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**REPORT OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND
TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE ON THE WORK OF ITS TWELFTH MEETING**

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING	3
ITEM 2. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS	5
A. Attendance	5
B. Election of officers.....	6
C. Adoption of the agenda.....	7
D. Organization of work.....	7
E. Work of the sessional working groups.....	8
ITEM 3. IN-DEPTH REVIEWS	8
Item 3.1. Application of the ecosystem approach	8
Item 3.2 Implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation.....	11
ITEM 4. STRATEGIC ISSUES FOR EVALUATING PROGRESS OR SUPPORTING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION.....	13
Item 4.1. Review of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and follow-up to decision VIII/9	13
Item 4.2 Lessons learned from the preparation of the second edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook.....	14
Item 4.3 Report of the SBSTTA Bureau on ways and means to improve the effectiveness of the Subsidiary Body.....	15
ITEM 5. SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ISSUES OF RELEVANCE TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2010 TARGET	16
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Item 5.1	Biodiversity and climate change: proposals for the integration of climate-change activities within the programmes of work of the Convention and options for mutually supportive actions addressing climate change within the three Rio conventions and summary of the findings of the global Assessment on Peatlands, Biodiversity and Climate Change.....	16
Item 5.2	Biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands: guidance on strengthening the assessment of the 2010 targets; and proposals for land-use options combining income generation with biodiversity conservation	18
Item 5.3	New and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity	19
ITEM 6.	DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA, AND DATES AND VENUE FOR, THE THIRTEENTH MEETING OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE	20
ITEM 7.	ADOPTION OF THE REPORT AND CLOSURE OF THE MEETING	20
<i>Annexes</i>		
I.	RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE AT ITS TWELFTH MEETING.....	21
II.	PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE THIRTEENTH MEETING OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE (ROME, FEBRUARY 2008)	39

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

1. The twelfth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) was held at the headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Paris from 2 to 6 July 2007.

2. The meeting was opened at 10 a.m. on Monday, 2 July 2007.

3. In opening the meeting, Mr. Christian Prip (Denmark), Chair of the Subsidiary Body, said that SBSTTA was returning to UNESCO Headquarters 12 years after its first meeting had been held there. At that meeting it had recommended that “the ecosystem approach should be the primary framework of action to be taken under the Convention”, so it was fitting that at the present meeting it would be reviewing the application of the ecosystem approach and making recommendations on follow-up actions to the Conference of the Parties. Making better use of the ecosystem approach was an important part of efforts to meet the 2010 target. Special priority had to be given to measures that could contribute to combating climate change and protecting biological diversity at the same time, such as reducing the rate of deforestation. On behalf of SBSTTA, he thanked UNESCO for hosting the meeting and supporting its work. He also noted that France had taken a leading role in the protection of global biological diversity, especially in the area of the science-policy interface, and he was looking forward to the results of the international consultation process on an international mechanism of scientific expertise in biological diversity, which France had initiated.

4. The meeting was particularly important because the Convention was in transition to a phase of enhanced implementation. SBSTTA needed to adjust to a new role that lived up to new expectations, which included effective application of the principles of the ecosystem approach. In an effort to explore options for opening SBSTTA to more thorough scientific debate, a meeting of past, present and future chairs of the Subsidiary Body had been held on ways and means to improve the effectiveness of its operations; the outcomes of that meeting had been considered by the SBSTTA Bureau, and some of the innovative ideas were being applied at the present meeting. He paid tribute to the Executive Secretary, Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, for his tireless efforts to raise extrabudgetary funds for that meeting and for two inter-sessional meetings of the SBSTTA Bureau, including one with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and other partners to consider the relevance to biological diversity of the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report. On 1 July 2007, there had been a meeting of the scientific advisory bodies of all biodiversity-related conventions to discuss collaboration; one of the key conclusions had been that it was feasible and realistic to make better use of the outcomes of each of the scientific advisory bodies for the work of the other conventions.

5. Finally, he thanked the Governments that had contributed funds to support the participation of delegates from developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and the French Muséum national d'histoire naturelle for the training workshop organized on 1 July 2007 in collaboration with the Consortium of Scientific Partners.

6. Following the opening statement by the Chair, statements were also made by Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the Convention; Mr. Bakary Kante, speaking on behalf of Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and Mr. Koichiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO. The Subsidiary Body was then addressed by Mr. Jean-Louis Borloo, French Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development and Planning, and Mr. Nicolas Hulot, prominent French environmentalist and founder of the Fondation Nicolas Hulot.

7. Mr. Djoghlaif said that rising temperatures were damaging ecosystems, sometimes irreversibly. According to the report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, between 20 to 30 per cent of species known today may disappear as the result of change in climate. This loss of species, particularly pollinators, could affect the food security of millions of people. SBSTTA has a vital role to play in addressing these challenges, and the success of its work depends on strong partnerships with, the scientific bodies of the biodiversity related conventions and other scientific organizations of the United Nations system. In this connection, the Secretariat was committed to reinforcing cooperation with

UNESCO, and a draft memorandum of understanding is currently being finalized. Mr. Djoghlafl urged participants to demonstrate their determination to meet the challenges ahead and pledged the Secretariat's full support for their efforts. He thanked the governments of Denmark, France, Germany, Iceland, Norway, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom for their financial contributions enabling developing countries and countries with economies in transition to attend the meeting. Thanks to financial support from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), past, present and future chairs of SBSTTA had met in Paris in July 2006 to evaluate past experience with a view to allowing SBSTTA to assume its rightful role in the new phase of enhanced implementation of the Convention's three objectives. He expressed his appreciation to the Chair and Bureau of SBSTTA for the measures initiated to give it the means to meet the many challenges before it.

8. Mr. Kante expressed the full support of UNEP to the ongoing efforts of SBSTTA to play its role in the implementation phase of the three objectives of the Convention. He emphasized the link between loss of biodiversity and increased poverty as well as the contribution of ecosystem services in combating poverty. He highlighted the need to reconcile the biodiversity agenda with development needs. He welcomed Mr. Borloo on behalf of Mr. Steiner, and wished him success in the mission entrusted to him by the President of France, Mr. Nicolas Sarkozy, in establishing an umbrella minister combining key areas essential for achieving sustainable development. He also expressed the full support of UNEP to ongoing efforts of the Secretariat of the Convention, under the able leadership of Mr. Djoghlafl, in assisting Parties to meet the challenges of the new enhanced phase of implementation of the objectives of the Convention.

9. Mr. Matsuura said that UNESCO had been a partner of the Convention since its inception. He said that the maintenance of biodiversity required a broad approach that included not only science but also education, culture and communication. One area of collaboration to be explored was safeguarding of the natural and cultural sites under the UNESCO World Heritage Convention. Another area was holistic application of the ecosystem approach, within the UNESCO programme Man and the Biosphere, which had been launched in 1971. He recalled that UNESCO was a cosponsor of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, and could help to bring the findings of the Convention's scientific bodies to the attention of policy-makers through its national commissions and scientific programme committees.

10. In his address, Mr. Borloo said that biological diversity was essential for human life, and emphasized that the world was facing a crisis of unprecedented dimensions, as loss of biodiversity would have dramatic consequences. He noted that the value of the scientific advice of SBSTTA was well recognized, and the work of the Body should be reinforced. He also stated that the Convention could count on the full support of the French Government in its efforts to conserve biodiversity and the sustainable use of its biological resources. He recalled that the President of France, Mr. Nicolas Sarkozy, had stated that sustainable development would be the basis of all his Government's activities and, to that end, had set up the new Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development as a Ministry of State, covering almost all activities that affected the climate, public health and biodiversity. The ongoing consultative process towards an international mechanism of scientific expertise on biodiversity, which had been entrusted to the French Institute for Biodiversity, would take the outcome of the present meeting into consideration in its debate on the risks and benefits for climate change of the development of biofuels. He looked forward to the exchange of ideas and the scientific and technical advice of the meeting.

11. Mr. Nicolas Hulot made an impassioned plea for the safeguard of nature from human barbarity. Every corner of the Earth was affected by human activity, and the planet was having more and more difficulty in resisting the impact. He described a number of contradictory situations: worldwide interest in biofuels was leading to the disappearance of tropical forests in Indonesia to make way for palm oil production, and, while the consequent disappearance of the orangutan was not of economic importance, its extinction would mean the death of part of the archives of humankind. Education and the raising of public awareness were essential to maintain the community of life. Man's future was in the hands of Nature, and no democratic social or economic system could last in the face of the combination of poverty

and the loss of natural resources. Stressing the urgency of the situation, Mr. Hulot called for immediate action, with a combination of economic, social and ecological measures.

12. The Chairman said that he looked forward to collaboration between SBSTTA and the Hulot Foundation to enhance awareness about the role of humans in the loss of biodiversity.

13. The representative of Costa Rica commented that developing countries were now establishing collaboration among themselves, rather than in the traditional North-South direction. For instance, Malaysia was offering scientific and technical capacity-building for all developing countries.

ITEM 2. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. Attendance

14. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following Parties and other Governments: Albania, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, European Community, Finland, France, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Palau, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uzbekistan, Yemen, Zambia.

15. Observers from the following United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, convention secretariats and other bodies also attended: Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, Global Environment Facility, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, UNEP Mediterranean Action Plan/Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas, UNEP Regional Office for Europe, UNEP-Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP), UNEP-STAP Secretariat, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), United Nations Institute for Training and Research, World Meteorological Organization.

16. The following were also represented by observers: Amani Nature Reserve, Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB), Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples Forum, Biofuelwatch, BioNet-International, BirdLife International/Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Botanic Gardens Conservation International, Botanic Gardens Conservation International, Bund für Umwelt und Naturschutz e.V., CAB International, CBD Alliance and Kalpavriksh, Center for International Sustainable Development Law, Centre for Economic and Social Aspects of Genomics, Centre for Organisation, Research & Education, Centre for Social and Economic Research on the Global Environment, Climate and Development Initiatives - Uganda, COHAB Initiative Secretariat, Conquest Property & Enterprises, Conservation International, Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention), Cooperativa Ecologica das Mulheres Extrativistas do Marajo, Council of Europe, Defenders of Wildlife, DIVERSITAS, Ecological Movement "BIOM", ECONEXUS, ECOROPA, ETC Group, European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization, European Association of Mining Industries, Metal Ores and Industrial Minerals, European Centre for Nature Conservation, Federation of German Scientists, Fondation Nicolas

Hulot pour la Nature et l'Homme, Forest Peoples Programme, Forum Environment & Development, Forum Umwelt und Entwicklung, Foundation for International Environmental Law and Development, Friends of the Siberian Forests, Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF), Global Canopy Programme, Global Environment Centre, Global Forest Coalition, Global Invasive Species Programme, Greenpeace International, Group on Earth Observations, HATOF Foundation, Ikatán Cendekiawan Tanimbar Indonesia, IMOSEB, Indigenous Information Network, Indigenous Network on Economics and Trade, Institut français de la biodiversité, Institute for Biodiversity, Institute for Responsible Technology, International Alliance of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples of the Tropical Forests, International Chamber of Commerce, International Chambers of Commerce, US Council for International Business, International Council on Mining and Metals, International Environmental Law Research Centre, International Federation of Agricultural Producers, International Fund for Animal Welfare, International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association, International Union of Forest Research Organizations, IUCN - COUNTDOWN 2010 Secretariat, IUCN - The World Conservation Union, IUCN Environmental Law Centre, IUCN French Committee, Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environnement, Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Joint Nature Conservation Committee, League for Pastoral Peoples and Endogenous Livestock Development, MISEREOR, Missouri Botanical Garden, MLOP-BAYTONG, CAMBODIA, NABU - German Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union, Nature Tropicale, Netherlands Center for Indigenous Peoples, Ole Siosiomaga society (OLSSI), Ornamental Aquatic Trade Association, OURANOS, Petrobras, Plantlife International, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Safari Club International Foundation, Sciences-Po Bordeaux, France, Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, Smithsonian Institution, Sobrevivencia, FOE Paraguay, SWAN International, Te Wānanga ō Aotearoa – Te Arawa, Tebtebba Foundation, The Gaia Foundation, The National Forest and Nature Agency, The Nature Conservancy, The Royal Society, TRAFFIC International, Università di Bologna, Université Laval, University of Bremen, University of British Columbia, University of Goettingen, University of Stockholm, University of Tuscia, University of York, Viola, Wetlands International, Wildlife Conservation Society, World Organization for Animal Health, World Rainforest Movement, WWF Germany, WWF International, WWF United States, Yale University, Yonge Nawe.

