, provide a strong mandate for the Parties to both enhance the contribution of biodiversity to eradicating poverty and at the same time put in place the modalities for ensuring that poverty eradication and other efforts carried out, on a case-by-case basis, within the framework of the Millennium Development Goals, are consistent with the objectives of the Convention.

48. The Parties may therefore find it timely to bear these considerations in mind as they review the Convention's programmes of work according to the schedule in the multi-year programme of work, and readjust the programmes as necessary.

49. The Parties may also wish to take steps to establish a more proactive and formal relationship between the Convention and the institutions leading the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. SBSTTA made a number of recommendations in this regard in recommendation IX/13.

50. However, the linkages between biodiversity and the Millennium Development Goals, and the role of the Convention on Biological Diversity, are not always well articulated or explicit, particularly in forums beyond the Conference of the Parties, SBSTTA and the immediate partners in the Millennium Development Goals. In particular there is a need to:

(a) Further raise awareness of the importance of biodiversity for sustainable development and to explicitly draw attention to the role of the Convention on Biological Diversity in relation to achieving the Millennium Development Goals;

(b) Raise awareness of the current importance of biodiversity for livelihoods, especially for the rural poor. While the potential for biodiversity to contribute to development (e.g., the discovery of new drugs obtained from animals and plants etc.) is relatively well known, the current uses of biodiversity are often underestimated. This is partly because in much of the developed world people have ceased to depend upon biodiversity directly in their day-to-day lives (at least in perception if not in reality). This is a particularly important point to get across to donors. We must do a better job of articulating the links between biodiversity and livelihoods and promoting that, where appropriate, funding for sustaining biodiversity is equivalent to supporting livelihoods and sustainable development.

(c) This should be done, *inter alia*, through improved communication education and public awareness (CEPA) campaigns of both the Convention on Biological Diversity and relevant development partners.

51. The Executive Secretary might also be requested, as part of the Global Initiative on Communication, Education and Public Awareness, to prepare a brief note or notes explaining the links between poverty, biodiversity, the Millennium Development Goals process and the Convention on Biological Diversity in languages and formats that would be accessible to a broad audience, and which could be distributed to broader base of stakeholders.

52. The profound relationship between biodiversity and poverty, and hence the need for the Convention on Biological Diversity and the process under the Millennium Development Goals to cooperate, has been recognized by both at the highest levels. Accordingly, it is imperative that the process for the Millennium Development Goals and the Convention on Biological Diversity establish effective modalities for maximizing the cooperation.

53. In order for this cooperation to be implemented, the processes under the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Millennium Development Goals need to continuously re-examine their respective programmes and identify the synergies, as well as the potential conflicts.

54. An important step that needs to be taken in order to promote synergies and avoid conflicts is for Parties to begin to report on their efforts to recognize the links between poverty and biodiversity and the two processes. Even though most developing country Parties have identified poverty as a major threat to biodiversity in their previous national reports, and consequently many have poverty eradication as one of their key aims or goals in their national biodiversity strategy and action plan, the second national reports did not have any questions referring to these issues. Accordingly, it is important that the third national reporting matrix incorporate a series of questions designed to identify the efforts of Parties to make the links between poverty eradication and biodiversity. In considering these needs, attention needs to be given to harmonizing reporting between the various initiatives in order to minimise the potential reporting burden on Parties.

55. It is equally important to incorporate biodiversity issues into the Millennium Development Goals national reporting process. Accordingly, the United Nations and the UNDP could be invited to consider whether the reporting processes on the Millennium Development Goals fully incorporate the need to maintain biodiversity in accordance with the principles of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

56. There must be effective communication between the both processes at all levels. An important contribution would be to request SBSTTA to undertake a more in-depth assessment of the key scientific, technical and technological links.

57. Issues of biodiversity need to be fully incorporated into the Millennium Campaign. This campaign will initiate and coordinate national advocacy campaigns around the world to raise awareness and support of the Millennium Development Goals. It is vital that these messages contain references to the importance of biodiversity and ecosystem integrity to sustainable development and the alleviation of poverty. Accordingly, the Millennium Campaign could be invited to work with the Executive Secretary to this end.

58. The Millennium Development Goals process is hoping to increase overseas development assistance by between \$40 billion and \$100 billion a year in order to meet the development objectives it sets out. Since the early 1990s, development experts have urged donors and developing countries to increase allocations for social services to at least 20% of national and aid budgets. Aid for basic social services – critical for achieving advances in health, education, food security, water and human welfare – remains less than 15% of bilateral donor assistance. Biodiversity needs to be understood as essential in the context of meeting basic human needs and as such part of the matrix of basic services that need increased support from donors.

