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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL
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OF THE PARTIES TO THE CARTAGENA
PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY
Fourth meeting
Bonn, 12-16 May 2008
Item 8 of the provisional agenda **

COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, CONVENTIONS AND INITIATIVES

***Report on the activities of the United Nations Environment Programme in the area of
biological diversity and biosafety***

Note by the Executive Secretary

1. At the request of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Executive Secretary is submitting herewith, for the information of participants in the ninth ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, a report submitted by UNEP on its activities in the area of biological diversity and biosafety.
2. The report is being submitted in the language and form in which it was received by the Secretariat.

* UNEP/CBD/COP/9/1.
** UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/4/1.

Report on the activities of the United Nations Environment Programme in the area of biological diversity and biosafety

Introduction

1. The present report has been prepared for the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its ninth meeting. It provides information on activities of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in the areas of biological diversity and biosafety from January 2006 to December 2007 and on current and planned activities from January 2008 to December 2009. In addition, it describes major UNEP activities and issues during the reporting period in the areas covered by the Convention.

2. Supplemental information in the form of publications and documents will be made available by UNEP to the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting.

Guidance from the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity

3. The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its seventh and eighth meetings adopted several decisions specifically related to UNEP. In general, 19 decisions requested UNEP to address issues related to: marine and coastal biological diversity; island biological diversity; agricultural biological diversity; biological diversity and climate change; access and benefit-sharing as related to genetic resources (article 15 of the Convention); protected areas (article 8, subparagraphs (a) to (e)); alien species which threaten ecosystems, habitats or species; communication, education and public awareness; cooperation with other organizations; initiatives and conventions; national reports; transfer of technology; global strategy for plant conservation; strategic plan and future evaluations of progress; programme of work of the Convention; implementation of the Convention; global biodiversity outlook; implications of the findings of the millennium ecosystem assessment; private sector engagement and incentive measures.

4. Most of the issues are being addressed by UNEP through its 2006–2007 and 2008–2009 programmes of work. To this end, part I of the present report covers UNEP responses to the decisions of the Conference of the Parties, as well as contributions to the relevant agenda items of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and part II examines UNEP contributions to the 2010 biological diversity targets.

I. Response to decisions of the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting of relevance to UNEP

A. Decision VIII/6 on the Global Initiative on Communication, Education and Public Awareness: overview of implementation of the programme of work and options to advance future work

5. Although the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity is central in the implementation of communication, education and public awareness-related activities, decision VIII/6 suggests that the secretariat will work closely with the communication, education and public awareness programmes and activities of other partners, including other biodiversity-related conventions, other Rio conventions, the World Conservation Union (IUCN), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), UNEP and other organizations and related intergovernmental mechanisms. Below is a summary of communication, education and public awareness and biodiversity-related activities conducted by UNEP with input from some of the other UNEP-administered biodiversity-related conventions.

World Migratory Bird Day 2008: migratory birds – ambassadors for biodiversity

6. World Migratory Bird Day is a global awareness-raising campaign organized jointly by the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals highlighting migratory birds as an important part of global biodiversity. The theme for 2008 is “Migratory birds – ambassadors for biodiversity” and World Migratory Bird Day celebrations will take place around the world on Saturday, 10 and Sunday, 11 May 2008. The theme and the date of the

celebrations fit in with the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to be held from 19 to 30 May, and the event is a good example of biodiversity communication and public awareness being carried out jointly by a number of biodiversity-related conventions and UNEP. More information on the event can be found at <http://www.worldmigratorybirdday.org>.

B. Decision VIII/9 on implications of the findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment

7. Decision VIII/9 calls for relevant organizations to assist Parties and other Governments to make use of the conceptual framework and methodologies of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, and the subsequent recommendation XII/3 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, which calls for developing a coherent international multi-agency strategy for follow-up to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. In response to this, UNEP, in conjunction with Millennium Ecosystem Assessment follow-up partners, including the Convention secretariat, has developed the Global Millennium Ecosystem Assessment follow-up strategy, which was discussed and endorsed at the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment follow-up workshop held in Stockholm on 22 and 23 October 2007. The strategy provides strategic guidance to the Assessment follow-up activities implemented by various partner organizations in the following areas:

- (a) Advancing the knowledge base on ecosystem services and human well-being;
- (b) Strengthening policy implementation at the country level based on the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment approach;
- (c) Outreach to disseminate the Assessment findings and framework to relevant stakeholders;
- (d) Establishing a process to explore needs, options and modalities for a second global ecosystem assessment in the future.

8. The Assessment follow-up partners also agreed to establish institutional arrangements to ensure the implementation of the Strategy, comprising the following:

- (a) Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Follow-up Implementation Group, to coordinate activities and promote joint programming;
- (b) Executive Committee, to promote coordination at the working level among partner institutions;
- (c) Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Follow-up Advisory Group, to provide strategic advice and linking with a broad range of stakeholders;
- (d) Thematic Working Group, to facilitate information exchange and coordination at the working level on various thematic areas;
- (e) Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Follow-up Global Secretariat, hosted by UNEP in close collaboration with UNDP to support the implementation of the Strategy.

9. UNEP has also been actively involved in a thematic working group on sub-global assessments, in collaboration with the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) and the Cropper Foundation, as well as the United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies that hosts the secretariat for the working group, to provide support to the sub-global assessments, including the organization of the first meeting of sub-global assessments under the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Follow-up Programme to be held from 10 to 13 April 2008 in Kuala Lumpur. As part of the Assessment follow-up activities, UNEP-WCMC has also been coordinating the development of a methods manual based on lessons learnt from the Assessment. It is anticipated that the manual will be available by the end of 2008.

10. In the framework of the ecosystem services valuation, UNEP has developed a proposal for a technology platform for predicting the spread and economic impacts of invasive species on strategic ecosystem services due to global change factors. The project will enable pilot countries in Asia to better predict, evaluate and plan corrective action to protect ecosystems services of strategic importance to a selection of production and other economic sectors at the national level (pursuant to decision VIII/9).

C. Decision VIII/17 on private sector engagement

11. The UNEP Finance Initiative aims to make the business case for financial institutions addressing biodiversity-related risks by putting together briefs for chief executive officers (CEO) as well as a more in-depth report for executives in financial institutions dealing with risk and environmental management issues on a daily basis. The CEO briefing and the longer report outline how the degradation of ecosystem services translates into risks for businesses and their financial backers, explore areas of best management practices in this field and identify effective tools and guidelines available to financial institutions. The CEO briefing was officially launched at the UNEP Finance Initiative Global Roundtable in Melbourne in October 2007.¹

12. In addition, the UNEP Finance Initiative is developing a benchmarking tool focused on the agricultural sector under the project entitled "Natural value initiative". This project is being developed in conjunction with the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment, Fauna and Flora International, and the Brazilian School of Public and Business Administration of the Getulio Vargas Foundation. It is aimed at raising awareness of the linkages between biodiversity, investment value and the finance sector. To this end, the UNEP Finance Initiative convened two workshops, held in London on 8 August 2007 and in Sao Paulo on 3 September 2007, to consolidate best practice management of biodiversity and ecosystem services risks within the food, beverage and tobacco sectors. The workshops also sought to inform participants about the development of a benchmarking tool. The final benchmark report will analyse the results ranking company performance and provide detailed examples of best practices in managing impacts and issues associated with biodiversity. Key outcomes of the initiative will include:

- (a) Greater awareness within the finance sector of the business case for managing biodiversity and ecosystem services and the risks associated with mismanagement;
- (b) Better understanding of best practices;
- (c) Enhanced capacity to manage biodiversity risks effectively.

13. At a side event at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Bonn, the UNEP Finance Initiative, in conjunction with Fauna and Flora International, will discuss the progress made since the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and will present the CEO briefing launched in 2007.

D. Decision VIII/20 on biological diversity of inland water ecosystems: reporting processes, improving the review of implementation and addressing threats

14. The UNEP issue-based module on invasive alien species was recognized by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its eleventh and twelfth meetings as a useful tool to improve the coherent implementation of commitments relating to invasive alien species.

