CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

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Item 4.3.1 of the provisional agenda*

ESTABLISHMENT OF GUIDELINES FOR THE SECOND NATIONAL REPORTS, INCLUDING INDICATORS AND INCENTIVE MEASURES

Synthesis of information contained in the first national reports and status of reports submitted

Note by the Executive Secretary

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its second meeting, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to prepare a report based on the synthesis of information contained in national reports and other relevant information and containing also suggested next steps, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties (decision II/17).

2. At its third meeting, the Conference of the Parties decided that the first national reports should be submitted no later than 1 January 1998 (decision III/9).

3. Only a small number of national reports were received by the date established by the Conference of the Parties. By March 1998, however, 86 reports had been received. Accordingly, the Executive Secretary prepared a synthesis of the information contained in these reports. This synthesis is contained in document UNEP/CBD/COP/4/11/Rev.1, which was considered by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting, in May 1998.

4. At its fourth meeting, the Conference of the Parties noted the difficulty experienced by Parties in preparing their national reports and welcomed those that had been received. It requested those Parties that had submitted interim reports to submit a full report as soon as they were in a position to do so, and urged those that had yet to submit their first national report to do so as soon as they could and, in any event, no later than 31 December 1998 (decision IV/14).

* UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/1.

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5. By the end of the fourth meeting, a further 23 reports had been received by the Executive Secretary, bringing the total received by May 1998 to 107 (see document UNEP/CBD/COP/4/Inf.34).

6. In the period from May 1998 to December 1999, a further four reports were received, bringing the total of first national reports submitted to 111. Six Parties that had previously submitted an interim report subsequently submitted a full report in this period. Annex I contains further details.

7. The fact that so few additional reports were received after the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and that 65 Parties have not been able to submit a report within the extended deadline suggests that a sizeable number of Parties continues to experience difficulty.

8. In decision IV/14, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to prepare a revised version of the synthesis report, on the basis of the national reports received and other relevant information.

9. The Secretariat has therefore examined the information contained in the 25 reports that were not considered in the previous synthesis report of the Executive Secretary prepared for the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

10. The information contained in these reports, which were submitted by Parties from all regions, is broadly similar to the information contained in the 86 reports previously examined and corroborates the analysis and conclusions of the previous report.

11. This note is intended to provide a brief synthesis of any matters encountered in the reports that are additional to the matters discussed in section III of document UNEP/CBD/COP/4/11/Rev.1. In doing so, it re-emphasizes some points previously made when these are given particular weight in the new reports under review.

12. The structure of the following section follows that employed in section III of document UNEP/CBD/COP/4/11/Rev.1

II. SYNTHESIS OF INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE NATIONAL REPORTS NOT PREVIOUSLY EXAMINED

A. Current status of biodiversity and its conservation

13. A number of Parties give information on their efforts to conserve plant and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture. This includes information on regulatory frameworks in place, on in situ conservation of landraces and indigenous cultivars, on measures taken for ex situ conservation of genetic resources within the country and details of national institutions with important germplasm collections.

14. The difficulties faced with regard to obtaining adequate funding for the maintenance and further development of national ex situ facilities are noted by developing country Parties. One developed country Party observes that activities are undertaken in support of both in situ and ex situ conservation but they are not fully coordinated.

15. A number of Parties provide an assessment of activities and socio-economic trends which, directly or indirectly result in loss of national biological diversity.

16. There is some reference in reports from developed country Parties and one Party with an economy in transition to institutional arrangements and legislation governing biotechnology and living modified organisms.

17. One Party provides information on the conclusions of a national audit on the management of the natural environment, and identifies the need for reform in the distribution of financial resources and in administrative activities.

B. Status of national biodiversity strategies and action plans

18. The reports provide information on the status of development of the country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan (NBSAP) at the time the report was prepared. Some reports provide information about the procedures followed for development of the strategy, including information on consultation with or participation by stakeholders, in some cases at both national and local levels.

19. As was the case with the reports previously examined, a wide range of status can be observed. The reports reveal a full spectrum of NBSAP development, from Parties that had a national biodiversity strategy in place prior to the entry into force of the Convention, through Parties that have completed the strategy development process following ratification of the Convention, to Parties who are at an early stage of strategy development.

20. Annex II provides a summary of the information the Secretariat currently holds concerning the status of national biodiversity strategies and action plans. The difficulties experienced in obtaining a complete and reliable picture of the overall status of NBSAPs are addressed in the main note by the Executive Secretary on this item of the provisional agenda (document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/14).