59. Policy makers need more tools, and to be enabled to make better use of existing tools, to identify potential conflicts between inappropriate development activities, biodiversity issues and the Millennium Development Goals. These should include guidance on how to decide which set of objectives should prevail under what circumstances. This is a complex and iterative process. The methodology being developed by the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) to assess trade-offs for use by decision-makers could be extremely useful if applied at the national and local levels.

60. Inevitably, compromises and trade offs will need to be made. None of the targets for the 8 Millennium Development Goals explicitly recognizes the role of biodiversity or the Convention on Biological Diversity, and only two of the indicators are related to biodiversity. As a result, the trade offs may not properly take into account the synergies between the objectives of the Millennium Development Goals process and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

61. An important measure to promote compromise that is more balanced would be to have a target for the Millennium Development Goals that explicitly recognises the role of biodiversity. One possibility for such a target would be for the Millennium Development Goals process to adopt the 2010 target to reduce the rate of loss of biodiversity as an interim milestone toward achieving goal 7 on “environmental sustainability” by 2015 as proposed by SBBSTA in its recommendation IX/13. This would also promote further cooperation regarding the work of both processes on indicators. The 2010 and the Millennium Development Goals processes should endeavour to adopt the same indicators whenever possible. The “environmental resources” referred to in goal 7 could be seen as a proxy for “ecosystem services”, thus further linking that goal and the 2010 target. Where feasible and appropriate, similar linkages should be developed for the other relevant Millennium Development Goals.

62. Another possible measure would be to incorporate further biodiversity-related indicators into the reporting framework. These might be drawn from the provisional set of indicators to be established by the Conference of the Parties. The existing indicators for goal 7, target 9 are: proportion of land areas covered by forest” and “ratio of area protected to maintain biological diversity to surface area”. It suggested that the first of these might be modified as “extent of natural habitats”, thereby referring to a wider range of ecosystem types than forests. The second indicator should be understood to cover inland water and marine as well as terrestrial areas. Additional indicators might relate to species abundance, and trophic integrity of ecosystems.

VIII. SUGGESTED DECISIONS

63. Based on the foregoing, , the Conference of the Parties may wish to consider adopting a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties,

Recognizing that world leaders at the Millennium Summit have established the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as the focus of global efforts to combat poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation and discrimination against women, and that the Millennium Development Goals agenda provides the framework for the entire United Nations system to work coherently toward these common ends,

Noting that achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, in particular goal 1 (Combating poverty and hunger) and goal 7 (Ensuring environmental sustainability) are dependent on the effective conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources,

Recalling that the Convention on Biological Diversity is the key international instrument for the integration of biodiversity-related issues into the Millennium Development Agenda,

Concerned that if development activities are not consistent with the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, including its programmes of work, they may at once further degrade biological diversity and undermine sustainability and hence limit achievement of the Millennium Development Goals,

1. *Urges* Parties, Governments, international financial institutions, donors, and relevant intergovernmental organizations, as a contribution towards the Millennium Development Goals, to implement development activities in ways that are consistent with, and do not compromise, the achievement of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the 2010 target, including by improving environmental policies in relevant development agencies and sectors such as through integrating concerns relating to biodiversity and the Millennium Development Goals more directly into environmental impact assessments, strategic environmental assessments and other such tools;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary (in line with SBSTTA recommendation IX/13):

(a) To work closely with the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Millennium Project of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and others to find ways to more effectively communicate the importance of biodiversity in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and to identify and communicate the relationship between biodiversity and human development targets at all levels;

(b) To explore with the Secretary General of the United Nations, the opportunity to establish the 2010 target as an interim milestone in achieving the Millennium Development Goal 7 of ensuring environmental sustainability by 2015; and

(c) To work closely with the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Millennium Project of the Secretary General of the United Nations and others to find ways to use the 2010 targets and indicators to help achieve target 9 (to “reverse the loss of environmental resources”) of Millennium Development Goal 7 (to “ensure environmental sustainability”), and other relevant Millennium Development Goals;

3. *Urges* Parties to report on their efforts at the national level to promote the links between the process relating to the Millennium Development Goals and the Convention on Biological Diversity in their next national report;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, to take this into account when revising the format for national reports;

5. *Noting* with appreciation the ongoing initiatives of the Executive Secretary, *requests* the Executive Secretary to publish the full results of the study and to promote further the importance of biodiversity to sustainable development, livelihoods, food security, poverty reduction and eradication in all relevant forums and using a variety of appropriate media including, *inter alia*, making full use of the clearing-house mechanism and formalizing relevant activities under the programme of work for implementation and outreach, including communication education and public awareness.

