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Fifth meeting

Montreal, 31 January – 4 February 2000

Item 3.1 of the provisional agenda*

COOPERATION WITH OTHER BODIES

Note by the Executive Secretary

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The review of ongoing cooperation with other bodies is a standing item on the agenda of meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice in accordance with its modus operandi approved by the Conference of the Parties in its decision IV/16. The present note reports on relevant developments and activities in the period from January to October 1999. Taking into account SBSTTA recommendation IV/1 B on cooperation, the note highlights cooperation activities:

(a) For the preparation of documentation and other preparatory type activities including essentially the four liaison group meetings that were held to prepare the pre-session documents for the fifth meeting of SBSTTA on the ecosystem approach, agrobiodiversity, indicators and drylands, and the expert consultation held to consider the coral-bleaching phenomenon.

(b) Intended to assist in the implementation of the programme of work of SBSTTA, e.g. notifications, peer reviews and collaboration with other bodies and regional organizations.

Finally, the report describes three important activities (the Millennium Assessment of Global Ecosystems, the World Conservation Monitoring Centre, and the Global Biodiversity Information Facility) being undertaken by other bodies with which SBSTTA may wish to consider ways and means of cooperating.

SUGGESTED RECOMMENDATIONS

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technical Advice may wish to recommend that the Conference of the Parties:

* UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/1.

1. Takes note of the cooperation activities; and
2. Invites the Executive Secretary to strengthen cooperation particularly in the area of scientific and technical assessment of biodiversity bearing in mind the importance of biodiversity assessments in identifying emerging issues and reviewing the programmes of work and the impact of measures taken under the Convention.

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. Cooperation with other bodies is a central element in the operations of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA). The review of the operations of the Convention undertaken at the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties recognized that SBSTTA needs to make more effective use of existing scientific knowledge and expertise. Increasing the level of scientific and technical knowledge available to the Convention process would improve the effectiveness of the Convention. It would facilitate development of relevant policies and promote implementation of many of the provisions of the Convention. As the principal advisory body on these matters, SBSTTA has an important role to play in bridging the gap between the scientific community and policy makers.
2. As part of its review of the operations of the Convention, the Conference of the Parties, at its fourth meeting, revised the modus operandi of SBSTTA (decision IV/6, annex I) and requested SBSTTA to cooperate with other relevant international, national and regional organizations under the guidance of the Conference of the Parties, with a view to using existing experience and knowledge. An important part of the work of any meeting of SBSTTA is therefore to review ongoing cooperation with other bodies so as to advise the Conference of the Parties accordingly.
3. At its fourth meeting, SBSTTA had before it a note by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/4/2) that reported on activities from September 1997 to December 1998. On the basis of this document, SBSTTA made a number of specific recommendations with a view to enhancing cooperation with other bodies.
4. The present note provides an update on relevant cooperation developments and activities from January to October 1999. Its purpose is to assist SBSTTA in reviewing progress and determining the need for further recommendations. It should be noted that, although the report focuses on the more formal types of cooperation that have been undertaken, informal modes of cooperation (for example, exchanges on the margin of meetings) have made a significant contribution to the work of the Convention as well. However, by their very nature such activities cannot be properly described in a report of this nature.
5. Cooperation with other bodies forms a central theme of many other aspects of the work of the Convention and the Secretariat. Details regarding this cooperation in a wider context than the mandate of SBSTTA are provided in the quarterly report on the administration of the Convention on Biological Diversity for the period 1 June to 31 August 1999 (UNEP/CBD/QR/6).

II. CURRENT COOPERATION ACTIVITIES

A. Preparation of documentation and other preparatory-type activities

6. The focus of cooperative activities during the reporting period has been on gathering information and expertise for the preparation of the documentation for the fifth meeting of SBSTTA. Activities intended to assist implementation of the Convention, decisions of the Conference of the Parties and recommendations of SBSTTA have also been undertaken (see section B below).
7. The liaison groups that the Executive Secretary convened to assist with the preparation of several pre-session documents for the fifth meeting of SBSTTA benefited from the participation and cooperation of relevant organizations. These liaison groups have been the most important mechanism through which

cooperation has been carried out during the reporting period of this report. This mechanism could become the main means by which other bodies can contribute directly to the development of policy within the Convention.

8. During the reporting period, there have been four liaison groups meetings on the following topics: the ecosystem approach (15-17 September), agrobiodiversity (20-22 September), indicators of biological diversity (24-25 September), and drylands, Mediterranean, arid, semi-arid, grassland and savannah ecosystems (27-29 September).

