



## CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

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EXPERT MEETING ON THE  
ECOSYSTEM APPROACH  
Montreal 7-11 July 2003  
Item 2.3 of the provisional agenda\*

### ORGANIZATION OF WORK: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

#### *Annotations to the provisional agenda*

#### INTRODUCTION

1. The ecosystem approach is a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way. Application of the ecosystem approach will help to reach a balance of the three objectives of the Convention. It is based on the application of appropriate scientific methodologies focused on levels of biological organization, which encompass the essential processes, functions and interactions among organisms and their environment. It recognizes that humans, with their cultural diversity, are an integral component of ecosystems.
2. According to the Conference of the Parties, the ecosystem approach is the primary framework for the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Conference of the Parties, however, recognized the need for further guidance both in formulating a conceptual basis for understanding the ecosystem approach, as well as for providing practical approach for its application. The mandate of this Expert Group has its origin in that need, and is based on the decisions of the Conference of the Parties detailed below.
3. In its decision V/6, paragraph 4, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to collect, analyse, and compare identified case-studies and lessons learned on the ecosystem approach, and to prepare a synthesis for presentation to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical, and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) prior to the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
4. In its decision VI/22, paragraph 19 (a), the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to carry out a comparative study to clarify the conceptual basis of the ecosystem approach in relation to the concept of sustainable forest management with a view to improve, through an integrated approach, the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources.

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\* UNEP/CBD/EM-EA/1/1.

5. In its decision VI/12, the Conference of the Parties further requested the Executive Secretary to continue the collection, compilation and dissemination of case-studies and lessons learned (paragraph 2(a)), and develop proposals for the refinement of the principles and operational guidance of the ecosystem approach (paragraph 2(c)) on the basis of the analysis mentioned in paragraph 3 of the decision, and for their further integration into the programmes of work of the Convention and its cross-cutting themes.

6. Based on these decisions, and with the financial support of the Government of the Netherlands, the Executive Secretary decided to convene a meeting in order to:

(a) Review the analysis of case-studies and lessons learned on the ecosystem approach;

(b) Develop proposals for the refinement of the principles and operational guidance of the ecosystem approach on the basis of case-studies and lessons learned, including indicators and strategies for the integration of the ecosystem approach into the programmes of work of the Convention; and

(c) Clarify the conceptual basis of the ecosystem approach in relation to the concept of sustainable forest management and develop proposals for their integration.

7. The meeting of the Expert Group will be held from 7 to 11 July 2003 at the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

8. A list of documents for the meeting is attached as annex II.

9. Registration of participants will start from 8.30 to 9 a.m. on Monday 7 July 2003.

## **ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING**

10. The meeting will be opened by the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity or his representative at 9 a.m. on Monday 7 July 2003.

## **ITEM 2. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS**

### ***2.1. Election of officers***

11. After a brief self-introduction of the participants, the Group will be invited to elect its Co-Chairs based on proposals from the floor.

### ***2.2. Adoption of the agenda***

12. The provisional agenda prepared by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/EM-EA/1/1) will be before the Group for consideration and adoption.

### ***2.3. Organization of work***

13. The language of the meeting will be English.

14. The Group is invited to consider the proposed organization of work for the meeting as contained in annex I below.

15. The Group may wish to conduct its initial deliberations in plenary, but break into smaller groups for drafting text on specific issues.

16. The Group will consider the three items outlined in paragraph 4 above. The analysis of case-studies will be undertaken under agenda item 3; the proposals for refinement of principles and operational guidance will be considered under agenda item 4; while the review and development of strategies for integrating the ecosystem approach into the Convention's programmes of work, including sustainable forest management, will be considered under agenda item 5. Participants may also wish to consider any observations or recommendations from supporting documentation.

17. Prior to the commencement of deliberations, a representative of the Executive Secretary will give a brief presentation introducing the ecosystem approach of the CBD, as well as the decisions of the Conference of the Parties, which form the background and mandate for the work of the Group. The expected outputs of the meeting will also be reviewed.

### **ITEM 3. SYNTHESIS OF CASE-STUDIES AND LESSONS LEARNED**

18. Practical experiences gained from implementing the ecosystem approach in various locations and ecosystem types around the world will be considered under this agenda item. The case-studies reviewed under this item will provide an overview of how the ecosystem approach has been implemented worldwide, as well as the lessons learned from its application. Such practical experiences provide the basis for later consideration of the principles of the ecosystem approach.

