



Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/COP/9/21/Rev.1
9 April 2008

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Ninth meeting

Bonn, 19-30 May 2008

Item 4.13 of the provisional agenda*

COOPERATION WITH OTHER CONVENTIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND INITIATIVES AND ENGAGEMENT OF STAKEHOLDERS

Revised note by the Executive Secretary

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Conference of the Parties has consistently noted the importance of cooperation and synergy with other organizations, conventions, initiatives and processes, as well as with stakeholders in all major groups, in the achievement of the objectives of the Convention, as recognized by the Strategic Plan, adopted through decision VI/26, and in particular, in its objectives 1.2, 1.3 and 4.4.

2. Recognizing the need for enhanced cooperation, the Conference of the Parties, in decision VIII/16 requested Parties to facilitate cooperation among international organizations, to promote the integration of biodiversity concerns into all relevant sectors, and to coordinate among national focal points and scientific bodies for all relevant conventions. During the biennium, the secretariat has redoubled its efforts to promote cooperation with sister agencies; twenty-seven memoranda of understanding have been signed and are accessible at CBD website. The convening of organs of the Convention on Biological Diversity at the United Nations headquarters in Paris, Geneva and Rome has also facilitated inter-agency collaboration.

3. Cooperation the other bodies and stakeholder groups is an integral part of the various programmes of work of the Convention and is also integrated into the cross-cutting issues. Therefore, most substantive areas of cooperation are addressed under other agenda items and are covered in other documents prepared for the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (see, in particular, UNEP/CBD/COP/9/19 and UNEP/CBD/COP/9/20). This note therefore provides a summary of progress in relevant work (section II). It also describes initiatives on cities and biodiversity (section III) and South-South collaboration (section IV). Finally, section V contains a draft decision for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties. This document is supplemented by UNEP/CBD/COP/9/21/Add.1, which considers work to engage the private sector, as a follow-up to decision VIII/17.

* UNEP/CBD/COP/9/1.

II. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISIONS ADOPTED AT THE EIGHTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES REGARDING COOPERATION WITH OTHER BODIES

A. Cooperation among the Rio conventions

4. At its eighth meeting, the Conference of the Parties re-emphasized the importance of the Joint Liaison Group and called for enhanced coordination between the three Rio conventions, including through: (i) the development of options for activities to be jointly implemented by the secretariats, (ii) an assessment of obstacles, lessons learned and resource implications of additional options, and (iii) the mobilization of more resources to support joint liaison arrangements between the Rio conventions.

5. In support of these activities, the Executive Secretary prepared, for consideration by the Joint Liaison Group, options for mutually supportive activities for the secretariats, parties and other relevant organizations to promote synergies among the Rio conventions.

6. The Joint Liaison Group decided, at its seventh meeting, held in Bonn, on 7 June 2007 to consider options for activities for the Secretariats and agreed to prepare, for its eighth meeting, a feasibility study for the proposed activities and an analysis of the resource implications associated with implementation.

7. At its eighth meeting, held 12 September 2007, on the margins of the meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the Joint Liaison Group agreed to implement a set of activities and to further consider additional activities, as presented in UNEP/CBD/COP/9/3.

8. Collaboration between the secretariats of the Rio conventions with regard to communication, education and public awareness issues has been further enhanced through the biennium. The three Rio conventions have continued to jointly produce the Rio conventions calendar and distribute it to their respective networks. As a member of the Informal Advisory Committee for Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat is briefed and a full partner in the implementation of the programme of work for CEPA, where collaboration is warranted. This year, the Secretariat of the UNFCCC organized a workshop on communication, education and Web-based tools, in which the possibilities for joint action were explored.

9. The Joint Liaison Group further agreed to produce two publications: (i) on forests, biodiversity, climate change and land degradation and (ii) on adaptation, biodiversity and land degradation. These publications were launched at a joint event on the margins of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC. Also at this event, the Rio conventions launched the Rio conventions 2008 calendar. The ninth meeting of the Joint Liaison Group will be held in Bonn on the margins the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and will be chaired by the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

10. The Executive Secretary also convened, in collaboration with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), a Regional Synergy Workshop for Latin America and the Caribbean on agricultural biodiversity in dry and sub-humid lands. The results of this meeting, which was held in Antigua and Barbuda from 20 to 23 November 2006, contribute to the identification of obstacles to the achievement of the 2010 target in dry and sub-humid lands, contained in UNEP/CBD/COP/9/19.

11. In order to enhance awareness of biodiversity issues among participants at the Conference of the Parties to the other Rio conventions, the Executive Secretary convened a series of side-events at the twelfth and thirteenth meetings of the Conference of the Parties and the twenty-seventh meeting of the Subsidiary Bodies to the UNFCCC, the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the fifth meeting of the Committee on the Review of Implementation of the Convention to the UNCCD.

B. Cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions

12. In its decision VIII/16, the Conference of the Parties welcomed the paper developed jointly by the secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971) and the World Heritage Convention on options for enhanced cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/7/Add.2), and encouraged the liaison group to address concrete elements on a number of issues. The Conference of the Parties also noted the need for enhanced cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions at the level not only of their respective secretariats, but of their respective scientific and technical bodies.

