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Item 4.6, 4.8, 4.9 and 4.10 of the provisional agenda\*

**PROGRAMMES OF WORK – PROGRESS REPORT AND CONSIDERATION OF  
PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE ACTION**

*Note by the Executive Secretary*

**INTRODUCTION**

1. The present note describes progress since the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the following programmes of work that are included under item 4 of the provisional agenda for the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties:

- (a) Biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands (item 4.6);
- (b) Inland waters biodiversity (item 4.8)
- (c) Marine and coastal biodiversity (item (4.9);
- (d) Island biodiversity (item 4.10)

2. It also includes progress reports and considerations of proposals as requested in the report of the twelfth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) (UNEP/CBD/COP/9/2).

3. The Conference of the Parties may wish to:

- (a) Take note of the progress under the programmes of work;
- (b) Consider and endorse the relevant SBSTTA recommendations on these matters, contained in the reports of its twelfth and thirteenth meetings (UNEP/CBD/COP/9/2 and UNEP/CBD/COP/9/3), and also included in the compilation of draft decisions (UNEP/CBD/COP/9/1/Add.2).

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\* UNEP/CBD/COP/9/1.

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## I. BIODIVERSITY OF DRY AND SUB-HUMID LANDS (ITEM 4.6)

4. In decision VIII/2, the Conference of the Parties requested SBSTTA to present, to its ninth meeting, a progress report on the incorporation of climate change adaptation considerations into the programme of work on dry and sub-humid lands, in particular in activities 1, 2, 4, 7 (i) and 7 (m).

5. SBSTTA further requested the Executive Secretary to undertake the following activities and to report to the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties on progress achieved: (i) in view of the lack of a common definition of dry and sub-humid lands, to clarify the areas under question with a view to harmonizing the delineation of dry and sub-humid lands; (ii) to strengthen collaboration on assessment of status, trends and threats to biodiversity in dry and sub-humid lands; and (iii) 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 of the 2010 target.

6. Finally, in decision VIII/2, the Conference of the Parties requested a document for review, drawing on the outcomes of regional synergy workshops organized jointly by the three Rio conventions and on a consultative workshop to be organized by the executive secretaries of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (subject to the availability of funding) which: identifies (i) priority activities to be implemented by Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to promote the achievement of the 2010 biodiversity targets with respect to dry and sub-humid lands; (ii) capacity-needs, and opportunities to satisfy these needs, so as to facilitate implementation of the activities referred to under subparagraph (i) above; and (iii) major obstacles that may prevent achievement of the 2010 biodiversity targets with respect to dry and sub-humid lands and further identify ways to overcome these obstacles.

### *Progress report on the incorporation of climate change adaptation considerations into the programme of work on dry and sub-humid lands*

7. At its twelfth meeting, SBSTTA considered options for the integration of climate change impacts and response activities within the programmes of work of the Convention, including the programme of work on dry and sub-humid lands (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/12/7). In order to facilitate this consideration the Executive Secretary presented a report on vulnerable regions, sub-regions and ecosystem types in dry and sub-humid lands, a review of current climate-change elements within the programme of work, an assessment of implementation, and recommendations on the enhanced integration of climate change impact and response activities within the programme of work.

8. In considering the report of the Executive Secretary, SBSTTA, proposed a methodology for the enhanced consideration of climate-change impact and response activities within the programmes of work of the Convention. Parties also agreed, however, that this methodology would be applied during the in-depth review of implementation of the programmes of work. Since the in-depth review of the dry and sub-humid lands programme of work was completed for the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, prior to the piloting of the methodology, Parties did not propose any recommendations on the dry and sub-humid lands programme of work. Parties may, therefore, wish to recommend that the methodology be applied to the dry and sub-humid lands programme of work prior to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

9. In the meantime, the Secretariat carried out a number of activities to support implementation of the current climate change components of the programme of work and joint work programme, including (i) developing a website on biodiversity and adaptation with case-studies, tools, methodologies and good practice examples for all programmes of work including dry and sub-humid lands, and (ii) publication, through the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions, of a brochure on adaptation, biodiversity and land degradation.

### *Delineation of dry and sub-humid lands*

10. In response to the request from SBSTTA, the Secretariat, in collaboration with UNEP-WCMC, UNCCD and other partners, has identified three options for the delineation of dry and sub-humid lands. The process of identification included a joint consultation with Parties, other Governments and relevant partners, hosted with the UNCCD on the margins of the ninth meeting of the UNCCD Conference of the Parties in Madrid, Spain. It was, however, discussed that the definition of dry and sub-humid lands adopted by UNCCD is fully integrated into the text of the Convention and, as such, cannot realistically be changed. Maps of all three options are available in the annex.

11. The **text of the UNCCD** defines drylands as, “arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, other than polar and sub-polar regions, in which the ratio of annual precipitation to potential evapotranspiration falls within the range from 0.05 to 0.65”.

12. The UNCCD definition of dry and sub-humid lands contains no biological or ecological criteria. It also excludes hyper-arid areas such as deserts. This definition encompasses 34.9% of the global terrestrial area.

13. The **Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Desertification Synthesis** defines dry lands as, “all terrestrial regions where the production of crops, forage, wood and other ecosystem services are limited by water”. More specifically, this definition includes all areas with a ratio of annual precipitation to potential evapotranspiration of less than 0.65

14. The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment definition of dry and sub-humid lands contains no biological or ecological criteria. This definition encompasses 41.3% of the global terrestrial area.

15. A **study conducted by the World Conservation Monitoring Centre of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP-WCMC)\*** used a geographic information system (GIS) spatial analysis at a global scale to provisionally delineate the areas that the programme of work on dry and sub-humid lands under the Convention on Biological Diversity, as defined by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group, should include: arid and semi-arid lands, grasslands and savannahs, and Mediterranean landscapes.

16. The analysis encompasses maps of the WWF terrestrial ecoregions (WWF-US 2004) and of aridity zones (CRU/UEA; UNEPGRID 1991). In particular, using criteria based on the definition under the Convention on Biological Diversity, the ecoregion descriptions were evaluated to classify areas extending beyond bioclimatic definitions.

17. The definitions of the ecoregions that were adopted for the purpose of this map include:

(a) Mediterranean ecosystems are loosely defined because no single climatic or bioclimatic definition has yet been established. They generally include areas with cool, wet winters and warm or hot dry summers. They encompass a wide range of habitat types (forest, woodland, grassland) and are typified by a low, woody, fire-adapted sclerophyllous shrubland;

(b) Savannah ecosystems are dominated at the ground layer by grasses and grass-like plants. They form a continuum from treeless plains through open woodlands to closed canopy woodlands with a grassy understorey;

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\* [http://www.unep-wcmc.org/habitats/drylands/dryland\\_report\\_final\\_HR.pdf](http://www.unep-wcmc.org/habitats/drylands/dryland_report_final_HR.pdf)

(c) Grassland ecosystems are loosely defined as areas dominated by grasses (*Graminaceae*) or grass-like plants with few woody plants. Periodic drought, highly seasonal rainfall, fire and grazing by large herbivores are typical characteristics of natural grassland and savannah ecosystems.