B. Election of officers

17. In accordance with the decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting, held in Curitiba from 20 to 31 March 2006, and by the Subsidiary Body at its tenth and eleventh meetings, held, respectively, in Bangkok from 7 to 11 February 2005 and in Montreal from 28 November to 2 December 2005, the Bureau of the twelfth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice comprised the following members (UNEP/CBD/COP/8/2, paras. 40 and 41):

<i>Chair:</i>	Mr. Christian Prip (Denmark)
<i>Vice-Chairs:</i>	Ms Claudine Ramiarison (Madagascar)
	Mr. Rawson Piniel Yonazi (United Republic of Tanzania)
	Mr. Jorge Ernesto Quezada Diaz (El Salvador)
	Mr Linus Spencer Thomas (Grenada)
	Ms Annemarie Watt (Australia)
	Ms Shirin Karryeva (Turkmenistan)
	Mr. Angheluta Vadineau (Romania)
	Ms Chaweewan Hutacharern (Thailand)
	Mr. Joel E. Miles (Palau)

18. At the 1st plenary session of the meeting, on 2 July 2007, the Subsidiary Body agreed that Ms Shirin Karryeva (Turkmenistan) should serve as Rapporteur for the meeting.

19. At the 1st plenary session of the meeting, on 2 July 2007, the Subsidiary Body elected Ms Gabriele Obermayr (Austria) to serve on the Bureau for a two-meeting term, commencing at the end of the current meeting, to replace the Bureau member from Denmark.

20. Ms Claudine Ramiarison (Madagascar), speaking in her capacity as a member of the Bureau, said that she wished to thank the host country on behalf of all participants for its organization of the meeting in the prestigious and historical setting of UNESCO. She looked forward to a fruitful week of work, not least in view of the important issues to be addressed, in particular climate change and its connection with biodiversity.

21. At the 2nd plenary session of the meeting, on 6 July 2007, the Subsidiary Body elected the following officers to serve on the Bureau for a two-meeting term, commencing at the end of the current meeting, to replace the Bureau members from El Salvador, Madagascar and Thailand: Mr Hesiquio Benitez-Diaz (Mexico), Mr Habib Gademi (Chad) and Mr Asghar Fazel (Islamic Republic of Iran).

C. Adoption of the agenda

22. At the 1st plenary session of the meeting, the Subsidiary Body adopted the following agenda, on the basis of the provisional agenda approved at its eleventh meeting (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/12/1):

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Election of officers, adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. In-depth reviews:
 - 3.1. Application of the ecosystem approach;
 - 3.2. Implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation.
4. Strategic issues for evaluating progress or supporting implementation of the Convention:
 - 4.1. Review of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and follow-up to decision VIII/9;
 - 4.2. Lessons learned from the preparation of the second edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook;
 - 4.3. Report of the SBSTTA Bureau on ways and means to improve the effectiveness of the Subsidiary Body.
5. Scientific and technical issues of relevance to the implementation of the 2010 target:
 - 5.1. Biodiversity and climate change: proposals for the integration of climate change activities within the programmes of work of the Convention and options for mutually supportive actions addressing climate change within the three Rio conventions;
 - 5.2. Biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands: guidance on strengthening the assessment of the 2010 targets; and proposals for land use options combining income generation with biodiversity conservation;
 - 5.3. New and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.
6. Draft provisional agenda, and dates and venue for, the thirteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.
7. Adoption of the report and closure of the meeting.

D. Organization of work

23. In accordance with the recommendation of the Bureau, the Subsidiary Body at the opening plenary session of the meeting decided to meet as a Committee of the Whole, co-chaired by Mr. Christian Prip (Denmark) and Ms Chaweewan Hutacharern (Thailand), to discuss agenda items 3.1 and 3.2 (In-depth reviews: Application of the ecosystem approach and Implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, respectively), 4.3 (Report of the SBSTTA Bureau on ways and means to improve the

effectiveness of the Subsidiary Body) and 5.3 (New and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity).

24. The Subsidiary Body also decided to set up two open-ended sessional working groups for its twelfth meeting: Working Group I, chaired by Mr. Linus Spencer Thomas (Grenada), to consider items 4.1 (Review of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and follow-up to decision VIII/9) and 4.2 (Lessons learned from the preparation of the second edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook); and Working Group II, chaired by Ms Annemarie Watt (Australia), to consider items 5.1 (Biodiversity and climate change: proposals for the integration of climate change activities within the programmes of work of the Convention and options for mutually supportive actions addressing climate change within the three Rio conventions) and 5.2 (Biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands: guidance on strengthening the assessment of the 2010 targets; and proposals for land use options combining income generation with biodiversity conservation).

E. Work of the sessional working groups

25. As decided by the Subsidiary Body at the 1st plenary session of the meeting on 2 July 2007, Working Group I met under the chairmanship of Mr. Linus Spencer Thomas (Grenada), to consider items 4.1 and 4.2. The Working Group held two meetings, on 4 and 5 July 2007. It adopted its report (UNEP/SBSTTA/12/1/L.1/Add.1) at its 2nd meeting, on 5 July 2007.

26. As decided by the Subsidiary Body at the 1st plenary session of the meeting on 2 July 2007, Working Group II met under the chairmanship of Ms. Annemarie Watt (Australia) to consider items 5.1 and 5.2. The Working Group held four meetings from 4 to 6 July 2007. It adopted its report (UNEP/SBSTTA/12/1/L.1/Add.2) at its 4th meeting, on 6 July 2007.

ITEM 3. IN-DEPTH REVIEWS

Item 3.1. Application of the ecosystem approach

27. Agenda item 3.1 was taken up by the Committee of the Whole at its 2nd meeting, on 2 July 2007. In considering the item, the Committee had before it notes by the Executive Secretary containing an in-depth review of the application of the ecosystem approach (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/12/2), a review of information in the third national reports (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/12/INF/1), activities of organizations in the application of the ecosystem approach (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/12/INF/2), examples of the application of the ecosystem approach in the programmes of work of the Convention (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/12/INF/3), the relevance of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment to the application of the ecosystem approach (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/12/INF/4), barriers to the application of the ecosystem approach (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/12/INF/5), the ecosystem approach sourcebook and case study database (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/12/INF/6), and the report of the workshop on the ecosystem approach and customary practice in protected areas in small islands, held in Bangkok (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/12/INF/7).

28. The Co-Chair invited Mr. William Settle, Project Coordinator, Integrated Production and Pest Management (IPPM), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, to make a presentation on implementing the ecosystem approach for forestry, fisheries and agriculture.

29. In his keynote address, Mr. Settle said that the goal of the ecosystem approach was to ensure that ecosystems continued to deliver the goods and services needed to sustain and fulfil human life. In the area of fisheries, some of the aspects of the ecosystem approach concerned the impact on associated species, by catch, the selectivity of fishing gears, stakeholder involvement in fisheries management, the restocking and restoring of critical habitats and species interactions. Regarding forestry, the ecosystem approach concept, often articulated as sustainable forest management, continued to evolve through country-led and eco-regional initiatives to translate the concept into practice. In agriculture, there was as yet no single policy statement, but many elements were present and he outlined some of the early agricultural efforts in line with the ecosystem approach. The latter were being widely adopted, particularly within policy frameworks of certain sectors and at international, regional and national levels,

but it also needed to be applied at the local level. Eco-regional initiatives represented the highest level that still provided a robust and efficient unit of analysis for monitoring and management. The organization of human and information resources with an eco-regional focus would yield many benefits. Implementation would take time, and there was a need emphasize to stakeholders the value of key pragmatic concepts, to continue building useful frameworks for analysis and planning and to promote community-based education on the ecosystem approach.

30. The Co-Chair then invited Dr Hillary Masundire, Chair of the Commission on Ecosystem Management, World Conservation Union (IUCN), to make a presentation on marketing the ecosystem approach to different audiences.

31. Dr. Masundire said that, if the ecosystem approach were to be implemented effectively, each audience should be addressed differently. The main arguments for conservation organizations were that better understanding of ecosystems would lead to better conservation of biodiversity and better interaction with other stakeholders because of more sympathy for local values. For development organizations, the main arguments were that the ecosystem approach resulted in protection of local livelihoods, and wise use of natural resources reduced poverty. The link between the livelihoods of the poor and better ecosystem management was vital; the economic and governance aspects of the conservation of biodiversity had to be taken into account. The ecosystem approach needed to be adapted for evolving use by government officials. The approach could be applied fully only when people were prepared to share power and knowledge at multiple levels. Application of the approach could highlight institutional gaps and overlaps and indicate where innovation and change were needed. The ecosystem approach would have to be implemented differently for poor developing, countries with economies in transition and developed countries, but the tools that were needed for such site-specific application required more experience in the field and more shared experience among the various stakeholders.

32. Following the two presentations, representatives of Denmark, Singapore and Slovenia asked questions, to which the speakers responded.

33. The Co-Chair then invited Ms Dawn Pierre-Nathoniël, fisheries biologist at the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Saint Lucia, to make a presentation on overcoming the barriers to the application of the ecosystem approach, and the role of capacity building in that endeavour.