13. The fifth meeting of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions was held in Gland, Switzerland in September 2006 and was chaired by Ramsar. The Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture accepted the invitation to join the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (decision VII/16, paragraph 15). A Memorandum of Cooperation between the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Secretariat of the Treaty has also been signed. In addition an informal joint meeting of SBSTTA 13 and the Bureau of the Treaty was held in Rome on 21 February 2008 .

14. In response to paragraph 6 of decision VII/26, the Liaison Group discussed areas in which further collaboration and streamlining could reduce the burden for both Contracting Parties and Secretariats, including: harmonization of national reporting; the application across the conventions of the provisional framework of goals, targets and indicators for evaluating progress towards the 2010 biodiversity target; the use of guidance developed under one process by other processes; cooperation in the implementation of the programme of work on protected areas; knowledge management across conventions; interoperability mechanism; joint calendars; and the joint representation in meetings.

15. The Addis Ababa Guidelines on Sustainable Use are being applied – at least in part – by CMS and CITES. All conventions are involved in refining the indicators adopted by the Convention on Biological Diversity, including the disaggregation of datasets for specific target groups, as well as the preparations to report on the achievement of the 2010 target through the third edition of Global Biodiversity Outlook and other material prepared during the International Year for Biodiversity in 2010.

16. Collaboration in these fields is particularly advanced between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Ramsar Convention. Progress on harmonizing national reporting between the two conventions (decision VIII/20, paragraphs 5 (b) to (d) was reported to the 13th meeting of SBSTTA (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/5). Subsequently, the analysis undertaken by UNEP-WCMC is finalized, and the outcomes will be reviewed by both Secretariats with proposals to be considered by the tenth meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention and the CBD. Ramsar's work on indicators (partly in response to decision VIII/15 para 25) has progressed substantially through the inter-sessional work of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel, which is currently drafting relevant guidance to be considered at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention. This process has considered and will enhance the suite of indicators developed by the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Ramsar Convention has also recognized, promoted and used such guidelines as the voluntary guidelines on biodiversity-inclusive impact assessment (also recognized by CMS) and the Addis Ababa Guidelines on Sustainable Use.

17. In recommendation XIII/4, SBSTTA recognized the progress made by the Ramsar Convention in responding to requests from the Conference of the Parties and/or SBSTTA. Paragraph 3 (a) notes progress by the Ramsar Convention with regard to the elaboration of criteria for the designation of Ramsar sites (in response to decision VII/4, paragraphs 29 and 30); paragraph 3 (d) supports the new joint work plan between the two Conventions; and para 3 (g) notes the importance of water, wetlands, biodiversity and climate change, and recommends that the Conference of the Parties invite the Ramsar Convention to do more in this area.

18. The Ramsar Convention has responded positively to invitations from the Convention on Biological Diversity to carry out certain tasks and to consider adopting relevant CBD guidance in a number of areas. However, at its 13th meeting, SBSTTA was unable to reach consensus on recognising the relevance and value of existing guidance adopted by the Ramsar Convention in a technical area in which SBSTTA had been requested to provide contributions to the Convention. The next meeting of the Biodiversity Liaison Group will take place in Bonn, in May 2008, on the margins of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and will be chaired by CMS.

19. In response to paragraph 7 of decision VIII/16, noting the need for enhanced cooperation among the Rio conventions and the biodiversity-related conventions at the level not only of their respective secretariats, but of their respective scientific and technical bodies, the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with UNEP, organized the first meeting of the chairs of scientific advisory bodies of biodiversity-related conventions, on the margins of the twelfth meeting of SBSTTA (1 July 2007). The second meeting will take place in May 2008, in Bonn on the margins of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the third meeting is schedule to take place in Barcelona, in October 2008 at the margins of the IUCN Congress. In addition an MOU with universities has been signed.

C. Cooperation with other relevant conventions and agreements

20. During the reporting period, the secretariat has enhanced its cooperation with regional conventions such as the Bern Convention.

21. In decision VIII/21, paragraph 7, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity requested the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS) 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 the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice. In response, the Secretariat has collaborated with DOALOS in preparing an information document called Options for Preventing and Mitigating the Impacts of Some Activities to Selected Seabed Habitats (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/INF/13, available at <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meeting.aspx?mtg=SBSTTA-13>).

22. The Secretariat has co-chaired, jointly with the DOALOS, the UN-OCEANS Task Force on Biodiversity in Areas beyond National Jurisdiction, and submitted a joint progress report of the Task Force to the 5th UN-Oceans meeting, held in UNESCO- IOC Headquarters, Paris, on 21-22 May 2007, under agenda item 3 - Reports from UN-Oceans Task Forces.

23. DOALOS also participated in the CBD Expert Workshop on Ecological Criteria and Biogeographic Classification Systems for Marine Areas in Need of Protection, held in the Azores, Portugal, from 2 to 4 October 2007.

24. DOALOS has contributed to the peer-review of the CBD documents on: (i) 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>), and (ii) 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>).