18. This definition encompasses 47.39% of the global terrestrial area.

***Assessment and establishment of baselines of status, trends and threats to biodiversity in dry and sub-humid lands***

19. Under its DIVERSITY project, the European Space Agency is supporting the efforts of the Convention on Biological Diversity to quantify the change in the rate of biodiversity loss as related to the extent of dry and sub-humid lands. By reclassifying and harmonizing three datasets from 1992/93, 2000 and 2005, the project is developing indicators for the change in dry and sub-humid lands. A prototype map has been prepared to test the approach, and results are expected to become available in the second half of 2008.

***Obstacles, needs and priority activities to promote the achievement of the 2010 biodiversity target with respect to dry and sub-humid lands***

Obstacles, needs and priority activities to promote the achievement of the 2010 biodiversity target in dry and sub-humid lands are drawn from: (i) the in-depth review of implementation of the programme of work on the biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands; (ii) the report of the Regional Workshop for Africa on Synergy among the Rio Conventions and other Biodiversity-related Conventions (UNEP/CBD/WS-Syn.Afr/1/6); and (iii) the report of the Regional Synergy Workshop for Latin America and the Caribbean on the Biodiversity of Agro-ecosystems within Dry and Sub-humid Lands (UNEP/CBD/WS-Syn.Lac/1/4)..

20. Major obstacles that may prevent achievement of the 2010 biodiversity targets with respect to dry and sub-humid lands include: (i) capacity constraints, (ii) weak collaboration and coordination, (iii) gaps in scientific and technical knowledge, and (iv) gaps in public awareness.

21. Capacity constraints reflect a lack of institutional, technical, and financial capacity that can limit the extent to which Parties are able to implement the programme of work. Institutional capacity constraints can include:

- (a) Lack of support at the political level;
- (b) Poorly defined institutional roles and unclear mandates;
- (c) Inadequate human resources (quantitative and qualitative);
- (d) Lack of expertise; and
- (e) Weak governance structures and legislative frameworks.

22. Weak technical capacity can present obstacles as a result of:

- (a) Lack of appropriate training programmes;
- (b) Inadequate information management systems; and
- (c) Poor access to technologies.

23. Poor financial capacity to implement the programme of work can arise from an overall lack of financial resources or poor prioritization of dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity during the assignment

of financial resources. Weak financial capacity also results from limitations in the ability of institutions and programmes to manage financial resources.

24. The lack of clear pathways and methods for collaboration and coordination has been identified as an obstacle on many levels, including between and among:

- (a) National agencies/ministries;
- (b) Different sectors;
- (c) National Governments and regional/global organizations;
- (d) The Rio conventions and other environmental conventions;
- (e) Indigenous and local communities;
- (f) Universities and scientific experts; and
- (g) Civil society.

25. Weak collaboration has also resulted, in some cases, in a disconnect between the needs of Parties and the assistance provided to them by donors and international institutions and from inadequate information exchange between focal points and implementing agencies. At the local level, a lack of local-level funding, poor access to multilateral resources and competition between local organizations can hamper the implementation of activities towards the achievement of the 2010 target.

26. Gaps in scientific and technical knowledge include:

- (a) Weak baselines;
- (b) Poorly defined criteria or a lack of indicators, and gaps in available information;
- (c) Few case-studies that demonstrate impacts on the ground;
- (d) Poor provision of timely and accurate information to convince policy makers to make decisions based on biodiversity and sustainable livelihoods; and
- (e) Weak mechanisms for the collection and sharing of data and knowledge, including indigenous and local knowledge.

27. Gaps in public awareness include:

- (a) Lack of economic assessments of the goods and services provided by dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity; and
- (b) Poor understanding of the ecosystem approach and other management options that deliver biodiversity and livelihood benefits.

28. Other constraints identified by Parties include:

- (a) Limited political support for the Convention at all levels;
- (b) Lack of mainstreaming within poverty reduction and development strategies;

- (c) Poor attention to issues of sustainability and replicability; and
- (d) Ongoing conflicts related to resource-access and use rights.

29. In order to address the above gaps, a number of activities are proposed, as outlined in the following table:

	<i>Activities for Parties</i>	<i>Supporting activities for the Secretariat</i>
Capacity constraints	Establish a clear mandate that would mobilize human and financial resources within the framework of all relevant conventions towards the achievement of the 2010 target	Support synergies through the Joint Liaison Group, Biodiversity Liaison Group and other mechanisms
	Review roles and responsibilities of relevant institutions to facilitate institutional reform and strengthening	Provide case-studies and best practices on incentives and policy frameworks
	Develop sustainable development and sector strategies with an important emphasis on the achievement of the 2010 target	Continue to provide capacity-building support through the regional workshops on national biodiversity strategy and action plans
	Develop national policies which clearly define the importance of the 2010 target as it relates to national priorities	Provide information on the 2010 target within the framework of the Millennium Development Goals
	Create or strengthen national funding sources for activities towards the achievement of the 2010 target	Disseminate information on innovative funding mechanisms
	Ensure that focal points maintain adequate documentation and pass on knowledge and expertise to new focal points and to institutions and organizations acting as operational supporting teams	Support South-South cooperation and other mechanisms for focal points to exchange experiences and lessons learned
Weak collaboration /coordination	Establish a national mandate for collaboration, including new political and institutional mechanisms to implement activities towards the achievement of the 2010 target	Provide case-studies and best practices on coordination mechanisms
	Promote the participation of all stakeholders in the processes of elaborating sustainable development policies so as to avoid conflicting action plans for the achievement of the 2010 target	Provide information on the 2010 target for the general public through, for example, the Global Biodiversity Outlook
	Encourage the adoption of the ecosystem approach as a tool to integrate biophysical and socio-economic considerations towards the achievement of the 2010 target within planning	Continue to support the development and adoption of guidance on the ecosystem approach
	Ensure the participation of “marginalized” groups, such as women and the rural poor, in the design and implementation of activities towards the achievement of the 2010 target	Support the participation of indigenous and local communities in relevant meetings under the Convention
Gaps in scientific and technical knowledge	Provide financial and technical support for national and regional institutions to facilitate research and development that is relevant to the achievement of the 2010 target	Support the exchange of knowledge, best practices and lessons learned through forums such as the Clearing House Mechanism
	Conduct a needs assessment for technical research and technology development	Continue to provide support for technology transfer
	Provide the necessary financial and technical resources to gather, maintain and disseminate information on indicators towards the achievement of the 2010 target	Disseminate, as widely as possible the outputs and findings of the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership

	<i>Activities for Parties</i>	<i>Supporting activities for the Secretariat</i>
	Improve economic assessments on the value of biodiversity in dry and sub-humid lands	Disseminate economic valuation methods through the clearing-house mechanism
	Based on national circumstances, identify livelihood options that support the achievement of the 2010 target in dry and sub-humid lands	Update the case-study database on capacity-building, partnerships and land-use options in dry and sub-humid lands
	Explore the links between climate change and biodiversity in dry and sub-humid lands	Support synergies on adaptation, biodiversity and land degradation through the Joint Liaison Group
Gaps in public awareness	Support the continued education of policy makers on the development implications of the 2010 target	Provide training opportunities back-to-back with relevant meetings
	Develop environmental education curriculum and materials	Provide materials to Parties for the celebration of the International Day for Biodiversity

30. When considering capacity needs, Parties identified three categories: (i) establishing an institutional enabling environment for synergies; (ii) enhancing stakeholder participation; and (iii) addressing financial and human capacity constraints. These are elaborated upon in the following table.

<i>Capacity needs</i>	<i>Examples of actions to meet identified needs</i>
<b><i>Establishing an institutional enabling environment</i></b>	
Need to cover all institutional levels from top (political decision) to bottom	- Include all institutional levels in nbsap development and implementation
Identify stakeholders and, for each, identify clear roles and responsibilities towards the achievement of a common goal / objective	- Build the capacity of marginalized stakeholders to participate - Develop clear communication strategies / procedures between decision makers and stakeholders
Establish strategic alliances through: (i) the identification of programmes and (ii) the identification of organizations working on the programmes	- Identify relevant sectors and sector strategies - Identify overlapping mandates and opportunities for mutually beneficial activities
Adopt appropriate policies (national, sub-regional and regional levels)	- Identify and address perverse incentives - Explore opportunities for positive incentives such as payments for ecosystem services
Need for effective coordination between focal points of different conventions	- Establish focal points for each issue within all relevant ministries, - Combine national coordinating mechanisms of the different conventions into one coordinating body
Ensure continuity of representation and maintenance of institutional memory	- Institute appropriate 'handover' processes for focal points - Maintain adequate knowledge / information management systems
Increase awareness of the importance of implementation of the Convention	- Enhance the understanding of the links between biodiversity and livelihoods - Improve the economic valuation of ecosystem services
<b><i>Enhancing stakeholder participation</i></b>	
Build stronger linkages amongst institutions at all levels and reduce institutional overlaps	- Identify key staff members / focal points in relevant institutions - Establish mechanisms for the exchange of information between institutions
Give more attention to the needs of primary producers and facilitate access to markets	- Identify land-use options that promote biodiversity conservation and income generation among primary producers - Explore alternative livelihood options - Enhance disaster-management capacity
Mainstream the 2010 biodiversity target at the local level	- Build the capacity of local institutions to manage biodiversity - Enhance awareness of the 2010 biodiversity target at the local level - Establish mechanisms to link local actions to national reporting

<i>Capacity needs</i>	<i>Examples of actions to meet identified needs</i>
Increased scientific research in traditional and local knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establish partnerships between indigenous and local communities and universities</li> <li>- Integrate traditional and local knowledge into monitoring and reporting strategies</li> </ul>
Ensure that stakeholders have adequate capacity to absorb assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Maximize the use of local management and conflict resolution mechanisms</li> <li>- Pair local institutional capacity-building with the provision of appropriate financial and technical resources</li> </ul>
<b><i>Addressing financial and human-capacity constraints</i></b>	
Assign additional human and financial resources in responsible ministries/ institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increase political support for the achievement of the 2010 target</li> <li>- Identify critical human resources and financial needs</li> <li>- Explore innovative financing options and enhance awareness of the economic value of ecosystem services</li> </ul>
Ensure appropriate representation at meetings relevant to the 2010 target	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensure that meeting representatives have adequate decision-making power</li> <li>- Provide training to participants ahead of meetings</li> </ul>
Improve adaptive management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensure appropriate monitoring and evaluation frameworks</li> <li>- Provide flexibility for the reallocation of resources as projects / programmes progress</li> </ul>
Enhance public participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Involve stakeholders in all stages of design and implementation</li> <li>- Explore options for community involvement through, for example, schools and volunteer programmes</li> </ul>

## II. BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY OF INLAND WATER ECOSYSTEMS (ITEM 4.8)

31. In paragraph 29 of its decision VII/4, the Conference of the Parties invited the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention and the Scientific and Technical Review Panel of the Ramsar Convention, in collaboration with the Executive Secretary and the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, respectively, and in line with paragraph 30 of resolution VIII.10 of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention, and with a view to achieving a more comprehensive coverage of components of biological diversity through the designation of Ramsar sites, to further elaborate the guidelines on existing criteria for a number of additional features, to consider the development of additional criteria, including, as appropriate, quantitative criteria; and to develop guidelines on the geographical scale at which criteria should be applied. In paragraph 30 of the same decision, the Conference of the Parties further invited the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention, in collaboration with the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, to provide guidance, based on experiences, for the interpretation and application of the Ramsar criteria at the national and regional levels.

32. In paragraph 5 (a) of decision VIII/20, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to review the technical requirements under the programme of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems and compare them with the ongoing and planned activities of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) of the Ramsar Convention in order to identify inconsistencies and propose ways and means to address them to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.

33. In paragraph 5 (b) of decision VIII/20, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to invite the Ramsar Convention to take the lead in developing a draft national reporting framework on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems, taking into consideration, *inter alia*: (i) the needs of both conventions, including their respective needs for reporting on other matters; (ii) additional guidance in, *inter alia*, decisions VIII/14, on national reporting, and VIII/8, on the outcomes of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group on Review of Implementation; (iii) the information

available from outcome-oriented indicators of progress towards the 2010 target; (iv) the reporting activities of other stakeholders and processes; (v) the priority information needs bearing in mind the capacity for national reporting; and (vi) as appropriate, the UNEP Issue-Based Modules for Coherent Implementation of Biodiversity-related Conventions.

34. In activity 1.1.10 (a) of the programme of work (decision VII/4, annex), the Conference of the Parties requested SBSTTA to review existing information on the allocation and management of water for maintaining ecological functions, including the relevant guidelines and technical papers on this topic, and prepare advice for the Conference of the Parties.

35. Recalling that the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Ramsar Convention states that their collaboration shall be expressed through a joint work plan, and noting that the joint work plan (2004-2006) expired at the end of December 2006, a new joint work plan (2007-2010) has been developed between the two secretariats.