34. Ms Pierre-Nathoniël said that the barriers were numerous and shared, but differentiated, and they could be overcome through enhanced capacity-building. Some were country-specific; some could be best addressed outside the scope of the Convention; and some could be best overcome through the Convention and with assistance from many other organizations. The barriers included lack of understanding or misinterpretation of the concept; a lack of knowledge and understanding on how to apply the ecosystem approach; a reluctance to apply the ecosystem approach because the benefits to the average person were unclear; insufficient cross-sectoral cooperation among institutions regarding the application of the ecosystem approach; and an inability to apply the ecosystem approach because information and the transfer of information were lacking and organizations and/or individuals were ill-equipped. Mechanisms and capacities needed to be developed and strengthened to facilitate understanding of the approach. Training and public awareness tools should be produced and disseminated to Parties, and capacity needed to be built directly by the facilitation of training workshops and seminars; the provision of funding for national consultations for the transmission of information following training-the-trainers workshops; the facilitation of ecosystem approach linkages seminars, sensitization workshops for policy makers and training workshops for public and private sectors that made clear the linkages with individual sectors. Capacity-building was key to understanding, application and assessment of the ecosystem approach, and strengthening capacity required tailoring according to needs, sectors, situations and circumstances and target groups, and that barriers could be truly overcome only if the ecosystem approach was applied early and at all stages. The questions were whether Parties had any additional proposals, what they saw as priority needs and options for the short, medium and long term, and what specific priorities various players could address.

35. The Co-Chair invited Dr Diana Mortimer, Head of Sustainability Advice at the United Kingdom Joint Nature Conservation Committee, to make a presentation on ways of increasing application of the ecosystem approach using the Ecosystem Approach Sourcebook.

36. Dr Mortimer said the Sourcebook needed to be focused on the user, whether local, national, regional or international. It should be made relevant, easy to use and possible available in other formats such as hard copy or CD. Local users needed guidance on all 12 of the principles, so all tools had to be usable by non-specialists, easily available and descriptions of the ecosystem approach had to be easily explainable to all stakeholders. National users needed to understand that the ecosystem approach was important for sustainable development, that valuing national natural resource assets could increase livelihoods and health, and how it could help mitigate natural disasters, such as flooding, fire and storm damage. International users needed to understand how the ecosystem approach worked beyond areas of national jurisdiction, dealt with transboundary issues and provided guidance for cross-sectoral working. The Sourcebook could provide manuals and guidance structured to different audiences, materials for workshops and training seminars, more case studies and links to other relevant websites. Links could be made between it and other activities. She then considered other activities and mechanisms to increase application of the ecosystem approach.

37. At its 3rd meeting, on 3 July 2007, the Committee of the Whole discussed the item in the light of the presentations of the keynote speakers and the note by the Executive Secretary on the in-depth review of the application of the ecosystem approach (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/12/2).

38. Statements were made by representatives of Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, the Federated States of Micronesia, Finland, Haiti, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Malawi, Malaysia, Mexico, Myanmar, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Norway, Saint Lucia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United Republic of Tanzania.

39. Statements were also made by representatives of the United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea and the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre.

40. Statements were made by representatives of the Council of Europe and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

41. Statements were made by representatives of Greenpeace, the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB) and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

42. The Co-Chair said that a Chair's text on the ecosystem approach would be prepared for consideration by the Committee.

43. At its 6th meeting, on 5 July 2007, the Committee of the Whole considered a draft recommendation for application of the ecosystem approach, prepared by the Chair.

44. Statements were made by the representatives of Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, the European Community, the Federated States of Micronesia, Finland, Grenada, Malaysia, Mexico, a, Morocco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Singapore, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uzbekistan.

45. A statement was also made by the representative of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

46. A number of amendments were made to the draft recommendation, which was then approved for transmission to the plenary session of the Subsidiary Body as draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/12/L.3.

Action by the Subsidiary Body

47. At the 2nd plenary session of the meeting, on 6 July 2007, the Subsidiary Body took up draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/12/L.3 on application of the ecosystem approach.

48. Following an exchange of views, the Subsidiary Body adopted the draft recommendation, as orally amended, as recommendation XII/1, the text of which is contained in annex I to the present report.

Item 3.2 Implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation

49. Agenda item 3.2 was taken up by the Committee of the Whole at its 3rd meeting, on 3 July 2007. In considering the item, the Committee had before it notes by the Executive Secretary containing an in-depth review of implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/12/3); a review of progress in national implementation of the Strategy (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/12INF/8); a review of the activities of major partners and organizations in implementing the Strategy (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/12INF/9); the report of the liaison group meeting, Dublin, Ireland, October 2006 (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/12INF/10); the contribution of the Strategy in meeting the 2010 biodiversity target and the Millennium Development Goals and in responding to challenges identified in the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/12INF/11); proposed elements of a toolkit, including a checklist to assist Parties in integrating targets into their strategies, programmes and plans (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/12INF/12); and a proposal for publication of a plant biodiversity outlook to communicate the outcomes of the in-depth review of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/12INF/13).

50. The Co-Chair then invited Ms Linda Collette, Seed and Plant Genetic Resources Service, Plant Production and Protection Division, Agriculture Department, FAO, Rome, Italy; Mr. Jon Lovett, Centre for Ecology, Law and Policy, University of York, United Kingdom, and Technology and Sustainability Section, University of Twente, Enschede, Netherlands; and Mr. Neville Ash, UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, Cambridge, United Kingdom, to make presentations on implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation.

51. Ms Collette, in her presentation on enhancing national implementation of the Strategy, said that the constraints to implementation were lack of baseline data, conflicts between conservation and land use, limited cross-sector coordination, limited institutional integration and limited financial and human resources. She outlined national, regional and international processes for implementing and monitoring the Strategy in the forestry and agriculture sectors, giving as an example use of information from various sources in a sustainable management policy for production land that was consistent with the conservation of plant diversity and plant-based products. The links between national focal points for the Strategy and for forestry and agriculture programmes should be reinforced, and sector assessment processes could be used to measure progress in use of the Strategy. Other considerations included the need for capacity-building at regional level and development of integrated national strategies for plant conservation.

52. Mr. Lovett considered whether new targets were needed for emerging issues such as climate change and nutrient loading. He said that the conclusions from research on the latter showed that nutrient loading was increasing globally. Increased nutrients were known to decrease plant diversity in some cases, which might affect plant biodiversity hotspots, but so far nothing was known about its effects in areas of highest plant diversity. In light of recent research on the effect of climate change on plant distributions and the potential threats posed by nutrient loading, the question was whether new targets were needed in the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC), and if so what they should be; when and how they should be integrated into the GSPC, and what time-frame should be defined for them. He said it was clear that new targets were needed for adapting the GSPC to climate change and increased nutrient loading. Results of research on the effects of climate change would assist in modifying current actions to meet 2010 GSPC targets, and identification of plants most at risk and conserving them by ex situ conservation needed to continue after 2010, but it could not be delayed too much because the effects of climate change were already in evidence. Local nutrient loading was already covered by existing targets on biodiversity-friendly land-use but more research was needed on such issues as the effect of atmospheric nitrogen deposition on plant diversity.

53. Mr Ash addressed the issue of enhancing the collection of quantitative data for assessing implementation of the GSPC. He said that in addition to such tools as checklists and keys, databases, criteria and manuals, and networks, the proposed toolkit to assist national-level practitioners would

comprise guidance on collecting new data and utilizing existing data, approaches to developing targets, locating information sources, supporting tools, access to case examples of national monitoring and a forum for countries to exchange ideas and experience. Other options were the Global Forest Resources Assessment of FAO, the integrated ecosystem approach based programmes and instruments, and sustainable forest and agricultural land management programmes and their monitoring systems. The way forward was through identifying funding sources to monitor progress, developing the toolkit, developing data standards for quantitative targets, continuing to identify data and data sources and promote their delivery online, putting in place processes that assisted countries to identify and communicate case studies, increasing human resources, and communicating through www.plants2010.org. The Convention Secretariat would have a role in assisting in capacity building at national and regional levels, and in developing, testing and implementing the toolkit in advance of COP9. It was necessary to decide what other tools would assist in the collection, collation, dissemination and use of quantitative data, what capacity building was required to increase the collection and use of such data, and what other methods could be employed to deal with the fragmented and often qualitative, rather than quantitative, data.

54. At its 4th meeting, on 3 July 2007, the Committee of the Whole resumed its consideration of the item. The Co-Chair invited Mr. Huang Hongwen, South China Botanical Garden and South China Institute of Botany, Guangzhou, China, to make a presentation on implementation of the GSPC.

55. In his presentation, Mr. Huang emphasized the need to market the GSPC beyond botanical gardens and focused on GSPC linkages to poverty alleviation and sustainable development, areas in which botanical gardens had made a historically significant contribution through their research and other activities. He gave examples of the sustainable use of plant resources in Chinese botanical gardens and outlined new strategies in progress that were driven by economic and social development, including the development of property rights for new plant genes and of models with protocols for plant conservation and sustainable use. Illustrating the contribution of work by such gardens to poverty alleviation, he charted the development of the kiwifruit industry over the past 100 years; the fruit had been domesticated and extensive research had culminated in breeding programmes for new varieties, with the result that the income of rural growers had increased tenfold. He also gave examples of new initiatives in medicinal plants that had been undertaken and provided details of China's five-year strategic plan for its botanical gardens to the year 2010 and of its strategy for plant conservation. Lastly, he highlighted the future role of botanical gardens in contributing to poverty alleviation and sustainable development through, for example, the domestication of new cash crops, improved safeguarding of biodiversity and enhanced sustainable use of herbal medicine, particularly in rural areas.

56. Representatives of Australia, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Slovenia, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) then made comments and asked questions relating to the four presentations made, to which the speakers responded.

57. The Committee of the Whole next discussed the item further in the light of the presentations of the keynote speakers and the note by the Executive Secretary on the in-depth review of the implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/12/3).

58. Statements were made by representatives of Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, France, Germany, Ghana, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, the Netherlands, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovenia, South Africa, Sweden, Thailand and Zambia.

59. Statements were also made by representatives of Botanic Gardens Conservation International, Friends of the Earth Germany, the World Conservation Union (IUCN), the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF), Biodiversity International and Plantlife International

60. The Co-Chair said that a Chair's text on the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation would be prepared for consideration by the Committee.

61. At its 5th meeting, on 4 July 2007, the Committee of the Whole took up the Chair's text on the in-depth review of the implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation.

62. Statements were made by representatives of Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Benin, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, Ethiopia, the European Community, the Federated States of Micronesia, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Indonesia, Ireland, Jordan, Kiribati, Mali, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Rwanda, Seychelles, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uzbekistan and Zambia.

63. A number of amendments were made to the draft recommendation, which was then approved for transmission to the plenary session of the Subsidiary Body as draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/12/L.2

Action by the Subsidiary Body

64. At the 2nd plenary session of the meeting, on 6 July 2007, the Subsidiary Body took up draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/12/L.2 on the in-depth review of the implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation.

65. Following an exchange of views, the Subsidiary Body adopted the draft recommendation, as orally amended, as recommendation XII/2, the text of which is contained in annex I to the present report.

ITEM 4. STRATEGIC ISSUES FOR EVALUATING PROGRESS OR SUPPORTING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

Item 4.1. Review of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and follow-up to decision VIII/9

66. Agenda item 4.1 was taken up by Working Group I at its 1st meeting, on 4 July 2007. In considering the item, the Working Group had before it a note by the Executive Secretary on the implications of the findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment on the work of the Convention (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/12/4), which contained suggested recommendations to the Conference of the Parties and to the Executive Secretary.

