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REVIEW OF PROGRESS IN PROVIDING SUPPORT TO PARTIES IN THE CONTEXT OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR BIODIVERSITY 2011–2020 AND THE AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS

Note by the Executive Secretary

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 is an ambitious plan developed with the purpose of inspiring broad-based action in support of biodiversity over the next decade by all countries and stakeholders. As indicated in the Strategic Plan (decision X/2, annex), the Plan will be implemented primarily through activities at national or subnational level, with supporting action at the regional and global levels. Supporting mechanisms include capacity-building, the clearing-house mechanism and technology transfer, financial resources, partnerships and initiatives to enhance cooperation, and support mechanisms for research monitoring and assessment. Moreover, the Conference of the Parties (decision X/2, paragraph 6) emphasized the need for capacity-building activities and the effective sharing of knowledge, consistent with decisions VIII/8, IX/8 and other relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties, in order to support all countries, especially developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, small island developing States, and the most environmentally vulnerable countries, as well as countries with economies in transition, and indigenous and local communities, in the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020.

2. According to its multi-year programme (decision X/9), the Conference of the Parties, at its eleventh meeting, will address, *inter alia*, the following issues in reviewing progress in providing support to assist Parties: resource mobilization; capacity-building; stakeholder engagement; communication, education and public awareness; and strengthening of the clearing-house mechanism.

3. Further, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to develop, for consideration by the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention, options for the further enhancement of implementation of the Convention, including through the further development of capacity-building programmes, partnerships and the strengthening of synergies among Conventions and other international processes (decision X/2, paragraph 17(c)).

* UNEP/CBD/COP/11/1.

4. In this context, the Executive Secretary prepared a note (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/4/3) for consideration by the fourth meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention. It contained a review of progress in providing support to Parties through capacity-building support and technical and scientific cooperation (section II) and offered options for the further development of such support (section III). The present note is updated from document UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/4/3 to reflect the outcome of the Working Group's meeting. Financial resources and the financial mechanism are considered under agenda item 4, while cooperation is considered under agenda item 5 and biodiversity for development is considered under agenda item 12.

5. Of relevance to this note, a proposed work programme for the clearing-house mechanism in support of the Strategic Plan (UNEP/CBD/COP/11/31) and a note on the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity (UNEP/CBD/COP/11/16) have been prepared. Further information is provided in several information documents (UNEP/CBD/COP/11/INF/8, UNEP/CBD/COP/11/INF/12 and UNEP/CBD/COP/11/INF/13). Readers are also referred to a number of documents prepared for earlier meetings of the Convention, where these are still relevant.

6. At its sixty-fifth session, the United Nations General Assembly declared the period 2011–2020 to be “the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity, with a view to contributing to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity for the period 2011–2020” (General Assembly resolution 65/161). The Strategic Plan has thus become the overarching framework for action to reduce the rate of loss of biodiversity by 2020. Successful implementation of the Strategic Plan therefore requires that awareness of the Plan and the measures necessary to implement it must stretch far beyond the mainstream biodiversity community associated with the Convention. With the support of the Japan Biodiversity Fund, the Secretariat of the Convention has organized global and regional launching events for the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity, as detailed in document UNEP/CBD/COP/11/16.

II. PROGRESS IN PROMOTING AND FACILITATING ACTIVITIES TO STRENGTHEN CAPACITY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR BIODIVERSITY 2011–2020

7. The Secretariat, in cooperation with partners, has facilitated a range of activities to strengthen the capacity of Parties to implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020, with the aim of achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

8. Most of these activities have been supported by the Japan Biodiversity Fund. This Fund, established by the Government of Japan as the Presidency of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, aims to build the capacity of developing countries to implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets with resources of 1 billion yen per year for up to five years. The Fund's objective is to help developing countries implement the Aichi-Nagoya Biodiversity Compact by providing support to the Secretariat to assist Parties to: (i) implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and the associated Aichi Biodiversity Targets; (ii) revise their national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) to include national targets, in accordance with the Strategic Plan; and (iii) strengthen their overall capacity to implement the Convention. The summary report of capacity-building workshops on NBSAPs and related matters (UNEP/CBD/COP/11/INF/13) provides more information on the Japan Biodiversity Fund. Other donors, including the European Union, Germany, Norway, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom, have also been supporting these activities.

9. The activities facilitated by the Secretariat include capacity-building workshops, the preparation of toolkits and other capacity-building materials, broader capacity-building activities, the promotion of technical and scientific cooperation and exchange of information among Parties, including through the clearing-house mechanism and South-South cooperation, and activities to facilitate cooperation and synergy.

10. In addition to the activities being carried out by the Secretariat, several national, regional and international organizations are promoting the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020.

A. *Capacity-building workshops*

11. During the period 2011–2012, the Secretariat, together with partner organizations and host countries and with the support of Japan and other donors, has organized several series of capacity-building workshops, as described in the following paragraphs.