(a) Details regarding the organizations that participated and contributed to the meetings on agrobiodiversity and dryland ecosystems can be found in the respective pre-session documents (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/10 and UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/9).

(b) Organizations that participated in the meeting of the liaison group on the ecosystem approach: DIVERSITAS, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Food and Agricultural Organization of United Nations (FAO), the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE), the Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands, IUCN-the World Conservation Union, the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). In addition, thirteen experts representing different geographical regions, governmental and non-governmental organizations including the private sector and indigenous communities also participated in the meeting;

(c) Organizations that participated in the liaison group meeting on indicators: Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Bank, FAO, GEF, IUCN, and a representative of the first liaison group meeting held in the Netherlands (from the Netherlands National Institute for Public Health and Environment).

1. An expert consultation on coral bleaching was organized from 11 to 13 October 1999 in Manila, with financial assistance from the Governments of the United States of America, Sweden and France, and the IUCN Washington office. The objective of the consultation was: (i) to assist the Executive Secretary in the preparation of section III of pre-session document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/7, dealing with the analysis of the coral-bleaching phenomenon, a review of the potential severe loss of biological diversity and consequent socio-economic impacts; and (ii) to propose possible actions that will control the causes and consequences of coral bleaching. Experts were from International Center for Living Aquatic Resources Management (ICLARM); IUCN Washington Office, the International Ocean Institute; the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI); the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN); the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA); the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA); and the Coastal Resource Center of the University of Rhode Island.

2. Work programmes related to cross-cutting issues have benefited greatly from cooperation with relevant organizations and bodies. For example, the development of draft guiding principles to deal with alien species issues largely benefited from cooperation with the Global Invasive Species Programme.

3. Discussions have continued with UNESCO and UNEP on implementation of Article 13 of the Convention on public awareness and education. On the basis of these consultations, UNESCO is developing a comprehensive proposal for action. This proposal identifies the main strategic steps for the elaboration of contents and activities within such a global initiative on biological diversity education, training and public awareness and for their implementation, including funding aspects. Also under consideration is the need for a high-level report on biological diversity education, training and public awareness, along the lines of the report to UNESCO of the International Commission on education for the Twenty-first Century and the report to UNESCO of the World Commission on Culture and Development.

* As a member of the Ecosystem Conservation Group

4. In its decision IV/15, the Conference of the Parties called for the development of guidelines for the management of protected areas. An important precursor to developing guidelines is the development of a scientific assessment of the representativity of the protected areas network. Generation and development of information to make this assessment is a central feature of existing efforts to cooperate with other protected area instruments, such as the Convention on Wetlands, the World Heritage Convention and the Man and Biosphere (MAB) programme. Pursuant to the work programme adopted in its decision IV/16, the question of protected areas will be a focus of the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties. An important factor in determining this timing was that it would enable the Convention to lend its normative weight to the results of the next World Congress on National Parks and Protected Areas, planned for 2002 in Africa. Close cooperation is anticipated with the steering committees involved in the preparation of this Congress. To this end, the Secretariat has prepared a detailed paper outlining the process for preparing for this topic and has initiated preliminary consultations with the above organizations. The Secretariat has also participated in meetings of the International Co-ordinating Committee of MAB with a view to promoting cooperation for the preparations for the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Executive Secretary invited the MAB Secretariat to provide a mechanism for the collection of relevant information.

B. Cooperative activities intended to assist implementation

5. At its fourth meeting, SBSTTA made a number of important recommendations of an institutional nature with a view to promoting cooperation. In recommendation IV/1 C, SBSTTA requested the Executive Secretary to prepare a detailed proposal that seeks to address the issues of peer review and scientific assessments for the Convention for the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties. It also recommended that a strategic plan be developed for SBSTTA. Proposals on these matters are currently being developed by the Secretariat. They will be contained in a note by the Executive Secretary on the operations of the Convention (UNEP/CBD/COP/5/17) and are expected to be considered by the Conference of the Parties in that overall context, under item 19 of the provisional agenda of its fifth meeting.

6. In light of the terms of reference recommended by SBSTTA to the Executive Secretary, an important aspect of this issue of peer review and scientific assessments is the operation of the roster of experts and terms of reference for the ad hoc technical expert groups established under SBSTTA. The current modalities of these institutions are to be reviewed by this meeting of the SBSTTA pursuant to agenda item 4.3.2. of the provisional agenda (see document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/15).