36. In response to these decisions the Executive Secretary prepared reports on:

(a) The progress and the current situation regarding Ramsar site-designation criteria in relation to Annex I of the Convention on Biological Diversity, providing an overview of the considerations made by the STRP of the Ramsar Convention and relevant resolutions of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention (prepared in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention);

(b) Proposals to streamline the technical work of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Ramsar Convention in relation to decision VII/4 (decision VIII/20, para. 5 (a));

(c) Progress reported by the Ramsar Convention and the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre on harmonization of reporting between the two conventions; and

(d) A review of existing information on the allocation and management of water for maintaining ecological functions, noting opportunities to promote improved implementation of relevant aspects of decision VII/4.

37. These reports were submitted to the thirteenth meeting of SBSTTA in the note by the Executive Secretary on recent developments on Ramsar site designation criteria, streamlining of the work of, and harmonization of national reporting frameworks between, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Ramsar Convention (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/5).

38. The Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention, also developed a revised joint work plan between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Ramsar Convention. Recommendations on the subject are available in the report of the thirteenth meeting of SBSTTA (UNEP/CBD/COP/9/3, annex, recommendation XIII/4).

### **III. BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY OF MARINE AND COASTAL BIODIVERSITY (ITEM 4.9)**

#### ***Information on research activities related to deep-seabed genetic resources beyond the limits of national jurisdiction***

39. In paragraph 4 of decision VIII/21, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity invited Parties, other Governments, research institutions and other relevant organizations to make available information on research activities related to deep seabed genetic resources beyond the limits of national jurisdiction and to ensure that the results of such marine scientific research and

analysis, when available, are effectively disseminated through international channels, as appropriate, in accordance with international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. In this decision, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with relevant organizations, to compile and further disseminate such information through the clearing-house mechanism.

40. In response, Parties, other Governments, relevant research institutions and other relevant organizations were invited to provide information on their research activities for posting on the website of the Convention on Biological Diversity, by Notification 2006-069, dispatched on 23 June 2006. Responses have been received to date from the following Parties, other Governments and organizations: Poland, Thailand, European Union, United States of America and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Compiled information has been posted on the website of the Convention on Biological Diversity (see <http://www.cbd.int/marine/seabed.shtml>). A second call for the submission of information was made on 21 December 2007 in Notification 2007-166, and the website will continue to be updated as further information is collected.

***Options for preventing and mitigating the impacts of some activities to selected seabed habitats***

41. In decision VIII/21, paragraph 7, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (UNDOALOS), and other relevant international organizations, to further analyse and explore options for preventing and mitigating the impacts of some activities to selected seabed habitats and report the findings to future meetings of SBSTTA.

42. In response, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in collaboration with UNDOALOS, prepared for the thirteenth meeting of SBSTTA an information document on options for preventing and mitigating the impacts of some activities to selected seabed habitats (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/INF/13).

43. The document describes a number of options for preventing and mitigating the impacts of some activities on selected seabed habitats, particularly hydrothermal vent, cold-seep, seamount, cold-water coral and sponge-reef ecosystems, each of which contains high levels of endemism and diversity, and is a potential source of new genetic resources with potential commercial applications. These options include: (i) the use of codes of conduct, guidelines and principles; (ii) permits and environmental impact assessments; (iii) area-based management of uses, including through establishment of marine protected areas; and (iv) ecosystem-based and integrated management approach.

44. At its fifty-ninth session, the United Nations General Assembly called for the establishment of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction. Participants in the first meeting of the Working Group, in February 2006, reaffirmed that the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) sets out the legal framework for all activities in the oceans and seas and that any action relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction should be consistent with its legal framework (A/61/65). The second meeting of the Working Group will be held in April 2008 to discuss the issues listed in paragraph 91 of resolution 61/222 of 20 December 2006, namely:

(a) The environmental impacts of anthropogenic activities on marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction;

(b) Coordination and cooperation among States as well as relevant intergovernmental organizations and bodies for the conservation and management of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction;

- (c) The role of area-based management tools;
- (d) Genetic resources beyond areas of national jurisdiction;
- (e) Whether there is a governance or regulatory gap, and if so, how it should be addressed.

45. In the same resolution, the General Assembly called on States to take action on, *inter alia*: protection and preservation of the marine environment; addressing destructive practices that impact marine biodiversity and ecosystems; and increasing marine scientific research in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. The General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to convene the eighth meeting of the United Nations Open-Ended Informal Consultative Process on the Law of the Sea, focusing on the theme of marine genetic resources. The Secretariat attended this eighth meeting of the Consultative Process, which was organized at United Nations Headquarters from 25 to 29 June 2007, and made a panel presentation on its current activities related to marine genetic resources.

46. A draft document—International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-sea Fisheries in the High Seas—was prepared at the request of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) at its twenty-seventh session (March 2007) in order to assist States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements (RFMOs/As) in sustainably managing deep-sea fisheries and in implementing the United Nations General Assembly resolution 61/105 with respect to the protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems. The draft Guidelines will be reviewed in February 2008 from policy perspectives. It will then be submitted to the twenty-eighth session of COFI for discussion and endorsement. To provide insights on this issue, FAO also organized the Workshop on Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems and Destructive Fishing (Rome, 26-29 June 2007) and the Workshop on Knowledge and Data on Deep-Sea Fisheries in the High Seas (Rome, 5-7 November 2007).

47. IUCN organized the Workshop on High Seas Governance for the 21st Century” in New York City from 17 to 19 October 2007. The Workshop explored policy and regulatory options to improve ocean governance beyond areas of national jurisdiction particularly as they relate to the protection and preservation of the marine environment and marine biological diversity.

48. The Secretariat participated in the Strategic Planning Workshop on Global Ocean Issues in Marine Areas beyond National Jurisdiction in the Context of Climate Change, organized by the Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands, held in Nice, France, from 23 to 25 January 2008. The Workshop considered the challenges and opportunities in improving the governance of marine areas beyond national jurisdiction and discussed what activities could be feasible and beneficial to carry out in this area in the next ten years.

***Synthesis and review of the best available scientific studies on priority areas for biodiversity conservation in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction***

49. In paragraph 44 (a) of decision VIII/24, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to synthesize, with peer-review, the best available scientific studies on priority areas for biodiversity conservation in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction, including information on status, trends and threats to biodiversity of these areas as well as distribution of seamounts, cold-water coral reefs and other ecosystems, their functioning and the ecology of associated species, and to disseminate this through the clearing-house mechanism. In undertaking this task, the Executive Secretary was asked to work actively with, and to take into account scientific information available from, the range of relevant expertise available in governmental, intergovernmental, non-governmental, regional and scientific

institutions, expert scientific processes and workshops, and indigenous and local communities, where appropriate.

50. In response to this decision, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity produced an information document titled “Synthesis and Review of the Best Available Scientific Studies on Priority Areas for Biodiversity Conservation in Marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction” (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/INF/11, available at <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meeting.aspx?mtg=SBSTTA-13>).