67. The Chair then invited Mr. Ben ten Brink, Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency, to make a presentation on ways of facilitating the future monitoring of biodiversity, the aim of which was to stimulate the discussions of the Working Group. He also drew attention to the Convention on Biological Diversity Technical Series No. 31, *Cross-roads of Life on Earth: Exploring Means to Meet the 2010 Biodiversity Target*, which had been prepared in collaboration with, and under the leadership of, Mr. ten Brink.

68. Mr. ten Brink, who stressed that his presentation represented his personal view of the subject, said that biodiversity loss had accelerated over the years, as shown by the mean species abundance (MSA) index, and that it was set to increase further, bearing in mind the projected growth in the global economy and population. Such biodiversity-related options as trade liberalization, poverty reduction and the use of biofuels to mitigate climate change sometimes even exacerbated the loss. Adequate and timely information was key to the safeguarding of biodiversity and ecosystem goods and services. Notwithstanding the selection of appropriate indicators for 2010, however, no regular monitoring and information system had hitherto been established. Underlying budgets were also non-existent, as were a composite indicator, a common baseline of change in species abundance and adequate indicators of goods and services. Moreover, available information was, inter alia, incomplete, incoherent and consequently little understood. Biodiversity loss was the result of homogenization, which led to a decline in the abundance of many species, if not, in some cases, to their extinction, and to an increase in other species as a result of human interventions. The food pyramid was pressured down in order to maximize the production of commodities, resulting in biodiversity loss and sometimes the degradation of landscapes and their production capability. Goods and services were increasingly produced in the lower parts of the food chain. The time would come, however, when company decisions concerning location would

ultimately be influenced by basic needs other than commodities that retained a higher profile, such as natural and cultural identity and authenticity, which were produced by the upper part of the food chain, thus requiring intact ecosystems. The answer was to provide policy-makers with a clear view of how to steer the right course and remain firmly on track, bearing in mind the high speed of socioeconomic development. In that context, it was time for the Convention to develop a mature information feedback system that was indicator-based, standardized, solution-oriented and region-specific.

69. Following the presentation, statements and proposed amendments to the suggested recommendations were made by representatives of Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, Denmark, the European Community, France, Germany, India, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Sweden, Thailand and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

70. A statement was also made by the representative of the World Conservation Monitoring Centre of UNEP.

71. A representative of the Tebtebba Foundation also made a statement and proposed amendments to the suggested recommendations.

72. Following the statements, the Chair said that he would prepare revised suggested recommendations, taking into account comments and proposals made, for consideration by the Working Group at its next meeting.

73. At its 2nd meeting, on 5 July 2007, the Working Group took up a draft recommendation submitted by the Chair on implications of the findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment on the work of the Convention.

74. After an exchange of views, in which the representatives of Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, the European Community, France, Malawi, Mexico, the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and UNEP took part, the Working Group agreed to transmit the draft recommendation, as orally amended, to the plenary as draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/12/L.5.

Action by the Subsidiary Body

75. At the 2nd plenary session of the meeting, on 6 July 2007, the Subsidiary Body took up draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/12/L.5 on the implications of the findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment on the work of the Convention.

76. Following an exchange of views, the Subsidiary Body adopted the draft recommendation, as orally amended, as recommendation XII/3, the text of which is contained in annex I to the present report.

Item 4.2 Lessons learned from the preparation of the second edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook

77. Agenda item 4.2 was taken up by Working Group I at its 1st meeting, on 4 July 2007. In considering the item, the Working Group had before it a note by the Executive Secretary on lessons learned from preparation of the second edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook and proposals on the scope and focus of the third edition (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/12/5-UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/6), which contained suggested recommendations.

78. Introducing the item, the Chair pointed out that document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/12/5 contained two sets of recommendations, the second of which, concerning the process of preparing the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook, would be considered by the meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation the following week. He invited the present Working Group to focus on scientific aspects, experience with the use of indicators and other lessons learned from preparation of the second edition. He assured those representatives who would not be attending the meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation that their comments would be faithfully

transmitted to that meeting, so that remarks on the scope, focus or preparation of the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook would be incorporated into the recommendations of the Working Group on Review of Implementation.

79. Following the introduction, statements and proposed amendments to the suggested recommendations were made by representatives of Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, the European Community, France, India, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

80. In response to a question from the floor, the Secretariat elaborated on the rationale for allocating the two sets of recommendations to different bodies. Referring to paragraph 18 (a) of decision VIII/14, he explained that the lessons learned from the use of indicators was a scientific matter within the mandate of SBSTTA. To ensure that the process for preparing the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook was fully aligned with recommendations on national reporting and updating of the Strategic Plan of the Convention, the Secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau, had decided to refer consideration of the focus and scope of the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook and the process for its preparation to the Ad hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation. He drew attention to an information document on considerations for preparation of the third edition (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/INF/13).

81. Following the statements, the Chair said that he would prepare revised suggested recommendations, taking into account comments and proposals made, for consideration by the Working Group at its next meeting.

82. At its 2nd meeting, on 5 July 2007, the Working Group took up a draft recommendation submitted by the Chair on lessons learned from the preparation of the second edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook.

83. After an exchange of views, in which the representatives of Canada, Colombia, the Czech Republic, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland took part, the Working Group agreed to transmit the draft recommendation, as orally amended, to the plenary as draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/12/L.4.

Action by the Subsidiary Body

84. At the 2nd plenary session of the meeting, on 6 July 2007, the Subsidiary Body took up draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/12/L.4 on lessons learned from the preparation of the second edition of Global Biodiversity Outlook.

85. Following an exchange of views, the Subsidiary Body adopted the draft recommendation, as orally amended, as recommendation XII/4, the text of which is contained in annex I to the present report.

Item 4.3 Report of the SBSTTA Bureau on ways and means to improve the effectiveness of the Subsidiary Body

86. Agenda item 4.3 was taken up by the Committee of the Whole at its 1st meeting, on 2 July 2007. In considering the item, the Committee had before it a report of the SBSTTA Bureau on ways and means to improve the effectiveness of the Subsidiary Body (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/12/6).

87. Details of the first inter-sessional meeting held by the Subsidiary Body on the subject of improving its effectiveness were contained in the report of the Bureau. The full report of the second such meeting, held on 21 March 2007 in Montreal, with financial support from the Government of Canada, was available on the website of the Secretariat of the Convention. Annex 3 to that report, including updates, was set forth in the form of a note by the Chair of the Subsidiary Body (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/12/1/Add.2), in which guidance on the conduct of business during the twelfth meeting was provided. A meeting of the Chairs of the scientific advisory bodies of biodiversity-related conventions had also been held on 1 July 2007 in Paris to review processes and approaches of the scientific bodies of those conventions in providing scientific advice. The meeting additionally reviewed strategic issues for future processes, including, *inter alia*, ways to strengthen cooperation on climate

change and biodiversity, and possible approaches for the work beyond 2010. A report of the meeting would be circulated in due course.

88. The Co-Chair paid a special tribute to the Executive Secretary for his efforts to mobilize extrabudgetary funds for the two inter-sessional meetings of the Bureau; such face-to-face meetings were essential to the development of a leadership role by the Bureau. In that connection, the support of UNEP and the French Muséum national d'histoire naturelle was also acknowledged.

ITEM 5. SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ISSUES OF RELEVANCE TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2010 TARGET

Item 5.1 Biodiversity and climate change: proposals for the integration of climate-change activities within the programmes of work of the Convention and options for mutually supportive actions addressing climate change within the three Rio conventions and summary of the findings of the global Assessment on Peatlands, Biodiversity and Climate Change

89. Agenda item 5.1 was taken up by Working Group II at its 1st meeting, on 4 July 2007. In considering the item, the Working Group had before it notes by the Executive Secretary on biodiversity and climate change: proposals for the integration of climate change activities within the programmes of work of the Convention and options for mutually supportive actions addressing climate change within the three Rio conventions and summary of the findings of the global Assessment on Peatlands, Biodiversity and Climate Change (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/12/7), containing suggested recommendations to the Conference of the Parties; good practice examples for the integration of climate change activities within the programmes of work of the Convention (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/12/INF/14); a draft proposal from the Convention on Biological Diversity on options for mutually supportive activities for the secretariats of the Rio conventions, Parties and relevant organizations (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/12/INF/17); and the summary of an international meeting held at the Royal Society, London, on 12 and 13 June 2007, on biodiversity and climate change interactions: adaptation, mitigation and human livelihoods (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/12/INF/19).

90. The Chair of the Working Group invited Mr Faizal Parish, Global Environment Centre, to make a presentation on the findings of the global Assessment on Peatlands, Biodiversity and Climate Change.

91. Mr Parish said that the assessment had been carried out between 2005 and 2007 by a global multidisciplinary team; it had been coordinated by his own centre and Wetlands International, and financed by UNEP-GEF and other supporters. A key finding had been that the intense relationship between plants, water and peat make peatlands vulnerable to a wide range of human interference as well as climate change. These ecosystems provide a wealth of goods and services such as livelihood support, carbon storage, water regulation and biodiversity conservation. They control climate, have high diversity of specialized species and ecosystem types. They support and feed communities, provide water and prevent floods, and preserve history. Peatlands are the most space-effective carbon stocks of all terrestrial ecosystems, but drainage-facilitated peat fires are currently the largest single source of carbon released into the atmosphere from land-use and land-use change. The other main impacts of human activity are peat extraction, infrastructure construction, inundation, contamination and pollution. Because of the huge emissions of greenhouse gases, especially carbon dioxide, from degraded peatlands, restoration of degraded peatlands is one of the most cost-effective ways of avoiding anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions. Climate-change scenarios predict major changes in temperature, precipitation and other phenomena that would have significant negative impacts on the peatland carbon store, greenhouse gas flux and biodiversity, as could some climate-mitigation measures, such as hydropower or biofuel production, if implemented on peatlands. The current management of peatlands is in many cases not sustainable and has a major negative impact on biodiversity and climate change; simple changes in that management could reduce that impact and improve the sustainability of land use. Peatland management should be effectively integrated into land use and socio-economic development planning by taking a

multi-stakeholder, ecosystem, river basin and landscape approach. He said that there should be recognition of the role of peatlands ecosystems as the most important terrestrial carbon storage system; of the fact that the protection and rehabilitation of peatlands were important and cost-effective strategies for climate mitigation; of their vulnerability to climate change and their need to be considered in national adaptation and mitigation strategies; that further work could be considered by SBSTTA; and that assessment results could be commended to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and considered for possible collaborative activities between that body and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

92. Statements were made by the representatives of Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Haiti, Indonesia, Kiribati, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, Myanmar, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Senegal, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

93. Statements were made by representatives of the Council of Europe, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

94. Statements were made by the representatives of the ETC Group, the Global Biodiversity Information Facility and the International Alliance of Indigenous Peoples of the Tropical Forests.