#### ***3.1. Main results from the pathfinder report***

19. A presentation will highlight main results of the report "Using the Ecosystem Approach to Implement the CBD", derived from the regional Pathfinder Workshop.

#### ***3.2. Lessons learned from other case-studies***

20. Following the presentation of the results of the Pathfinder Workshop, the Group will discuss the lessons learned from other case-studies, and consider the conditions under which the implementation of the ecosystem approach principles was successful.

21. . To facilitate the incorporation of various country perspectives, participants are also invited to prepare a one-page summary of their countries response to the implementation of the ecosystem approach in response to paragraphs 2, 3, 6 and 7 of decision V/6. This request is also extended to representatives of participating organizations.

### **ITEM 4. REVIEW OF THE PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES OF THE ECOSYSTEM APPROACH**

22. Under this item, the Group will review the principles of the ecosystem approach, as they are outlined in decision V/6 of the Conference of the Parties. The applicability of these principles and the associated guidelines to implementation of the ecosystem approach will be reviewed, particularly in the context of the case studies reviewed under agenda item 3. Following this, the operational guidelines for implementation of the ecosystem approach will be reviewed and refined as necessary.

**4.1. *Review of the principles of the ecosystem approach and proposals for their refinement***

23. A presentation will provide an overview of the main results of the Workshop on Further Development of the Ecosystem Approach, held in Vilm, Germany, in October 2002. Participants will also have before them document UNEP/CBD/EM-EA/1/3 which contains a framework for possible review of the principles and guidelines of the ecosystem approach and suggestions for their refinement. Following a review of this documentation, the Group is invited to discuss the adequacy of the principles of the ecosystem approach, and present proposals for their refinement.

**4.2. *Review and development/refinement of the operational guidelines for the implementation of the ecosystem approach***

24. Participants will have before them a note by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/EM-EA/1/4) on development/refinement of the operational guidelines of the ecosystem approach as a basis for further discussion by the Group. Following a review of this document, the participants will be invited to discuss possible refinement of the existing operational guidance for the implementation of the ecosystem approach and to develop operational guidelines for each of the principles.

**ITEM 5. REVIEW OF, AND DEVELOPMENT OF STRATEGIES FOR, THE INTEGRATION OF THE ECOSYSTEM APPROACH INTO VARIOUS PROGRAMMES OF WORK OF THE CONVENTION**

25. As stated in decision II/8, the ecosystem approach forms the primary framework for action under the Convention. It applies to all the thematic work programmes of the Convention, as well as to the cross-cutting issues. The principles and guidelines of the ecosystem approach should be broad enough to be relevant to all of the Convention's work programmes. However, specific guidance for integrating the ecosystem approach into the implementation strategies of the various programmes of work may be needed.

**5.1. *Review of the integration of the ecosystem approach into the thematic programmes of work and work on cross-cutting issues of the Convention***

26. As a basis for further discussion, the Group will have before them a note (UNEP/CBD/EM-EA/1/5) that reviews the incorporation of the ecosystem approach into various programmes of work of the Convention. Following the review of this document, the Group will be asked to provide further advice on the integration of the ecosystem approach into the work programmes.

**5.2. *Comparative study to clarify the conceptual basis of the ecosystem approach in relation to the concept of sustainable forest management***

27. Sustainable forest management will be considered as a specific case-study of application of the ecosystem approach to a thematic work programme of the Convention. Participants will have before them document UNEP/CBD/EM-EA/1/6 as a basis for further discussion. Following a review of this document, the Group will be invited to provide recommendations to SBSTTA as to how the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources can be improved through the application of the ecosystem approach to sustainable forest management. Reference should be made to the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity (decision VI/22, annex).

**5.3. *Development of strategies for the integration of the ecosystem approach into the programmes of work of the Convention***

28. Following discussions on items 5.1 and 5.2, the Group will be invited to develop further practical strategies for implementing the ecosystem approach in the context of the various programmes of work of the Convention.

**ITEM 6. OTHER MATTERS**

29. Under this item, participants will be invited to raise other matters related to the subject matter of the meeting.

**ITEM 7. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

30. The Group will consider and adopt its report on the basis of the draft report of the meeting to be prepared and presented by one of the Co-Chairs.