12. *Workshops for updating NBSAPs in line with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020.* Sixteen regional and subregional capacity-building workshops on NBSAPs have been held to date, supported by Japan and other donors including host countries, cities and partners (UNEP/CBD/COP/11/INF/13).¹ Over 700 individuals and 160 Parties have participated in these workshops. The specific objectives of the workshops are to: (i) assist Parties to integrate national targets and commitments into a ‘new generation’ of NBSAPs that can serve as effective tools for mainstreaming biodiversity into broader national policies; (ii) facilitate national implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020, including by helping Parties to integrate the Strategic Plan and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets into national targets, commitments and actions; (iii) raise awareness in order to stimulate early action on other Aichi-Nagoya outcomes, in particular the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization and the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety; (iv) facilitate and support the implementation of other decisions adopted at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, for example promoting the findings of the study by The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB); and (v) facilitate active learning opportunities and peer-to-peer exchanges for National Focal Points and those in charge of implementing and revising NBSAPs. Workshop presentations, materials, outputs and summary reports, including summaries of participant evaluations, are available from www.cbd.int/nbsap/workshops2.shtml. A complementary global workshop was organized by the United Kingdom and Brazil in collaboration with the Secretariat (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/4/INF/14). To facilitate follow-up to workshops, the Secretariat has set up regional electronic mailing lists and a help desk to enable participants to continue discussions after workshops and address information requests to the Secretariat. Information derived from these workshops and follow-up communications providing a preliminary assessment of progress towards Target 17 and the Strategic Plan as a whole is given in UNEP/CBD/COP/11/INF/13.

13. *Workshops to support implementation of the programme of work on protected areas (PoWPA).* Eight regional and subregional capacity-building workshops have been organized, in collaboration with

¹ To date, the following NBSAP workshops have been completed: Southern Africa (Kasane, Botswana, 14–20 March); Europe (Vilm, Germany, 15–19 April); North Africa and the Middle East (Beirut, Lebanon, 2–7 May); East, South and South-East Asia (Xi’an, China, 9–16 May); West Africa (Dakar, Senegal, 22–26 May); Central Africa (Brazzaville, Congo, 19–23 June); East Africa (Kigali, Rwanda, 27–30 June 2011); Europe (PEBLDS) (Geneva, Switzerland, 30 June–1 July); South America (Quito, Ecuador, 13–16 July); Pacific (Nadi, Fiji, 3–7 October); Central Asia (Istanbul, Turkey 17–20 October); Caribbean (St George’s, Grenada, 17–21 October); Meso-America (San José, Costa Rica, 28 November–2 December); Central and Eastern Europe (Minsk, Belarus, 5–8 December); Mediterranean (Montpellier, France 16–18 January 2012); Southern Africa (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 27 February–1 March 2012).

the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the PoWPA Friends Consortium and supported by the European Union and the Governments of Belgium, the Netherlands and Spain.² The workshops aimed to enhance the skills and knowledge of protected area staff and others who implement PoWPA through the exchange of experience and sharing of tools, available resources and capacity-building in the following areas: protected areas and climate change adaptation and mitigation, including integration of protected areas into wider land- and seascapes and sectors; developing or revising national action plans for implementing PoWPA; marine protected areas; governance; valuing the costs and benefits of protected areas, including their ecosystem services; and funding opportunities under the fifth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility (GEF). Over 250 individuals and 100 Parties have participated in these workshops, which have resulted in a number of tangible outcomes. They have helped to: (i) facilitate national dialogues about obstacles to and capacity needs for PoWPA implementation and for achieving Target 11 of the Strategic Plan; (ii) catalyze the development and consolidation of an array of learning tools and materials, including country-specific case studies covering topics such as successful governance in national protected areas; (iii) identify three or four of the most important strategies for improving climate resilience through site-level planning and specific actions, at least one strategy for protected area site-level planning for climate adaptation, and two important elements of biodiversity to mainstream into sectoral plans and policies, providing a rationale for integrating and mainstreaming protected areas; (iv) create heightened awareness about funding opportunities under the GEF fifth replenishment, both within the System for a Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR) and in terms of enabling activities and opportunities to implement the protected area projects accessed under the GEF fourth replenishment; and (v) provide a forum for region-wide discussions on cooperation and future collaboration through technical support networks for facilitating implementation (e.g. the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the Latin American Technical Cooperation Network of National Parks, Other Protected Areas and Wildlife (REDPARQUES), and the IUCN Regional Offices for Eastern and Southern Africa and Central and West Africa). They have also assisted 120 countries in identifying their national targets in working towards Target 11, taking into account ecological gap analysis and conservation planning studies, and over 100 countries in developing action plans for implementing PoWPA and for achieving Target 11, which further contribute to their revised NBSAPs.

14. By 26 June 2012, 105 PoWPA action plans had been formally submitted to the Secretariat. These action plans are available at www.cbd.int/protected/implementation/actionplans/. Details of the technical support provided for the development of action plans for PoWPA implementation and for achieving Target 11 can be found in document UNEP/CBD/COP/11/26.

² West Africa (Dakar, Senegal, 22–26 May 2011); Pacific (Nadi, Fiji, 3–7 October 2011); South and South-East Asia (Dehradun, India, 6–9 December 2011); Central, Southern and South-East Africa (Cape Town, South Africa, 30 January–3 February 2012); Latin America (Bogota, Colombia, 12–16 March 2012); the Caribbean (Christ Church, Barbados 1–5 April 2012); West Asia and North Africa (Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 16–20 April 2012); and Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia (Belgrade, Serbia, 4–8 June 2012).