C. Action to integrate conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into other sectors

21. As noted in the previous analysis, a significant number of reports recognise the importance of integrating biodiversity into all major sectors, and identify mechanisms being set in place to achieve this. A number of Parties stress the importance of integrating the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into their land-use planning systems. For example, one Party reports on the development of spatial planning policy at various levels that takes into account landscape and biodiversity issues.

22. A number of Parties report on the designation of a national authority responsible for the coordination of the national biodiversity strategy and action plan. These typically allow for cooperation within Government and cooperation with or participation by stakeholders outside Government.

23. Many reports stress the importance of public education and awareness for integrating the objectives of the Convention into other sectors. The questions of a general lack of public understanding of the importance of biological diversity and the dangers arising from its loss are highlighted in

several reports. Some Parties describe activities planned to increase public awareness.

24. Some Parties make reference to the opportunities offered by ecotourism as a means of generating revenues to be reinvested in conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and as a means of generally fostering interest in biological diversity.

D. Action to identify and monitor biological diversity and impacts upon it

25. The information contained serves to reinforce the analysis made in the previous synthesis report. Two reports include specific information on new initiatives to develop programmes and indicators, while a number of ongoing programmes are referred to directly or indirectly.

E. Protected areas

26. The previous synthesis noted that virtually all reports from every region stress the importance of protected area systems in national programmes for conservation of biological diversity and the new reports examined confirm that this view is also held by these Parties.

27. One Party notes that it has encountered difficulties in the establishment and management of protected areas. This has occurred not only within forested areas, but also outside forest areas where resistance to expansion of protected areas has come from other non-forestry sectors competing for the land. Further complications have arisen as a result of a lack of coordination between programmes dealing with forest use. Slow implementation of laws on biodiversity protection has also had a negative impact.

F. Implementation of policies and actions across international borders

28. Some additional information is provided by a few countries on their participation in regional programmes for the sustainable management of biological diversity, on bilateral cooperation or cross-border coordination, and on activities undertaken to implement their obligations under other conventions which also support implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

29. Such information further emphasises the benefits deriving from greater harmonization between the work of the Convention and other relevant global and regional agreements and programmes.

G. Means of implementation

30. Many developing country Parties give details of the constraints arising from insufficient capacity to undertake activities to implement the Convention. Investment needs in human and institutional resources are identified. Some Parties provide details of measures underway to address identified capacity development needs.

31. Some Parties provide details of externally financed projects, but the lack of consistency in this type of information makes comparisons between countries and regions problematic. In decisions III/6 and IV/12, the Conference of the Parties requested inclusion in national reports of

standardized information on financial support from developed country Parties for the objectives of the Convention. The provision, by countries receiving external financial assistance for activities to implement the Convention, of details of such assistance could also be helpful in obtaining more consistent information on bilateral and multilateral support to biodiversity-related projects.

H. Mechanisms for sharing national experience

32. The previous synthesis report noted that few national reports included case-studies, but those case-studies that were included provided excellent brief summaries that could provide valuable guidance to other Parties. The same observation can be made in respect of the additional reports examined for this note.

I. Other information requested of Parties

33. There is some additional information on indigenous communities in the reporting country and on measures the Party has taken to implement Article 8(j) and related provisions.

34. One Party notes the role played by women in the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and that the national constitution has been amended in order to give greater rights to women in matters relating to the management of natural resources.

III. CONCLUSIONS

35. The further matters considered by the previous synthesis report under the headings "lessons learned", "challenges and priorities ahead", and "recommendations" are addressed in the main note prepared by the Executive Secretary to assist SBSTTA with its consideration of this item of the agenda (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/14).

Annex I

PARTIES AND GOVERNMENTS WHICH HAVE
SUBMITTED A FULL NATIONAL REPORT
(at 1 December 1999)