15. The UNEP Caribbean Regional Coordinating Unit produced a compilation of information on national and regional capacities and experiences on marine invasive species management programmes in the wider Caribbean region, including ballast waters management. Two bilingual questionnaires, aimed at garnering information at the national and regional levels, respectively, were uploaded to the Caribbean Environment Programme website and disseminated widely. An up-to-date list of marine invasive species in the wider Caribbean region was synthesized from the responses and publications on reliable websites.²

16. UNEP and the Global Invasive Species Programme organized three training courses on the management of marine and coastal invasive species in three regions: the Black Sea, the Caribbean and North-East Pacific regions (jointly) and the Benguela Current (West Africa) region. These capacity-building training courses are building on the pilot training course held with the Global Invasive Species Programme in the East Africa region (Convention for the Protection, Management, and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the

¹ Link to CEO briefing:

http://www.unepfi.org/fileadmin/documents/CEOBriefing_biodiversity_01.pdf

² The report can be downloaded from this website: <http://www.cep.unep.org/>

Eastern African Region - Nairobi Convention) in November 2006 and using the Training Course Toolkit developed by the Global Invasive Species Programme with the support of the Regional Seas Programme during 2006.

17. UNEP and the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific signed an agreement in 2006 whose objective was to undertake a comprehensive assessment of the current state of knowledge on the impact of human activities on marine mammals in the South-East Pacific countries through the organization of a workshop of experts. The agreement obliged the Permanent Commission, in consultation with the Regional Seas Coordinating Office, to organize the workshop; to prepare a workshop report setting out the work of the meeting and the participants' conclusions and recommendations to mitigate the impacts of human activities on marine mammals in South-East Pacific countries and to publish the final report. The workshop was divided into four sections, namely, direct exploitation and by-catch; whalewatching and tourism; pollution and habitat loss and other sources of impact in the region. Three scientists from each South-East Pacific country with experience on the subject were invited to participate.

E. Decision VIII/22 on marine and coastal biological diversity: enhancing the implementation of integrated marine and coastal area management

18. The Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA) has continued its work on coral reef monitoring and management in close cooperation with the International Coral Reef Initiative and the International Coral Reef Action Network and with financial support from the Government of the United States of America. On 29 and 30 May 2007, a regional workshop was held to launch the Green Fins project and to discuss the further expansion of the network of environmentally-friendly dive operators to additional countries in the region. In conjunction with the launch, a Green Fins slogan contest, a media event and a field trip for young people were organized. These activities were aimed at enhancing awareness about Green Fins and the potentially negative impacts of diving and snorkelling activities.

19. Marine litter is a global problem causing a range of environmental, economic, health and aesthetic problems, including the possible transfer of toxic substances and invasive species, destruction of marine habitats and loss of biodiversity in coastal and marine areas. Under the framework of the UNEP Global Initiative on Marine Litter, 11 UNEP-assisted Regional Seas action plans have continued to implement different activities, including the first COBSEA Marine Litter Workshop, which was held in Jakarta on 8 and 9 May 2007, to discuss the outcomes of a regional review on marine litter undertaken in 2006 and 2007. During the workshop, a draft COBSEA regional action plan on marine litter was developed. In addition, as a result of its close partnership with the Action Plan for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northwest Pacific Region (NOWPAP), COBSEA co-sponsored the NOWPAP International Coastal Cleanup in Busan, Republic of Korea, on 29 September 2007, in which six COBSEA member countries participated.

20. Also in COBSEA, two important project proposals to support tsunami-affected countries were developed and approved for funding in 2007. One of these proposals, "Integrating climate change adaptation measures into coastal zone planning", is a pilot activity that will be undertaken through an ongoing spatial planning process at the district level. This activity is intended to support the Mangroves for the Future Initiative, a multi-agency, multi-country initiative for the long-term conservation and sustainable management of coastal ecosystems such as mangroves, coral reefs, wetlands, forests, lagoons, estuaries, beaches and sandy shores. It covers 10 tsunami-affected countries in South and South-East Asia and the Western Indian Ocean. The initiative involves cooperation between multiple partners, including government agencies, non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations, research institutes and universities, United Nations agencies and other multilateral bodies. The proposal has been funded by the Government of Spain and will be implemented by the Ministry of Environment of Indonesia.

21. In recognition of the importance of the conservation of marine biodiversity and biological resources, NOWPAP, through one of its regional activity centres, has compiled reports on coastal and marine protected areas in the region as well as data and information on marine biodiversity in the Northwest Pacific. Reports include: "Regional overview and national reports on marine and coastal nature reserves in the Northwest Pacific Region, 2007", "Regional and national reports on marine and coastal biodiversity data and information in the Northwest Pacific

Region, 2007”, “Regional overview of legal aspects of the protection and management of the marine and coastal environment of the Northwest Pacific Region, 2007”, and “Integrated report on harmful algal blooms for the NOWPAP Region, 2005”.

22. In the Mediterranean (the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean - Barcelona Convention), significant progress was made in 2007 in the preparation of guidelines and technical tools to properly address marine and coastal protected area management issues, in particular, to evaluate the areas included in the list of Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Interest. Common criteria for amending annexes II and III of the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean have also been adopted.

23. In order to enhance the conservation of Mediterranean marine biodiversity and increase knowledge on deep-sea habitats, a new action plan for the protection of the coralligenous and other calcareous bio-concretions was adopted.

24. The Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas is working with the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea in the implementation of a full-size joint Global Environment Facility (GEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), International Maritime Organization (IMO), Global Ballast Water Management Programme (GloBallast) Partnerships Project for the management of activities related to non-indigenous species in the region. In addition, specific guidelines for controlling vectors of introduction of non-indigenous species and for implementing a risk assessment evaluation have been adopted.

25. The UNEP Regional Seas Programme and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals undertook a joint activity for dugong conservation and management. The primary objective was to increase cooperation between the Regional Seas Programme and the Convention on Migratory Species through the development of joint activities on marine biodiversity conservation and to develop national and subregional dugong (*Dugong dugon*; family: *Dugonidae*; order: *Sirenia*) conservation strategies for the large range of dugong around Indonesia. An additional objective was to increase awareness of the role of the Regional Seas Programme and the Convention on Migratory Species in biodiversity conservation by giving support to extend the work already carried by the Convention on the conservation and management of dugong and their habitats. The main outputs of this agreement are the establishment of a national dugong conservation strategy and action plan for Indonesia and the development of a pilot project in one of the States across the dugong migratory range and dissemination of the results and recommendations from the project among the range States of the dugong migratory areas.

26. Two technical workshops were organized and a memorandum of understanding concerning the conservation and management of dugong and their habitats was signed and entered into force in Abu Dhabi in October 2007. This non-binding agreement under article IV (4) of the Convention on Migratory Species is designed to protect the dugong species throughout 40 range States of the Red Sea, Indian Ocean and Pacific subregions.

27. A memorandum of understanding concerning conservation measures for the Eastern Atlantic populations of the Mediterranean monk seal was signed in October 2007 in Tenerife, Spain, by the four range States (Mauritania, Morocco, Portugal and Spain) of the monk seal. The memorandum of understanding, which constitutes an agreement under article IV (4) of the Convention on Migratory Species, provides the institutional and legal framework to implement an action plan for the recovery of the Mediterranean monk seal in the Eastern Atlantic.

28. The development of a new instrument for the conservation of small cetaceans and manatees in Western Africa and Micronesia under the auspices of the Convention on Migratory Species is in progress. The preliminary text of a memorandum of understanding, as well as two draft action plans for small cetaceans and manatees was developed and discussed during a meeting held in Adeje, Spain. The action plans provide for regional and international collaboration with an ecosystem approach as well as legislation and policies for conservation. Reducing by-catch and the impact of fisheries will be crucial components of the action plans.

29. A new global agreement to protect three of the largest and most iconic shark species (the great white shark, the whale shark and the basking shark) is under development under the Convention on Migratory Species. An intergovernmental meeting hosted by the Government of Seychelles in Mahe in December 2007 laid the foundation for the new instrument, which is

expected to be finalized in 2008. While the new agreement will initially apply to the three large shark species listed by the Convention, it will allow for other species to be added by range States with the approval of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention.