25. The Secretariat has conducted extensive consultations with the secretariats of the International Plant Protection Convention, the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and the World Trade Organization (concerning the Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS)), as well as with Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), concerning gaps in the international regulatory framework on invasive alien species. The outcome of the consultations was considered by SBSTTA at its thirteenth meeting and is reflected in SBSTTA recommendation XIII/5. In addition, the secretariats held regular meetings with the secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention to

further the joint work programme of the two conventions (See UNEP/CBD/COP/9/11). The secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the International Plant Protection Convention reviewed the joint programme of work during the thirteenth meeting of SBSTTA and included the Global Taxonomy Initiative in the joint programme of work with regard to invasive alien species, through the exchange of information on the species checklist and the sharing of the scheme of national-level implementation of the species that are considered plant pests.

26. The Secretariat has continued to play an active role in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF). Several CPF members contributed to the drafting of the in-depth review of the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/3) and its background documentation (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/INF/5, 6, 7). An information document on the sustainable use of wildlife-based resources, including bushmeat, was developed jointly with the Center for International Forestry Research, CIFOR (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/INF/9), and an information document on cross-sectoral approaches for the conservation and sustainable management of forest biodiversity was developed based on input from the GEF Secretariat and FAO (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/INF/8). The Secretariat participates in a joint Science and Technology Initiative on the role of forests in climate change adaptation under the lead of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO). Collaboration has also been intensified on the biodiversity benefits of emerging mechanisms to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradations. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity met three times with the Carbon Finance Unit of the World Bank to discuss the integration of biodiversity aspects into the suggested Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) and organized a joint side event on this issue in December 2007 at the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC in Bali. The Secretariat participated in two CPF strategic dialogues, discussing a coordinated response of CPF to the emerging challenges and opportunities that climate change is presenting to the forest sector. The Director of the United Nations Forum on Forests and the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity have agreed to cooperate in several ways, including by collaborating closely on the celebrations for the International Year of Biodiversity (2010) and the International Year of Forests (2011).

D. Cooperation with other United Nations bodies and specialized agencies and other intergovernmental agencies

27. In order to enhance inter-agency collaboration a 2010 Heads of Agency Task Force has been established. The first meeting of the task force was held in Gland in September 2006 and was chaired by IUCN. An MOU was signed in October 2007 with four United Nations Regional Economic Commissions with a view of mainstreaming biodiversity into regional processes. At its eighth meeting, the Conference of the Parties welcomed ongoing cooperation with UNESCO and the FAO. Cooperation has been strengthened with these two specialized United Nations agencies, which hosted the twelfth and thirteenth meetings of SBSTTA, respectively.

28. Close cooperation with FAO continues on the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity under the Convention on Biological Diversity. FAO made major contributions to the in-depth review of this programme of work considered at the thirteenth meeting of SBSTTA, the outcome of which is reflected in SBSTTA recommendation XIII/1. The secondment of a FAO staff to the Secretariat is being actively pursued.

29. Following the meeting with the Director General of UNESCO, the secretariat is currently developing a memorandum of cooperation with UNESCO, regarding the celebration of the 2010 international year on biodiversity, education, Man and Biosphere programme and linkages between biological diversity, traditional and indigenous knowledge, and cultural diversity.

30. Cooperation is continuing with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and the GEF Small Grants Programme on the implementation of the programme of work on protected areas under the Convention on Biological Diversity. In this context, the Secretariat is also exploring the possibility of linking the CBD work on protected areas and climate change to the collaborative work between UNESCO and the

Stockholm Resilience Centre of Stockholm University, which is analyzing ecosystem resilience and the dynamics between ecosystem services, climate change and economic progress in biosphere reserves.

31. At a meeting with the Director General of UNCTAD, the possibility to include biodiversity as a main theme of the 2010 UNCTAD development report was discussed. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) co-hosted the CBD's Ad hoc technical expert group (AHTEG) on technology transfer in September 2007, in Geneva. Close collaboration is ongoing with UNCTAD's BioTrade Initiative, on promoting markets for biodiversity-based goods that are produced in a sustainable manner.

32. During the reporting period, the secretariat has enhanced its cooperation with UNEP as a host organization, as well as with its regional and outposted offices. The twenty senior UNEP and UNON officials visited the Secretariat, including the Executive Director and the Deputy Executive Director of UNEP. UNEP also co-hosted the aforementioned Ad hoc technical expert group (AHTEG) on technology transfer. Moreover, there is close cooperation with UNEP's four-year initiative to assess the impacts of trade policies on agricultural biodiversity in six ACP countries. This initiative responds to the request from the Conference of the Parties to analyse the impacts of trade liberalization on agricultural biodiversity expressed in decision VII/3, paragraph 6. There is also close cooperation with the UNEP/IUCN initiative to investigate the feasibility of scaling payments for ecosystem services up to the international level, responding to requests and the invitation expressed in decision VIII/26, paragraphs 6 and 8.

33. At the meeting with the Administrator of UNDP the ways and means of enhancing the collaboration was discussed in details. The elements of an MOU with UNDP are being finalized which may include a secondment of a UNDP liaison officer as well as enhancing support for Parties in the implementation of the Convention. Relevant regional biodiversity focal points of the UNDP-GEF programme in the energy and environment practice are contributing to each of the regional and sub-regional capacity-building workshops on national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

34. There is continued cooperation with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and its Working Group on Economic Aspects of Biodiversity, with a view to ensuring consistent work programmes. Through its review of implementation of the OECD Council recommendation on the use of economic instruments in biodiversity policies, OECD contributed to the in-depth review of the programme of work on incentive measures to be undertaken by the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (see UNEP/CBD/COP/9/12/Add.2).