51. The document reviews and synthesizes existing literature for the priority habitats listed in decision VIII/24, which include seamounts, cold-water coral reefs, hydrothermal vents and other ecosystems in areas beyond national jurisdiction. The document presents, in synthesized format, information about the distribution, status and trends (where available), as well as the threats facing these ecosystems. Information about the functioning of these ecosystems and the ecology of associated species is also provided. The document also reviews work that has been undertaken to identify priority conservation areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.

52. The document concluded that there is clear evidence of detrimental human impacts to cold-water coral, sponge reef, hydrothermal vents, and seamounts, supporting the need for undertaking conservation action even if our scientific understanding of these ecosystems is still imperfect. Major existing and potential anthropogenic threats are posed by destructive fishing practices and illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, as well as mining, marine scientific research and bioprospecting with destructive impacts. Ocean acidification was identified as a potentially serious threat to cold-water corals and other deep-water biodiversity. The document was reviewed by the 13th meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.

***Development of an interactive map (IMap) and review of spatial databases containing information on marine areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction***

53. In decision VIII/24, paragraph 44 (c), the Executive Secretary was requested to work actively with, and to take into account scientific information available from, the range of relevant expertise available in governmental, intergovernmental, non-governmental, regional and scientific institutions, expert scientific processes and workshops, and indigenous and local communities, where appropriate, to collaborate in the further development of spatial databases containing information on marine areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, including the distribution of habitats and species, in particular rare or fragile ecosystems, as well as the habitats of depleted, threatened or endangered species, and data on national and regional marine protected areas and networks.

54. In response to this decision, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Center (WCMC) collaborated on developing the Interactive Map (IMAP), an up-to-date internet-accessible map of protective measures related to high-seas marine protected areas (HSMPAs) and key habitat distributions, such as deep-sea corals and seamounts, and ecological regions. Over 40 different data sources containing information about marine areas beyond national jurisdiction have been identified. Further collaborative efforts should be made on developing strong linkages among ongoing research initiatives. The IMap can be found at: <http://www.cbd.int/marine/tools.shtml> (linked to <http://bure.unep-wcmc.org/marine/highseas>).

55. An information document, “Development of an Interactive Map (IMap) and Review of Spatial Databases Containing Information on Marine Areas Beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction” (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/INF/12, available at <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meeting.aspx?mtg=SBSTTA-13>), was also produced and reviewed by the thirteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.

***Ecological criteria and biogeographic classification systems for marine areas in need of protection***

56. In paragraph 46 of decision VIII/24, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity decided to convene a scientific expert workshop and requested the Executive Secretary to provide the results of this workshop to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice prior to the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as well as to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for the purpose of informing the process under the General Assembly of the United Nations.

57. In response to this decision, the Executive Secretary, with generous financial support from the Government of Portugal, organized an Expert Workshop on Ecological Criteria and Biogeographic Classification Systems for Marine Areas in Need of Protection from 2 to 4 October 2007 in Azores, Portugal. In accordance with the terms of reference, as described in annex II of decision VIII/24, the workshop developed:

(a) A consolidated set of scientific criteria for identifying ecologically or biologically significant marine areas in need of protection, in open-ocean waters and deep-sea habitats, consisting of seven criteria: (i) uniqueness or rarity, (ii) special importance for life history stages of species, (iii) importance for threatened, endangered or declining species and/or habitats, (iv) vulnerability, fragility, sensitivity or slow recovery, (v) biological productivity, (vi) biological diversity, and (vii) naturalness; and

(b) A consolidated set of scientific criteria for representative networks of marine protected areas, including in open-ocean waters and deep-sea habitats, consisting of five criteria: (i) ecologically and biologically significant areas, (ii) representativity, (iii) connectivity, (iv) replicated ecological features, and (v) adequate and viable sites.

58. The Expert Workshop reviewed biogeographical and ecological classification systems for delineating ocean regions and ecosystems, including the preliminary results of the Scientific Experts' Workshop on Biogeographic Classification Systems in Open Ocean and Deep Seabed Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction, held from 22 to 24 January 2007, in Mexico City, and put forward recommendations for further work, including the principles for the development and adoption of a global bioregionalization of ocean regions.

59. Details of the workshop results are provided in the workshop report (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/INF/14, available at <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meeting.aspx?mtg=SBSTTA-13>), which was reviewed by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its thirteenth meeting.

***Compilation and analysis of case-studies on successful and unsuccessful implementation of integrated marine and coastal area management***

60. In paragraph 7 of decision VIII/22, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity requested the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with Parties, relevant organizations and indigenous and local communities, to compile and analyse case-studies on successful and unsuccessful implementation of integrated marine and coastal area management, and to provide lessons learned for the consideration of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice before the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

61. In response to this decision, the Secretariat has undertaken the following activities so far:

(a) A preliminary compilation of case-studies, reports and articles was undertaken in collaboration with relevant organizations and programmes, programmes and projects, including Global Environment Facility international waters projects and UNEP regional seas programmes. A simple

database format for the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity was prepared and is being tested. Further consultation shall be made with the relevant experts on the format of the database and the approach to populating and maintaining the database;

(b) The third national reports submitted by Parties were analysed, in collaboration with the Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts and Islands, to assess the progress made in the implementation of integrated marine and coastal management and identify major problems and obstacles; and

(c) Efforts are being made with various global and regional organizations and programmes (e.g., UNEP Regional Seas Programme, GEF IW Projects, Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts and Islands) to facilitate systematic, collaborative compilation and analysis of case-studies on integrated marine and coastal area management.

#### ***Collaboration with other United Nations organizations and non-governmental organizations***

62. In relation to the decisions VIII/21 and VIII/24, the Secretariat has undertaken the following collaborative activities with other relevant United Nations organizations:

(a) The Secretariat provided inputs to: (i) the Secretary General's report for the second meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction; and (ii) the Secretary General's reports on oceans and the law of the sea, for the sixty-second and sixty-third sessions of the General Assembly;

(b) The Secretariat co-chaired, together with the Division for Oceans Affairs and the Law of the Sea, the UN-OCEANS Task Force on Biodiversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction and prepared a joint contribution to the report of the Secretary General for the second meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction, and to the discussion on marine genetic resources at the eighth meeting of the United Nations Open-Ended Informal Consultative Process on the Law of the Sea; and

(c) The Secretariat was also requested to co-chair, together with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), the United Nations Environment Programme, and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the UN-OCEANS Task Force on Marine Protected Areas and Other Area-Based Management Tools, established by the fifth UN-OCEANS meeting, held from 21 to 22 May 2007, at IOC headquarters.