15. *Workshops on the economics of ecosystems and biodiversity.* A number of workshops have been held in follow-up to the TEEB reports,³ relating in particular to Aichi Biodiversity Targets 2 and 3, in cooperation with IUCN and with the support of the European Union, Japan, Norway, Sweden and IUCN. In some cases separate workshops have been organized; in other cases, dedicated sessions have been integrated into NBSAP workshops.⁴

16. *Workshops on the Global Taxonomy Initiative and invasive alien species.* Regional and subregional workshops have been held for Latin America, Africa (in English), East and South East Asia and additional workshops are planned in (i) Middle East and Northern Africa and (ii) Africa (in French) within 2012, with the support of Japan. Further information on these workshops is provided in documents UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/31 and in UNEP/CBD/COP/11/INF/20.

17. As noted above, workshops have, where possible, been held concurrently, consecutively or otherwise clustered as part of an effort to promote an integrated approach so that revised NBSAPs can include all areas of the Convention's work and be effectively mainstreamed into other sectors. For example, the workshops for Southern Africa and the Pacific incorporated economics and valuation (Aichi Biodiversity Targets 2 and 3), whilst the workshops for West Africa and the Pacific were organized in parallel and jointly with workshops on PoWPA, thereby addressing Aichi Biodiversity Target 11.

B. Preparation of toolkits and other capacity-building materials

18. The Secretariat has developed a range of toolkits, practical guidance and other capacity-building tools to provide relevant information, in line with guidance from the Conference of the Parties and drawing upon Parties' and partners' expertise and experience of implementation. This information includes:

(a) *Capacity-building modules for developing, updating and implementing NBSAPs.* Capacity-building workshops draw upon these modules, which are based upon the guidance adopted in decision IX/8. They build on the existing set of training modules developed in 2007 and incorporate lessons taken from the fourth national reports, along with examples of good practice, tools and guidance identified during the first round of workshops in 2008 and 2009. Each module comprises a PowerPoint presentation, based on presentations used during workshops, and a written module of around 20 pages that provides more information and links to further resources.⁵ Short guides on each of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets are also being prepared.

(b) *e-Learning modules for the PoWPA.* These learning modules provide a detailed but straightforward explanation of the key themes of PoWPA (conducting ecological gap analysis, assessing management effectiveness, developing a sustainable finance plan, integrating protected areas into wider landscapes and seascapes, etc.), following a step-by-step approach. They incorporate concrete examples, case studies and tools in an interactive way and make use of online discussion forums ("course rooms")

³ www.cbd.int/incentives/teeb/

⁴ A number of workshops were held back-to-back with or integrated into NBSAP workshops, i.e. those held for: (Southern Africa (Kasane, Botswana, 14–20 March 2011); South, East and South-East Asia (Xi'an, China, 9–16 May 2011); Pacific (Nadi, Fiji, 3–7 October 2011); Caribbean (St George's, Grenada, 17–21 October 2011); Meso-America (San José, Costa Rica, 28 November–2 December 2011); and Southern Africa (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 28 February–2 March 2012). A post-TEEB capacity-building workshop was held for North Africa and the Middle East in Beirut, Lebanon, 21–23 February 2012. Similar workshops are planned for South America, and also for Eastern Europe and Central Asia (Tbilisi, Georgia, tentatively 29 May–1 June 2012).

⁵ More information can be found at www.cbd.int/nbsap/workshops2/content/.

with dedicated mentors, who explain and respond to the queries of participants. These modules are available on the PoWPA website in five languages.⁶ So far, more than 2,300 people have registered for the modules, with a completion rate of 14 per cent. User satisfaction ratings are 4.2 out of 5 for the course room and 4.7 out of 5 for course content, based on 165 responses.

(c) With the support of Japan and other donors, other capacity-building materials are being provided or developed for the various programmes of work and cross-cutting programmes under the Convention, including a training manual for the description of ecologically and biologically significant areas (EBSAs) in open-ocean waters and deep-sea habitats (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/9), guidance for Parties on the development and implementation of national invasive species strategies and action plans, considerations for implementing international standards and codes of conduct within national invasive species strategies and action plans, and an e-learning module on biodiversity valuation and incentive measures.

C. Broader capacity-building activities

19. The Japan Biodiversity Fund has also enabled the Secretariat to carry out additional activities to support the implementation of the Aichi-Nagoya Biodiversity Compact. In conjunction with funding from other Parties and donors, the Japan Biodiversity Fund is being used as a catalyst to build the capacity of developing countries to implement several decisions adopted at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The table annexed to this note summarizes the 29 activities supported in 2011, from which it can be seen that the Fund, in collaboration with other partners, has facilitated the Secretariat's work in helping Parties not only to meet Aichi Biodiversity Target 17 (on NBSAPs), but also to develop their capacity to achieve the other Aichi Targets. These activities have served as useful feasibility studies for various first steps in implementation, proving principles and providing examples for other donors and Parties to follow.

