

Item 9

Revised Dehradun recommendations for review by the expert group at its second meeting from 4-6 December 2013, in Chennai India

The Expert Group on Biodiversity for Poverty Eradication and Development which met, for the first time, in Dehradun, India from 12-14 December 2011, presented the Dehradun Recommendations, as part of its report, to the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention at its fourth meeting (WGRI-4) in May 2012 in Montreal for consideration by the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 11) to the Convention that was held in Hyderabad, India in October 2012. The Expert Group proposed ways and means of mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services into poverty eradication and development processes, specifically to achieve Targets 2¹ and 14² of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, through its report to WGRI-4. When presented to COP 11, the Dehradun Recommendations were revised following WGRI-4 recommendations ([WGRI-4, Recommendation 4/4](#)).

In paragraph 4 of Decision XI/22 dealing with biodiversity for poverty eradication and development, COP 11 decided that the Expert Group on Biodiversity for Poverty Eradication and Development should continue its work, in accordance with the terms of reference annexed to the decision, and subject to the availability of funding, and submit a report, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention, to the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation at its fifth meeting (WGRI-5) for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting (COP 12).

Decision XI/22, *inter alia*, instructed the Expert Group to prepare for discussions of the recommendations by the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting by preparing a report in due time for the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention including a thematically restructured and streamlined draft of the Dehradun Recommendations and to promote a comprehensive revision of the Dehradun Recommendations considering Rio+20 outcome and submissions of Parties at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties taking into account that there are different approaches, visions, models and tools available to each country, in accordance with its national circumstances and priorities, to achieve the three objectives of the Convention, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (paragraph 4 (a)(i) and (b)) of the annex to Decision XI/22).

The Dehradun recommendations document presented to COP 11 was further revised based on feedbacks and comments during the meeting, among others. A draft revised set of recommendations, thematically structured and streamlined, is annexed hereto, to assist the Expert Group in its work during its second meeting from 4-6 December 2013 in Chennai, India.

Annex

Revised Dehradun recommendations for Chennai

The Parties to the CBD have recognized the significant role of biodiversity in poverty eradication, including the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the importance of its inclusion in the future Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The need for the promotion of an understanding that maintaining biodiversity is not a *problem* to be solved but rather an *opportunity* to help achieve broader social and economic goals has become very crucial. On the

¹ By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems. (Target 2 - Decision X/2, The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, Annex).

² By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable (Target 14 - Decision X/2, The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, Annex)

one hand, biodiversity and the ecosystem services that it underpins are essential for continued human development; and on the other hand, *sustainable* pathways for human development are needed to ensure that these life support renewable natural resources and ecosystem services continue to be maintained.

In the Rio+20 outcome document, *The Future We Want*, governments at the highest-level reaffirmed the “intrinsic value of biological diversity as well as the ecological, genetic, social, economic, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational and aesthetic values of biological diversity and its critical role in maintaining ecosystems that provide essential services which are critical foundations for sustainable development and human well-being.” Governments also recognized the severity of the global loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystems, and emphasized that these undermine global development, affecting food security and nutrition, the provision of and access to water and the health of the rural poor, as well as the overall well-being of people worldwide, including present and future generations. They indicated that this highlights the importance of the conservation of biodiversity, enhancing habitat connectivity and building ecosystem resilience. They also recognized that the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities make an important contribution to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and their wider application can support social well-being and sustainable livelihoods³.

In the same spirit, the sixty seventh session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) encouraged parties and all stakeholders, institutions, and organizations concerned to consider the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in the elaboration of the Post 2015 United Nations development agenda, taking into account the three dimensions of sustainable development, and invited the United Nations system to continue facilitating cooperation among its members in support of the implementation of the Strategic Plan.