*Annex***THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

GOALS AND TARGETS		INDICATORS
GOAL 1: ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER		
Target 1:	Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day	Proportion of population below \$1 per day; Poverty gap ratio [incidence x depth of poverty]; Share of poorest quintile in national consumption.
Target 2:	Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger	Prevalence of underweight children (under-five years of age); Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption.
GOAL 2: ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION		
Target 3:	Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling.	Net enrolment ratio in primary education; Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach grade 5; Literacy rate of 15-24 year olds.
GOAL 3: PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN		
Target 4:	Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005 and to all levels of education no later than 2015.	Ratio of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education; Ratio of literate females to males of 15-24 year olds; Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector; Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament.
GOAL 4: REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY		
Target 5:	Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate.	Under-five mortality rate; Infant mortality rate; Proportion of 1 year old children immunised against measles.
GOAL 5: IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH		
Target 6:	Reduce by three-quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio.	Maternal mortality ratio Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel
GOAL 6: COMBAT HIV/AIDS, MALARIA AND OTHER DISEASES		
Target 7:	Have halted by 2015, and begun to reverse, the spread of HIV/AIDS.	HIV prevalence among 15-24 year old pregnant women; Contraceptive prevalence rate; Number of children orphaned by HIV/AIDS.
Target 8:	Have halted by 2015, and begun to reverse, the incidence of malaria and other major diseases.	Prevalence and death rates associated with malaria; Proportion of population in malaria risk areas using effective malaria prevention and treatment measures; Prevalence and death rates associated with tuberculosis; Proportion of TB cases detected and cured under DOTS (Directly Observed Treatment Short Course).

GOAL 7: ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY*		
Target 9:	Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources.	Proportion of land area covered by forest; Ratio of area protected to maintain biological diversity to surface area; Energy use per unit of GDP; Carbon dioxide emissions (per capita) and consumption of ozone-depleting chlorofluorocarbons; Proportion of population using solid fuels.
Target 10:	Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water.	Proportion of population with sustainable access to an improved water source.
Target 11:	By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers.	Proportion of people with access to improved sanitation Proportion of people with access to secure tenure
GOAL 8: DEVELOP A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT*		
Target 12:	Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system. (Includes a commitment to good governance, development, and poverty reduction – both nationally and internationally.)	<p>Some of the indicators listed below will be monitored separately for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Africa, landlocked countries and small island developing states.</p> <p>Official Development Assistance Net ODA as percentage of DAC donors' gross national income; Proportion of bilateral ODA to basic social services (basic education, primary health care, nutrition, safe water and sanitation); Proportion of ODA that is untied; Proportion of ODA for environment in small island developing states; Proportion of ODA for transport sector in land-locked countries.</p> <p>Market Access Proportion of exports (by value and excluding arms) admitted free of duties and quotas; Average tariffs and quotas on agricultural products and textiles and clothing; Domestic and export agricultural subsidies in OECD countries; Proportion of ODA provided to help build trade capacity.</p> <p>Debt Sustainability Proportion of official bilateral HIPC debt cancelled Debt service as a percentage of exports of goods and services Proportion of ODA provided as debt relief Number of countries reaching HIPC decision and completion points</p>
Target 13:	Address the Special Needs of the Least Developed Countries. (Includes tariff- and quota-free access for exports; enhanced programme of debt relief for and cancellation of official bilateral debt; and more generous ODA for countries committed to poverty reduction.)	
Target 14:	Address the Special Needs of landlocked countries and small island developing states (through the Program of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island States and 22nd General Assembly provisions).	
Target 15:	Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term	
Target 16:	In cooperation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth	
Target 17:	In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable, essential drugs in developing countries	Proportion of population with access to affordable essential drugs on a sustainable basis.
Target 18:	In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications	Telephone lines per 1000 people; Personal computers per 1000 people. Other indicators to be decided

* The selection of indicators for Goals 7 and 8 is subject to further refinement