**ITEM 8. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

31. It is foreseen that the meeting will be closed at 5 p.m. on Friday, 11 July 2003.

*Annex I*

**PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE EXPERT GROUP ON ECOSYSTEM APPROACH**

*Monday, 7 July 2003*

- 9 a.m.                      Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting  
                                 Agenda item 2: Organizational matters  
                                 Ecosystem approach principles, operational guidance, and objectives of the expert meeting,  
                                 Synthesis of case-studies and lessons learned (agenda item 3)
- 1p.m. - 2p.m.              Lunch
- 2p.m. - 5p.m.              Agenda item 3 (*continued*)

*Tuesday, 8 July 2003*

- 9a.m. - 1p.m.              Agenda item 4.1: Review of principles and proposals for their further refinement
- 1 p.m. – 2 p.m.            Lunch
- 2 p.m. – 5 p.m.            Agenda item 4.2: Review and refinement of the operational guidance and proposal for operational guidelines for the implementation of the ecosystem approach principles

*Wednesday, 9 July 2003*

- 9a.m. - 1p.m.              Agenda item 5: Review of, and development of strategies for, the integration of the ecosystem approach into the work of the Convention
- 1p.m. - 2p.m.              Lunch
- 2p.m. - 5p.m.              Agenda item 5 (*continued*)

*Thursday, 10 July 2003*

- 9a.m. - 1p.m.              Drafting groups working on sections of the report
- 1p.m. - 2p.m.              Lunch
- 2p.m. - 5p.m.              Drafting groups working on sections of the report

*Friday, 11 July 2003*

- 9a.m. - 1p.m.              Drafting groups working on sections of the report
- 1p.m. - 2p.m.              Lunch
- Afternoon                  Agenda item 6: Other matters  
                                 Agenda item 7: Adoption of the report
- 5 p.m.                        Agenda item 8: Closure of the meeting

*Annex II*

**PROVISIONAL LIST OF DOCUMENTS OF THE EXPERT GROUP ON ECOSYSTEM APPROACH**

**A. Working documents**

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
UNEP/CBD/AHTEG-EA/1/1	Provisional agenda
UNEP/CBD/AHTEG-EA/1/1Add.1	Annotations to the provisional agenda
UNEP/CBD/EM-EA/1/2	Lessons learned from case studies
UNEP/CBD/EM-EA/1/3	Review of the principles of the ecosystem approach and suggestions for refinement: a framework for discussion
UNEP/CBD/EM-EA/1/4	Proposals for development/refinement of the operational guidelines of the ecosystem approach
UNEP/CBD/EM-EA/1/5 ecosystem programmes of work of	Review of the incorporation of the approach into various the Convention
UNEP/CBD/EM-EA/1/6	Comparison of the conceptual basis of the ecosystem approach in relation to the concept of sustainable forest management

**B. Background documents**

COP Decision V/6 on the Ecosystem Approach

COP Decision VI/12 on Ecosystem Approach

COP Decision VI/22 on Forest Biological Diversity

Korn, H., Schliep, R. and J. Stadler (Eds.) (2003) Report of the International Workshop on the "Further Development of the Ecosystem Approach" at the International Academy for Nature Conservation, Isle of Vilm, Germany, October 9-11, 2002. BFN - Skripten 78, Germany

Smith, R.E. and E. Maltby (2000) Using the Ecosystem Approach to implement the CBD. A global synthesis report drawing lessons from three regional *pathfinder* workshops

Hartje, V., Klaphake, A. and R. Schliep (2003) The international debate on the Ecosystem Approach. BFN – Skripten 80, Germany

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Ellenberg, H. (2003) Ecosystem Approach versus Sustainable Forest Management: Attempt at a comparison. Workreport by the Institute for World Forestry

Häusler, A. and Scherer-Lorenzen, M. (2002) Sustainable forest management in Germany: the ecosystem approach of the Biodiversity Convention reconsidered. Results of the R+D-Project 800 83 001. BFN, Germany.

White, R.P., Tunstall, D. and N. Henninger (2002) An Ecosystem Approach to Drylands: building support for new development policies. World Resources Institute Information Policy Brief No. 1.

UNEP/CBD/SBSBTA/5/11: Ecosystem Approach: Further conceptual elaboration

Pirot, J-Y., Meynell, P.J. and D. Elder (2000) Ecosystem Management: Lessons from Around the World. A Guide for Development and Conservation Practitioners. IUCN Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK.

Technical advice on the establishment and management of a national system of marine and coastal protected areas. Paper prepared by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Marine and Coastal Protected Areas

WWF Australia (2002) Policy Proposals and Operational Guidance for Ecosystem-Based Management of Marine Capture Fisheries

FAO (2003) Fisheries Management – the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries. FAO Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries No. 4.

Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity

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