95. Following the statements, the Chair said that she would prepare revised suggested recommendations, taking into account comments and proposals made, for consideration by the Working Group at its 2nd meeting.

96. At its 2nd meeting, on 5 July 2007, the Working Group considered a Chair's text containing revised suggested recommendations.

97. Statements were made by the representatives of Argentina, Australia, Bahamas (on behalf of small island developing States), Belgium, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, China, Colombia, Denmark, Federated States of Micronesia, Finland, France, Germany, Haiti, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Slovenia, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uzbekistan.

98. A statement was made by the representative of the Indigenous Caucus.

99. At its 3rd meeting, on 5 July 2007, the Working Group continued its consideration of the Chair's text.

100. Statements were made by the representatives of Australia, Bahamas (on behalf of the small island developing States), Belgium, Brazil, Germany and Norway.

101. The Working Group authorized the Chair to consult the Executive Secretary as to the procedure by which SBSTTA could continue its discussion of the sub-item at its thirteenth meeting.

102. The Chair said that she would prepare a revised text, taking account of comments made, for consideration by the Working Group at its next meeting.

103. The Working Group took up consideration of the Chair's revised text at its 4th meeting, on 6 July 2007.

104. After an exchange of views, in which the representatives of Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Bahamas (on behalf of the small island developing States), Belgium, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, China, Colombia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Malawi, Mexico, Nepal, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Senegal, Slovenia, Sweden, Thailand and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland took part, the Working Group agreed to transmit the draft recommendation, as orally amended and including text that had not been agreed upon in square brackets, to the plenary as draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/12/L.8.

105. Due to delays in convening the Joint Liaison Group it had not been possible to produce a formal report as requested by the Conference of the Parties in paragraph 9 of its decision VIII/30 in time to meet the timeframe consistent with the *modus operandi* for submission of documents to SBSTTA. The Secretariat was able to provide an informal report (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/12/INF/17), some points of which were discussed by Working Group II during the first reading of the agenda paper. Noting that some Parties raised the issue of not having the matter included in a formal working document, the Chair of Working Group II proposed that the item should be placed on the agenda of the thirteenth meeting of SBSTTA for further deliberation to ensure its adequate consideration. The Chair would pass on the issues raised by Parties to the Secretariat for inclusion in the SBSTTA working document on biodiversity and climate change. The Chair's proposal was agreed to by the Working Group and the SBSTTA Bureau. The Working Group recognized the importance of mutually supportive activities between the conventions and the need to continue this discussion at the thirteenth meeting of SBSTTA.

Action by the Subsidiary Body

106. At the 2nd plenary session of the meeting, on 6 July 2007, the Subsidiary Body took up revised draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/12/L.8 on biodiversity and climate change.

107. Following an exchange of views, the Subsidiary Body adopted the revised draft recommendation, as orally amended, as recommendation XII/5, the text of which is contained in annex I to the present report.

Item 5.2 Biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands: guidance on strengthening the assessment of the 2010 targets; and proposals for land-use options combining income generation with biodiversity conservation

108. Agenda item 5.2 was taken up by Working Group II at its 1st meeting, on 4 July 2007. In considering the item, the Working Group had before it a note by the Executive Secretary on biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands: guidance on strengthening the assessment of the 2010 targets; and proposals for land use options that promoted biodiversity and generated income for indigenous and local communities (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/12/8), containing suggested recommendations to the Conference of the Parties; and a note on existing sources of information, and projects, processes and programmes generating such information, for a comprehensive global-level assessment of the biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/12/INF/15).

109. Statements were made by the representatives of Argentina, Australia, Burkina Faso, Canada, China, Colombia, Denmark, France, Germany, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Thailand and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

110. The representative of the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) also made a statement.

111. Following the statements, the Chair said that she would prepare revised suggested recommendations, taking into account comments and proposals made, for consideration by the Working Group at a subsequent session.

112. At its 3rd meeting, on 5 July 2007, the Working Group considered a Chair's text containing revised suggested recommendations.

113. Statements were made by the representatives of Algeria, Australia, Canada, France, Mali and the Netherlands.

114. The Working Group resumed its discussion of the Chair's text at its 4th meeting, on 6 July 2007.

115. Following an exchange of views, in which the representatives of Algeria, Argentina, Canada, Germany, Mali, Mexico and New Zealand took part, the Working Group agreed to transmit the draft recommendation, as orally amended, to the plenary as draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/SSTTA/12/L.6.

Action by the Subsidiary Body

116. At the 2nd plenary session of the meeting, on 6 July 2007, the Subsidiary Body took up draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/12/L.6 on biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands.

117. Following an exchange of views, the Subsidiary Body adopted the draft recommendation as recommendation XII/6, the text of which is contained in annex I to the present report.

Item 5.3 New and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity

118. Agenda item 5.3 was taken up by the Committee of the Whole at its 1st meeting, on 2 July 2007. In considering the item, the Committee had before it notes by the Executive Secretary on New and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity – Biodiversity and liquid biofuel production (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/12/9) and contributions to the electronic forum on biofuels (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/12/INF/16).

119. Statements were made by representatives of Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, the European Community, Germany, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, Thailand and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

120. The Committee of the Whole continued its discussion of agenda item 5.3 at its 2nd meeting, on 2 July 2007, when statements were made by the representatives of Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Ethiopia, Malawi, Mali, Mexico, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Senegal, Singapore, Slovenia, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey and Uganda

121. A statement was also made by the representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

122. The representative of the Council of Europe also made a statement.

123. Statements were also made by representatives of the CBD Alliance, the Global Forest Coalition, the Global Invasive Species Programme, the International Chamber of Commerce, the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity and Wetlands International.

124. The representative of Mexico expressed concern at the way in which the Subsidiary Body was dealing with emerging issues, particularly as the criteria for selecting them and the level of detail at which they were discussed were not clear. At its sixth meeting, the Conference of the Parties had endeavoured to limit the inclusion of items in the agenda until those already on the agenda had been properly discussed. In view of the precedent that might be created for the Subsidiary Body's future work, he suggested that the Bureau, together with the Executive Secretary, draw up clear criteria for the selection of issues to be put before the ninth Conference of the Parties and that any recommendation by the twelfth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on biofuels be confined to compilation of further information to allow the Conference of the Parties to decide on the course to be followed. He requested that his remarks be included in the report of the meeting.

125. At its 6th meeting, on 5 July 2007, the Committee of the Whole took up a draft recommendation prepared by the Chair.

126. Following a discussion during which the representatives of Australia, Brazil, the European Community, Indonesia, Mexico, New Zealand and Switzerland made statements, the Committee decided to establish a group of friends of the Chair, to be co-chaired by Mr. Alfred Oteng-Yeboah (Ghana) and Mr. Asghar Mohammadi Fazel (Islamic Republic of Iran) and composed of the representatives of Australia, Brazil and the European Community, to prepare a revised text of the draft recommendation.

127. The Committee of the Whole also requested the representatives the representatives of Australia, the European Community, Grenada, Mexico and Switzerland to undertake consultations with a view to preparing a draft recommendation on the selection of new and emerging issues and how to address them.

Action by the Subsidiary Body

128. At the 2nd plenary session of the meeting, on 6 July 2007, the Subsidiary Body took up draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/12/L.9 on biodiversity and biofuel production.

129. Following an exchange of views, the Subsidiary Body adopted the draft recommendation, as orally amended, as recommendation XII/7, the text of which is contained in annex I to the present report.

130. The representative of France said that he wished to place on record his regret that no French version of the draft recommendation had been available for consideration.

131. The Subsidiary Body also took up draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/12/L.7 on the process to elaborate the procedure for the identification and consideration of emerging issues at the 2nd plenary session of the meeting, on 6 July 2007.

132. The representative of Brazil, supported by the representative of Colombia, said that the new and emerging issues considered by the Subsidiary Body should reflect all three objectives of the Convention and not just the first two. He requested that his remark be included in the report of the meeting.

133. Following an exchange of views, the Subsidiary Body adopted the draft recommendation, as orally amended, as recommendation XII/8, the text of which is contained in annex I to the present report.

ITEM 6. DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA, AND DATES AND VENUE FOR, THE THIRTEENTH MEETING OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

134. At the 2nd plenary session of the meeting, on 6 July 2007, the Chair said that the Subsidiary Body had before it the draft provisional agenda for its thirteenth meeting to be held in Rome, Italy, in February 2008 (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/12/10). He added that the meeting would be held at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) from 18 to 22 February 2008. He said that following discussions in Working Group II, consideration of part of agenda item 5.1, on options for mutually supportive actions addressing climate change within the three Rio Conventions, had been postponed for consideration by SBSTTA at its thirteenth meeting. After consultation with the Bureau, it was proposed that the item would become agenda item 4.4 for the thirteenth meeting of SBSTTA, bearing in mind that, at that meeting, SBSTTA would be considering item 4.5 ("New and emerging issues") only in terms of the process of their selection and how SBSTTA would address them. It was agreed that agenda item 4.5 be entitled "New and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity: modus operandi for addressing new and emerging issues", while item 4.4 could be entitled "Climate change: options for mutually supportive actions addressing climate change within the three Rio conventions".

135. The draft provisional agenda for the thirteenth meeting, as amended, was adopted and the dates and venue approved.

ITEM 7. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT AND CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

136. The present report was adopted, as orally amended, at the 2nd plenary session of the meeting, on 6 July 2007, on the basis of the draft report prepared by the Rapporteur (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/12/L.1) and the reports of the working groups (UNEP/CBC/SBSTTA/12/L.1/Add.1 and 2).