7. The system of notification called for by SBSTTA has been established by the Secretariat. As of 15 October 1999 seven notifications have been posted on selections of experts for the liaison group meetings and the Panel of Experts on Access and Benefit-Sharing, and to seek comments on a draft pre-session document. (see www.biodiv.org/chm/Notifications/index.html) The system is based on those being used under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the Convention on Wetlands. It also draws on the experience of the General Assembly and the World Trade Organization. In effect it represents an extension of the system of documentation coding currently in use in the Convention process.

8. Another initiative that has been further developed by the Secretariat during the period of this report, is the Global Biodiversity calendar of Events (see <http://www.biodiv.org/conv/bio-calendar.html>). An important role of this calendar is to share information on biodiversity-related events and prevent conflicts in planning such events.

9. Pursuant to SBSTTA recommendation IV/1 B a methodology for case-studies is also being developed. As with the proposal for peer reviews and scientific assessments this will be considered by the Conference of the Parties pursuant to the overall operations of the Convention (item 19 of the

provisional agenda) and accordingly, proposals regarding the methodology will also be contained in the note by the Executive Secretary submitted under that item (UNEP/CBD/COP/5/17). An outline for case studies on alien species is contained in annex II to the note by the Executive Secretary on the subject (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/5).

10. In the implementation of the thematic programmes of work on marine and coastal, agricultural, forest and inland water biodiversity, the Convention is benefiting from substantial scientific and technical cooperation provided by United Nations agencies, biodiversity-related conventions and other relevant organizations. Progress to date with respect to contributions from other organizations is described in documents UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/6-10 particularly in the area of forest biological diversity (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/8) and inland water biological diversity (Section II of document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/6).

11. In the context of the Jakarta Mandate work programme (document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/7), all activities leading to concrete outputs are benefiting from the inputs of experts (from the Convention roster of experts) and relevant organizations and bodies that are cooperating with the Secretariat through informal task forces as called for in decision IV/5 of the Conference of the Parties. These organizations and bodies are:

(a) With regard to the review of existing instruments relevant to integrated marine and coastal area management and their implication for the implementation of the Convention: UNEP, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO, the World Bank, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and IUCN;

(b) With regard to the implementation of the integrated marine and coastal area management (IMCAM): the Center for the Study of Marine Policy, University of Delaware;

(c) With regard to the promotion of ecosystem approaches to the sustainable use of marine and coastal living resources: the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Center for the Management of Living Aquatic Resources (ICLARM) and the Ecosystem Conservation Group (ECG);

(d) For achieving a better understanding of the causes of the introduction of marine and coastal alien species and genotypes and the impact of such introductions on marine and coastal biological diversity: UNEP, the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the International Ocean Commission (IOC) and the Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP);

(e) In the area of the development of criteria for the establishment of, and management aspects of, marine and coastal protected areas, the United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (UNDOALOS), in its capacity as secretariat of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, IMO, the Secretariat of the World Heritage Convention, the regional seas conventions and action plans, the World Network of Biosphere Reserves and IUCN.

1. With a view to advancing the regional implementation of the Jakarta Mandate programme of work, the Secretariat is developing a memorandum of cooperation with the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean sea against pollution. In addition to memoranda of cooperation with regional processes, the Secretariat has entered into similar cooperative agreements with the following global organizations and bodies whose programmes and activities are relevant to, and may require harmonization with, the Jakarta Mandate and the related work programme: the Convention on Wetlands, the World Heritage Convention, UNEP, UNESCO, IOC, FAO, the World Bank, and the International Ocean Institute.

2. In addition, members of the Secretariat participated in a number of meetings/workshops where, inter alia, they ensured that concerns of relevance to the Convention on Biological Diversity were taken into account. This ensured harmony with other biodiversity-related processes and agreements. In this view, the Secretariat participated, inter alia, in the meeting of the second Coordinating and Planning Committee (CPC) for the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI), in Paris, in March 1999. The Conference to the

Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity has welcomed the ICRI as a means to address the threat to coral reefs and related ecosystems (decision II/10, para. 5). The Secretariat also participated in the third session of the Inter-governmental Forum on Forests in Geneva, in May 1999, and took this opportunity to strengthen its links with the Inter-Agency Task Force on Forests (which includes the Centre for International Forestry Research, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the International Tropical Timber Organization, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Bank and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity).

3. Following SBSTTA recommendation IV/I B, the Chairman of the Bureau of SBSTTA designated as a permanent observer on the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) of the Convention on Wetlands (RAMSAR Convention) participated in the meeting of this body held from 22 to 25 September 1999 in Gland, Switzerland.