35. In light of the new momentum building on climate change, communicators from across the United Nations system (UNEP, WMO, World Bank, GEF, UNDP, IPCC, UNFCCC, CBD, and DPI) met in Geneva on 1 and 2 March 2007 to determine how to respond effectively to the opportunity and the challenge this presents. The meeting was the latest step in the development of a joint communication initiative that was established to address the decision (2007/12) of the Secretary-General's Policy Committee Meeting on climate change (20 February 2007). The Geneva meeting followed a series of video and teleconferences that brought together a core UN climate change communication group to work on communication coordination on all key climate change meetings and events.

36. Through the United Nations Communications Group Task Force on Climate Change, the CBD has worked with the United Nations system on climate change issues, especially during the High-Level Event on Climate Change in New York in September 2007 and thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Bali and continues to inform the task force on all biodiversity and climate change issues to ensure a consistent and effective United Nations voice on climate change.

E. Cooperation with the World Trade Organization and other economic and trade-related organizations

37. Further to the request expressed in paragraph 13 of decision VIII/16, the Executive Secretary met with WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy to discuss relevant issues of mutual interest and identify options for closer cooperation, in line. There has been increased cooperation with the WTO secretariat in their technical-assistance and capacity-building activities by actively participating in two regional workshops on Trade and Environment: in Rabat, Morocco, for French-speaking African countries (in November 2006), and in Bridgetown, Barbados, for Caribbean countries (February 2008).

38. The Secretariat has followed and attended meetings of the Committee on Trade and Environment in Regular and in Special (negotiating) Sessions on a regular basis. The Secretariat, together with a number of other Multilateral Environmental Agreement secretariats, was invited to provide views on paragraph 31 (ii) of the Doha work programme, on mechanisms for regular information exchange, and provided input accordingly at the meeting of the Committee on Trade and Environment in Special Session in May 2007. The Secretariat has also followed closely discussions in other relevant committees, for which CBD observer requests are pending, including through informal liaising with the WTO Secretariat on issues mentioned in decision VIII/16.

39. As noted above, the Secretariat has carried out, as requested by decision VIII/27, informal consultations with the WTO on gaps and inconsistencies in the international regulatory framework on invasives, (see paragraph 24, above), including by way of an informal information session of the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, on 10 October 2006.. On this occasion, the Secretariat also provided a briefing on the work of the Convention on Biological Diversity on the promotion of biodiversity-based products, as requested by the Committee.

F. Cooperation with scientific research and assessment bodies

40. The Secretariat has liaised regularly with Diversitas, attending meetings of its steering committee as appropriate. With respect to the EcoSERVICES programme, a workshop on economics and valuation of biodiversity was organized under this subprogramme in May 2007, in response to invitations to undertake further research on biodiversity valuation and positive incentive measures expressed in decision VIII/25 and VIII/26.

41. The Consortium of Scientific Partners on Biodiversity, a collaborative partnership between the Convention on Biological Diversity and eight leading scientific institutions—Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, the French National Museum of Natural History, the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, the National Commission for Wildlife Conservation and Development of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, the Mexican National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity and the Muséum Nature Montreal—was created in 2006 to promote the effective implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its protocol through the organization of training and education activities focusing on biodiversity policy, and technical and scientific issues. The Consortium has met on two occasions: from 8 to 9 September 2006 in Kew, United Kingdom, and on 17 October 2007 in Paris, France. The Consortium organized training workshops on the margins of the 12th and 13th meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, respectively on the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, dry and sub-humid lands, climate change and the ecosystem approach, and on forest and agricultural biodiversity. A training workshop on ecological gap analysis, management effectiveness and sustainable financing for protected areas was also organized on 10 February on the margins of the second meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Protected Areas, held from 11 to 15 February 2008. Other training sessions are being prepared for the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

G. Cooperation with IUCN, non-governmental organizations and partnerships

42. At its eighth meeting, the Conference of the Parties welcomed progress made by the Global Partnership on Plant Conservation in promoting the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation and expressed its gratitude to Botanic Gardens Conservation International for its continued support to the Partnership. The Partnership has continued to support implementation of the Strategy, as reviewed at SBSTTA 12 and reflected in recommendation XII/2.