30. UNEP and the Blue Ocean Institute published a study entitled “Shark depredation and unwanted bycatch in pelagic longline fisheries: industry practices and attitudes, and shark avoidance strategies, 2007”. This study benefits pelagic longline fleets that do not want to catch sharks and want to reduce shark depredation.³

F. Decision VIII/26 on incentive measures: preparation for the in-depth review of the programme of work on incentive measures

31. UNEP and IUCN, in close collaboration with the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, have been working on scaling-up payments for ecosystem services at the international level since September 2006. The UNEP International Payments for Ecosystem Services Initiative responds to the call by the Convention on Biological Diversity at its eighth meeting for UNEP to continue to support the programme of work on incentive measures of the Convention, in particular, through its work on the creation of pro-poor markers for ecosystem services (decision VIII/26). The goal of the international payments for ecosystem services work programme is to explore international arrangements comparable to carbon trading, but with a clear focus on the conservation of terrestrial and marine ecosystems that host significant biodiversity and related services. As such, developing the international payments for ecosystem services concept as a policy tool contributes to UNEP-wide efforts to achieve sustainable ecosystem management.

32. At the ninth meeting of the Convention on Biological Diversity, a round table discussion side event with IUCN will consider various options for international payments for ecosystem services. The side event will also disseminate and discuss the preliminary findings of the forthcoming UNEP publication on international payments for ecosystem services, which covers the demand for and supply of critical ecosystem services as well as ways of bringing demand and supply together through international arrangements. In addition, a comprehensive summary of UNEP activities was provided in December 2007 to the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity following a notification received in March 2007. The summary document included UNEP work on fisheries subsidies reform, payments for ecosystem services and international payments for ecosystem services, trade and biodiversity, organic agriculture and wildlife trade.

33. The UNEP Division of Policy Implementation and Katoomba Group joint publication “Payments for ecosystem services: getting started”, developed in 2007 and funded through UNEP by the Norwegian Government will be officially launched at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The primer for payments for ecosystem services is the first publication of its kind designed to provide the reader – and in particular private, public and non-profit organizations and communities dealing with payments for ecosystem services to promote conservation, restoration, and sustainable resource management – with a solid understanding of payments for ecosystem services and markets as well as the mechanisms of payments for ecosystem services deals, and, based on this, aims to provide guidance for developing such deals.

G. Decision VIII/28 B (b) on impacts assessment: voluntary guidelines on biodiversity-inclusive impact assessment

34. The UNEP Trade and Biodiversity Initiative (integrated assessment of trade-related policies and biological diversity in the agriculture sector), was launched in July 2005 in response to the call by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its sixth meeting to study the impact of trade liberalization on agricultural biodiversity (decision VI/5). The four-year initiative (2005–2009) is funded by the European Union and the Swedish International Development Agency and implemented in close collaboration with UNEP-WCMC and the secretariat of the Convention. The initiative directly responds to decision VIII/28 by the development of a reference manual for conducting integrated assessment of agriculture trade policies and biodiversity and the implementation of country projects in six African, Caribbean

³ The report can be downloaded at <http://www.unep.org/regionalseas/>

and Pacific countries (Cameroon, Jamaica, Mauritius, Madagascar, Papua New Guinea and Uganda).

35. A draft manual on trade and biodiversity assessment has been developed in conjunction with UNEP-WCMC, the secretariat to the Convention and a group of international experts on trade, biodiversity issues, assessment and valuation between 2005 and 2006. The manual entitled "Incorporating biodiversity into integrated assessments of trade policy in the agricultural sector" consists of two volumes. Volume I is a practical step-by-step approach to undertaking integrated assessment of trade policy in the agricultural sector, and prioritizing biodiversity. Volume II is an accompanying reference document that explains in detail the importance of biodiversity and ecosystem services and the complex linkages that exist between trade in the agricultural sector and biodiversity. Volume II also contains additional information on both procedures and substance to support efforts in undertaking an integrated assessment focused on biodiversity, including indicators and valuation techniques.

36. This latest version of the draft is available online and was distributed to members of the country project teams in July 2007. In addition, the manual was presented during a side event of the International Association for Impact Assessment annual conference held in Seoul in June 2007, which focused on biodiversity assessment methodologies in a trade context. The six country projects receive financial and technical support to assess the economic, social and environmental impacts of agricultural trade policies with specific attention being paid to the impacts and opportunities for biodiversity. Based on the outcomes of the country-based assessments, the national teams will implement national action plans, which seek to balance trade, development and biodiversity goals. In 2006–2007, the following milestones were completed: international capacity-building workshop in Geneva (October 2006); setting-up of country project teams and national steering committees (early 2007); national level stakeholder workshops and capacity-building workshops (March to May 2007); determination of focus of the integrated assessment studies (selection of trade policy, sector and main biodiversity issues); first international review meeting in Geneva (November 2007) and submission of draft assessment studies by country project teams. In addition, a side event is planned at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention to inform parties about the progress of the initiative.⁴

II. UNEP contributions to the 2010 targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity

37. In its decisions VII/30 and VIII/15, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity established goals and subtargets for each of the identified focal areas⁵ to clarify the 2010 global biological diversity target and promote coherence among the Convention's programmes of work. A number of those subtargets have a bearing on the UNEP work programme. UNEP is also mindful of the goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan for the Convention on Biological Diversity (decision VI/26), which are frequently used in combination with the 2010 targets, for example by the Global Biodiversity Outlook, to assess the status of implementation of the Convention. UNEP has specifically built upon the complementarity between the 2010 targets and the Strategic Plan, in particular, goal 3, as national biodiversity strategies, action plans and the integration of biodiversity concerns into relevant sectors serve as an effective framework for the implementation of the objectives of the Convention, and, in particular, the Division of Global Environment Facility Coordination biodiversity enabling activities. In that regard, Parties are currently examining the 2010 targets as they determine what they have achieved in formulating national targets based on global targets, an exercise that was part of the third national report process in which the Division of Global Environment Facility Coordination supported 36 countries and the biodiversity service of the UNEP Regional Office for Europe.

38. UNEP continues to deploy its technical and scientific expertise to facilitate the effective implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and also of other UNEP-administered global and regional environmental conventions. In responding to the 2010 goals and subtargets, UNEP carried out various activities during the 2006–2007 biennium, with other activities planned for the current 2008–2009 biennium as set forth below.

⁴ For further information on the initiative go to <http://www.unep.ch/etb/areas/biodivAgriSector.php>
⁵ <https://www.biodiv.org/2010-target/focal.aspx>

39. The goals and targets are those in the provisional framework for evaluating progress towards the 2010 target set forth in annex II of decision VIII/15.

A. Activities which contribute overall to the 2010 targets

40. UNEP celebrated the 2007 International Day for Biodiversity, with the theme “Biodiversity and climate change”, by undertaking a number of activities at the United Nations complex in Nairobi, involving United Nations staff, high-level officials from the Government of Kenya, representatives of partner institutions, media representatives and young Kenyans. Further afield in Kenya, UNEP staff planted 10,500 indigenous seedlings in Kereita forest, a water catchment area south of the Aberdares mountain range. This effort was linked to the overall Billion Tree Campaign, which is intended to continue on yearly basis.

1. Assessment of 2010 progress

41. The UNEP-GEF project “Building the partnership to track progress at the global level in achieving the 2010 biodiversity target”, facilitated by UNEP-WCMC, aims to support delivery of a full suite of 2010 indicators at the global level that is meaningful to a range of audiences in supporting both policy intervention and communicating degree of success in achieving the 2010 target. The indicators will be delivered through a partnership of organizations and agencies working on the individual indicators. They will be meaningful at the global level, but clearly linked to related indicators at the national and regional levels, to targets and indicators used by other international conventions and programmes and to targets and indicators relevant to other sectors (in particular the Millennium Development Goals). The results of this project will provide a substantial contribution to the assessment of status and trends of biodiversity in the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook.

42. In addition, the implementation of the Kyiv Resolution on Biodiversity led to the development of a pan-European coordinated programme between the European Environment Agency and the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS) joint secretariat, assisted by the European Centre for Nature Conservation and with UNEP-WCMC. The programme called “Streamlining European 2010 biodiversity indicators” was established in 2005 as a process to select and streamline a set of biodiversity indicators to monitor progress towards the 2010 target and help achieve progress towards the target. Work was carried out under six expert groups organized under the project. UNEP, on behalf of PEBLDS, and with contributions from the Governments of Switzerland and Norway, participated in the programme’s coordination team and expert groups and covered the cost of participation of non-European Union countries in the expert groups. The first phase of the programme has been finalized and an initial set of 26 indicators is available at the European Union and pan-European levels. The second phase of the programme has begun to provide: a coherent European programme for the progressive development of biodiversity indicators, including the exploration of funding mechanisms for timely production and delivery of agreed indicators; proposals and guidance on the development, production and delivery of agreed indicators; proposals, guidance, recommendations and information for presentation to the appropriate European governance groups developing biodiversity policy for formal adoption; information to the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, advisory and governance processes on the results of the work being undertaken.