63. The Secretariat served as a coordinator for the Working Group on Marine Biodiversity and Networks of Marine Protected Areas of the Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts and Islands, and coordinated the preparation of a policy brief to be submitted to the fourth Global Conference on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands: Advancing Ecosystem Management and Integrated Coastal and Ocean Management by 2010 in the Context of Climate Change, to be held in Hanoi from 7 to 11 April 2008.

#### **IV. ISLAND BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (ITEM 4.10)**

64. The Conference of the Parties adopted the island biodiversity programme of work (decision VIII/1, annex) at its eighth meeting, held in Curitiba, Brazil, from 20 to 31 March 2006. This report summarizes the activities and achievements of the Secretariat, Parties and other organizations to date in implementing the programme of work, as well as the challenges and potential activities ahead.

#### ***Activities of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity***

Section C of programme of work, on supporting activities by the Secretariat, refers to the development by the Secretariat of a list of partners for the implementation of the programme of work, disseminate

information, encourage capacity-building, liaise with relevant conventions and organizations, and set up a web portal on island biodiversity. An initial islands web portal was created in 2007 (<http://www.cbd.int/island/>), including public information, case-studies and other resources. A list of potential partners for each of the goals of the programme of work was compiled in early 2007. Paragraph 22 of decision VIII/1 requests Parties to monitor progress in implementing the programme of work, and to report to the Conference of the Parties, while paragraph 22 of the actual programme of work indicates that national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) incorporating the island biodiversity programme of work should take into the account the ecosystem approach as the logical planning and management tool for integral island policies. On 19 October 2007, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) co-organized a preliminary meeting in Alotau, Papua New Guinea, to discuss a joint regional capacity-building workshop on implementing NBSAPs and mainstreaming biodiversity in Pacific islands and island States.

65. Also in response to section C of the programme of work, the Secretariat organized the Workshop on the Ecosystem Approach and Customary Practice in Protected Areas in Small Islands in Bangkok, from 12 to 16 December 2006. The workshop was developed jointly with the United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS) and the IUCN. The Workshop was hosted by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Government of Thailand and made possible through the generous financial support of the Government of the Netherlands and the Christensen Fund. The workshop report can be found at: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meeting.aspx?mtg=WSEAPASI-01>.

#### ***Financial support from the Global Environmental Facility (GEF)***

66. Responding to paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 of decision VIII/1, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) is supporting significant new funding for island-focused initiatives at national, regional and global levels. This island-focused strategy was announced with strong support from Heads of State and top Government leaders of the 15 small island States and territories at the 8th Pacific Island Conference of Leaders in May, 2007 in Washington, DC. It includes new GEF-Pacific Alliance for Sustainability (GEF-PAS) funding of approximately US\$ 100 million over three years, a nearly six-fold increase for the Pacific island region on an annual basis.

67. In response to top national priorities for islands globally, GEF-PAS will work through four areas of concern: (i) biodiversity; (ii) climate change mitigation and adaptation; (iii) international waters; and (iv) cross-cutting issues integrated across sectors, such as land and water management.

#### ***Voluntary commitments from Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and other Governments***

68. Encouraged by the programme of work on island biodiversity under the Convention on Biological Diversity, many Parties and partners have made significant voluntary commitments to implement key components of the island biodiversity programme of work. Action has focused particularly on priority targets for protected areas, addressing threats and increasing capacity and financing for implementation. A partial list of significant commitments made in the past two years is given below.

#### ***Conservation of island biodiversity***

69. At the eighth meeting of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the President of Palau, HE Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr., announced the "Micronesia Challenge" to effectively conserve at least 30% of the near-shore resources and 20% of the terrestrial resources. Working together, the Heads of State of five Micronesian countries and territories—the Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, the Marshall Islands, United States Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the United States

Territory of Guam—made a shared commitment to achieve these goals regionally. To date, US\$ 12 million has been committed by GEF, The Nature Conservancy and Conservation International toward the US\$ 18 million phase-one target for sustainable financing of this regional initiative.

70. The Caribbean Challenge Marine Initiative (CCMI) grew out of Grenada's declaration to protect 25% of their marine and terrestrial areas by 2020 (made at the same time as the Micronesia Challenge at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity). The Bahamas, which previously committed to protecting 20% of its marine area, suggested the development of a Caribbean Challenge. Since then, the CCMI is being developed as a series of sub-regional and national Global Environmental Facility (GEF) projects – all with a focus on supporting these countries to meet the programmes of work on protected areas and islands under the Convention on Biological Diversity. The countries, assisted by GLISPA, expect to formally announce the CCMI at a high-level-event at the upcoming ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held in Bonn, in May 2008. The World Bank will be the main implementing agency for the sub-regional Eastern Caribbean project ( Antigua & Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines), while a second sub-regional project, to be implemented by UNEP, includes the Santo Domingo Biological Corridor Declaration countries (Cuba, Dominican Republic, and Haiti). National projects are being planned with the Bahamas and potentially Jamaica.

71. Sao Tome and Principe created the Parques Naturais d'Obo, with a total of 240 square kilometres or up to 30% of the island republic's area. The Sao Tome and Principe Park Service is now in the process of establishing management plans and fundraising strategies.

72. Indonesia's President Yudhoyono initiated negotiations to foster commitments with other Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to conserve coral mega-diversity in the Coral Triangle (Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste, and Papua New Guinea). The first meeting of Senior Officials of the Coral Triangle Initiative was held in Bali, on 6 and 7 December 2007, and the countries agreed on a framework to develop an Action Plan, guided by an agreed set of principles, by May 2009. The GEF, ADB, The Nature Conservancy, WWF and Conservation International have announced financial commitments and technical support, and Australia has committed to sharing scientific expertise and hosting a marine management workshop for the region in 2008.

73. Fiji has committed to establishing 30% of its inshore and offshore marine areas as a network of protected areas by 2020.

74. Kiribati launched the Phoenix Islands Marine Protected Area (PIPA) at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, in 2006. At 184,700 square kilometres (18.5 million hectares), PIPA is the third-largest marine protected area in the world.

75. In April 2007, Madagascar created 15 new protected areas covering nearly 1 million hectares (2.4 million acres) of land, including 1.2 million acres of dense forest in the southeast, 684,000 acres of forests and lakes in a wetland complex on the northwest coast, and mangroves and lakes in the Menabe Central Forest. President Ravalomanana has moved to protect some 2 million hectares of land over the past two years and aims to achieve the target of the Convention on Biological Diversity of 10 percent by the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

76. In June 2006, the United States established the largest marine protected area in the world, Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, in the Northwestern Hawaiian islands.

77. The Western Indian Ocean Marine Protected Area Initiative was launched in Madagascar and includes Seychelles, Mauritius, the Comores, and Madagascar, to facilitate exchanges to strengthen or

initiate marine protected area networks, share expertise and examples for sustainable financing plans and connect with other islands to share lessons in effective management of MPAs using radar technology.