43. The Secretariat has established an informal consortium of partners, including the members of international conservation NGOs (The Nature Conservancy, WWF, Conservation International, BirdLife International, Wildlife Conservation Society), IUCN–World Commission on Protected Areas, the European Commission, the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation and the Organization of East Caribbean States Protected Areas and Associated Livelihoods Project, to facilitate implementation of the programme of work on protected areas. This informal consortium of partners raised funds and coordinated a series of nine sub-regional workshops covering the Caribbean, East Caribbean States, Latin America, South and West Asia, ASEAN, Eastern Europe, Anglophone Africa, Central Asia and Caucasus, and Francophone Africa sub-regions. These workshops focused on practical hands-on-tools and training on priority activities, including ecological gap assessments, monitoring and enhancing management effectiveness, capacity assessments and development of sustainable finance planning, as identified by the Conference of the Parties in paragraph 9 of decision VIII/24. These workshops covered 114 countries and were attended by over 750 protected area planners, practitioners and policy-makers. These workshops have resulted in the following significant benefits:

- (a) reached out to countries, opening a dialogue and understanding of the obstacles and needs;
- (b) generated the development of a comprehensive set of learning materials and case studies;
- (c) provided a forum for regional-level discussions, cooperation and future collaboration;
- (d) presented to policy-makers an introduction to and overview of key issues; and
- (e) improved motivation to undertake on-the-ground actions.

44. The sub-regional workshops provided an important platform for the countries to identify challenges/ obstacles in the implementation of the programme of work, and practical ways and means to address obstacles for enhancing the implementation of the programme of work.

45. Addressing decision VIII/1 on island biodiversity at a side event at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, President Remengesau of Palau called for a global collaborative platform for the implementation of the programme of work on islands. In response, a group of 20 Parties, IUCN and international organizations launched the Global Islands Partnership (GLISPA), which has already succeeded in mobilizing US\$ 33 million for islands. The partnership has been acknowledged by the GEF and has held side events at all relevant CBD meetings; in addition, a high-level event is planned during the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (27 May 2008). The report of the meeting of the Global Islands Partnership (UNEP/CBD/COP/9/INF/6) recalls the achievements of GLISPA and highlights its priority projects for island Parties and Parties with islands.

H. Cooperation with the private sector

46. In decision VIII/17, the Conference of the Parties stressed the importance of engaging the business community in the implementation of the Convention, in particular, with regard to the development and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans; the participation of business in Convention meetings, including as part of national delegations; the alignment of business policies and practices with the objectives of the Convention and the 2010 target; and the prioritization of Article 6 (b) of the Convention. The Executive Secretary was requested to compile information on the business case for biodiversity and good biodiversity practice, to make this information available through the clearing-house mechanism, and to include business as a target audience for its outreach materials, including in the Global Initiative on Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA).

47. In paragraph 8 of the same decision, the Conference of the Parties decided to consider, at its ninth meeting, further ways and means to promote business engagement in the implementation of the Convention, with a particular emphasis on the Convention's role in facilitating such engagement.

48. The Conference of the Parties is invited to consider a note by the Executive Secretary on this issue (UNEP/CBD/COP/9/21/Add.1), which provides an overview of actions taken by the Secretariat, Parties and organizations, as well as recommendations for future action.

I. Cooperation on gender issues

49. As a continuing response to global commitments and recommendations of international forums, and in compliance with internal mandates within the United Nations system calling for gender equality and equity, the Secretariat has engaged in the development of a Gender Plan of Action, which defines the role it will play in stimulating and facilitating efforts, both in-house and with partners at the national, regional and global levels, to overcome constraints and take advantage of opportunities to promote gender equality and equity in the Convention process. The Gender Plan of Action is available in document UNEP/CBD/COP/9/INF/12.

J. Cooperation on the interlinkages between biodiversity and health

50. Following the request of the Conference of the Parties in paragraph 8 of decision VIII/23, the Executive Secretary made the outcome of the First International Conference on Health and Biodiversity (COHAB 2005), held in Galway in 2005, available to the Parties and relevant organizations for consideration in the framework of the in-depth review of the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity. The Secretariat continued its collaboration with the Cooperation on Health and Biodiversity (COHAB) Initiative, established to respond to the gaps in awareness and existing policies on issues linking biodiversity with human health and well-being, to organize the Second International Conference on Health and Biodiversity held in Galway, Ireland, from 25 to 28 February 2008. The Conference focused on three interlinked themes, namely (i) disaster prevention, relief and recovery; (ii) food resources, diet and nutrition; and (iii) emerging infectious diseases. The proceedings and recommendations of the Conference will be published in the CBD Technical Series. The conference offered opportunities to COHAB partners (including the CBD Secretariat, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, the UN Environment Programme - World Conservation Monitoring Centre, Bioversity International, the World Conservation Union (IUCN), and the International EcoHealth Association) to further discuss ways to support the Initiative to achieve its objective of establishing an international, interdisciplinary collaborative framework to support existing activities on international development, biodiversity conservation and population health, and assist Parties in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The Secretariat initiated some collaborative activities to enhance awareness and promote the use of various CBD tools, such as the ecosystem approach and the voluntary biodiversity-inclusive environmental impact assessment, within the health sector.

51. The Secretariat also co-sponsored with the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Conservation Union (IUCN) the publication of the book *Sustaining Life: How Human Health Depends on Biodiversity*, edited and written by Harvard Medical School physicians Eric Chivian and Aaron Bernstein, with contributions by over 100 leading scientists. The book presents a comprehensive view of how human medicines, biomedical research, the emergence and spread of infectious diseases, and the production of food, both on land and in the oceans, depend on biodiversity. While documenting the importance of biodiversity to human health and medicine, the book provides the best awareness-raising arguments aimed at convincing those who are still uncertain about the urgent need to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity, which is being lost at an unprecedented rate.