2. Early warning and assessment

43. UNEP, through its Division of Early Warning and Assessment, provides the world community with improved access to meaningful environmental data and information, including on biological diversity, to help enhance the capacity of Governments to use environmental information for decision-making and planning action for sustainable human development. Some of the assessment activities relevant to the achievement of the 2010 targets are listed below.

(a) Global Environment Outlook

44. The UNEP flagship assessment report, the fourth Global Environment Outlook report, was launched in October 2007. It reviews the state of the environment at the global and sub-global levels based on up-to-date scientific data and information, the guidance of the scientific advisory committee and interaction and partnerships between Governments, scientific institutions and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

(b) Millennium Ecosystem Assessment follow-up

45. UNEP-WCMC has been coordinating the development of a methods manual based on lessons learnt from the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. It is anticipated that the manual will be available by the end of 2008. (See paragraphs 3 and 4, above.)

(c) Global Marine Assessment

46. UNEP and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO have been invited by the United Nations General Assembly, by its resolution 60/30 on oceans and the law of the sea, to undertake, jointly, the role of lead agencies for the Global Marine Assessment. UNEP and the Commission have put together a project plan to design and initiate the assessment of assessments which will become the Global Marine Assessment.

(d) Other global assessments

47. UNEP has also participated in and contributed to global processes related to environmental monitoring, which are sources of key data for an up-to-date set of scientific and technical information for reviewing the state of the environment at the global and sub-global levels. Among these global assessment processes is the Global Earth Observation System of Systems, including the Integrated Global Observing Strategy Partnership; the Global Ocean Observing System; the Global Climate Observing System and the Global Terrestrial Observing System. A framework for collaboration between the Global Ocean Observing System and the UNEP Regional Seas Programme has been provided through a memorandum of understanding concluded in March 2005 between UNEP and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission. Cooperation focuses on the areas of data and information networking; monitoring; selection of indicators of environmental variability and ecosystem change; remote sensing; geographical information systems and assessment of contaminants.

B. Activities which contribute to protecting the components of biological diversity

1. Goal 1: Promote the conservation of the biological diversity of ecosystems, habitats and biomes

(a) Target 1.1: At least 10 per cent of each of the world's ecological regions effectively conserved

(i) World Database on Protected Areas

48. The World Database on Protected Areas is managed by UNEP-WCMC in conjunction with IUCN and its World Commission on Protected Areas. Continuous efforts have been focusing on substantial improvement of the data in the Database and the process of data verification and review. After a lengthy redevelopment process, the new Database will be launched at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, highlighting the new capabilities of the system enabling national authorities to update and edit protected areas data online. In addition, major work is under way to make available online, through the Database, data on management effectiveness of protected areas, in line with the recommendation of the second meeting of the Working Group on Protected Areas of the Convention to collect information on the implementation of the Convention's programme of work on protected areas.

49. As a result of particular concerns over the marine environment, UNEP-WCMC has been working with the Fisheries Centre and the University of British Columbia to improve available data and analyse it further. Information on spatial databases on high seas protected areas and a high seas interactive map were made available to the second meeting of the Working Group on Protected Areas and the thirteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.

(ii) Critical site network tool

50. The Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds, GEF, WCMC, the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention), BirdLife International, Wetlands International and the United Nations Office for Project Services are the key partners in the GEF African-Eurasian Flyways Project (also known as Wings Over Wetlands). Under the Wings Over Wetlands project is a critical site network tool which will be a central information portal integrating current

knowledge on migratory waterbirds along the African-Eurasian flyways. The aim of the critical site network is to bring the data of the following key databases together: Ramsar Site Information Service, World Bird Database, World Data Database on Protected Areas and the International Waterbird Census Database. Through this linking of databases, the critical site network tool will provide comprehensive site and flyway scale information for over 400 migratory waterbird species. It is foreseen that the tool will be available as of 2010. The innovative tool is intended for use by conservation practitioners, decision-makers and planner at local, national and global levels. It will help national authorities across the African-Eurasian regions to identify which critical sites fall into their national jurisdictions and highlight the importance of individual sites in a flyway context.⁶

(iii) Assessment and Analysis of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas

51. The UNEP Regional Seas Programme and the Convention on Biological Diversity are conducting a joint project to assess and analyse the current status of marine and coastal protected areas at the regional level and the role of the Regional Seas Programme in that context. The project aims to identify gaps and related issues for the development of a strategic approach for meeting international goals such as the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation target of establishing a global representative network of marine protected areas by 2012 and the Convention on Biological Diversity target of effective conservation of at least 10 per cent of each of the world's ecological regions by 2010. It also aims to provide recommendations on how to improve marine and coastal protected areas networks at the regional level.

(b) Target 1.2: Areas of particular importance to biodiversity protected

(i) Great Apes Survival Partnership,

52. The Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP) partnership⁷ unites all the principal institutional actors involved in great ape conservation, including United Nations agencies, biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements, great ape range States and donor Governments, non-governmental organizations, scientists, local communities and the private sector. The partnership was established in 2001 to address the extinction crisis facing the four main types of great ape in equatorial Africa and South-East Asia, namely, bonobos, chimpanzees, gorillas and orang-utans, and the mainly forest ecosystems on which they and their human neighbours depend for survival. UNEP activities include high-level national and intergovernmental dialogue; planning and monitoring; promotion of best practices; provision of information and public awareness-raising and sourcing for new and additional funding.

53. In November 2006, GRASP and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) convened a Great Ape Enforcement Task Force meeting in Nairobi to bring together key enforcement officials from range States and trading countries to tackle the problem of illegal trade in great apes. A high-impact report entitled "Last stand of the orangutan, state of emergency: illegal logging, fire and palm oil in Indonesia's national parks" was published in February 2007 and resulted in thousands of direct media reports, as well as informing debate on biofuels in the Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. A legally-binding agreement on gorillas was negotiated by the gorilla range States at a special session of the Convention on Migratory Species held from 22 to 24 October 2007 in Paris. The Convention on Migratory Species and GRASP will work closely on the implementation of the agreement, particularly the development of species action. UNEP is currently working to ensure that great ape priority population sites, of which there are now 94, are among the first to benefit from carbon financing for reduced emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. Pilot projects are under way at sites in Asia and Africa and a methodology for site selection for carbon and multiple benefits is being developed in conjunction with the GRASP scientific commission. Preliminary findings were presented by UNEP on 8 December 2007 at Forest Day discussions in Bali, Indonesia.

(ii) Coral reefs ecosystem protection

54. The UNEP Coral Reef Unit works with partners around the world to reverse coral reef degradation and to increase global, regional, national and local support for the conservation and sustainable use of warm- and cold-water coral reefs. UNEP activities include assessment, reporting, partnership and capacity-building.

⁶ For more information please visit <http://www.wingsoverwetlands.org>

⁷ <http://www.unep.org/grasp/>

55. UNEP has advanced its work on increasing cooperation for the conservation and sustainable development of transboundary mountain areas in South-Eastern Europe, resulting in innovative local cooperative initiatives, such as the establishment of peace parks, and support of specific partnerships, contributing both to the protected areas and to mountain biological diversity programmes of work of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Furthermore, a protocol on biodiversity has been developed under the Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (Carpathian Convention), which is expected to be signed at the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention (17–19 June 2008). A Carpathian wetland initiative is being implemented in cooperation with the Ramsar Convention and the establishment of a Carpathian network of protected areas was supported by the Convention on the Protection of the Alps (Alpine Convention) and UNEP. These cooperative efforts will culminate in the signature of a memorandum of understanding between the Alpine Convention, the Carpathian Convention and the Convention on Biological Diversity at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

2. **Goal 3: Promote the conservation of genetic diversity**

56. The Convention on Migratory Species has been successfully working to develop agreements, both legally-binding and non-legally-binding, between range States for the conservation of threatened migratory species. These agreements provide legislative tools for the States to engage actively in the conservation of biodiversity. Developments during 2007 were highly encouraging, with several important instruments signed or close to being agreed upon. Furthermore, the Convention on Migratory Species is developing a number of concerted actions, specific programmes for the conservation of the most highly endangered species. The following are three specific examples of how the Convention has been contributing to the protection of the world's biodiversity over the past five years.