Annex I

**RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC,
TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE AT ITS TWELFTH MEETING
*UNESCO, Paris, 2-6 July 2007***

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
XII/1. Application of the ecosystem approach	22
XII/2. In-depth review of the implementation of the Global Strategy For Plant Conservation	25
XII/3. Implications of the findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment on the work under the Convention	27
XII/4. Lessons learned from the preparation of the second edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook.....	29
XII/5. Proposals for the integration of climate-change activities within the programmes of work of the Convention, options for mutually supportive actions addressing climate change within the Rio conventions and a summary of the findings of the global Assessment on Peatlands, Biodiversity and Climate Change	30
XII/6. Guidance on strengthening the assessment of the 2010 biodiversity target in dry and sub-humid lands and proposals for land-use options that promote biodiversity and generate income for indigenous and local communities	33
XII/7. Biodiversity and biofuel production.....	35
XII/8. Process to elaborate the procedure for the identification and consideration of emerging issues	37

XII/1. Application of the ecosystem approach

1. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, in its consideration of the in-depth review of the application of the ecosystem approach, based on background documentation available, expert inputs and scientific dialogue, *brings to the attention* of the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting, other Governments, and relevant international and other organizations the following range of views:

(a) The ecosystem approach remains a useful normative framework for bringing together social, economic, cultural and environmental values. The needs are to translate this normative framework into methods for further application which are tailored to the needs of specific users;

(b) “One-size-fits-all” solutions for the ecosystem approach are neither feasible nor desirable. The application of the ecosystem approach should be regarded as a process where learning by doing is the priority need at present;

(c) Global assessments suggest that the ecosystem approach is not being applied systematically to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss, but there are many examples of successful application at the regional, national and local scales which should be widely promoted and communicated. Most of these examples can be considered as positive outcomes for both biodiversity and human well-being;

(d) There is experience with application, in particular at the local level, but the ecosystem approach needs to be applied much more broadly across all levels. The need now is to enhance access and awareness with the transmission of straight forward messages using practical tools;

(e) Wider adoption of the ecosystem approach can contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;

(f) The full application of the approach in all of its ecological, social, economic, cultural and political dimensions remains a formidable task, particularly at the larger scale. There is a clear need to communicate and illustrate it more clearly in order to expedite broader application. There are ongoing efforts to promote this approach. Some initiatives mentioned at the meeting included the “Mountains to the Sea” concept, originally proposed by the Ramsar Convention and partners, as currently being promoted by the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF), and the “Five Steps to Implementation” developed by the World Conservation Union Commission on Ecosystem Management (IUCN-CEM), the Large Marine Ecosystem projects supported by the Global Environment Facility and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other partners;

(g) The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment findings, and in particular their articulation of the role of ecosystem goods and services to human well-being, could be more widely taken into account in the application of the ecosystem approach as appropriate;

(h) There is a need for promoters and leaders for the application of the ecosystem approach that can promote wider application through demonstration of the benefits of doing so amongst their peers and at their level of operation;

(i) The development of standards and indicators for the application of ecosystem approach is in its infancy. Focusing on these needs would constrain further application at present and divert attention from the more pressing need for expanded application through the development of appropriate tools and mechanisms and through learning by doing;

(j) Capacity-building remains the priority. Needs exist across all sectors, biomes, levels and scales. There is a need to strengthen partnerships and coordination between the relevant United Nations bodies and processes and other relevant institutions so that more effective support to Parties to apply the ecosystem approach can be offered; and

(k) Some Parties expressed the view that the principles of the ecosystem approach need to be considered at the earliest stage of policy-making and planning at all levels that relate to or affect natural resources and can be useful in poverty reduction strategies.

2. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice *requests* the Executive Secretary to:

(a) Strengthen and promote the ecosystem approach in ongoing communication, education and public awareness activities of the Convention, including through, *inter alia*, the Communication, Education and Public Awareness Informal Advisory Committee, and in particular provide easy to understand communication materials on the ecosystem approach, illustrated by successful case studies in all United Nations languages, subject to availability of funding, in electronic and published forms in order to further promote awareness and understanding;

(b) Enhance support for updating of the Source Book through *inter alia*:

(i) Strengthened partnerships with relevant agencies;

(ii) The inclusion of additional case-studies that relate to all the programmes of work of the Convention and all economic sectors and that demonstrate the benefits and trade-offs of the use of the ecosystem approach in achieving the 2010 target and the Millennium Development Goals;

(iii) Identifying tools that can integrate the ecosystem approach into planning and monitoring of biodiversity;

(iv) Compiling existing work on the valuation of ecosystem services and the reflection of these values in the market/marketplace; and

(v) The inclusion of initiatives mentioned in paragraph 1 (f) above;

(c) Invite, subject to available resources, the IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management (IUCN-CEM), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Ramsar Convention, to provide their perspectives on approaches to build capacity to understand, interpret and apply, the ecosystem approach, and provide information on opportunities for funding, human and other resources for enhancing application of the ecosystem approach;

(d) Invite initiatives such as the WWF Mountains to the Sea to further develop tools to assist Parties to further integrate the ecosystem approach into the programmes of work of the Convention and make these widely available through the Sourcebook;

(e) Inform Parties, as appropriate, on ways to use the ecosystem approach more widely and effectively as a useful tool for the formulation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and in other relevant policy mechanisms;

(f) Communicate the findings of the in-depth review of the application of the ecosystem approach to the Commission on Sustainable Development and the United Nations General Assembly to promote more coordinated actions under the United Nations system to overcome underlying management and political challenges to the wider application of the ecosystem approach; and

(g) Report on the progress on these activities of the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting.

3. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice *recommends* that the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting:

(a) *Urges* Parties, other Governments and relevant organisations, as appropriate, and subject to funding and availability of technical capacity, to:

- (i) Strengthen the promotion of the ecosystem approach in ongoing communication, education and public awareness activities;
 - (ii) Further promote the use of the ecosystem approach in all sectors and enhance inter-sectoral cooperation, as well as promote the establishment of concrete national and/or regional initiatives and pilot projects;
 - (iii) Implement further capacity-building initiatives to applying the ecosystem approach, using, *inter alia*, the tools made available through the sourcebook and other sources of information, as appropriate;
 - (iv) Recalling decisions VI/12, paragraph 2 (a), and VII/11, paragraph 9 (d), of the Conference of the Parties, urge Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to continue submitting case-studies and lessons learned and provide further technical input to the Source Book;
 - (v) Further facilitate the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities in the development of tools and mechanisms for the application of the ecosystem approach;
 - (vi) Strengthen and promote the use of the ecosystem approach more widely and effectively as a useful tool for formulation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and in other relevant policy mechanisms; and
- (b) *Invites* Parties to:
- (i) Take into account the application of the ecosystem approach in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
 - (ii) Develop effective cooperation at all levels for the effective application of the ecosystem approach;
 - (iii) To provide a framework for the promotion of the ecosystem approach, as appropriate;
 - (iv) Give consideration to the challenge of incorporating land and marine tenure in the application of the ecosystem approach; and
 - (v) Provide information on outcomes and progress in these activities through the national reporting process and their national clearing houses;
- (c) *Acknowledges* the efforts of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in advancing the ecosystem approach within its areas of competence and *invite* the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations to further apply, in cooperation with other relevant organizations, the ecosystem approach; and
- (d) *Invites* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands to further their activities in relation to the ecosystem approach in particular, *inter alia*, within the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, and Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites) as appropriate, as ecosystem-approach research and demonstration sites.

XII/2. In-depth review of the implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation

1. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice in its consideration of the in depth review of the implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, based on background documentation, expert inputs and scientific dialogue, brings the following key messages to the attention of the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting:

(a) In general, the Global Strategy has provided a useful framework to harmonize and bring together various initiatives and programmes in plant conservation at both the national and regional levels;

(b) The Global Strategy has been notably successful in stimulating the engagement of the botanical and plant conservation communities in the work of the Convention, through, *inter alia*, the establishment of national, regional and global networks, including in particular the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation, launched at the seventh meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention;

(c) The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment provide a further rationale for implementing the Strategy, including at the national level, with a view to securing plant resources and their provisioning services and allowing communities to continue to derive benefits from plant diversity, especially for food, medicines, fuel, fibre, wood and other uses;

(d) The national implementation of the Strategy provides opportunities for addressing the Millennium Development Goals especially poverty reduction (goal 1), the health crisis (goal 6) and environmental sustainability (goal 7);

(e) There has been progress in achieving targets 5 (Protection of 50 per cent of the most important areas for plant diversity assured); 8 (60 per cent of threatened plant species in accessible *ex situ* collections, preferably in the country of origin, and 10 per cent of them included in recovery and restoration programmes), 9 (70 per cent of the genetic diversity of crops and other major socio-economically valuable plant species conserved, and associated indigenous and local knowledge maintained), 11 (No species of wild flora endangered by international trade), 14 (The importance of plant diversity and the need for its conservation incorporated into communication, educational and public-awareness programmes);

(f) However, limited progress was made with respect to the targets 1 (A widely accessible working list of known plant species, as a step towards a complete world flora), 2 (A preliminary assessment of the conservation status of all known plant species, at national, regional and international levels), 4 (At least 10 per cent of each of the world's ecological regions effectively conserved), 6 (At least 30 per cent of production lands managed consistent with the conservation of plant diversity), 10 (Management plans in place for at least 100 major alien species that threaten plants, plant communities and associated habitats and ecosystems), and 12 (30 per cent of plant-based products derived from sources that are sustainably managed) and 15 (The number of trained people working with appropriate facilities in plant conservation increased, according to national needs, to achieve the targets of this Strategy);

(g) There are some gaps in achieving target 3 (Development of models with protocols for plant conservation and sustainable use, based on research and practical experience) especially in relation to the development of tools and protocols for the targets of the Strategy whose progress is limited;

(h) Efforts to achieve target 7 (60 per cent of the world's threatened species conserved *in situ*) have been constrained by limited progress in achieving target 2, as target 7 is dependent on the base line data generated under target 2;

(i) Constraints to the national implementation of the Global Strategy include limited institutional integration, lack of mainstreaming, and inadequate policies and legal frameworks at the planning stage; and at the operational level, lack of taxonomic capacity, lack of data (taxonomy, biology and conservation), tools and technologies, limited sectoral collaboration and coordination, and limited financial and human resources;

(j) The emerging issues of the global environmental change, namely, the impact of climate change and nutrient loading can be addressed through the achievement of the existing targets.

2. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice *recommends* that the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting:

(a) *Urges* Parties that have not yet done so, to:

(i) Nominate focal points for the Strategy;

(ii) Develop national and/or regional strategies for plant conservation with targets as appropriate, within the context of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and other relevant national and regional policies and action plans, as part of broader plans to achieve the 2010 biodiversity target and the relevant Millennium Development Goals;

(b) *Recommends* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to consider:

(i) Activities for achieving enhanced implementation of the Strategy, in particular its targets 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 10, 12 and 15;

(ii) Providing as appropriate additional information on the progress made towards achieving the targets of the Strategy, including quantitative data and information from other sectors and processes such as in forestry and agriculture, in order to strengthen future reviews of the implementation of the Strategy;

(c) *Considers* the further development of the Strategy beyond 2010 including a review of the current targets. Such consideration should be carried out in the broader context of the Strategic Plan, within the further development of the Convention beyond 2010, taking into account national priorities, capacities and differences in plant diversity between countries;

(d) *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation and other relevant organizations:

(i) To develop a toolkit, in pursuance of paragraph 7 of decision VII/10 of the Conference of the Parties, that describes *inter alia* tools and experiences that can help enhance national, subregional and regional implementation of the Strategy. The toolkit should be made available in all the United Nations languages in both electronic and printed form, with the option of making the electronic version interactive in the long term;

(ii) To facilitate the development of capacity-building, technology transfer, and financial support programmes to assist developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States, and countries with economies in transition to effectively implement or to achieve enhanced implementation of the Strategy;

(iii) To identify regional tools for the exchange of information and capacity-building;

(e) *Expresses appreciation* to Botanic Gardens Conservation International for the secondment of a Programme Officer to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological to support the implementation of the Strategy.

3. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice *requests* the Executive Secretary to develop by the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in collaboration with the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation, UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre and relevant organizations, and taking into account contributions from Parties, other Governments and relevant stakeholders, a "Plant Conservation Report" that could provide inputs to the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook and serve as a communication and awareness-raising tool on the implementation of the Strategy.