D. Technical and scientific cooperation and the clearing-house mechanism

20. In decision X/15, the Conference of the Parties adopted the mission, goals and objectives of the clearing-house mechanism for the period 2011–2020. Further to paragraph 5 (b) of that decision, the Executive Secretary has prepared, in consultation with the informal advisory committee and interested Parties, a work programme for the clearing-house mechanism, in line with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 (UNEP/CBD/COP/11/31). Additional related information is available in the progress report on the clearing-house mechanism (UNEP/CBD/COP/11/13/Add.2).

21. In addition to the general clearing-house mechanism, the Biosafety Clearing-House provides a structured mechanism for Parties to share information relevant to the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. Further, a dedicated clearing-house for access and benefit-sharing and a repository for information on EBSAs are under development.

22. A biodiversity technology initiative, loosely modelled on the Climate Technology Initiative of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), is currently under consideration (decisions VIII/12, IX/14 and X/16), but no clear decision to establish it has yet been taken. Many technologies of relevance to the Convention are 'soft technologies', such as tools and methodologies, and there is therefore some common purpose between a possible biodiversity technology initiative and technical and scientific cooperation, as envisaged under Article 18 of the Convention.

⁶ www.cbd.int/protected/e-learning.

23. The LifeWeb Initiative, established by Germany at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and now also supported by Japan, aims to strengthen financing for protected areas in order to conserve biodiversity, secure livelihoods and address climate change through the implementation of PoWPA under the Convention. It consists of a clearing-house, operated by the Secretariat of the Convention, to match expressions of interest from countries that require financing for protected areas and protected-area systems with funding available from donor countries. An online mechanism is complemented by the organization of round-table meetings that bring donors together to consider contributions to finance protected areas and national protected-area systems. LifeWeb partner countries have provided almost US\$ 200 million in funding for protected areas.

24. At the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Executive Secretary created a Consortium of Scientific Partners. Its current members include national institutions that play a strong role at national, regional and international level in providing knowledge and technical assistance for the implementation of the Convention. For example, institutions, both governmental and non-governmental, such as CONABIO (Mexico), SANBI (South Africa), INBio (Costa Rica) and the Humboldt Institute (Colombia) have played a major role in supporting biodiversity planning and implementation at national levels. Together with other member institutions, including the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Missouri Botanical Garden, Natural History Museum of the United Kingdom, the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History and the National Museum of Natural History of France have enormous potential to support NBSAP development and implementation within countries.

25. On 17 October 2010, the Multi-Year Plan of Action on South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development was adopted by the Group of 77 and China at the South-South Cooperation Forum held in parallel with the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Nagoya, Japan. Decision X/23 requested the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention, at its fourth meeting, to examine and further develop the Multi-Year Plan of Action for consideration at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, taking into account synergies with, among other things, a biodiversity technology initiative, the clearing-house mechanism and a Framework for Capacity-Building for the “Integration of Biodiversity into Poverty Eradication and Development”. A call for synergies between those initiatives was also made by the Third Expert Meeting on South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development, hosted by the Republic of Korea in Incheon City from 18 to 20 May 2011.

26. BIOPLAN, an electronic mailing list maintained by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention, provides regular digests of information of relevance to biodiversity planners, mostly derived from the scientific literature. This service could be made more broadly available to Parties in order to facilitate access to open-source literature in scientific fields.

27. The various series of capacity-building workshops reviewed above play a major part in facilitating technical and scientific cooperation by bringing together experts and practitioners from Parties and partners. Existing efforts to embed these workshops within a coherent programme of technical and scientific cooperation through preparatory and follow-up activities and the provision of training materials could be further enhanced.

E. Cooperation and synergies

28. The regional capacity-building workshops described above were organized in partnership with relevant regional bodies, such as the regional offices of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), UNDP, the regional economic commissions of the United Nations, ASEAN Center for Biodiversity and IUCN and its regional commissions. In some cases, workshops were organized in collaboration with the other global biodiversity-related conventions, UNFCCC and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). Where such opportunities arise, workshops will be held in conjunction with planned workshops on UNFCCC national adaptation programmes of action and UNCCD national action programmes.

29. As another early step towards identifying opportunities to further enhance implementation of the Convention, the Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies of the Biodiversity-related Conventions, the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions and the Issue Management Group on Biodiversity of the United Nations Environment Management Group have jointly undertaken a mapping exercise to cross-reference their current strategies (or equivalent) against the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, as a way of identifying both commonalities and gaps.

30. In addition to the cooperation that takes place in activities linked directly with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, many organizations contribute to helping Parties build their capacity to implement the Strategic Plan 2011–2020. There is significant potential to strengthen this cooperation further. An earlier review was provided in documents UNEP/CBD/COP/8/15 (section V: options for technical support to Parties for facilitating and promoting implementation of the Convention) and UNEP/CBD/COP/8/INF/8 (an overview of the experience of other conventions in providing technical support, and of potential modalities by which international organizations can support implementation).

31. Provision of financial resources is considered under agenda item 4 and is beyond the scope of this paper. However, it is relevant to note here the contribution made by GEF to support the process of updating NBSAPs (see also UNEP/CBD/COP/11/INF/12).

