



Convention on Biological Diversity

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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

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Item 5.3 of the provisional agenda

BEST POLICY GUIDANCE FOR THE INTEGRATION OF BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES IN STANDARDS

Note by the Executive Secretary

INTRODUCTION

1. The attached document on policy guidance for the integration of biodiversity and ecosystem services in standards has been prepared by the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC). The paper responds to paragraph 3 (b) of decision X/21 of the Conference of the Parties, which calls upon the Secretariat to “...analyse the effectiveness of ...tools in relevant economic sectors, and to make this ...available to national focal points and all relevant stakeholders, through the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention and through other means”, as well as paragraph 3 (c) of decision X/21, which calls upon the Secretariat “To encourage the development and application of tools and mechanisms that can further facilitate the engagement of businesses in integrating biodiversity concerns into their work...”. This analysis of standards also builds upon the work presented in CBD Technical Series No. 63, “Review of the Biodiversity Requirements of Standards and Certification Schemes”, available from the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

2. In addition, this paper is also in line with the recommendations of the fourth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention to the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, requesting Parties “To take into account according to priorities and national circumstances other policies that halt biodiversity loss, such as...Encouraging consideration of best practices for voluntary standards and certification schemes that respect the goals and objectives of the Convention and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets that will help incentivize the sustainable management of landscapes and seascapes, and will help companies (particularly small and medium-sized enterprises) assess and effectively address their impact upon biodiversity and on indigenous and local communities” (see UNEP/CBD/COP/11/4, annex, paragraph 3 (d) of recommendation 4/7).

3. The paper is being circulated in the form and language in which it was submitted to the Secretariat.

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