*Threats to island biodiversity*

78. New Zealand, as the leader of the Cooperative Islands Initiative to reduce impacts of invasive alien species on island biodiversity and livelihoods, has helped build national capacity and support strategic regional assistance to Pacific islands to achieve targets 10 and 11 of the island biodiversity programme of work (“control threats to island biodiversity from invasive alien species”). Cooperation between New Zealand and the Secretariat was enhanced by a mission to Wellington and Auckland, in October 2007, including a workshop with senior officials on leveraging New Zealand’s experience on controlling invasive alien species in Pacific islands. New Zealand also matched the UNDP/GEF’s Small Grants programme across the Pacific, bringing totals beyond US\$ 1.2 million for a wide range of projects.

79. President Michel of the Seychelles launched the Sea Level Rise Foundation at the opening of GLISPA’s Strategy Meeting in September 2007, in Rome. The President called for global attention and action to address the devastating impacts of climate change on vulnerable island people and ecosystems. This Foundation will provide a mechanism for leveraging attention and focus on these impacts on Small Island developing States (SIDS). The Sea Level Rise Foundation will bring resources and expertise together to support small island States, islands and other low-lying areas in adapting to this threat.

*Increasing capacities and financing for implementation*

80. Australia, through the Department of Environment, has provided over 3.5 million Australian dollars in grants to projects involving biodiversity conservation in Mauritius and several Pacific island states (Kiribati, Federated States of Micronesia, Vanuatu, Tonga, Marshall Islands, Fiji, Cook Islands, Tuvalu) and South-East Asian States with islands.

81. Aside from dedicating 9 million euros for reef conservation over the last two years through the National Initiative for Coral Reefs (IFRECOR) and the Coral Reef Initiative for the South Pacific (CRISP) programmes, France, in collaboration with IUCN, is organizing a meeting in Réunion on islands and climate change, particularly with respect to European islands and overseas countries and territories.

82. Italy hosted and supported the strategy meeting organized by the Global Island Partnership (see below) and demonstrated its long-term commitment in support of IUCN’s islands programme in the Mediterranean and globally.

83. In 2006-2007 Palau created and filled the new position of National Invasive Species Coordinator, and implemented “Operation Counter-Invasion,” a one-year project to initiate implementation of the National Invasive Species Strategy, targeting specific invasive species and developing a strategic plan to prevent and manage invasive species.

84. The Pacific Invasives Learning Network (PILN) was launched in May 2006 to strengthen the capacity of Pacific island agencies to address the threat of invasive species to their ecosystems and economies. To date, multi-sector invasive teams from 14 Pacific island countries, states and territories have joined PILN and advanced their work on invasive species. PILN is based at the Secretariat for the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) in Apia, Samoa and supported by a multi-agency partnership that includes Palau, American Samoa, New Zealand’s PII, the US Forest Service, Birdlife International, Conservation International, IUCN, Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), SPREP, The Nature Conservancy and the University of the South Pacific.

85. The United States Government is providing significant financial and technical support to the Coral Triangle Initiative, Micronesia Challenge and Kiribati's Phoenix Island Protected Area.

***The Global Island Partnership (GLISPA)***

86. Many of the voluntary commitments described above were catalyzed, assisted or facilitated by the Global Island Partnership, including the Micronesia Challenge, Caribbean Challenge Marine Initiative, Coral Triangle Initiative, Western Indian Ocean MPA Initiative and others. GLISPA will continue to actively assist all members in achieving these commitments.

87. Since it was first called for at the Mauritius International Meeting in January 2005 and launched at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Brazil in March 2006, the Global Island Partnership has grown rapidly. To date, GLISPA has engaged more than 20 countries and 20 implementing and donor organizations in commitments to significant action and funding for conservation and sustainable livelihoods on islands.

88. The GLISPA group spans all the regions of the world and includes leaders from small island States, large island nations, overseas territories and donor countries as well as local, national, regional and international organizations. The Partnership has achieved this without formal structure or dedicated staffing.

89. In September 2007, a group of active partners met in Rome to outline GLISPA's first strategic plan and a global consultation process. This GLISPA 2008-2010 Strategy will guide the Partnership and provide the necessary support structure, as GLISPA continues to evolve over the next three years.

90. GLISPA is also working with key countries to develop new commitments on:

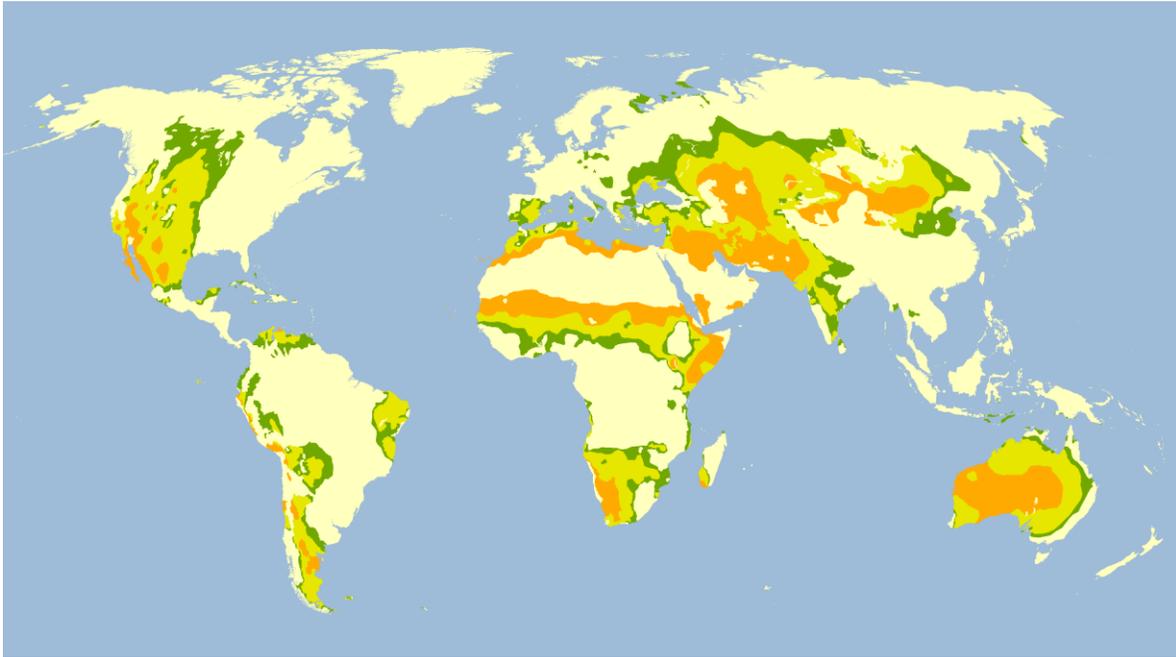
(a) *Invasive species.* Partners are exploring options for regional and global collaboration in invasive species prevention and management on islands, building on the experiences of the Cooperative Islands Initiative and other effective approaches. These efforts will be coordinated with the in-depth review of invasive alien species at the ninth Conference of the Parties.