III. OPTIONS FOR THE FURTHER ENHANCEMENT OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION, INCLUDING THROUGH THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF CAPACITY-BUILDING PROGRAMMES, PARTNERSHIPS AND THE STRENGTHENING OF SYNERGIES AMONG CONVENTIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL PROCESSES

32. Substantial efforts have been made to support implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020, as indicated in the previous section. However, further efforts will be necessary to provide the support required to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Better coordinated and more efficient use of ongoing mechanisms will be needed to muster all the experience and expertise necessary to achieve those Targets, bearing in mind the limited time and capacity of the Secretariat and focal points alike.

33. Currently, most countries report that they lack sufficient human resources capacity to implement the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020, and also that the officials responsible often have only limited access to the information they need and insufficient means to analyse it. At the same time, regional workshops under the Convention have revealed that there is, in fact, a wealth of information, expertise and experience among Parties and partner organizations. The challenge is to marshal this knowledge systematically to support implementation of the Convention. This requires enhanced technical and scientific cooperation among countries.

34. In accordance with its mission and work programme, the clearing-house mechanism has the mandate of catalysing the development and strengthening of global and national capabilities for the gradual establishment of a biodiversity knowledge network in support of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and NBSAPs, thereby contributing in a cross-cutting manner to achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and corresponding national targets beyond the initial mandate envisaged in the text of the Convention (Article 18, paragraph 3).

35. At the same time, as described in section II of this note, there is a need to strengthen existing initiatives and instruments under the Convention and ensure better coordination and complementarity between them. There are a large number of initiatives that are potentially very useful, but that are underused and partially overlap. These include the biodiversity technology initiative, the Multi-Year Plan of Action on South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development referred to in decision X/23, the Consortium of Scientific Partners, and the clearing-house mechanism itself. These mechanisms could be more closely linked to the various series of capacity-building workshops and to the tools used in their preparation and follow-up: course rooms, electronic mailing lists and help desks. Experience gained from the Biosafety Clearing-House and the LifeWeb Initiative could be drawn upon. With the adoption of the new Strategic Plan, the opportunity exists to develop a consistent, coherent and comprehensive initiative that will contribute to technical and scientific cooperation in a meaningful way, taking into account guidance from the report of the Third Expert Meeting on South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development.⁷ As pointed out in the introduction to the present note, the Conference of the Parties is due to consider all these related capacity-building initiatives together at its eleventh meeting. The creation of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) will provide additional opportunities to strengthen technical and scientific cooperation among Parties.

36. The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 recognizes the clearing-house mechanism and technology transfer as support mechanisms for the Plan: “Collectively those involved in implementing the Convention have a wealth of experience and have developed many useful good practice cases, tools and guidance. There is additional useful information beyond this community. A biodiversity knowledge network will be developed, including a database and network of practitioners, to bring together this knowledge and experience and to make it available through the clearing-house mechanism to facilitate and support enhanced implementation of the Convention. National clearing-house mechanism nodes comprising networks of experts with effective websites should be developed and sustained so that in each Party, all have access to the information, expertise and experience required to implement the Convention. National clearing-house mechanism nodes should also be linked to the central clearing-house mechanism managed by the Convention Secretariat, and information exchange between these should be facilitated.”

37. Enhanced technical and scientific cooperation could be achieved through activities in several areas, such as:

(a) Building more effective national clearing-house mechanism nodes. In line with decision IX/9, countries updating their NBSAPs with support from GEF are encouraged to include an enhanced clearing-house mechanism as a component of their GEF-funded enabling activities;

(b) Modernizing the architecture of the central clearing-house mechanism hosted by the Secretariat of the Convention. This would be an in-house exercise to enhance the information technology capabilities of the Secretariat to provide Parties with the best possible service, drawing upon best practices;

⁷ UNEP/CBD/EM-SSC/3/3)

(c) Making greater use of case studies, tools and guidance taken from national reports, other submissions by Parties and organizations, and workshops. Such information could be organized into interoperable databases and used to devise capacity-development (training) modules and other toolkits;

(d) Making better use of evidence-based assessments of the effectiveness of various approaches to implementing the Convention. This could be facilitated drawing upon the case studies, tools and guidance referred to above, along with academic publications, project reports, etc. The aim would be to link general conclusions emerging from the scientific literature with a wider range of grass-roots experience. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice has an important role to play in this regard;

(e) Fostering communities of practitioners in relevant skill fields (e.g. risk assessment, strategic environment assessment, economic valuation and systematic biodiversity planning), building upon existing networks and professional associations.

38. Overall, there is a need to further strengthen cooperation among relevant national, regional and global institutions and partners with a view to promoting exchange within and among regions and identifying possible models for the further development of institutions at the national and regional levels, in follow-up to regional and subregional capacity-building workshops on NBSAPs.

39. In addition, thematic or regional and subregional pilot activities could be explored for the purpose of strengthening technical and scientific cooperation in a limited number of subregions or thematic areas, in cooperation with partner organizations and interested donors. Such initiatives would build upon the experience, expertise and knowledge bases of existing national and regional institutions working on biodiversity, within an appropriate enabling framework that would involve relevant regional cooperation organizations. The aim would be to facilitate technical and scientific cooperation at various levels, through, *inter alia*: (i) access to good practice cases, tools and methodologies; (ii) regional networking and help desks; (iii) training workshops; and (iv) direct exchange of experts. Regional initiatives would be linked to both national clearing-house mechanism nodes and the central clearing-house mechanism. For most regions, such initiatives would be a form of South-South cooperation; support might also be provided through triangular arrangements, as appropriate.