(a) **Action for the conservation of Sahelo-Saharan antelopes**

57. As result of increasing pressure on the biodiversity of the African region of the Sahara and the Sahel, six antelope species are now either probably extinct (*Oryx dammah*) or seriously threatened (*Addax nasomaculatus*, *Gazella dama*, *Gazella leptoceros*, *Gazella cuvieri* and *Gazella dorcas*) owing to human activities such as increasing uncontrolled poaching and overgrazing. The Convention on Migratory Species is leading a major international activity in order to mitigate and if possible reverse these losses in 14 range States: Algeria, Burkina Faso, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sudan and Tunisia. The Convention on Migratory Species and these range States have developed a Sahelo-Saharan antelopes action plan. The action plan, in favour of biodiversity in the arid zones, aims to rehabilitate the world's most threatened group of large mammals, namely the antelopes that inhabit the Sahelo-Saharan region, in order to foster both the conservation of the world's natural heritage and the sustainable development of the area.

58. Other activities of the Convention on Migratory Species include the development and management of a database comprising key information on Sahelo-Saharan ungulates, their conservation status, natural environment and conditions for their restoration. The data will be available online, for the benefit of international organizations, national agencies responsible for nature conservation and sustainable development, non-governmental organizations and the scientific community at large.⁸

(b) **Conservation and management of marine turtles and their habitats of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia**

59. The Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and their Habitats of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia puts in place a framework through which States of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia region, as well as other concerned States, can work together to conserve and replenish depleted marine turtle populations for which they share responsibility. Major threats to marine turtles include unsustainable exploitation, destruction of nesting and feeding habitats, and incidental mortality in fishing operations. The conservation and management plan of the Memorandum of Understanding – comprising 24 programmes and 105 specific activities – focuses on reducing threats, conserving critical habitat, exchanging scientific data, increasing public awareness and participation, promoting regional cooperation, and seeking resources for implementation.

⁸ For more information, go to: http://www.cms.int/species/ss_antelopes/ss_antelope_intro.htm

(c) Agreement on the Conservation of Gorillas and Their Habitats

60. In spite of the considerable efforts of environmentalists, the conservation status of gorillas has continued to degrade. The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species decided that it was of vital importance for the conservation of gorillas and of their habitat to establish a legal structure that would make ensure the durability of initiatives and integrate conservation actions in conjunction with the 10 range States of the gorilla: Angola, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Nigeria, Uganda and Rwanda. The secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species thus prepared a legally-binding agreement, to be concluded under the auspices of and fully integrated within the Convention, to implement a regional, cross-border action plan. By this agreement, the Parties pledge to provide strict conservation for all populations of gorillas and to identify, protect, manage and restore sites and habitats for gorillas. Furthermore, they pledge to coordinate their efforts to ensure that a network of suitable habitats is maintained or re-established throughout the entire range of all species and sub-species; eradicate activities related to poaching; investigate and seek to remedy problems that are posed by human activities; cooperate in emergency situations; cooperate in the development, harmonization and enforcement of national policies; initiate or support research into the biology and ecology of gorillas; develop and maintain programmes to raise awareness and understanding of gorilla conservation issues, notably through public education programmes; exchange information and results from research, monitoring, conservation and education programmes and reinforce capacity-building measures.⁹

(d) Target 3.1: Genetic diversity of crops, livestock, and of harvested species of trees, fish and wildlife and other valuable species conserved, and associated indigenous and local knowledge maintained

Fisheries

61. UNEP provides technical assistance to governments in the development of policy reform packages and measures required for the sustainable management of the fisheries sector. Particular emphasis is directed towards addressing fisheries subsidies reform at the national and international levels. In addition to numerous country and analytical studies, UNEP regularly convenes stakeholder consultations attended by government officials, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and other fisheries experts. For example, UNEP and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) co-hosted a high-level event and a technical workshop on fisheries subsidies reform at the sixth World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference held in Hong Kong in December 2005.

62. UNEP, in collaboration with the WWF-Danube Carpathian programme and the European ECO-Forum, and with contributions from the Governments of Switzerland and Norway, held two regional capacity-building workshops for the South-Eastern European region and the Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia region. The workshops aimed to build capacity, promote the sharing of experiences and develop recommendations regarding the identification and protection of high nature value farming areas in South-Eastern European and Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia region countries. The participants represented ministries, governmental organizations, universities and local, national and international non-governmental organizations. The workshops were successful in meeting the following objectives: to cover the ecological and political context of high nature value farming, especially its role in the context of the Convention for Biological Diversity, Kyiv Resolution and within other policy instruments and processes, and the current status of high nature value farming concept definition, identification and protection in Europe in general; to assess the present state, identification and protection of high nature value farming in the Western Balkans and the Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia regions and develop recommendations for future action. The reports of both workshops are available from UNEP and are being disseminated to the participants and PEBLDS Governments through the PEBLDS website.

63. UNEP works with the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) under a framework for cooperation between PEBLDS and MCPFE. The two pan-European processes negotiated and agreed to a joint position on the pan-European understanding of the linkage between the ecosystem approach and sustainable forest management. Taking into account the relevant pan-European commitments, resolutions and

⁹ For more information, go to: <http://www.cms.int/species/gorillas/index.htm>.

declarations on sustainable forest management by MCPFE, it is understood by PEBLDS and MCPFE that sustainable forest management, as defined and further developed by MCPFE, is consistent with the application of the ecosystem approach to forest ecosystems in the pan-European region. The joint position has been published and distributed widely. In addition, PEBLDS and MCPFE are preparing pan-European recommendations for afforestation and reforestation in the context of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. A joint workshop was held to consider a first draft of the recommendations and a consultation carried out. It is to be hoped that a joint statement will be released in time for the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

64. Over the last three years, UNEP has been supporting a partnership that the Convention on Migratory Species established with the environment component of the New Partnership for Africa's Development. As a result of the partnership, a coordination unit has been established in Dakar as an experimental step to enhance the efficiency of a non-binding agreement on the conservation of six threatened species of marine turtles of the Atlantic coast of Africa. A workshop was held in 2007 and the second meeting of the signatory States to the memorandum of understanding was held in Dakar in 2008. The outcomes of the workshop and the meeting encourage the maintenance of the partnership with a view to revitalizing the memorandum of understanding.

C. Activities that promote sustainable use

1. Goal 4: Promote sustainable use and consumption

(a) Target 4.1: Biodiversity-based products derived from sources that are sustainably managed, and production areas managed consistent with the conservation of biodiversity

(i) Policy guidance on sustainable use

65. UNEP provides policy guidelines on land degradation control through good practices in integrated land and water management and conservation and the sustainable use of biological diversity. A pilot project on cotton production in West Africa, which is being conducted in conjunction with FAO, is developing supply-chain and market-based approaches to promote sustainable agricultural practices which conserve biological diversity, among other objectives. UNEP also provides policy and technical advice and assistance to small island developing States and African States to help them to manage the coral reef component of their coastal areas in a sustainable manner. In addition, UNEP provides programmatic and technical assistance to countries, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations under the International Coral Reef Initiative, the International Coral Reef Action Network and the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network in the development and implementation of coral reef-related projects.

(ii) Sustainable use indicators

66. UNEP-WCMC is working with the IUCN Species Survival Commission, the IUCN Sustainable Use Specialist Group and experts from a wide range of other organizations to develop two of the indicators of sustainable use for the 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership Project. The first of these indicators will bring together information on the impacts of use on populations of wild animals and plants. The second indicator is being developed in conjunction with the CITES secretariat and aims to determine the impact of international trade on the conservation status of wild plants and animals. In parallel with these, FAO is developing indicators to measure the proportion of the world's fish stocks, forests and farmland that is being used or managed sustainably. This work is funded jointly by Shell Research and GEF and is being undertaken in conjunction with Wageningen University in the Netherlands.