(b) *Islands database.* In response to requests from many international stakeholders, UNEP-WCMC, in partnership with the Global Islands Network and many other institutions and specialists, proposed to develop the Global Database on Island Biodiversity to provide several products to communicate key issues in island conservation, including an islands web portal and a World Atlas of Island Biodiversity;

(c) Other initiatives being examined by GLISPA members include greater collaboration with Mediterranean islands and opportunities to advance ecosystem-based management of fisheries and large marine ecosystems and sustainable tourism on islands. More information on GLISPA can be found at: <http://www.cbd.int/island/glispa.shtml>.

## MAPS OF THE DELINEATION OF DRY AND SUB-HUMID LANDS

Map 1: Delineation according to the UNCCD



### UNCCD delineation of drylands

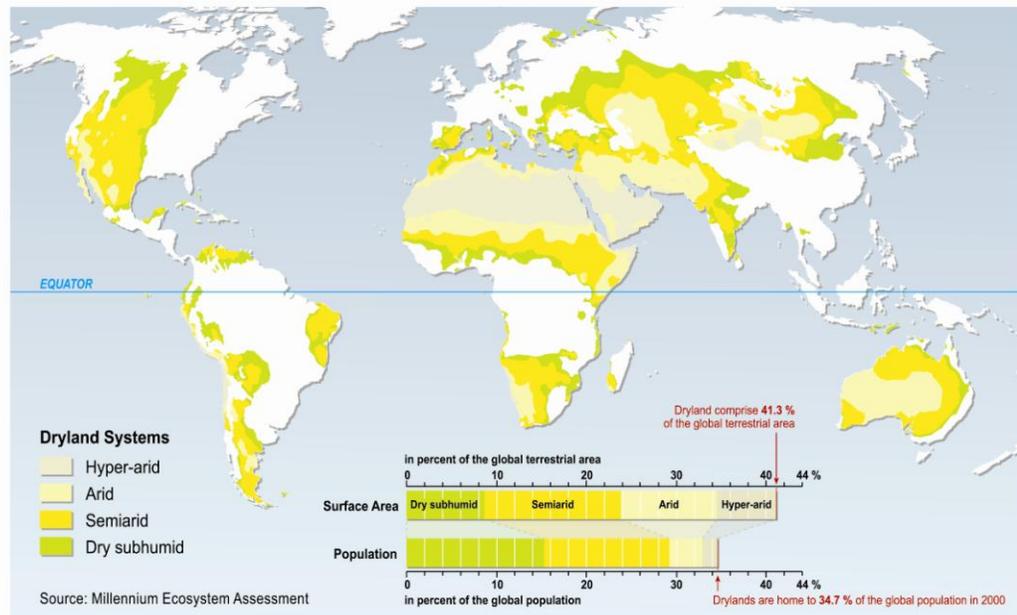
- dry subhumid: P/PET 0.50 - 0.65
- semiarid: P/PET 0.20 - 0.50
- arid: P/PET 0.05 - 0.20



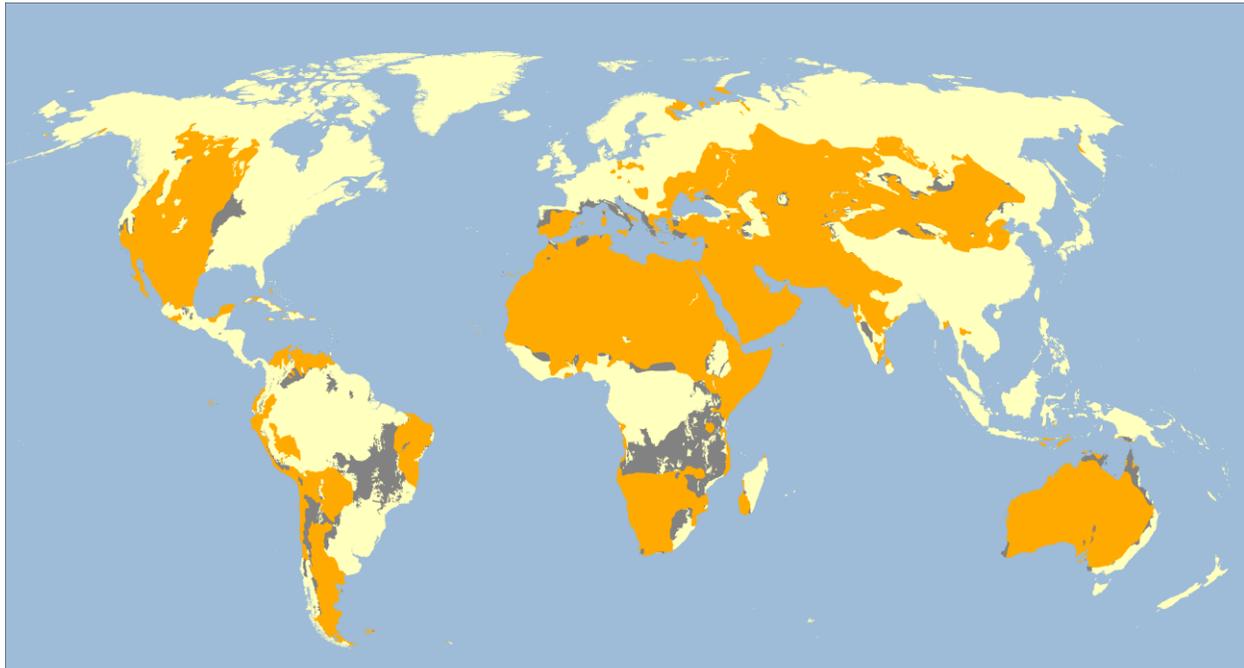
Source: ESRI, 1993; CRU/UEA; UNEP/GRID, 1991  
Scale: 1:100 million  
Projection: Robinson

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Map 2: Delineation according to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment



**Map 3: According to precipitation and ecosystem definitions including arid and semi-arid lands, grasslands and savannahs and Mediterranean landscapes†**



**Delineation of areas in relation to the CBD PoW on Dry and Subhumid Lands**

- included by definition,  $P/PET < 0.65$
- presumed included: dryland features, but  $P/PET \geq 0.65$



Source: ESRI, 1993; UNEP/GRID, 1991  
CRU/UEA; WWF-US, 2004  
Scale: 1:100 million  
Projection: Robinson  
© UNEP-WCMC, 2007

†

[http://www.unep-wcmc.org/habitats/drylands/dryland\\_report\\_final\\_HR.pdf](http://www.unep-wcmc.org/habitats/drylands/dryland_report_final_HR.pdf)