IV. RECOMMENDATION

At its fourth meeting, the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention adopted recommendation 4/1, paragraph 7 of which sets out a suggested decision for adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting (UNEP/CBD/COP/11/4, annex).

Annex

**THEMATIC CAPACITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED BY THE JAPAN
BIODIVERSITY FUND IN 2011**

1. Project Title	Engaging subnational governments, cities and other local authorities in the 2011–2020 Strategic Plan of the CBD
Mandate	X/22 – Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity
Partners	Stockholm Resilience Center, ICLEI, Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity
Output	Production of a GBO-3-like publication to be launched at the World Cities' Summit 2012 in Singapore
Contribution to Strategic Plan Implementation	Target 2 – Socio-economic integration; Target 4 – Sustainable production and consumption; Target 17 – National biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs)
2. Project Title	Enhancing South-South and triangular cooperation on biodiversity for development in the CBD
Mandate	X/23 – Multi-Year Plan of Action for South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development X/16 – Technology transfer and cooperation X/6 – Integration of biodiversity into poverty eradication and development
Partners	
Output	Support to Multi-Year Plan of Action on South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development and to GEF Multilateral Voluntary Fund on South-South Cooperation
Contribution to Strategic Plan Implementation	Target 2 – Socio-economic integration Target 19 – Scientific and technical cooperation
3. Project Title	Strengthening the clearing-house mechanism
Mandate	X/15 – Scientific and technical cooperation and the clearing-house mechanism, annex, goal 2
Partners	SACEP, Belgian CHM Partnership, Wildlife Institute of India
Output	Capacity-building and guidance on how to establish and sustain an effective national clearing-house mechanism, in line with decision X/15 and in support of the NBSAP process
Contribution to Strategic Plan Implementation	Target 19 – Knowledge, science & technologies; Target 1 – Public awareness; Target 17 – NBSAPs
4. Project Title	Mainstreaming poverty eradication and development in regional, national, and local BSAP and mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services in policies, programmes and planning processes
Mandate	X/6 – Integration of biodiversity into poverty eradication and development
Partners	United Nations agencies, NGOs, FAO, WHO, GGIARC, GIZ, AFD, UNICEF, CIRAD, COHAB BBOP and IIED, regional organizations, universities, ...
Output	Integration of poverty reduction and development issues in the different activities of the Secretariat. Long-term capacity-building to mainstream biodiversity in poverty eradication and development policies, programmes and planning processes.
Contribution to Strategic Plan Implementation	Target 2 – Socio-economic integration; Target 4 – Sustainable production and consumption; Target 14 – Ecosystem services; Target 17 – NBSAPs, Target 20 – Resources
5. Project Title	Resource mobilization

Mandate	X/26 – The financial mechanism: Assessment of the amount of funds needed for the implementation of the Convention for the sixth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund X/3 – Strategy for resource mobilization in support of the achievement of the Convention's three objectives
Partners	GEF, OECD, country case-study partners
Output	1. Report on assessment of funding needs for GEF-6 2. 2011 Global Monitoring Report
Contribution to Strategic Plan Implementation	Target 20 – Resources
6. Project Title	Global Platform on Business and Biodiversity
Mandate	X/21 – Business engagement, paragraphs 3(a), (b) and (c)
Partners	Keidanren Committee on Nature Conservation (KCNC), Japan Business and Biodiversity Partnership
Output	1. Establishment of business and biodiversity partnerships in developing countries 2. Link the different nascent national business and biodiversity councils together in a global platform 3. Input on the development of the global business and biodiversity website 4. Increase the participation of businesses from developing countries at COP11
Contribution to Strategic Plan Implementation	Target 2 – Socioeconomic integration
7. Project Title	United Nations Decade on Biodiversity 2011–2020
Mandate	X/8 - United Nations Decade on Biodiversity 2011–2020 X/2 – The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets United Nations General Assembly resolution 65/161
Partners	United Nations University (UNU), UNEP, UNDP, national governments
Output	1. Communications collateral 2. Launches at global, regional and subregional level 3. Regional launches 4. Subregional launches to take place at NBSAP workshops (scheduled for 2011)
Contribution to Strategic Plan Implementation	Target 1 – Public awareness
8. Project Title	Mainstreaming Gender
Mandate	X/19 – Gender mainstreaming, paragraphs 1–4
Partners	IUCN, WEDO
Output	Good practice tool guide on integrating gender equality into poverty eradication and development
Contribution to Strategic Plan Implementation	Target 2 – Socio-economic integration
9. Project Title	Article 8(j): Capacity-building workshops LAC region (Anglophone communities)
Mandate	X/40 – Mechanisms to promote the effective participation of indigenous and local communities in the work of the Convention, paragraphs 1–6
Partners	Government of Japan, Government of Spain, Government of Guyana, the Justice Institute
Output	Training of 40 indigenous and local community (ILC) representatives and government participants in participation in the Convention including at the national level with a view to enhancing implementation of the Strategic Plan
Contribution to Strategic Plan Implementation	Target 18 – Traditional knowledge