XII/3. Implications of the findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment on the work under the Convention

1. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice *recommends* that the Conference of the Parties:

(a) *Invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to promote and support, through various mechanisms, integrated national, regional and subglobal ecosystem assessments including, where appropriate, response scenarios that build on the framework and experiences of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment;

(b) *Invites* Parties, other Governments, relevant organizations, stakeholders and indigenous and local communities to consider, when designing integrated local, national or subglobal assessments, as appropriate, to take into account:

- (i) The engagement of stakeholders, including local and national decision makers, and indigenous and local communities in the assessment;
- (ii) The conceptual framework of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and its principles, including the services provided by ecosystems, as a contribution to the Millennium Development Goals;
- (iii) The relevance of including documented case studies contributed by indigenous and local communities, including those highlighting economic values as well as traditional non-market benefits of sustainable ecosystem management;
- (iv) The particular value of assessments such as the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment for capacity development among participants and stakeholders;
- (v) The usefulness of providing, whenever possible, free and open access to all past, present and future research results, assessments, maps and databases on biodiversity, in accordance with national and international legislation;
- (vi) The relevance of supporting further elaboration of coherent standardized formats for the collection and integration of biodiversity data and information for future assessments and analyses.

(c) *Invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to:

- (i) Take note of the need for further improvement of the availability and interoperability of biodiversity data and information; and
- (ii) Support, contribute and promote synergy to the ongoing efforts to digitize data in a standardized format, make data and analytical tools widely available, and further develop analytical tools to use this data for policy and management purposes;

(d) *Takes into account* the framework, and experiences of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment in preparing

- (i) In-depth reviews of programmes of work under the Convention in accordance with the guidelines for review of programmes of work under the Convention contained in annex III to decision VIII/15, including an analysis of the extent to which these programmes of work address ecosystem services;
- (ii) A revision of the Strategic Plan beyond 2010;

(e) *Invites* Parties and other Governments to make full use of the framework, experiences and findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment when they review, revise and implement their national biodiversity strategy and action plans, relevant development plans, and development cooperation strategies, as appropriate.

2. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice *requests* the Executive Secretary for consideration by the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to:

(a) *Collect* from Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations information required to undertake a detailed assessment of the use and impact of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment from the point of view of stakeholders, including national decision makers;

(b) *Contribute* to the preparation of a coherent international multi-agency strategy for follow-up to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, including by:

- (i) Identifying ways to support national and subglobal assessment based on the conceptual framework of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, in particular by inviting the United Nations Environment Programme to convene a global workshop for practitioners on the preparation of national, regional and other subglobal biodiversity assessments;
- (ii) Considering ways in which the financial mechanism of the Convention could assist in strengthening capacities and supporting implementation of national and subglobal biodiversity assessments;
- (iii) Taking into consideration the three objectives of the Convention;
- (iv) Developing and/or strengthening capacity to provide coherent, timely and relevant scientific advice on biodiversity and ecosystem services and their relationship to human well-being;
- (v) Considering the need for, and timing of, another global assessment, taking into account the experiences from evaluations of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and other processes aimed at improving scientific expertise on biodiversity.

3. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice *further requests* the Executive Secretary to:

(a) *Carry out*, through the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention and in collaboration with the Global Biodiversity Information Facility, the Global Biodiversity Indicators Partnership and other relevant partners, an inventory of existing interoperability mechanisms and their respective prospects for facilitating and promoting the exchange of data and information in support of the 2010 target as well as options for wider collaborative implementation of modern information exchange mechanisms through common methods, operational protocols, and formats;

(b) *Participate* in and promote relevant processes towards coherent and inclusive biodiversity observation systems with regards to data architecture, scales and standards, observatory network planning and strategic planning for implementation, such as the Global Earth Observation System of Systems;

(c) *Bring to the attention* of Parties and other Governments any guidance on best practice for integrated local, national or subglobal assessments;

(d) *Promote and facilitate*, through the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions, the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions and other forums, standardized national, regional and subglobal ecosystem assessments as the basis for the harmonization of national reporting formats.

XII/4. Lessons learned from the preparation of the second edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook

1. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA):
 - (a) *Notes* the progress made in preparing products that complement and strengthen the messages contained in the second edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook;
 - (b) *Requests* the Executive Secretary to:
 - (i) Continue disseminating the second edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook and future supplementary products to different audiences in all the regions;
 - (ii) Pursue efforts to make the second edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook available in the six languages of the United Nations;
 - (iii) Pursue efforts to develop focused ancillary products that present and communicate key messages to specific audiences as recommended by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators for Assessing Progress Towards, and Communicating, the 2010 target at the Global Level and foreseen in the communication strategy for the second edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook, and, recalling decision VIII/7, undertake as a priority a short graphic summary that highlights the headline indicators and actions needed to achieve the 2010 target;
 - (iv) Make these ancillary products available through the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention and other appropriate means;
 - (v) Invite the clearing-house mechanism focal points to assist in the dissemination at the national level of the second edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook and relevant ancillary products;
 - (vi) Report the deliberations in the Subsidiary Body on lessons learned from the preparation of the second edition of Global Biodiversity Outlook and proposals on the scope and focus of the third edition to the second meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation for its consideration;
 - (vii) Reflect on the lessons learned from the incorporation of information from the second edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook into the United Nations Environment Programme's fourth Global Environment Outlook in order to inform cooperation in the production of future editions of the Global Biodiversity Outlook and the Global Environment Outlook and follow-up to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment.
2. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice *recommends* that the Conference of the Parties *urge* Parties and *invite* other Governments, organizations and relevant scientific bodies to make available relevant data on status and trends of biological diversity, progress in the implementation of the Convention including its Strategic Plan and lessons learned in carrying out actions designed to contribute to a significant reduction in the rate of biodiversity loss, including by timely submission of the fourth national reports for use in the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook.

XII/5. *Proposals for the integration of climate-change activities within the programmes of work of the Convention, options for mutually supportive actions addressing climate change within the Rio conventions and a summary of the findings of the global Assessment on Peatlands, Biodiversity and Climate Change*

1. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice *recommends* that the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting:

(a) *Decides* that, in conducting future in depth reviews of the programmes of work of the Convention, advice on potential climate-change impacts and [the impact of climate-change] response activities on biodiversity should be integrated into each programme of work where relevant, taking into account, *inter alia*, the reports and recommendations of the Third and Fourth Assessment Reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Technical Series No. 10 and No. 25 of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the global Assessment on Peatlands, Biodiversity and Climate Change, and considering the following:

- (i) Indications or predictions of climate-change impacts and [the impacts of climate change] response activities on relevant ecosystems;
- (ii) The most vulnerable components of biodiversity;
- (iii) The risks and consequences for ecosystem services and human well-being;
- (iv) The threats and likely impacts of climate change and [the impacts of climate change] response activities on biodiversity and opportunities they provide for the conservation of biodiversity and its sustainable use;
- (v) Monitoring of the threats and likely climate-change impacts and [the impacts of climate-change] response activities on biodiversity;
- (vi) Appropriate monitoring and evaluation techniques, related technology transfer and capacity-building initiatives within the programmes of work;
- (vii) Critical knowledge needed to support implementation, including *inter alia*, scientific research, availability of data, appropriate measurement and monitoring techniques technology and traditional knowledge; and
- (viii) The ecosystem-approach principles and guidance and the precautionary approach;

(b) *Encourages* Parties to enhance the integration of climate-change considerations related to biodiversity in their implementation of the Convention, including:

- (i) Identifying, within their own countries, vulnerable regions, subregions and ecosystem types, including vulnerable components of biodiversity within these areas;
- (ii) Integrating concerns relating to climate-change impacts and [the impacts of climate change] response activities on biodiversity within national biodiversity strategy and action plans;
- (iii) Assessing the threats and likely impacts of climate change and [the impacts of climate-change] response activities on biodiversity;
- (iv) Identifying and adopting, within their own countries, monitoring programmes for regions, sub-regions and ecosystems affected by climate change and promote international cooperation in this area;
- (v) Enhancing scientific tools, methodologies, knowledge and approaches to respond to climate change impacts and [the impacts of climate change] response activities on biodiversity, including socio-economic and cultural impacts;

- (vi) Enhancing the methodology and the knowledge needed to integrate biodiversity considerations in climate change response activities, such as baseline information, scenarios, potential impacts on and risks to biodiversity, and resilience and resistance of ecosystems and species populations and communities/assemblages;
- (vii) Increasing stakeholder involvement in the decision-making process relating to climate change impacts and [the impacts of climate change] response activities on biodiversity;
- (viii) Applying the principles and guidance of the ecosystem approach such as adaptive management, the use of traditional knowledge, the use of science and monitoring;
- (ix) Taking appropriate actions to address and monitor climate change impacts and the impacts of climate-change response activities on biodiversity;
- (x) Enhancing cooperation with relevant organizations and among national focal points;

(c) *Urges* Parties, other Governments, donors and relevant organizations to support further action, such as the ones listed in the global Assessment of Peatlands, Biodiversity and Climate Change, that could contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of peatlands and assessment of their positive contributions to climate change response activities;

(d) *Encourages* Parties, other Governments, donors and relevant organizations to support capacity-building activities to enable developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing States and countries with economies in transition, to implement activities related to climate change impacts and [the impacts of climate change] response activities on biodiversity;

(e) *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources, to convene a workshop for small island developing States to support the integration of climate-change impacts and [the impacts of climate-change] response activities within programmes of work and national biodiversity strategy and action plans, with a view to holding similar capacity-building workshops in other groups of countries; and

(f) *Recognizes* the importance of wetlands, and in particular peatlands in the global carbon cycle, and the potential of their conservation and sustainable use as a cost-effective tool to address climate change and *welcomes* the findings of the global Assessment on Peatlands, Biodiversity and Climate Change;

[(g) *Reiterates* that reduced deforestation provides opportunities for multiple benefits for biodiversity and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and *requests* the Executive Secretary to continue to contribute to discussions on deforestation in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.]

2. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice:

(a) *Requests* the Executive Secretary, when preparing the in-depth review of the programmes of work on forest and agricultural biodiversity, to take into account an analysis to identify the elements of the guidance (subparagraphs 1 (a) (i)-(viii) above) already included in the existing programme of work and an assessment of the state of implementation, as well as the identification of gaps in implementation including a review of barriers and suggestions to overcome them;

(b) *Welcomes* the findings of the global Assessment on Peatlands, Biodiversity and Climate Change undertaken by Wetlands International and the Global Environment Centre and *requests* the Executive Secretary:

- (i) To convey the message of the Assessment to the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at its thirteenth meeting; and
 - (ii) In collaboration with the secretariats of relevant multilateral environment agreements and other relevant partners, review opportunities for further action to support the conservation and sustainable use of the biodiversity of tropical forested peatlands as well as other wetlands, and to report on progress to the ninth meeting of Conference of the Parties;
- (c) *Requests* the Executive Secretary to develop proposals for mutually supportive activities as requested in decision VIII/30 paragraph 9, for consideration at the thirteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, taking into account the views discussed by the Subsidiary Body at its twelfth meeting, bearing in mind that these views were not endorsed by Parties during that session because the report of the Joint Liaison Group meeting was not available and, therefore, was not discussed; and
- (d) *Invites* Parties to submit their views on the draft options for mutually supportive activities for secretariats, Parties and other relevant organizations (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/12/INF/17) so as to include these views in the proposals to be presented to the thirteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, referred to in paragraph 2 (c) above.