67. In addition, UNEP-WCMC, in conjunction with WWF, the Forest Stewardship Council and the German Agency for Technical Cooperation, has developed an internet-based system that provides regularly updated maps, charts and tables of the areas of certified forests endorsed by the Forest Stewardship Council, displayed globally and by region. Of the various charts, those of most interest for trend data are those relating to the increase in area through time by forest type (natural and plantation) and biome (boreal, temperate and tropical-subtropical).

68. UNEP contributed to a subregional workshop on a sustainable forestry management initiative of the West African forests held in Burkina Faso in 2007. The workshop was attended by representatives of subregional organizations, including the Economic Community of West

African States, the Economic and Monetary Union of West Africa, the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel, IUCN, UNEP, FAO, the International Centre for Research on Agro-Forestry, the Centre for International Forestry Research, WWF and Flora and Fauna International. The objective of the meeting was to discuss and lay the foundations for defining priorities for the initiative, including the development of a programme of action for sustainable forestry in West African forests and defining the roles and responsibilities of actors.

(iii) Issue-based modular approach to policy-making

69. UNEP has developed an issue-based module on sustainable use to support the coherent implementation of the relevant decisions of biodiversity-related conventions at the national level. Other modules include climate change, inland waters and alien invasive species. The modules assemble relevant articles, decisions and resolutions of conventions and agreements under thematic issues and make them available over the internet and via CD-ROMs to national decision makers and practitioners. The project is currently being tested in pilot countries in Africa and Europe.

70. Within the framework of enhancing partnerships with relevant organizations on certification schemes, UNEP has developed a project on widening Forest Stewardship Council forest certification schemes through incorporating additional ecosystem services. The project aims to enhance the attainment of sustainable forest management and biodiversity conservation through the incorporation of additional ecosystem services in global forest certification schemes in Brazil, Cameroon, Indonesia, Nepal and Sri Lanka (pursuant to decision VIII/17).

71. UNEP is supporting the joint efforts of the governments of Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe towards the establishment of a transfrontier conservation area known as the Kavango-Zambezi transfrontier conservation area. The area comprises some 300,000km² of prime tourism destinations and other compatible land-use areas. The initiative focuses on the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources in transboundary ecosystems. UNEP is working with Roots of Peace and Conservation International to develop and implement a programme to open a wildlife corridor to enhance wildlife conservation and stimulate economic development.

(b) Target 4.2: Unsustainable consumption, of biological resources or that impacts upon biological diversity, reduced and target 4.3: No species of wild flora or fauna endangered by international trade

(i) Green Customs Initiative

72. The Green Customs Initiative is a unique partnership between the secretariats of six multilateral environmental agreements (including those of CITES and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity) and four international organizations. The initiative aims to strengthen compliance with and enforcement of multilateral environmental agreements with trade-related components, including those related to biological diversity and biosafety. It offers an integrated approach for providing information, training and awareness-raising to customs officials and other border protection officers to enhance their capacity to monitor trade in commodities of environmental concern such as endangered species of fauna and flora, living modified organisms, ozone-depleting substances, toxic chemicals and hazardous wastes. Initiated in 2001, the Green Customs Initiative conducts coordinated national and regional training workshops, develops joint information materials and maintains a website (<http://www.greencustoms.org>). UNEP is a founding member of the Green Customs Initiative and also serves as its secretariat. For more information on the involvement of the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in the Green Customs Initiative, see document UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/4/6 on "Cooperation with other organizations, conventions and initiatives" prepared for the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

(ii) Assessing wildlife trade policies

73. UNEP launched a two-year project in 2006 focusing on enhancing the capacities of developing countries to assess, design and implement effective national wildlife trade policies. The project is being undertaken in partnership with the CITES secretariat, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Graduate Institute of Development Studies, with funding provided by the European Union and the Geneva International Academic Network. At the core of the project is the implementation of pilot studies in four developing countries. Drawing on assessment methodologies developed by UNEP and the CITES secretariat, a toolkit

of wildlife trade policy assessment methodologies is under development. National institutions in the four countries will use the methodologies to assess the economic, social and environmental impacts of wildlife trade policies and develop integrated responses to enhance the effectiveness of those policies.

D. Activities which address threats to biological diversity

1. Goal 5: Pressures from habitat loss, land use change and degradation, and unsustainable water use, reduced, and goal 6: control threats from invasive alien species

74. The Convention on Migratory Species is undertaking a review of the adverse effects of invasive alien species on the conservation of migratory species. The study aims at identifying the taxonomic groups of migratory species that are, or are most likely to be, affected by invasive alien species; the types of impact (direct and indirect) made by invasive alien species on migratory species and measures adopted or proposed to tackle such impacts. The study is being financed by a grant from the Government of Italy (Ministry of Environment, Directorate General for Nature Conservation). The preliminary findings of the study were presented at a side event at the thirteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice held in Rome from 18 to 22 February 2008.

Target 5.1: Rate of loss and degradation of natural habitats decreased, and target 6.1: Pathways for major potential alien invasive species controlled, and target 6.2: Management plans in place for major alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species

UNEP work on Invasive Species Programme

75. UNEP, through its Division of Global Environment Facility Coordination office in Bangkok, is developing a project on “Social marketing for global change on the prevention and control of invasive species - bringing invasive species higher on the global political agenda and into national accounts” to be carried out in 10 countries, including Indonesia, Madagascar, Senegal and Viet Nam. By using innovative media tools targeting behaviour change with key stakeholder groups of influence on the prevention and control of invasive species, the project will support the creation of an enabling policy environment to bring the invasive species issue higher on the political agenda thereby maximizing the uptake, impact and sustainability of prevention of invasive species in the targeted countries (pursuant to decision VIII/6).

2. Goal 7: Address challenges to biodiversity from climate change, and pollution

(a) Target 7.1: Maintain and enhance resilience of the components of biodiversity to adapt to climate change

(i) Adapting to climate change

76. See paragraph 9, above.

77. UNEP and the Inter-Centre Working Group on Climate Change of the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) have proposed a joint project on improving the science-policy link. UNEP is also supporting the development of criteria and indicators for assessing ecological and economic vulnerabilities to climate change and capacities for adapting at the regional level. Many of those criteria and indicators relate to key sectors for biological diversity, agriculture and water. UNEP is also developing a handbook on cost-effective adaptation strategies for agricultural productivity and for mainstreaming adaptation in agriculture.

78. Through its GEF-funded project on the assessment of impacts of and adaptation to climate change in many regions and sectors, UNEP is enhancing scientific and technical capacities in over 45 countries, mainly in Africa.

79. UNEP is also assisting least developed countries by providing training and technical assistance in identifying priority activities for adapting to climate change. The training and assistance will enable governments to incorporate adaptation into their sustainable development planning as part of their United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change national adaptation programmes of action. UNEP believes that linking those efforts explicitly to the Convention on Biological Diversity national biological diversity strategies and action plans could offer considerable benefits.

80. In addition, UNEP-WCMC has worked extensively on the potential impacts of climate change on biodiversity and plans to coordinate with partner organizations to produce generic adaptation tools and guidance over the coming biennium. Work under way includes an assessment of the potential impacts of biodiversity upon the European Natura 2000 protected areas network and guidance for adaptation to those impacts.

81. At its eighth meeting in November 2005, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species adopted resolution 8.13 on climate change and migratory species. By that decision, the secretariat was instructed to work with the Scientific Council and secretariats of the Convention's daughter agreements and their scientific advisory bodies on producing guidance to help Parties to the Convention to introduce adaptation measures to help counteract the effects of climate change on migratory species. By that decision, the Conference of the Parties also encouraged the initiation of collaborative international research projects into the effects of climate change on migratory species and their habitats so as to better understand their implications and appropriate policy responses. As a follow-up to resolution 8.13, the United Kingdom Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) is supporting a research project aimed at identifying a set of (indicator) species whose attributes can act as indicators of likely climate change impacts on the range of migratory species and developing standardized international protocols for monitoring the effects of climate change on populations of those migratory indicator species.

82. The Convention on Migratory Species publication entitled "Migratory species and climate change: impacts of a changing environment on wild animals", produced in conjunction with UNEP and DEFRA, sought to raise awareness by highlighting case studies, assessing impacts and identifying possible solutions and mitigation measures for the effects of climate change on migratory species. The publication, which contains contributions from experts around the world, also identifies the need for coordinated research, monitoring and conservation throughout a species range, something for which the Convention on Migratory Species provides an ideal framework.¹⁰

(ii) Sequestering carbon

83. UNEP, IUCN and FAO are working together to provide regional support for developing environmentally sound and socially equitable forest projects under the Clean Development Mechanism of the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. This initiative also seeks to build institutional capacities for exploiting the links between climate, desertification and biological diversity protection. In addition, UNEP is working with ICRAF to promote agroforestry for carbon sequestration, particularly in arid and semi-arid areas and important water catchments.