III. COOPERATION WITH CITIES AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES

52. Following an initiative of the Mayor of Curitiba at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the mayors and representatives of 24 cities adopted the Curitiba Declaration on Cities and

Biodiversity, in Brazil, in March 2007. Key cities for the Convention on Biological Diversity in this process, which also stand as global references for their initiatives on urban biodiversity, are Bonn, as host of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, Curitiba, as host of the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, Nagoya, as prospective host city of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and Montreal as host of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

53. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity has been collaborating with UN-Habitat, UNESCO, UNEP's Urban Environment Unit, and other United Nations agencies and organizations, by mobilizing key cities and promoting the exchange of experience on urban biodiversity best practices. Voluntary initiatives, such as ICLEI—Local Governments for Sustainability and its Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB) project, IUCN's Countdown 2010 initiative, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), and the World Mayors' Council on Climate Change (WMCCC) and its biodiversity component, *inter alia*, have joined this initiative in addressing biodiversity issues efficiently through local action.

54. While responsibilities for implementation of the Convention rest primarily with the Parties, there are many reasons for promoting the engagement of cities and local authorities in the implementation of the Convention, including the following:

(a) The accelerated rate of urbanization, particularly in developing countries, increasingly concentrates decision-making and resources in cities, creating opportunities for managing better the consumption of resources that impact on biological diversity;

(b) Urban experiences in ecosystem conservation, restoration and sustainable use can contribute to strengthening national policies, regional strategies, and global agendas on biodiversity;

(c) Cities and local governments play a critical role in designing and implementing land-use and zoning planning tools, urban development and infrastructure guidelines, investment promotion, and consumer awareness campaigns, all of which have direct effects on biodiversity, and in particular on water, climate change, protected areas, agriculture and forests, marine and coastal biodiversity and communication, education, and public awareness;

55. On 8 April, 2008, the Government of Brazil submitted a draft decision on this topic for consideration by the Conference of the Parties. As requested by Brazil, the draft decision is reproduced in paragraph 61 below, and has been included in the compilation of draft decisions of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (UNEP/CBD/COP/9/1/Add.2).

56. The Conference of the Parties also has before it an information document on this subject (UNEP/CBD/COP/9/INF/10), which provides a report on the initiative and contains proposals for strengthening the engagement of cities and local authorities in addressing the challenges of the 2010 biodiversity target. The Mayor's Conference on Local Action for Biodiversity, to be held in Bonn from 27 to 28 May 2008, as well as a meeting between delegates to the Conference of the Parties and mayors scheduled for the high-level segment of the meeting, are also expected to contribute to this item.

IV. SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

57. Many articles of the Convention on Biological Diversity (e.g., Article 5 on cooperation, 6 on general measures for conservation and sustainable use, 7 on identification and monitoring, 8 on *in situ* conservation, 9 on *ex situ* conservation, 12 on research and training, 16 on access to and transfer of technology, and particularly 18 on scientific and technical cooperation) provide for South-South cooperation. In some of the programmes of work of the Convention, such as those related to protected areas (decision VII/28) and technology transfer (decision VII/29), South-South cooperation is explicitly included.

58. In the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Millennium Development Goals, the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the 2005 World Summit Outcome, South-South cooperation complements North-South cooperation, and South-South cooperation should be without prejudice to the commitments of North-South cooperation, also through triangular cooperation mechanisms.

59. Following a request from the Chairman of the Group of 77 referring to the outcome of 2005 World Review Summit and to the importance of South-South cooperation for achieving the Millennium Development Goals, including, in particular, goals 1 and 7, a brainstorming meeting of experts on South-South cooperation was convened by the Secretariat, on 6 to 8 November 2006. The meeting developed a draft “framework for South-South cooperation on biodiversity”, which is annexed to the report of the meeting. The full report is available as an information document (UNEP/CBD/COP/9/INF/11).

60. The initiative was welcomed by the 41st meeting of the Chairs/Coordinators of the Group of 77 held in Rome on 26-27 February 2007. It was also included in the Draft Development Platform of the South being developed by the President of the Group of 77. The Second South Summit of the Group of 77 addressed an invitation to the Chairman “to prepare a platform for the South to provide a framework of development options to support the participation and integration of developing countries into the global economy and the globalization process”. In paragraphs 18 and 19.6 of the final document adopted by the 14th Summit Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), held in Havana in September 2006, the Heads of NAM States affirmed the role of South-South cooperation in the overall context of multilateralism and called for strengthening South-South cooperation, including through enhancing the capacities of relevant institutions and mechanisms, as indispensable means to promote and preserve multilateralism and the multilateral process. In paragraph 196 of this document, the Heads of State called on the international community to continue supporting the efforts of developing countries to integrate the principles of sustainable development into their national development strategies and reversing the loss of environmental resources, including through the fulfilment of the 2010 biodiversity target.