4. At its fourth meeting, SBSTTA, in its recommendation IV/7, made an assessment of the interlinkages between biodiversity and tourism. It recommended to the Conference of the Parties that this assessment be transmitted to the Commission on Sustainable Development with the recommendation that the Commission incorporate the assessment in the international work programme on sustainable tourism. The Secretariat has brought this recommendation to the attention of the General Assembly and the Secretariat of the United Nations, with a view to ensuring that if the Conference of the Parties does accept the recommendation of SBSTTA, this assessment can be circulated in a timely and effective manner.

5. Decision IV/9 of the Conference of the Parties established the inter-sessional Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-Sessional Working Group on the Implementation of Article 8(j) and Related Provisions. The first meeting of the Working Group is planned for February 2000. The terms of reference for the group include identifying "opportunities for collaboration and coordination with other relevant bodies or processes with the aim of fostering synergy and avoiding duplication of work". By way of preparation for this meeting, the Conference of the Parties further called for the submission of additional case-studies. In order to promote the involvement of other bodies in the work of this group, the Executive Secretary sent letters to indigenous and local community organizations and other relevant organisations, as well as national focal points, calling for the submission of case-studies on the basis of a proposed outline developed by the Secretariat. Ways and means of ensuring that these groups have an appropriate role in the meeting of the Working Group are currently being explored with the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties.

6. In its decision IV/9, the Conference of the Parties also requested the Executive Secretary to seek ways to enhance a collaborative relationship with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). In order to further address the issue of determining how best to protect the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, a preliminary scheme for the joint work plan (matrix) has been developed in collaboration with WIPO secretariat, and discussions have been held regarding the implementation of the joint work plan.

7. A consistent theme emerging from the various forums, which have considered ways and means of making the activities of various international initiatives more effective through cooperation, is the need for such initiatives to be considered at the national and regional levels. There are a number of important opportunities that provide a forum at which cooperation can be considered at the national level.

(a) The regional meetings called for in decision IV/16 provide one such opportunity. For example, the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy Initiative, for the Central and Eastern European region, and the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme, for the South Pacific region, are organizing regional meetings to identify regional and national issues that could be more effectively addressed by the Convention and its institutions, thus promoting cooperation with relevant international bodies at the national, regional and international levels;

(b) Another important forum for exploring synergies and modalities of cooperation will be the Global Environment Facility (GEF) outreach programme that was announced at the last meeting of the GEF Council and is currently being developed by the GEF Secretariat. In particular, this outreach programme will bring together those responsible for the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification at the national level in over 50 countries.

III. OTHER RELEVANT ACTIVITIES FOR FUTURE COOPERATION

1. This Section describes three important activities being undertaken by other bodies that the SBSTTA may wish to consider ways and means of cooperating with.

A. The Millennium Assessment of Global Ecosystems

2. Increasing knowledge and understanding of the functioning of the biosphere has highlighted the interconnectedness of many issues that are of relevance to the Convention. For example, clearing old-growth forests not only diminishes forest biological diversity and affects negatively their capacity to provide goods and services through their natural processes, it may also have negative impacts on watershed stability, coastal areas through siltation, climate through a loss of capacity to absorb excessive releases of carbon dioxide and the resulting global warming, and social security. At the global level, the extent of these interlinkages have been recently considered in the Interlinkages Report provided by UNEP, the World Bank and the United States National Aeronautic and Space Agency (NASA).

3. At the international level, assessments have focused on the state of one system or another. For example the Global International Waters Assessment (GIWA), the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and various assessments carried out under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer have focused on a particular aspect of the biosphere. The Global Biodiversity Assessment covered plants, animals, micro-organisms and the ecological complexes of which they are part, as well as a number of related issues such as biotechnology and economic valuation.

4. As a consequence, and building on the experience of previous assessments, there is a growing recognition of the need for an overall assessment of the planet's ecosystems and the impact that humans have had on these systems. Indeed, the need for such an assessment was a main conclusion of both the Interlinkages Report and the International Conference on Synergies and Coordination between Multilateral Environmental Agreements held in Tokyo in July 1999.

5. A prominent proposal that seeks to begin to address this need is the proposed Millennium Assessment of Global Ecosystems. The proposal is for a multidisciplinary assessment of the planet's ecosystems that will analyse the state of its biological systems together with its associated physical environment and of its capacity to provide goods and services for human development.

6. The first assessment is planned to take place from 2000 to 2004. It will produce a global summary and five to ten regional assessments that will summarize the state of ecosystems on particular continents and other regions. The assessment will synthesize research and modeling for forecasting ecosystem change and will produce a report detailing alternative "futures" for ecosystems. The assessment will focus on interlinkages among environmental issues: for example, what are the potential consequences of increased fertilizer use in agriculture for freshwater quality and coastal systems?