1. Benin
2. Bhutan
3. Bolivia
4. Botswana
5. Brazil
6. Bulgaria
7. Cameroon
8. Canada
9. Cape Verde[1]
10. China
11. Colombia
12. Costa Rica
13. Cuba
14. Denmark
15. Djibouti[1]
16. Dominican Republic
17. Egypt
18. Eritrea
19. Estonia[2]
20. European Community
21. Finland
22. France
23. Germany
24. Greece
25. Hungary
26. India
27. Indonesia
28. Ireland
29. Israel
30. Italy[2]
31. Japan
32. Latvia
33. Lebanon[1]
34. Luxembourg[2]
35. Madagascar
36. Malaysia
37. Mexico
38. Monaco
39. Mongolia
40. Mozambique
41. Namibia
42. Nepal
43. Netherlands
44. New Zealand
45. Norway
46. Oman
47. Panama[1]
48. Peru
49. Philippines
50. Poland
51. Portugal[1]
52. Qatar
53. Republic of Korea
54. Romania
55. Russian Federation
56. Samoa[2]
57. Senegal
58. Seychelles
59. Singapore
60. Slovakia[1]
61. Slovenia
62. South Africa
63. Spain
64. Sweden
65. Switzerland
66. Thailand[3]
67. Tunisia
68. Turkey
69. Uganda
70. Ukraine
71. United Kingdom
72. Vanuatu[2]
73. Vietnam

1 Countries that had submitted an interim report by COP-4.

2 Countries that had not submitted a report by COP-4.

3 Not a Contracting Party.

PARTIES WHICH HAVE SUBMITTED
AN INTERIM NATIONAL REPORT

1. Algeria
2. Armenia
3. Bahamas
4. Belize
5. Burkina Faso
6. Chad
7. Comoros
8. Democratic Republic of the Congo
9. Ecuador
10. El Salvador
11. Equatorial Guinea
12. Fiji
13. Gabon
14. Gambia
15. Haiti
16. Jamaica
17. Kazakhstan
18. Kenya
19. Lesotho
20. Malawi
21. Maldives
22. Mali
23. Marshall Islands
24. Niger
25. Rwanda
26. Saint Lucia
27. Sri Lanka
28. Swaziland
29. Togo
30. Trinidad and Tobago
31. Uruguay
32. Uzbekistan
33. Zambia

PARTIES WHICH HAVE NOT YET SUBMITTED A NATIONAL REPORT

1. Albania
2. Angola
3. Antigua and Barbuda
4. Bahrain
5. Bangladesh
6. Barbados
7. Burundi
8. Cambodia
9. Central African Republic
10. Chile
11. Congo
12. Cook Islands
13. Côte d'Ivoire
14. Croatia
15. Cyprus
16. Czech Republic
17. Democratic People's Republic of Korea
18. Dominica
19. Ethiopia
20. Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
21. Georgia
22. Ghana
23. Grenada
24. Guatemala
25. Guinea
26. Guinea-Bissau
27. Guyana
28. Honduras
29. Iceland
30. Iran (Islamic Republic of)
31. Jordan
32. Kiribati
33. Kyrgyzstan
34. Lao People's Democratic Republic
35. Liechtenstein
36. Lithuania
37. Mauritania
38. Mauritius
39. Micronesia (Federated States of)
40. Morocco
41. Myanmar
42. Nauru
43. Nicaragua
44. Niue
45. Nigeria
46. Palau
47. Pakistan
48. Papua New Guinea
49. Paraguay
50. Republic of Moldova
51. Saint Kitts and Nevis
52. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
53. San Marino
54. Sierra Leone
55. Solomon Islands
56. Sudan
57. Suriname
58. Syrian Arab Republic
59. Tajikistan
60. Tonga
61. Turkmenistan
62. United Republic of Tanzania
63. Venezuela
64. Yemen
65. Zimbabwe

Annex II

NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS

The table below contains information derived from national reports, information received from the Global Environment Facility and its Implementing Agencies, and from other sources. Parties and Governments are requested to review this information and to inform the Executive Secretary of amendments to be made to the table.