V. SUGGESTED DECISION

61. In light of the above, the Conference of the Parties may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties,

1. *Welcomes with appreciation* the strengthening of cooperation with other conventions, international and regional organizations and initiatives as well as the engagement of all relevant stakeholders and, in this regard, notes with appreciation the agreement reached with the United Nations Regional Economic Commissions;

3. *Welcomes* the joint meetings of the scientific bodies of the biodiversity-related Conventions and invites them to continue this practice with a view to developing maximum synergies in the scientific and technical work among the Conventions;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to continue to liaise with the conventions, organizations and initiatives with which the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity has already signed or is in the process of signing memoranda of cooperation, including in particular the UNESCO conventions on Intangible Cultural Heritage and Diversity of Cultural Expressions, with a view to advancing implementation of the Convention in accordance with the decisions of the Conference of the Parties, including the development of joint activities as appropriate;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to continue collaborating with WHO and COHAB as well as relevant organisations to support the work of Parties on biodiversity and health related issues

above, including by developing compendiums of CBD tools that could be used for capacity-building and awareness-raising in the health sector

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to renew its pending applications for observer status in relevant bodies of the World Trade Organization, and to continue, and further strengthen, liaising and cooperation with the WTO on, *inter alia*, trade-related intellectual property rights, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, and environmental goods and services;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to continue enhancing the collaboration with relevant relevant regional and inter-regional processes with a view of promoting the implementation of the objectives of the convention at regional and sub-regional levels.

Cities and Biodiversity

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling chapter 28 of Agenda 21 adopted at the Earth Summit in 1992, on the role of local authorities, and objective 4.4 of the Strategic Plan of the Convention on Biological Diversity (“Key actors and stakeholders are engaged in partnership to implement the Convention and are integrating biodiversity concerns into their relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes, and policies”);

Noting that, while responsibilities for implementation of the CBD rest primarily with the Parties, there are multiple reasons for promoting the engagement of cities and local authorities in the implementation of the Convention, including the following:

(a) The accelerated rate of urbanization, particularly in developing countries, increasingly concentrates decision-making and resources in cities, creating opportunities for managing better the consumption of resources that impact on biological diversity;

(b) Urban experiences in ecosystem conservation and sustainable use can contribute to strengthening national policies, regional strategies, and global agendas on biodiversity;

(c) Cities and local governments play a critical role in designing and implementing land-use and zoning planning tools, urban development and infrastructure guidelines, investment promotion, and consumer awareness campaigns, all of which have direct effects on biodiversity, and in particular on water, climate change, protected areas, agriculture and forests, marine and coastal biodiversity and Communication, Education, and Public Awareness;

Recalling recommendation 2/1, item 8(r), on the Implementation of goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan, adopted by the Ad Hoc Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention at its second meeting at UNESCO, Paris, 9-13 July 2007, which urges Parties to support local action by developing sub-national and local biodiversity strategies and/or action plans consistent with National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans;

Recalling the meeting on Cities and Biodiversity held in Curitiba, Brazil, on March 26 to 28, 2007, which highlighted the crucial importance of the involvement of local authorities in the global efforts towards the protection of biodiversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the use of genetic resources , and

Noting the contribution of UN-Habitat, UNESCO, UNEP’s Urban Environment Unit, and other UN agencies and organizations, in mobilizing key cities and promoting the exchange of experience on urban biodiversity best practices, and the importance of voluntary initiatives such as ICLEI—Local Governments for Sustainability and its Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB) Project, IUCN’s Countdown 2010 initiative, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), the World Mayors’ Council on Climate Change (WMCCC) and its biodiversity component, the World Association of Major Metropolises

(“Metropolis”), and the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, *inter alia*, in addressing biodiversity issues efficiently through local action,

Recognizing the importance of the cooperation between key cities for the Convention on Biological Diversity, which also stand as global references for their initiatives on urban biodiversity, such as Bonn, as host of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, Curitiba, as host of the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, Nagoya, as representative of candidate cities for the hosting of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and Montreal as host of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Acknowledging the contribution made by the Mayor’s Conference on Cities and Biodiversity held in Bonn, Germany, on May 26-27, 2008, organized by the City of Bonn, InWent and ICLEI, prior to the high-level segment of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity,

1. *Encourages* Parties to recognize the role of cities and local authorities in their national biodiversity strategies and action plans, to assist cities in adopting practices that support the implementation of these strategies and action, and to encourage the development of local biodiversity strategies and action plans;

2. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and regional and international development agencies and banks engaged in projects that include infrastructure development for cities and local authorities, to integrate biodiversity considerations into those projects, and to include specific capacity building and programmes on biodiversity for local officials responsible for their implementation and maintenance.

3. *Invites* cities and their associations to use relevant tools and guidance developed under the Convention with a view to contributing to the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention and its goals and targets, to share information on biodiversity status and trends, and to prepare and communicate to National governments any commitments that will contribute to CBD targets;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to continue to compile information on the role of cities in achieving the three objectives of the Convention, and to make this information available through the clearing-house mechanism and other appropriate means; and to prepare and/or adapt relevant materials to facilitate access to CBD tools and guidance by cities, and to address the needs of cities and local authorities in their initiatives to implement the Convention.