XII/6. *Guidance on strengthening the assessment of the 2010 biodiversity target in dry and sub-humid lands and proposals for land-use options that promote biodiversity and generate income for indigenous and local communities*

1. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice *recommends* that the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting:

(a) *Invites* relevant organizations and donor agencies to provide technical and financial support to developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States, and countries with economies in transition, to identify and conduct land use options for dry and sub-humid lands that promote the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and generate income for indigenous and local communities including through involving private sector and public partnerships;

(b) *Encourages* Parties to consider land-use options, drawing on ecosystem approach, that promote the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and generate income for indigenous and local communities;

(c) *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and other relevant organizations and collaborators to:

(i) Compile and publish a list of case-studies on scientific and technical knowledge including traditional knowledge regarding the management, and sustainable use of the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands;

(ii) Carry out a feasibility study for the development of a tool-kit to support the efforts of local and indigenous communities with regard to: sustainable pastoralism, adapted agricultural practices, control of soil erosion, valuation of natural resources, water and land-use management and carbon capture;

(iii) Prepare a compilation of experiences in the field of adaptation to climate change, soil management and pastoralism in dry and sub-humid lands;

(d) *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to explore, with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations the means to strengthen the collaboration in pastoralism and agricultural use of dry and sub-humid lands in line with paragraph 11 (c) of decision VIII/2, and to produce a report on the actions that have already been undertaken and actions that needs to be carried out, taking into account the specific needs of dry and sub-humid lands and the people living in these lands, for further consideration by SBSTTA at one of its meetings prior to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

2. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice *requests* the Executive Secretary to undertake the following activities and to report to the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties on progress achieved:

(a) In view of the lack of a common definition of dry and sub-humid lands, to work with relevant collaborators, in particular with the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, to clarify the areas under question with a view to harmonizing the delineation of dry and sub-humid lands, using the UNEP/WCMC work on the definitions and delineations of dry and sub-humid lands under the Convention and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, to facilitate the undertaking of global status and trends assessment;

(b) To strengthen collaboration on assessment of status, trends and threats to the biological diversity in dry and sub-humid lands with:

(i) The Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, recalling that assessment is one of the three elements of the joint programme of work agreed by the secretariats of the two conventions;

- (ii) The Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change giving due consideration to climate-change-related issues; and
- (iii) The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other partners and relevant organizations in pursuance of paragraph 11 (d) of decision VIII/2 of the Conference of the Parties;

(c) In pursuance of paragraph 5 of decision VIII/2, to liaise with relevant partners on activities necessary to fill gaps in information and data related to establishing baselines prior to the assessment of the achievement towards the 2010 target, bearing in mind the additional resources required to fill such gaps, and the need to take a pragmatic approach to overcome gaps noting that it is unlikely to be feasible to provide baseline data and information for all of the indicators contained in decision VII/30.

XII/7. Biodiversity and biofuel production

1. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice *noted* that:

(a) In taking up the request in decision VIII/10, the Bureau of the twelfth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, following consultations within their respective regions, has included the subject of “biodiversity and liquid biofuel production” as an item for discussion on the agenda of its meeting;

(b) The Executive Secretary undertook preparatory work for this discussion, including the electronic forum moderated by the Secretariat between January and March 2007.

2. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice *requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To *invite* Parties and other Governments to provide relevant information on the impacts on biodiversity along the full life cycle of the production and use of biofuels and how these are being addressed;

(b) In collaboration with relevant organizations, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, as well as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the International Energy Agency, the Global Bioenergy Partnership, the private sector partners, the indigenous and local communities and non governmental organisations, to *compile* additional relevant information on the impacts on biodiversity along the full life cycle of the production and use of biofuel and related sustainable-use issues;

(c) To *identify* options for consideration of this emerging issue in the programmes of work of the Convention, including the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity and the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity;

(d) To *synthesize* and *submit* the information resulting from the above activities for consideration at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

(e) [To *bring to the attention* of the fifth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) the outcomes of the discussions of the twelfth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and any other relevant information that can be made available through the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention;]

(f) To bring the outcomes of the discussions of the twelfth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to the attention of the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions.

3. While acknowledging the concerns of some Parties that the following is preliminary and needs further comprehensive analysis, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice *further requests* that the Conference of the Parties *notes* that some of the issues raised during the discussions in the Subsidiary Body included:

(a) There is a wide range of systems and conditions under which biofuels are produced, including different feedstocks used, varying production schemes and management practices, land ownership and land use systems;

(b) Biofuel production and use and the associated production and use of biomass can have beneficial effects on biodiversity and human well-being, including where the production and use processes are associated with:

(i) A reduction of the consumption of fossil fuels;

(ii) A decrease in land use for agricultural purposes associated with the increase in energy outputs per area;

- (iii) A change in agricultural production leading to reduced management inputs, an increase in crop diversity, the restoration of degraded lands, a reduction in the application of pesticides and fertilizers, a reduction in water used for irrigation and increased water use efficiency of crops;
 - (iv) Decreasing land abandonment and decreasing conversion of agricultural land to other uses;
 - (v) An increase of the income-base for farmers and forest owners and improvements of employment opportunities in rural areas;
 - (vi) The reduction of greenhouse-gas emissions derived from the use of liquid biofuels;
- (c) Biofuel production and use can have adverse effects on biodiversity and human well-being, including where the production process and use are associated with:
- (i) The loss, fragmentation and degradation of valuable habitats such as natural and semi-natural forests, grasslands, wetlands and peatlands and other carbon sinks, their biodiversity components and the loss of essential ecosystem services and leading to increases in greenhouse gas emissions due to these changes;
 - (ii) Competition for land managed for the production of alternative crops, including land managed by indigenous and local communities and small-holder farmers, and competition for the commodity prices potentially leading to food insecurity;
 - (iii) Increased water consumption, increased application of fertilizers and pesticides, increased water pollution and eutrophication, soil degradation and erosion;
 - (iv) The uncontrolled cultivation, introduction and spread of genetically modified organisms;
 - (v) The uncontrolled introduction and spread of invasive alien species;
 - (vi) Emissions from burning biomass and potential adverse effects on human health;
- (d) There are gaps in our knowledge and information associated with the impact of biofuel production and use on biodiversity and the production and use of biofuel from second-generation feedstocks, including the application of the precautionary approach;
- (e) Gaps in knowledge and information can be addressed, *inter alia*, by:
- (i) Compiling and sharing relevant information on the actual and potential impacts on biodiversity of the production and use of biofuels and sustainable use issues;
 - (ii) Promoting research on the actual and potential impacts on biodiversity of the production and use of biofuels;
 - (iii) Promoting international cooperation and the transfer of appropriate technologies;
 - (iv) Encouraging greater scientific input into future consideration of the impacts of biofuels on biodiversity[, for example, through an international scientific conference drawing on collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, relevant organizations, private sector, civil society representatives and representatives of indigenous and local communities].

XII/8. Process to elaborate the procedure for the identification and consideration of emerging issues

1. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) *recalled* that SBSTTA was established, *inter alia*, to provide the Conference of the Parties and, as appropriate, its other subsidiary bodies with timely advice relating to the implementation of the Convention. In accordance with the consolidated *modus operandi* annexed to decision VIII/10, its specific functions include the identification of new and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.
2. At its twelfth meeting, SBSTTA *recognized* the need to further clarify the procedure for the identification of emerging issues, the conditions for their inclusion in the agenda of relevant meetings, and the appropriate ways and means to respond to new and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. It *further recognized* that it is not necessary to consider an emerging issue at each meeting.
3. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice *recommends* that the Executive Secretary:
 - (a) *Seeks*, through established channels, the views of Parties on the suggested elements of the procedure for the identification of emerging issues, the conditions for their inclusion in the agenda of relevant meetings, and appropriate ways to respond to new and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, as contained in the annex to this recommendation;
 - (b) *Prepares*, in consultation with the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, a document that incorporates the views received from Parties; and
 - (c) *Presents* to the Subsidiary Body at its thirteenth meeting options for the identification of emerging issues, the conditions for their inclusion in the agenda of relevant meetings, and appropriate ways to respond to new and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Annex

Suggested procedure for the identification of emerging issues, the conditions for their inclusion in the agenda of relevant meetings, and the mandate to respond to new and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity

1. Before meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice:
 - (a) The Executive Secretary will, in consultation with the members of the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, facilitate a wide consultation with Parties prior to the selection of an emerging issue by the Subsidiary Body and subsequently by the Conference of the Parties;
 - (b) The Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice will apply the following criteria for the selection among different proposals of an emerging issue:

(to be elaborated on the basis of views from Parties)
 - (c) The Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice will advise the Executive Secretary on appropriate sources of information to facilitate preparation of documentation for each emerging issue to be considered by the Subsidiary Body, in accordance with the process established in the consolidated *modus operandi* for the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice contained in annex III to decision VIII/10, including by setting up electronic forums and other appropriate means of consultation;
 - (d) The Executive Secretary, in consultation with the members of the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, will seek to balance the placement of the emerging issue with the existing agenda of the meeting;

(e) The Executive Secretary, in consultation with the members of the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, will identify no more than one emerging issue for each meeting of the Subsidiary Body.

3. During its meetings, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice will:

(a) Assess the impacts of any emerging issue under consideration on the implementation of the Convention and achievement of its three objectives;

(b) Identify any knowledge gaps on any emerging issue and suggest how to fill those gaps;

(c) Consider the relationship of the issue to the existing work and explore the way to integrate it into the work of the Convention;

(d) Identify immediate actions that the Subsidiary Body can take within its mandate and those actions that require consideration by the Conference of the Parties.

Annex II

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE THIRTEENTH MEETING OF THE
SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL
ADVICE (ROME, FEBRUARY 2008)**

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Election of officers, adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. In-depth review of the implementation of the programmes of work on:
 - 3.1. Agricultural biodiversity;
 - 3.2. Forest biodiversity.
4. Scientific and technical issues of relevance to the implementation of the 2010 target:
 - 4.1 Marine and coastal biodiversity: options for preventing and mitigating the impact of some activities to selected seabed habitats, and ecological criteria and biogeographical classification systems for marine areas in need of protection;
 - 4.2 Biological diversity of inland water ecosystems: recent developments on Ramsar site designation criteria, streamlining the work and harmonization of national reporting frameworks between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Ramsar Convention;
 - 4.3 Invasive alien species: report on consultations regarding international standards;
 - 4.4 Climate change: options for mutually supportive actions addressing climate change within the three Rio conventions;
 - 4.5 New and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity: *modus operandi* for addressing new and emerging issues.
5. Draft provisional agendas, dates, and venues for the fourteenth and fifteenth meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.
6. Adoption of the report and closure of the meeting