7. It is proposed that the assessment be repeated on a regular basis, with five or 10-year intervals being mooted.

8. The Assessment is intended to provide policy-relevant information for relevant conventions, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity, Convention to Combat Desertification and the Convention on Wetlands. It is also intended to provide policy relevant information to national governments and to help

them manage their natural resources. Further details regarding the proposal are available from the secretariat of the Millennium Assessment (see <http://www.ma-secretariat.org>).

B. The World Conservation Monitoring Centre

1. At the seventh meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development, in April 1999, UNEP, IUCN and the Government of the United Kingdom announced their intention to establish the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) as a UNEP centre. To guide this development a Transition Task Force has been established and met for the first time in September 1999. The Executive Secretary is a member of this task force. The terms of reference for this task force include:

- (a) Assessment of the biodiversity data and information needs of current and potential users;
- (b) Development of a programme of work for WCMC;
- (c) Terms of reference for a Scientific Advisory Council; and
- (d) Identification of potential international partner organizations.

1. WCMC has made a significant contribution to the work of the Convention. For example, the WCMC project on harmonization of national reports of the biodiversity-related conventions has assisted the Secretariat, SBSTTA and the Conference of the Parties, as well as the secretariat of the CITES, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), the Convention on Wetlands and the World Heritage Convention in considering how their reporting processes can be made more synergistic. They have also provided assistance in developing the guidelines for the second national reports under the Convention. The contribution of both of these projects will be considered by SBSTTA at its fifth meeting under item 4.3.1 of the provisional agenda (see document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/14).

C. The Global Biodiversity Information Facility

2. Databases and expertise needed to access and use existing biodiversity-related information systems are distributed worldwide. Furthermore, simply accessing this information is beyond the capabilities and resources of many, if not all, Parties.

3. In an effort to promote access to existing information relating to biodiversity, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is exploring the development of the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF). The principal objectives of GBIF are: to coordinate already funded work, to create value-added linkages among existing data-sets, and to foster new projects that take into account the needs of interested parties (countries, industries, individuals, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), etc.).

4. The OECD Megascience Forum Subgroup on Biodiversity Informatics has recommended the establishment of a small coordinating body that would serve as the secretariat to oversee the development of the GBIF.

5. Working in conjunction with the GBIF structure, researchers in participating countries will pursue the following, among a variety of activities:

- (a) Synchronizing and planning for inter operability of biodiversity databases, including:
 - (i) Contributing data, information and resources, such as data about whole organisms, specimen data from biological collections, environmental and remote sensing data, molecular/gene/genome data, new information and communication software, and facilities for training, computing and laboratory work;
 - (ii) Developing novel user-interface designs.

- (iii) Developing standards for accessing and linking new and existing databases, including standards and protocols for indexing, validation, documentation and quality control;
 - (iv) Providing access to new and existing databases.
- (b) Developing partnerships with existing organizations and projects;
 - (c) Improving high-speed networking and computation infrastructures;
 - (d) Sharing computational facilities, including high-volume data storage;
 - (e) Training researchers, data managers, and technicians.

1. Funding for individual projects will continue to be provided through existing national and regional mechanisms. The GBIF secretariat will provide, among many other services, a clearing-house for information about past, present, and proposed projects. GBIF personnel, through their activities (conduct of studies, facilitation of workshops, coordination and networking, etc.) will promote more inter operability among databases, more coordination between independently funded programmes, more standards and protocols for linking databases, and more practical applications that demonstrate the utility of biodiversity data for addressing critical social concerns.

2. GBIF activities will be defined and supervised by a Governing Board consisting of Government-designated representatives of countries that contribute financially to GBIF operations. The Governing Board will be open to full participation by any country (OECD or non-OECD) making the required financial contribution.

3. GBIF activities will be carried out by a small secretariat (fewer than ten people). GBIF personnel will be responsible for facilitating, coordinating, and monitoring ongoing efforts and the activities of the experts involved in the tasks initiated directly for GBIF. The secretariat will be accountable to the Governing Board through its Director. Activities of the GBIF secretariat will be reviewed periodically by the Governing Board to ensure that goals are being attained, and to develop recommendations for enhancing the work based on lessons learned.

4. GBIF will be closely linked with established programmes and organizations that compile, maintain and use biological information resources such as DIVERSITAS, Species 2000, the Integrated Taxonomic Information System (of United States agencies), and the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention.