10. Project Title	Article 8(j): ILC and expert participation in international meeting on Article 10 (sustainable use of biological diversity) with a focus on Article 10(c) (customary use of biological diversity)
Mandate	X/43 – Multi-year programme of work on the implementation of Article 8(j) and related provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity, paragraphs 8–11
Partners	Government of Japan, ITPGRFA
Output	Advice to seventh meeting of the Working Group on Article 8(j) on possible content and implementation of the new major component of work on Article 10 with a focus on Article 10(c)
Contribution to Strategic Plan Implementation	Target 18 – Traditional knowledge
11. Project Title	Article 8(j): Local communities expert meeting
Mandate	X/43 – Multi-year programme of work on the implementation of Article 8(j) and related provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity, paragraph 21
Partners	Government of Japan, UNDP Equator Initiative, ITPGRFA
Output	To identify common characteristics of local communities, and to gather advice on how local communities can more effectively participate in Convention processes and how to develop targeted outreach, in order to assist in the implementation of the Convention and achievement of its goals, for consideration by the seventh meeting of the Working Group on Article 8(j) and COP11
Contribution to Strategic Plan Implementation	Target 18 – Traditional knowledge
12. Project Title	Gap analysis on technology transfer
Mandate	X/16 – Technology transfer and cooperation, paragraph 2(b)
Partners	Internal: coordinate, as appropriate, information gathering and compilation with South-South cooperation team
Output	Gap analysis on technology transfer
Contribution to Strategic Plan Implementation	Target 19 – Knowledge, science and technologies
13. Project Title	Regional or subregional workshops to integrate the TEEB approach into NBSAPs
Mandate	X/44 – Incentive measures, paragraph 7 X/2 – The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, paragraph 17 f
Partners	Internal: NBSAP team; external: IUCN, UNDP
Output	Eight regional/subregional workshops
Contribution to Strategic Plan Implementation	Target 2 – Socioeconomic integration; Target 3 – Appropriate incentives
14. Project Title	Supporting parties in the implementation of ecosystem-based approaches for adaptation and mitigation
Mandate	X/33 – Biodiversity and climate change, paragraphs 9(e) and 12
Partners	GEF, World Bank, UNDP
Output	Capacity building workshop for pilot countries on joint activities under the three Rio Conventions; development of a project proposal for each pilot country on joint activities under the three Rio Conventions
Contribution to Strategic Plan Implementation	Target 10 – Anthropogenic pressures; Target 15 – Ecosystem resilience
15. Project Title	Global Strategy for Plant Conservation – Supporting the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 by supporting national, sub-regional

	and regional implementation of the updated Global Strategy for Plant Conservation
Mandate	X/17 – Consolidated update of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation 2011–2020
Partners	Botanic Gardens Conservation International
Output	1. Inclusion of Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC) targets in NBSAPs 2. Preparation of regional capacity-building and technical workshops 3. Promotion of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity 2011–2020 4. Development of technical rationale, milestones and indicators for GSPC targets 5. Promoting further GSPC implementation 6. GSPC toolkit at Global Partnership for Plant Conservation (GPPC) conference and other relevant events in 2011 7. Technical and logistic support for the GSPC Liaison Group meeting
Contribution to Strategic Plan Implementation	Target 1 – Public awareness; Target 4 – Sustainable production and consumption; Target 5 – Reduced rate of habitat loss; Target 6 – Sustainable fishing; Target 7 – Sustainable agriculture and forestry; Target 9 – Invasive alien species; Target 11 – Protected areas; Target 12 – Threatened species
16. Project Title	In-depth review of the programme of work on island biodiversity
Mandate	IX/21 – Island biodiversity
Partners	Global Islands Partnership (GLISPA) Coordination Unit, IUCN Washington, D.C.
Output	Production of an assessment of trends and progress made in the implementation of the programme of work on island biodiversity; recommendations for in-depth review
Contribution to Strategic Plan Implementation	Target 10 – Anthropogenic pressures; Target 19 – Knowledge, science and technologies
17. Project Title	Development of an international facilitating mechanism and tools for building capacity to address invasive species
Mandate	X/38 – Invasive alien species IX/4 – In-depth review of ongoing work on alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species
Partners	NBSAP team, CAB International, TNC, IUCN, Inter-Agency Liaison Group on IAS
Output	Invasive alien species strategy is included in NBSAPs
Contribution to Strategic Plan Implementation	Target 9 – Invasive alien species; Target 13 – Genetic diversity
18. Project Title	Strategic capacity-building in taxonomy with partners for the Global Taxonomy Initiative
Mandate	X/39 – Global Taxonomy Initiative, paragraphs 7, 14(b) and 16–18
Partners	NBSAP BioNET INTERNATIONAL, GTICM members, IUCN, Smithsonian Institutions, CSP, French Development Agency, Natural History Museum Paris
Output	Knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity are shared and transferred, and applied
Contribution to Strategic Plan Implementation	Target 19 – Knowledge, science and technologies
19. Project Title	Sustainable Ocean Initiative
Mandate	X/29 – Marine and coastal biodiversity, paragraphs 36, 37, 53 and 76
Partners	UNU-IAS-Kanazawa, Japan MOE, Satoumi network in Japan, FAO, UNEP, UNDOALOS, WCPA, TNC, Korea MAFF
Output	- Official launching and programme development of Sustainable Ocean Initiative, as a long-term capacity-building initiative for programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity, in collaboration with Ministry of the Environment of Japan and UNU-IAS-Kanazawa - CBD Expert Workshop on MPA