1	2	3	4	5	6
Contracting Party	National Report	GEF EA support?	If yes, which IA?	Status of NBSAP	NBSAP Available?
Albania	-	✔	WB	B	-
Algeria	✔	✔	UNDP	B	-
Angola	-	-	-	-	-
Antigua and Barbuda	-	✔	UNDP	B	-
Argentina	✔	✔	UNDP	C	www
Armenia	✔	✔	UNDP	B	-
Australia	✔	N/A	-	C	🕮 ✔www ✉
Austria	✔	N/A	-	B	-
Bahamas	✔	✔	UNEP	C	✉
Bahrain	-	-	-	A	-
Bangladesh	-	-	-	A	-
Barbados	-	✔	UNEP	B	-
Belarus	✔	✔	UNEP	B	-
Belgium	✔	N/A	-	B	-
Belize	✔	✔	UNDP	C	🕮 ✔ ✉
Benin	✔	✔	UNDP	B	-
Bhutan	✔	✔	UNDP	C	🕮 ✔
Bolivia	✔	✔	UNDP	B	-
Botswana	✔	-	-	A	-
Brazil	✔	✔	UNDP	B	-
Bulgaria	✔	✔	UNDP	C	🕮
Burkina Faso	✔	✔	UNDP	B	-
Burundi	-	✔	UNDP	B	-
Cambodia	-	✔	UNDP	B	-
Cameroon	✔	✔	UNEP	B	-
Canada	✔	N/A	-	C	🕮 ✔www ✉
Cape Verde	✔	✔	UNDP	B	-
Central African Republic	-	✔	UNDP	B	-
Chad	✔	✔	UNDP	B	-
Chile	✔	-	-	A	-
China	✔	✔	UNEP	C	🕮 ✉
Colombia	✔	✔	UNEP	B	-
Comores	✔	✔	UNDP	B	-
Congo	-	✔	UNDP	B	-
Cook Islands	-	✔	UNDP	B	-
Costa Rica	✔	✔	UNDP	B	-
Cote d'Ivoire	-	✔	UNEP	B	-
Croatia	-	✔	WB	B	-
Cuba	✔	✔	UNEP	B	-
Cyprus	-	-	-	A	-
Czech Republic	-	✔	WB	B	-

DPR Korea	-	✔	UNDP	B	-
DR Congo	✔	✔	UNDP	B	-
Denmark	✔	N/A	-	C	🕮 ✉
Djibouti	✔	✔	UNDP	B	-
Dominica	-	✔	UNDP	B	-
Dominican Republic	✔	✔	WB	C	✉
Ecuador	✔	✔	UNDP	C	🕮 ✔ ✉
Egypt	✔	✔	UNEP	C	🕮 ✔ ✉
El Salvador	✔	✔	UNDP	B	-
Equatorial Guinea	✔	✔	UNDP	B	-
Eritrea	✔	✔	WB	C	✉
Estonia	✔	✔	UNEP	B	-
Ethiopia	-	✔	UNDP	B	-
European Community	✔	N/A	-	C	✉
Fiji	✔	✔	UNDP	B	-
Finland	✔	N/A	-	C	🕮 ✔💾 www
FYR Macedonia	-	-	-	-	-
France	✔	N/A		B	-
Gabon	✔	✔	UNDP	B	-
Gambia	✔	✔	UNEP	B	-
Georgia	-	✔	WB	B	-
Germany	✔	N/A	-	B	-
Ghana	-	-	-	A	-
Greece	✔	N/A	-	B	-
Grenada	-	✔	UNDP	B	-
Guatemala	-	✔	UNDP	B	-
Guinea	-	✔	UNDP	B	-
Guinea-Bissau	-	✔	UNDP	B	-
Guyana	-	✔	UNDP	B	-
Haiti	✔	✔	WB	B	-
Honduras	-	✔	UNDP	B	-
Hungary	✔	✔	UNEP	B	-
Iceland	-	N/A	-	A	-
India	✔	✔	UNDP	B	-
Indonesia	✔	-	-	C	🕮 ✉
Iran, Islamic Republic of	-	✔	UNDP	B	-
Ireland	✔	N/A	-	C	●
Israel	✔	-	-	C	✉
Italy	✔	N/A	-	B	-
Jamaica	✔	✔	UNDP	B	-
Japan	✔	N/A	-	C	●
Jordan	-	✔	UNDP	B	-
Kazakhstan	✔	✔	UNDP	C	✉
Kenya	✔	✔	WB	B	-
Kiribati	-	✔	UNDP	B	-
Kyrgystan	-	✔	WB	B	-
Lao PDR	-	-	-	A	-
Latvia	✔	✔	UNDP	C	✉
Lebanon	✔	✔	UNDP	C	🕮 ✔ ✉
Lesotho	✔	✔	UNDP	C	✉
Liechtenstein	-	N/A	-	A	-
Lithuania	-	✔	WB	C	🕮 ✔
Luxembourg	✔	N/A	-	B	-
Madagascar	✔	✔	UNEP	C	✉

