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IDENTIFICATION OF BEST PRACTICES AND LESSONS LEARNED ON HOW TO INTEGRATE BIODIVERSITY, POVERTY ERADICATION, AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED AND SYNTHESIS OF LESSONS LEARNED

Note by the Executive Secretary

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In decision XII/5, on biodiversity for poverty eradication and sustainable development, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity welcomed the Chennai Guidance for the Integration of Biodiversity and Poverty Eradication and encouraged Parties to apply it, as appropriate, in accordance with national laws, circumstances and priorities, to their related plans, policies and actions and in the implementation of related programmes (paras. 2 and 16).
2. In paragraph 12 of the same decision, the Conference of the Parties encouraged Parties, other Governments, international organizations, other relevant stakeholders, and indigenous and local communities “to identify best practices and lessons learned on how to integrate biodiversity, poverty eradication, and sustainable development and to share this information using the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention and, as appropriate, other relevant means”.
3. Further to this encouragement, the Executive Secretary, through notification 2016-078 of 9 June 2016, invited Parties, international organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities to submit information on said best practices and lessons learned mentioned. As of 8 September 2016, the Executive Secretary received submissions from the following Parties: Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the European Commission, Finland, Peru, and Sweden. Also received were submissions from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the Network of Marine Protected Area Managers in the Mediterranean (MedPAN), and a joint submission by the Global Forest Coalition (GFC) as well as members and partners of the Community Conservation Resilience Initiative. The information received was reflected in the note by the Executive Secretary on mainstreaming and the

integration of biodiversity across relevant sectors, and further implications of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and of other relevant international processes for the future work of the Convention (UNEP/CBD/COP/13/10). The present note provides more extensive summaries of submissions received and synthesizes the main lessons learned. The full submissions are made available under <https://www.cbd.int/development/casestudies/> in the form and languages in which they were received by the Secretariat.

II. SUMMARIES

A. Parties

4. Australia indicated that, with a view to ending Indigenous disadvantage and disparity, it promotes engagement of indigenous communities through multiple environment and heritage conservation programmes, referring in particular to its report on the social return on investment analysis of Indigenous Protected Areas (IPA) and Working on Country (WoC) programmes under Australia's *Indigenous Advancement Strategy*. The report analysed the impact of these programmes on the engagement of Indigenous Australians in meaningful employment in order to achieve large-scale conservation outcomes; on facilitating their reconnection with country, culture and language; and on catalysing the development of indigenous land and sea based economy and the empowerment of indigenous landowners. The report highlights the outstanding benefits achieved, including not only environmental, but also social, economic and cultural outcomes.

5. Belgium, through its development cooperation programme entitled "Capacities for Biodiversity and Sustainable Development (CEBioS)", supports the capacity building of governments and research institutions in the areas of research on, and valuation of, ecosystem services for national development planning, awareness raising, and for promoting clearing house mechanisms for the CBD. It also supports the monitoring and management of habitats and ecosystems by combining local and traditional knowledge with scientific skills. The submission emphasizes the importance of organizing a coherent governmental programme, specifically dedicated to the implementation of the CBD, establishing cross-sectoral collaboration and partnerships among diverse stakeholders such as administration, local authorities and communities, scientists, as well as non-governmental organization and stakeholders.

6. Bolivia stated that, under its constitution and relevant laws, it strives for transparent management of genetic resources with participation of the people, ensuring access to and non-commodification of these resources, and ensuring solidarity between states and peoples over their management. The rights and rules of governance of territories by indigenous peoples are recognized and supported. Bolivia implements the project "Conservation and sustainable use of agrobiodiversity to improve human nutrition in the five macro-ecoregions" with the objective of improving food security and sovereignty by increasing access of indigenous peoples and local communities to nutritious and varied diets through *in situ* conservation and the sustainable intensification of production.

7. Bosnia and Herzegovina emphasized that integrated biodiversity values in many of its national and subnational development plans, including the National Environmental Action Plan; the draft Development Strategy; the Strategic Plan for Harmonization of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development; as well as subnational strategies and plans for nature protection and rural development. It referred to the assessment of ecosystem services of the Hutovo blato National Park as a best practice. The assessment found this national park to be the most productive ecosystem in the country, providing a whole range of economically significant services. The submission mentions the country's challenges in terms of institutional capacity on ecosystem valuation and the development of legislative and institutional frameworks for biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

8. The European Commission states that the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 includes systematic screening of EU action for development cooperation to reduce any negative impacts on biodiversity. The Commission also supports the work on biodiversity and development carried out by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and mentions the ongoing work on tracking of biodiversity finance including through the use of Rio Markers, relevant works on natural capital accounting approach, Nagoya Protocol and the ABS Initiative, promotion of market-based instruments such as Payment to Ecosystem Services (PES) and biodiversity offsets. Further, it emphasises the importance of strong interlinkage of biodiversity, nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches with climate change mitigation, adaptation and disaster risk reduction.