(iii) Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation

84. UNEP has been highlighting the many values of forest biodiversity in the discussions on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, emphasizing the potential for multiple benefits to arise from the new initiative on that issue under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. UNEP is working with FAO and UNDP to ensure that coordinated capacity-building on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation is provided as required to developing nations. UNEP-WCMC has produced policy papers highlighting the potential risks as well as benefits of reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. Aims for 2008 include spatial analysis to identify areas of high carbon and high biodiversity value, as well as of vulnerability to potential carbon emissions from logging and agriculture. UNEP with the CGIAR network and other partners is also initiating a number of readiness and demonstration programmes on the issue with a particular focus on multiple benefits and equitable revenue sharing.

85. In addition, UNEP has developed and submitted to the Australian Global Initiative on Forests and Climate the "Asian Vivo Carbon Initiative" with the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions through reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, protecting valuable forest ecosystem services as well as forest biodiversity and enhancing public-private policy environments in the Asia and the Pacific region (pursuant to decision VIII/30).

¹⁰ Publication available at: http://www.cms.int/publications/pdf/CMS_CimateChange.pdf.

(iv) Biofuels and biodiversity

86. UNEP has contributed to the Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuel in its quest to develop sustainability standards and, in particular, its expert panel on biodiversity. From 2008 to 2009, UNEP-WCMC will work with a range of partners on an assessment of the potential impacts of biofuel cultivation on biodiversity, including scenarios for future expansion and displacement of crop plants. Since 2006, UNEP has been supporting a replicable multi-stakeholder high conservation value forest process in Indonesia to help ensure that new agricultural expansion (in particular palm oil) does not have a negative impact on primary forests and biodiversity.

(b) Target 7.2: Reduce pollution and its impacts on biodiversity

(i) Marine pollution

87. The UNEP Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities and the Regional Seas Programme provide technical advice and assistance to countries to enable them to comply with marine pollution-related protocols to protect the marine environment from pollution. UNEP also provides assistance to the secretariats of regional seas conventions and action plans and participating countries for coordinated implementation of multilateral environmental agreements, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal. UNEP cooperates with IMO, the secretariats of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter (London Convention) and other bodies in tackling the environmental damage caused by oil spills and other hazardous substances.

88. The Regional Seas Programme and the Global Programme of Action have been developing and implementing a number of activities on the management of marine litter, including:

(a) Publication in 2005 of a document entitled "Marine Litter: an analytical overview";

(b) Publication in 2005 of a leaflet on marine litter entitled "Tightening the noose";

(c) Development of a series of regional actions on marine litter in the areas of several regional seas conventions and action plans (North-West Pacific Action Plan; Black Sea; Mediterranean; Caribbean; South Asia Seas; Nairobi Convention and East Africa; Red Sea and Gulf of Aden; East Asian Seas; South-East Pacific; and Caspian Sea).

89. The Regional Seas Programme has been developing activities relevant to the marine litter issue in consultation and, if appropriate, in cooperation with United Nations agencies, including IMO, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO and FAO and with the secretariat of the Basel Convention. Internal consultations have been held and plans for cooperation drawn up with the Global Programme of Action and the UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics.

90. The Regional Seas Programme is supporting the secretariat of the Basel Convention on a consultancy on assessing and improving interlinkages and cooperation between the Basel Convention and the Barcelona Convention, which will include the preparation of a review and assessment of the relationship and interface between the Basel Convention, the Barcelona Convention and its Hazardous Wastes Protocol and the development of a concept and outline for environmentally sound integrated waste management pilot projects in the Mediterranean Action Plan region.

(ii) Waste, pollution and destruction of habitat

91. UNEP has developed guidelines in the areas of municipal wastewater and the physical alteration and destruction of habitats which set forth key principles and checklists for practices and procedures for all aspects of the management cycle, including the feasibility of wastewater emission targets at the national and regional levels. It is also involved in activities that contribute to maintaining goods and services from biodiversity to support human well-being.

3. Goal 8: Maintain capacity of ecosystems to deliver goods and services and support livelihoods

(a) Target 8.1: Capacity of ecosystems to deliver goods and services maintained

(i) Ecosystem, services and livelihood research

92. UNEP-WCMC prepared a paper for the United Kingdom Department for International Development on the value of biological diversity in ensuring the maintenance of ecosystem services which are important for supporting livelihoods.

(ii) Ecosystem approach for oceans and seas

93. One of the six strategic directions for the UNEP Regional Seas Programme (2004–2009) calls for the development and promotion of a common vision and integrated management based on ecosystem approaches. UNEP has worked with a number of institutions to produce reports on ecosystem approaches for oceans and seas, including with the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and the United States National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, to produce a report entitled “Compilation and analysis of economic data in support of UNEP’s Regional Seas Programme and Regional Seas conventions and action plans”.

94. In the framework of enhancing the implementation of integrated marine and coastal area management in the region, UNEP is implementing a project on capacity-building to integrate disaster risk reduction into coastal zone management. The project aims at integrating disaster risk reduction into coastal zone management by developing guidance material in ecosystems management for disaster risk reduction and providing training to coastal zone managers in India, Indonesia and Sri Lanka (pursuant to decision VIII/22). In addition, the COBSEA secretariat, in conjunction with UNEP and the Ministry of Environment of Indonesia, is developing a pilot project on integrating climate change adaptation measures into coastal zone planning. Both projects are being implemented in the framework of the larger Mangroves for the Future initiative, in which UNEP is an active partner. UNEP is co-leader, together with UNDP, of the Mangroves for the Future preparatory activity on climate change.

(b) Target 8.2: Biological resources that support sustainable livelihoods, local food security and health care, especially of poor people, maintained

(i) Poverty and environment

95. The Poverty and Environment Initiative is an integrated policy support programme that aims to assist countries in developing capacity to integrate environmental concerns into national policy and planning frameworks for pro-poor growth. As part of its broader environmental mainstreaming objective, the Poverty and Environment Initiative helps to explore sectoral interlinkages and policy options to jointly meet biodiversity, food security, growth and poverty reduction objectives.

(ii) Impact of trade on biological diversity

96. See paragraph 9, above.

(iii) Use of economic instruments

97. UNEP, in close consultation with the Convention on Biological Diversity secretariat, has been active in promoting and examining the use of economic instruments in implementing biodiversity-related conventions. In collaboration with its expert group on economic instruments and with the relevant secretariats, UNEP has recently published a study on economic instruments in biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements. It investigates the current and future potential role of economic instruments in the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity, CITES and the Ramsar Convention.

98. In addition, UNEP is building the capacity of policy makers on the application and use of economic instruments for sustainable development, in particular biological diversity. A user-friendly training resource manual on the application and use of economic instruments for sustainable development is being finalized that would assist in related environmental decision-making and capacity-building, especially at the national and regional levels.

E. Activities which contribute to protecting traditional knowledge, innovations and practices

Goal 9: Maintain socio-cultural diversity of indigenous and local communities

Target 9.1: Protect traditional knowledge, innovations and practices: review of traditional knowledge, and target 9.2: Protect the rights of indigenous and local communities over their traditional knowledge, innovations and practices, including their rights to benefit sharing: capacity-building on benefit sharing and traditional knowledge

99. UNEP has developed reports comprising case studies on the sharing of benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources and traditional knowledge. In 2006–2007, UNEP also conducted workshops on access to and sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources and on traditional knowledge.

100. In November 2006, to assist in and facilitate the access and benefit-sharing negotiating process, UNEP, in conjunction with the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, carried out three studies, namely on:

- (a) Administrative and judicial remedies available in selected countries with users under their jurisdiction and international agreements regarding non-compliance with the prior informed consent requirements and mutually agreed terms;
- (b) Analytical study on access and benefit-sharing arrangements;
- (c) Analytical study on the legal status of genetic resources in a selection of countries.

101. All three studies have been made available as information documents to working groups 5 and 6 on access and benefit sharing.