	- CBD Expert Workshop on Sustainable Fishery - SOI Pilot Training Workshops on marine protected areas and sustainable fishery
Contribution to Strategic Plan Implementation	Target 6 – Sustainable fishing; Target 8 – Pollution control
20. Project Title	Regional workshops for EBSA identification at regional scale
Mandate	X/29 - Marine and coastal biodiversity, paragraphs 35, 36 and 47
Partners	GOBI including WCMC, CoML/OBIS, and UNU-IAS
Output	- One EBSA regional workshop in South Pacific region - Scientific preparatory work as input to the workshop - Synthesis report on sociocultural criteria for EBSA
Contribution to Strategic Plan Implementation	Target 11 – Protected areas; Target 19 – Knowledge, science and technologies
21. Project Title	Synthesis on experiences and use of marine spatial planning
Mandate	X/29 – Marine and coastal biodiversity, paragraph 75
Partners	GEF-STAP, UNESCO, UNEP, TNC
Output	Synthesis report on experiences and use of marine spatial planning
Contribution to Strategic Plan Implementation	Target 6 – Sustainable fishing; Target 11 – Protected areas; Target 19 – Knowledge, science and technologies
22. Project Title	LifeWeb financing round tables in support of NBSAP process
Mandate	X/31 – Protected areas, paragraphs 11 and 12 X/32 – Sustainable use of biodiversity, paragraph 3 X/33 – Biodiversity and climate change, paragraph 4
Partners	Regional Marine and Coastal Conservation Programme for West Africa (PRCM), Caribbean Challenge, South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), Government of Brazil, Government of Colombia
Output	1. Help strengthen financing for national implementation of the Strategic Plan and Aichi Biodiversity Targets in over 20 developing countries through round tables 2. Contribute to the alignment of international development cooperation discussions 3. Provide visible incentive for developing country Parties, and Parties with economies in transition, to update their NBSAPs 4. Leverage support provided by the Japan Fund to strengthen consideration of funding from at least 10 other partners 5. Illustrate constructive synergy between Japan and Germany in helping finance implementation of the Strategic Plan and Aichi Biodiversity Targets
Contribution to Strategic Plan Implementation	Target 10 – Anthropogenic pressures; Target 11 – Protected areas; Target 19 – Knowledge, science and technologies; Target 20 – Resources
23. Project Title	REDD-plus and Biodiversity
Mandate	IX/5 – Forest biodiversity
Partners	
Output	
Contribution to Strategic Plan Implementation	Target 7 – Sustainable agriculture and forestry; Target 10 – Anthropogenic pressures; Target 19 – Knowledge, science and technologies
24. Project Title	Collaboration with UNFF and CPF
Mandate	X/36 – Forest biodiversity
Partners	United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF)
Output	
Contribution to Strategic Plan Implementation	Target 7 – Sustainable agriculture and forestry

25. Project Title	Expert meeting on Marine Protected Areas
Mandate	X/29 – Marine and coastal biodiversity, paragraph 36
Partners	FAO, UNDOALOS, WCPA, TNC
Output	CBD Expert Workshop on MPA
Contribution to Strategic Plan Implementation	Target 6 – Sustainable fishing; Target 11 – Protected areas; Target 19 – Knowledge, science and technologies
26. Project Title	ABS 1st Intergovernmental Committee
Mandate	X/1 – Access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization
Partners	None
Output	The ICNP will discuss the issues as listed in its draft work plan contained in Annex II of decision X/1. The Intergovernmental Committee will make recommendations on these issues for the first Meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol.
Contribution to Strategic Plan Implementation	Target 16 – Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization
27. Project Title	Capacity-building for early entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol
Mandate	X/1 – Access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization, paragraphs 13 and 14
Partners	UNEP, UNDP and GEF
Output	- Enhanced understanding of the provisions in the Nagoya Protocol - Increased awareness of the Nagoya Protocol among decision-makers/stakeholders - Accelerated ratification of the Nagoya Protocol
Contribution to Strategic Plan Implementation	Target 16 – Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization
28. Project Title	ABS Meetings in 2010
Mandate	
Partners	
Output	Resumed sessions of the ninth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing, 8-16 July 2010 and 17-21 September 2010
Contribution to Strategic Plan Implementation	Target 16 – Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization
29. Project Title	Promotion of awareness and ratification of the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety
Mandate	BS-V/11 – International rules and procedures in the field of liability and redress for damage resulting from transboundary movements of living modified organisms
Partners	Details of partners in execution of the activities will be elaborated/provided later, when and if their commitment is secured.
Output	- 136 NFPs from Africa, Asia and the Pacific, CEE and GRULAC receive adequate information about the Supplementary Protocol to enable or encourage them to initiate and facilitate signature and ratification by their respective countries - one publication on the basics of liability and redress
Contribution to Strategic Plan Implementation	Target 13 – Genetic diversity