Malawi	✔	✔	UNEP	B	-
Malaysia	✔	✔	UNDP	C	🕮 ✔
Maldives	✔	✔	UNDP	B	-
Mali	✔	✔	UNDP	B	-
Marshall Islands	✔	✔	UNDP	B	-
Mauritania	-	✔	UNEP	B	-
Mauritius	-	✔	UNEP	B	-
Mexico	✔	✔	UNDP	B	-
Micronesia, FS of	-	-	-	A	-
Monaco	✔	N/A	-	C	✉
Mongolia	✔	✔	UNDP	C	✉
Morocco	-	✔	UNEP	B	-
Mozambique	✔	✔	UNEP	B	-
Myanmar	-	-	-	-	-
Namibia	✔	✔	UNEP	B	-
Nauru	-	-	-	A	-
Nepal	✔	-	-	A	-
Netherlands	✔	N/A	-	C	✉
New Zealand	✔	N/A	-	B	-
Nicaragua	-	-	-	A	-
Niger	✔	✔	UNDP	C	●
Nigeria	-	✔	UNDP	B	-
Niue	-	✔	UNDP	B	-
Norway	✔	N/A	-	B	-
Oman	✔	✔	UNDP	B	-
Pakistan	-	✔	UNEP	B	-
Palau	-	-	-	-	-
Panama	✔	✔	UNEP	B	-
Papua New Guinea	-	✔	WB	B	-
Paraguay	-	✔	UNDP	B	-
Peru	✔	✔	UNDP	B	-
Philippines	✔	✔	UNDP	B	-
Poland	✔	✔	UNEP	B	-
Portugal	✔	N/A	-	B	-
Qatar	✔	-	-	A	-
Republic of Korea	✔	N/A	-	A	-
Republic of Moldova	-	✔	WB	B	-
Romania	✔	-	-	C	✉
Russian Federation	✔	✔	UNEP	C	✉
Rwanda	✔	✔	UNDP	A	-
Saint Kitts and Nevis	-	✔	UNDP	B	-
Saint Lucia	✔	✔	UNEP	A	-
St Vincent & Grenadines	-	✔	UNDP	B	-
Samoa	✔	✔	UNDP	B	-
San Marino	-	N/A	-	A	-
Sao Tome and Principe	-	-	-	-	-
Senegal	✔	✔	UNDP	C	●
Seychelles	✔	✔	UNEP	C	🕮 ✔🖫
Sierra Leone	-	-	-	A	-
Singapore	✔	-	-	A	-
Slovakia	✔	✔	WB	B	-
Slovenia	✔	✔	WB	B	-
Solomon Islands	-	✔	UNEP	B	-
South Africa	✔	✔	UNDP	B	-

Spain	✔	N/A	-	B	-
Sri Lanka	✔	-	-	C	🕮 ✉
Sudan	-	✔	UNDP	B	-
Suriname	-	✔	UNDP	B	-
Swaziland	✔	✔	UNDP	B	-
Sweden	✔	N/A	-	C	✉
Switzerland	✔	N/A	-	B	-
Syrian Arab Republic	-	✔	UNDP	B	-
Tajikistan	-	-	-	B	-
Togo	✔	-	-	B	-
Tonga	-	-	-	-	-
Trinidad and Tobago	✔	✔	UNDP	B	-
Tunisia	✔	✔	WB	C	✉
Turkey	✔	-	-	B	-
Turkmenistan	-	-	-	B	-
Uganda	✔	✔	WB	C	✉
Ukraine	✔	✔	WB	C	✉
United Kingdom	✔	N/A	-	C	🕮 ✔ ✉
UR of Tanzania	-	-	-	A	-
Uruguay	✔	✔	UNDP	B	-
Uzbekistan	✔	✔	UNDP	C	✉
Vanuatu	✔	✔	UNEP	B	-
Venezuela	-	✔	UNDP	B	-
Viet Nam	✔	-	-	C	🕮 ✉
Yemen	-	✔	UNDP	B	-
Zambia	✔	✔	UNDP	B	-
Zimbabwe	-	✔	UNDP	C	✉

Key

Column 2
✔ - full or interim report received (see Annex 1)

Column 3
✔ - recipient of biodiversity enabling activity support
N/A - not applicable (ie. non GEF-eligible country)

Column 5
information currently available to the Secretariat:
A - no information
B - NBSAP in preparation
C - NBSAP completed and approved

Column 6
shows the information held by the Secretariat in respect of NBSAPs known to have been completed and approved:

🕮 - known to be available as publication
✔ - copy supplied to Secretariat
🖫 - electronic version made available to Secretariat
www - posted on the Internet
✉ - Secretariat able to direct enquiries to known point of contact
● - NBSAP reported complete, but no further information available to Secretariat

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