9. Finland supported the enhancement of food security and the preservation of local heritage related to the use of wild mushrooms, through the compilation of extensive guidebooks in Tanzania and Zambia. The works were part of university collaboration and a project to develop environmental administration and collection, management and utilization of environmental information. The material was compiled based on both traditional and scientific knowledge. In addition to supporting food security of the local population, the material is also expected to contribute to school education and the training of forest professionals.

10. Peru, under its “Business and Biodiversity Initiative (Iniciativa Peruana Biodiversidad y Empresas: ByE)”, commits to the promotion of competitiveness through its National Biocommerce Programme. The National Commission for the Promotion of Biocommerce has been established, bringing together different institutions from public and private sectors. The programme also provides national and international references to good business practices. Criteria such as land area covered by biocommerce, number of companies linked with biocommerce value chains, and rate of compliance with the principles of biocommerce, are used in order to evaluate and monitor the impacts of commercial activities and grant certifications to products.

11. Sweden submitted the report “Rapportering av biologisk mångfald och ekosystemtjänster – Sida’s Contribution to Sweden’s National Reporting to the Convention on Biological Diversity” by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), providing information on its extensive work in support of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Millennium Development Goals, in collaboration with various global and regional organizations and initiatives. Examples of its support include: the Market and Transformation Initiative, implemented in collaboration with WWF, with a view to push key commodity markets toward sustainability; the Seeds GROW programme, with Oxfam, on strengthening food security for the most vulnerable through seed biodiversity, with a focus on food and climate justice; and the Rights and Resource Initiative (RRI), a coalition of 13 NGOs which carries out research and advocacy for increased global recognition of the need for improvement of tenure security for small holders, communities and indigenous people, and its value for combating deforestation and climate change.

B. International organizations and initiatives

12. UNCTAD, through its BioTrade Initiative, launched in 1996, promotes the value addition and sustainable commercial use of biodiversity in a variety of sectors in developing countries. The principles applied to the initiative’s value chain include: socioeconomic and rights-based principles related to poverty reduction, such as equitable benefit sharing; respect for actors’ rights; clear land tenure and resource access. In addition to its contribution to preserving and recovering traditions, and supporting activities of women and small and medium enterprises, the potential of BioTrade as a tool for livelihood recovery and reintegration in post-conflict settings has been recognized.

13. MedPAN provided cases of sustainable fisheries and sustainable tourism in Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the Mediterranean region. Its programme on sustainable tourism highlights the potential

of ecologically responsible tourism in MPAs as a significant source of income and its profitability at the local level compared to mass tourism. The programme tackles a multitude of solutions to challenges faced by tourism in MPAs such as balancing the number of visitors and the carrying capacity of ecosystems.

14. The joint submission by the GFC and members and partners of the Community Conservation Resilience Initiative emphasizes the need to acknowledge and address the realities of governance and land and resource tenure, to embed rights-based approaches, and to effectively implement SDG 10 on reducing inequality within and among countries. The submission draws attention to the role of territories and areas conserved by Indigenous Peoples and local communities (ICCA) in biodiversity conservation and poverty reduction, as described in the CBD Technical Series No.64,¹ which has been produced by the ICCA Consortium in collaboration with several partners. Furthermore, it provides many cases of best practices in which customary laws and traditional rights to access, use, govern and manage lands and resources, some of them legally recognized by governments, enable communities to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity, preserve its intrinsic values, generate income, and empower the indigenous peoples and local communities. The lessons learned described in the submission, including some drawn from the above-mentioned Technical Series No.64, are included in the summary below.

III. SYNTHESIS OF LESSONS LEARNED

15. Lessons learned reported by the submissions include:

(a) Investments in ecosystem management can lead to social returns beyond environmental benefits, and those need to be accounted for;

(b) Undertaking systemic changes and policy initiatives is important for encouraging sustainable use of biodiversity, including through agro-ecological approaches, such as by encouraging exchanges of seeds and genetic stocks, and by ensuring a minimum support price for sustainable production in times of droughts and floods;

(c) Indigenous institutions and customary governance systems of ICCAs and Sacred Sites, and their contribution to conservation, should be appropriately recognized and respected. Legal, political and institutional reform can contribute to improved recognition and strengthening of land tenure and natural resource management;

(d) Free, prior and informed consent should be ensured in the process where communities choose to engage with market-based mechanisms;

(e) Monitoring mechanisms should be put in place for fair and transparent allocation and effective use of financial and technical resource provided to communities;

(f) The leadership and decision-making capacities of women and youth as significant contributors to conservation initiatives should be enhanced, taking into account their integral role in the transfer of knowledge;

(g) It is important to ensure cross-sectoral collaboration, and partnerships among diverse stakeholders such as administration, local authorities and communities, scientists, as well as non-governmental organization and stakeholders.

¹ Kothari, Ashish with Corrigan, Colleen, Jonas, Harry, Neumann, Aurélie, and Shrumm, Holly. (eds). 2012. Recognising and Supporting Territories and Areas Conserved By Indigenous Peoples And Local Communities: Global Overview and National Case Studies. Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, ICCA Consortium, Kalpavriksh, and Natural Justice, Montreal, Canada. Technical Series no. 64, 160 pp.
<https://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-64-en.pdf>