The COP at its eleventh meeting decided to extend the work of the Expert Group on Biodiversity and Poverty Eradication and Development, asking the Expert Group to prepare revised recommendations for its consideration. Based on such recommendations, the COP agrees as follows:

The Conference of the Parties,

Integration of biodiversity into poverty eradication and sustainable development strategies, processes, and implementation and monitoring systems

1. *Encourages* Parties in accordance with their circumstances, to integrate biodiversity and ecosystem services and functions into poverty eradication and development strategies, initiatives, processes and monitoring systems at all levels, *inter alia*, by:

- a) Adapting and integrating poverty eradication and sustainable development concerns and priorities into national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) and other appropriate plans, policies and programmes for the achievement of the objectives of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 as well as into local and regional biodiversity plans and strategies;
- b) Integrating biodiversity and ecosystem services into national development strategies and sectoral development plans, and their implementation;

2. *Encourages* international agencies and organizations, including Multilateral Development Banks, Development Cooperation Agencies, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), to contribute to the full implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and to integrate biodiversity and ecosystem services into poverty eradication and sustainable development strategies, initiatives, processes, and monitoring

³ Paragraph 197 of the Rio+20 outcomes document.

systems, including within the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs), and multilateral and bilateral country assistance strategies.

3. *Encourages* Parties, international agencies and organizations to monitor the integration of biodiversity and ecosystem services into poverty eradication and sustainable development strategies, initiatives, processes, and implementation by using the biodiversity indicators established under the Convention on Biological Diversity, as well as the indicators used in the Millennium Development Goals, the Rio Markers, or any other relevant indexes and systems;

Best practices and barriers to implementation of COP decisions on poverty eradication and sustainable development

4. *Encourages* Parties and international agencies and organizations to identify and promote conservation and/or sustainable development policies, activities, projects and mechanisms which empower women, indigenous and local communities and the poor, marginalized and vulnerable, who depend directly on biodiversity and ecosystem services for their livelihoods;

5. *Encourages* Parties, international agencies and organisations to identify and compile best practices cases for integrating biodiversity into development processes and to share the information using the CHM of the Convention and in other relevant ways;

6. *Encourages* Parties to take steps to overcome barriers to implementing COP decisions for addressing biodiversity and poverty eradication and development, and to share the information using the CHM of the Convention and other relevant ways;

Minimizing adverse impacts, facilitating full participation and ensuring redress

7. *Encourages* Parties, international agencies and other organizations, that during their efforts to integrate biodiversity and ecosystem services into poverty eradication and sustainable development strategies, processes and implementation at all levels, to :

a) Taking into account the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, facilitate the full and effective participation of all stakeholders and especially women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable in decisions making-processes by clearly defining stakeholders rights and limits, notably indigenous and local communities rights, in particular, their right to free prior and informed consent, to access and control of biodiversity and ecosystem services;

b) Take measures to avoid, as much possible, negative impacts and externalities on poor communities;

Values of Biodiversity

8. Encourages Parties and international agencies and organizations, multilateral and regional development banks and private sector to promote an enabling environment for the valuation of both economic and non-economic aspects of biodiversity and ecosystem services, or alternatively, effective non-market based approaches to ensure that the value of biodiversity is reflected in decision-making;

9. *Encourages* Parties, international agencies and organizations to assess, preserve and respect non-market-based approaches that contribute to the eradication of poverty and promote the development and role of collective action and the engagement of indigenous and local, other traditional and ethnic minorities' communities in the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components to enhance livelihoods.

Capacity Building, Funding Support and Enabling Environment

10. *Calls upon* Parties and international agencies and organizations, to develop or strengthen the capacity of individuals and organizations as well as to create an enabling environment particularly in least developed countries small island developing States (SIDS) and countries with economies in transition to effectively value biodiversity and ecosystem services, to assess the multiple and holistic values of biodiversity and ecosystem services and functions, as well as their integration into poverty eradication and development processes by highlighting and developing the necessary economic,

negotiating, management and accounting skills of all relevant actors (planning, budgeting, environmental economics, and other related sectors) and facilitating their participation in the designing, implementation and monitoring of capacity development programmes for valuation of biodiversity and ecosystem services for integration into poverty eradication and development processes and promoting cross-country learning groups, South-South cooperation networks, and the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity for capacity development at all levels to facilitate technology transfers, access to knowledge, and information exchanges;

11. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility, United Nations agencies, bilateral development cooperation agencies and multilateral development banks and other funding agencies to provide technical and financial support to regional or subregional initiatives for learning and capacity development frameworks and for strengthening enabling environment and to promote and effectively implement capacity development programmes at local, national and regional levels for biodiversity, poverty eradication and sustainable development.