F. Activities which contribute to ensuring the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources

Goal 10: Ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources

- (a) **Target 10.1: All transfers of genetic resources are in line with the Convention on Biological Diversity, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and other applicable agreements**

- (i) **Capacity-building for the development of an international regime**

102. UNEP provides policy and legislative inputs and assistance, at the request of Governments, for the possible development, within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity, of an international regime to promote and safeguard the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources. UNEP also organizes regional and subregional training workshops on legislation for access and benefit-sharing and has provided substantive inputs and assistance to the establishment of a multidisciplinary, regionally-balanced international advisory group on access and benefit-sharing and issues relevant to article 8 (j) and related provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. A UNEP publication comprising case studies on the experiences of four African countries in the implementation of the Bonn Guidelines on Access to Genetic Resources and Fair and Equitable Sharing of the Benefits Arising Out of their Utilization will be launched at a side event at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

- (ii) **Capacity-building for access and benefit sharing**

- (b) **Target 10.2: Benefits arising from the commercial and other utilization of genetic resources shared with the countries providing such resources: intellectual property and research into access and benefit-sharing**

103. UNEP and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) have published the results of a study carried out to identify and explore the role of intellectual property rights in the sharing of benefits arising from the use of biological resources and associated traditional knowledge. The publication illustrates the lessons learnt from the use of existing intellectual

property rights regimes with respect to benefit sharing. It focuses on aspects of intellectual property and current benefit-sharing experiences in respect of biological resources and associated traditional knowledge. It has provided some lessons regarding the role of intellectual property rights in the implementation of article 15 and other articles, especially articles 8, 10 and 16 of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

G. Activities that contribute to ensuring provision of adequate resources

1. Goal 11: Parties have improved financial, human, scientific, technical and technological capacity to implement the Convention

(a) Target 11.1: New and additional financial resources are transferred to developing country Parties, to allow for the effective implementation of their commitments under the Convention, in accordance with article 20: project development and implementation in developing countries

104. UNEP undertakes numerous projects that transfer resources to developing countries and assist in the effective implementation of their commitments under the Convention, in accordance with article 20, including some of the projects listed above.

105. UNEP is the overall coordinator and facilitator of a European Commission-funded capacity-building programme related to multilateral environmental agreements in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries. The programme aims to support the implementation of those countries' commitments under multilateral environmental agreements, including the Convention on Biological Diversity. Among others, UNEP will work with the three regional hubs responsible for implementing the programme, namely, the African Union Commission, the Caribbean Community and the secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme. The four-year Programme, to begin in 2008, will channel 5.9 million euros through the regional hubs for multilateral environmental agreement implementation activities at the national, subregional and regional levels. The secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity will be involved in identifying activities and priorities related to the implementation of African, Caribbean and Pacific countries' obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

106. UNEP has also developed a concept paper on the operationalization and mainstreaming of an Indonesian biodiversity clearing house mechanism, which has been endorsed by the Indonesian Government. The project aims to operationalize the existing biodiversity clearing-house mechanism by removing barriers; to act as an effective information tool and partnership programme towards enhanced national policy development and implementation of key thematic programmes of the Convention on Biological Diversity (pursuant to decision VIII/11).

(b) Target 11.2: Technology is transferred to developing country Parties, to allow for the effective implementation of their commitments under the Convention, in accordance with its article 20, paragraph 4

(i) Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building

107. The Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building aims at a more coherent, coordinated and effective delivery of environmental capacity-building and technical support at all levels and by all actors, including UNEP, in response to well-defined country priorities and needs. It complements and enhances the more traditional activity areas of UNEP intervention such as assessment, environmental policy and law, environmental institution-building and promotion of cleaner production systems. It brings the technology support and capacity-building currently being carried out by UNEP into line with well-defined country priorities and needs.

(ii) Global Strategy for Plant Conservation

108. UNEP-WCMC has been working with the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation and the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity on a plant conservation report, which will be launched at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The report, as requested by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its twelfth meeting, sets out progress in implementing the targets of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation.

(iii) Technical support

(a) Harmonization of national reporting

109. As part of a wider project on knowledge management among biodiversity-related agreements, UNEP, through the Division of Environmental Law and Conventions (DELIC) and UNEP-WCMC, has identified potential joint core reporting elements of biodiversity-related agreements and has been examining the suitability of the approach to national reporting that the human rights treaty system has been using, where parties submit a single core report for all treaties and treaty-specific reports in addition to that. The project has also developed a draft joint reporting framework for the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Ramsar Convention on wetlands, and for the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa on drylands. This builds on previous work with the biodiversity-related conventions on approaches to harmonization of national reporting.

(b) Support to fourth national reports

110. UNEP-WCMC has provided input to the manual on the fourth national reports under the Convention on Biological Diversity, as prepared by the secretariat in support of Parties' preparations for the reports.

(c) Information on biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements

111. As part of a wider project on knowledge management among biodiversity-related agreements, UNEP, through DELIC and UNEP-WCMC, has created an internet portal allowing access to key information from biodiversity-related agreements, including the Convention on Biological Diversity, CITES, the Convention on Migratory Species, the Ramsar Convention, the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds and the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and their Habitats of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia. There are plans to launch the portal at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

112. Update on the activities of the biosafety unit of the Division of Global Environment Facility Coordination in response to decisions of the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Biosafety Protocol.

113. Since the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Biosafety Protocol in March 2006, UNEP has, through its Division of Global Environment Facility Coordination (DGEF), continued to play a major role in capacity-building within countries to meet their obligations under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety through three major GEF-funded activities:

(a) Projects for development;¹¹

(b) Implementation of national biosafety frameworks;¹²

(c) The associated project on building capacity for effective participation in the biosafety clearing house of the Cartagena Protocol.¹³

114. As of April 2008, 123 countries have participated in the GEF project on the development of national biosafety frameworks. Of these, 103 countries have completed draft frameworks and posted them on the biosafety unit website.¹⁴ The project has helped 114 developing countries to become Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,¹⁵ from just two Parties at the start of the national biosafety framework development project.

115. The work on national biosafety framework implementation is still in its early stages. Over 100 countries have completed frameworks, but still need resources, guidance and capacity-building to implement them. Following up on the eight demonstration projects, the UNEP biosafety unit is currently assisting 11 biosafety implementation projects.¹⁶ The new projects were approved under an interim approach for biosafety that was effective until the GEF

¹¹ http://www.unep.org/biosafety/Development_Projects.aspx

¹² http://www.unep.org/biosafety/Implementation_Projects.aspx

¹³ http://www.unep.org/biosafety/BCH_Projects.aspx

¹⁴ <http://www.unep.org/biosafety/National%20Biosafety%20frameworks.aspx>

¹⁵ Out of a total of 142 developing (GEF eligible) countries with 80 per cent being assisted by GEF.

¹⁶ Eight demonstration implementation projects were completed in 2007.

Council agreed to the new strategy for financing biosafety in June 2006. The transition from the third to the fourth replenishment cycle of GEF and the resource allocation framework, in addition to the delay in approving the strategy and a programme for biosafety, has slowed further the approval of implementation projects, but a biosafety programme with an associated portfolio of projects will be considered by the GEF Council in April 2008.

116. The biosafety unit also assists eligible countries to develop national biosafety clearing house components and to access and use resources available through the global biosafety clearing house via its project on “Building capacity for effective participation in the biosafety clearing house of the Cartagena Protocol”. The project provides advice, training, and computer hardware and software. As of April 2008, 123 countries were participating in the project. The biosafety clearing house project has produced an operational handbook, training modules and case studies, and has established a pool of regional advisors to assist participating countries in making decisions on institutional and information technology options for biosafety clearing house participation. The project has convened ten subregional workshops and conducted training on the margins of meetings of the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. All of the training materials produced by the project are available in five of the six official languages of the United Nations and will be integrated into a help desk within the central portal of the biosafety clearing house hosted by the secretariat, which will be launched at the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Biosafety Protocol.

117. The GEF strategy for financing biosafety allows countries to develop issue-specific projects. To date, no such projects have been submitted to GEF for approval, but the Division of Global Environmental Facility Coordination, in collaboration with the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and with funding from the United Kingdom Department for International Development, is currently undertaking a scoping exercise for the inclusion of socio-economic considerations in biosafety decision-making, from which it is hoped that some new GEF-funded projects may be developed.