Annex

MEMORANDA OF COOPERATION (MOU) SIGNED BY THE SECRETARIAT SINCE THE EIGHTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

	Title	Subject	Date of Signature
1.	Memorandum of Understanding between the SCBD and the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, Paris Museum of Natural History, the Kew Royal Botanic Gardens, the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, the Royal Institute of Natural Sciences and the National Commission for Wildlife Conservation and Development of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, CONABIO-Mexico	MOU with steering committee to promote the implementation of the CBD and its protocol through training and education	2006-03-27
2.	Memorandum of Cooperation between the SCBD and the heads of UNDP, UNCTAD, UNEP, RAMSAR, CMS, CITES, UNITAR, WWF, IPGRI and IUCN	Achieving 2010 target	2006-03-27 (CITES and UNITAR signed 2007-04-30)
3.	Memorandum of Understanding between the SCBD and the World Conservation Union (IUCN)	For the services of IUCN to draft a toolkit on the implementation of national CEPA strategies; expires end of 2007	2006-03-27
4.	Memorandum of Cooperation between the SCBD and the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC)	Capacity-building	2006-03-27
5.	Memorandum of Understanding between the SCBD and the Universidad Livre do Meio Ambiente (UNILIVRE)	Framework MOU to promote education, training and public awareness in Brazil	2006-03-31
6.	Memorandum of Understanding between the SCBD and the governor of the State of Parana of the Republic of Brazil	To plant eight million trees before the end of 2006 to offset the environmental impact of MOP-3 and COP-8	2006-04-04
7.	Letter of intent between Canadian Universities and Research Institutes and the SCBD	Scientific and technical partnership	2006-05-23 (Laval University signed 2007-04-30)
8.	Memorandum of Understanding between the SCBD and the Green Belt Movement	Implementation of activities to ensure that appropriate measures are taken to offset the environmental impacts of the operations of the Secretariat	2006-11-17
9.	Memorandum of Cooperation between the SCBD and the New Partnership for Africa's	Framework MOU on capacity-building for the implementation of the CBD and its Cartagena	2007-02-07

	Development and Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Regional Development of the Government of Portugal	protocol on Biosafety in Africa	
10	Memorandum of Cooperation between the SCBD and the Canadian Ministry for the Environment	Provision of computer applications for BCH	2007-02-10
11	Memorandum of Cooperation between the SCBD and the International Civil Aviation Organization	Conference servicing and other arrangements	2007-02-19
12	Memorandum of Understanding between the SCBD and the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, Paris Museum of Natural History, the Kew Royal Botanic Gardens, the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, the Royal Institute of Natural Sciences and the National Commission for Wildlife Conservation and Development of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, CONABIO-Mexico and Ville de Montreal	Addendum to MOU with steering committee to promote the implementation of the CBD and its protocol through training and education	2007-02-22
13	Letter of intent between the SCBD and the Information and Communication Centre of the Barcelona Convention	Collaboration on initiatives and activities related to their mandate and in particular the context of their outreach, communication and education strategies	2007-03-12
14	Memorandum of Understanding between the SCBD and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research	Framework MOC on capacity-building for the achievement of the 2010 biodiversity target	2007-03-28
15	Memorandum of Understanding between the SCBD and the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development	General cooperation in implementing the Convention	2007-05-06
16	Letter of intent between the SCBD and GTZ	Collaboration on the promotion of the International Day for Biological Diversity	2007-05-18
17.	Memorandum of Understanding between the SCBD and Countdown 2010	Framework MOU on general cooperation	2007-06-11
18.	Memorandum of Cooperation between the SCBD and the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP)	Framework MOC in the area of biological diversity of relevance to agriculture	2007-07-02
19.	Memorandum of Understanding between the SCBD and the World Conservation Union (IUCN)	Enhanced cooperation between SCBD and the IUCN RofE to support the integration of biodiversity in European Development Cooperation	2007-07-11

20.	Memorandum of Cooperation between the SCBD and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization	Revised MOC to enhance collaboration in the field of biosafety	2007-07-16
21.	Letter of Intent between Victoria University and the CBD	Implementation of the objectives of the Cartagena Protocol and on general cooperation	2007-07-30
22.	Memorandum of Understanding between SCBD and the Canadian Forest Service	Collaboration in the further development and review of the programme of work on forest biological diversity	2007-09-17 (renewed on 2008-08-02)
23.	Memorandum of Understanding between SCBD and the Regional Economic Commissions for Africa (ECA, ESCAP, ECLAC, ESCWA)	Promotion of a strong partnership between the CBD processes and the international Law Programme of GSCIS in support of the enhanced phase of implementation of the objectives of the CBD and the Cartagena Protocol	2007-10-25
24.	Memorandum of Understanding between SCBD and GRID Arendal	Enhanced cooperation between SCBD and GRID on issues of common interest relating to the three objectives of the Convention	2007-10-30
25.	Memorandum of Understanding between SCBD and the Graduate School of International Cooperation Studies, Kobe University	To provide a framework for an internship programme and other activities for students of the GSCIS	2008-03-12
26.	Memorandum of Understanding between SCBD and the Graduate School of Agricultural and Life Sciences of the University of Tokyo	To provide a framework for an internship programme	2008-03-13
27.	Memorandum of Understanding between SCBD and ASEAN Centre of Biodiversity (ACB)	Framework agreement to build a permanent partnership between ACB and SCBD.	2008-01-14
