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Ninth meeting

Montreal, 10-14 November 2003

Item 4.1 of the provisional agenda*

PROTECTED AREAS

Report of the liaison group meeting on the outcome of the World Parks Congress

1. The Executive Secretary convened a liaison group meeting on the World Parks Congress on 18 September 2003 in Durban, South Africa. The purpose of the meeting was to analyse the outcomes of the World Parks Congress with a view to identifying elements from the World Parks Congress not fully reflected in the outputs of the meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Protected Areas held in June 2003 in Tjärno, Sweden and that should be drawn to the attention of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) for possible integration in its advice to the Conference of the Parties.
2. The meeting was attended by 41 participants including representatives of the AHTEG on Protected Areas, the World Parks Congress stream leaders and workshops chairs and participants and representatives of Governments, United Nations organizations, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, representatives of indigenous communities and the private sector. The list of participants is contained in annex I to the present report.
3. The proposed programme of the meeting and organization of work are attached as annex II. The meeting was opened by Mr. Alfred Oteng-Yeboah, Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA).
4. Mr. Kalemani Jo Mulongoy, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, welcomed the participants on behalf of the Executive Secretary and described the mandate of the group.
5. Mr. Kenton Miller, Mr. David Sheppard and Mr. Estherine Lisinge introduced the outcomes of the World Parks Congress.
6. Following their presentations and some discussions, the Group recommended that:
 - (a) IUCN explores the possibility of having the outcomes of the World Parks Congress distributed as information document at the ninth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA);

* UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/1.

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(b) Efforts should be made to reflect accurately the language of the World Parks Congress in the note that the Executive Secretary would prepare for the ninth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) on the outcomes of the World Parks Congress; and;

(c) A side-event be organized at the ninth meeting of SBSTTA to deliver and explain the World Parks Congress message.

7. It was also noted that:

(a) Due to time constraints when the outcomes from the World Parks Congress were being prepared, the Durban Action Plan may contain some redundancies that the World Parks Congress did not clean up;

(b) The recommendations document was prepared from the bottom up and with the largest participation and had the highest level of coherence; and

(c) Each workshop stream had prepared short reports that should also be made available to SBSTTA because their contents are not necessarily reflected in the World Parks Congress Recommendations, the Durban Accord, the Durban Action Plan or the World Parks Congress Message to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

8. Mr. Peter Schei (Norway) introduced the message of the World Parks Congress to the Convention on Biological Diversity and made general comments on items that could be highlighted in the notes by the Executive Secretary on the outcomes of the World Parks Congress. After a discussion, the Group agreed on the following:

(a) Targets and timelines are important elements in the World Parks Congress outcomes. Work should be initiated to review them on the basis of science, taking into account (i) targets relating to biodiversity and also enabling activities; (ii) the need to have some ideas about the long-term targets while identifying and implementing short and mid-term targets including the 2010 biodiversity targets; (iii) the need to also address capacity needed to achieve the targets and address threats (in particular incompatible land use identified as the main threat outside protected areas);

(b) There is a need to have a balance between the 3 objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and thus a particular need to include people in the equation by emphasizing “equity, benefit-sharing and participation”. The Group agreed to recommend the addition of a fourth programme element on “equity, benefit sharing and participation” to the draft programme of work prepared by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Protected Areas. Recognizing that “good” conservation results can co-exist with inequity and human-rights abuses, the Group agreed that ethical principles should be embedded in conservation plans and measures. There is an urgent need to communicate the message about the value and benefits of protected areas and about the link between protected areas and poverty eradication / sustainable development;

(c) The importance of corridors and ecological networks was emphasized. Rather than limiting considerations to hotspots, it would be better to expand and address endemism and irreplaceability of species and ecosystems;

(d) There is a need to address global change, of which climate change is an important factor in particular with regard to the effectiveness of protected areas. There is a need to stress “adapting with nature” rather than “adapting nature by controlling it”;

(e) Importance of IUCN categories, though not perfect, as a common language for reporting as well as the need to harmonize reporting (including targets and indicators). The World Heritage Center recommended that SBSTTA reaffirms the World Parks Congress recommendations relating to the World Heritage Convention;

(f) The importance of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and other sources of funds, but also Article 8(m) on implementation support other than financial;

(g) Some of the emerging issues identified by the World Parks Congress should be considered for integration in the programme of work on protected areas under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

9. Other identified areas that should be emphasized include:

- (a) New partnerships and initiatives announced or advanced at the World Parks Congress;
- (b) The variety of governance types that should be recognized and endorsed, with set of principles for good governance;
- (c) The need for internationally agreed guidelines for the private sector, in particular for extractive industries and tourism sector;
- (d) Freshwater and marine protected areas;
- (e) Threats to protected areas and underlying causes of these threats.

10. Mr. Stuart Chape made a proposal on how to update the note by the Executive Secretary on status and trends of, and threats to, protected areas prepared for the ninth meeting of SBSTTA (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/5). It was agreed that a revised document would be considered to integrate the latest information on coverage of protected areas.

11. The meeting was closed at 5 p.m. on 18 September 2003 and Mr. Charles Barber (The Nature Conservancy) and Mr. Sam Johnston (United Nations University) agreed to assist the Secretariat to compile the information from the liaison group meeting into the document for submission to SBSTTA (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/6/Add.2).

*Annex I***LIST OF PARTICIPANTS****COUNTRIES:****Africa:****GHANA****Mr. Alfred OTENG-YEBOAH**

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Annex II

PROGRAMME AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

A. PROGRAMME

08:30	Registration
09:00	Opening of the meeting (Chair: Alfred Oteng-Yeboah)
09:05	CBD proposed programme of work and protected areas (Jo Mulongoy)
09:20	Outputs of the Congress: (a) Durban Accord, Plan of Action and Recommendations: Kenton Miller and David Sheppard (b) Message to the Conference of the Parties: Peter Schei
09:50	General discussion
10:00 – 11:30	Input to element 1 of the CBD programme of work on protected areas
11:30 – 13:00	Input to element 2 of the CBD programme of work on protected areas
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 16:15	Input to element 3 of the CBD programme of work on protected areas
16:15 – 16:30	Input to the executive summary of document “status and trends of, and threats to, protected areas (C. Stuart)
16:30 – 16:55	Other matters / recommendations
16:55 – 17:00	Closure of the meeting

B. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Time	Goal		Suggested leading reviewers
PROGRAMME ELEMENT 1: Direct Actions for Planning, Selecting, Establishing and Managing Protected Area Systems and Sites			
14:00 – 14:15	1.1	Contributing to globally agreed goals: To expand and strengthen the overall contribution of protected area systems to (i) the goal of the Strategic Plan of the Convention and the WSSD of achieving a significant reduction in the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010; and (ii) the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) -- particularly MDG #7 on Ensuring Environmental Sustainability.	Jeff MCNEELY Mohamed BAKARR
14:15 – 14:30	1.2	Planning and establishment of national systems of protected areas: To support more systematic planning processes and to build, by 2010, comprehensive and representative national systems of protected areas, drawing on recent advances in ecological as well as social sciences and economics, building on the existing systems of protected areas, and including community conserved areas.	Jeff MCNEELY Mohamed BAKARR
14:30 – 14:45	1.3	Integrating protected areas into broader landscapes and sectors: To integrate sites and national systems of protected areas into relevant sectors and broader landscapes, taking into account the ecosystem approach and the concept of ecological networks.	Sam JOHNSTON José ARGANDOÑA Mohamed BAKARR
14:45 – 15:00	1.4	Transboundary Protected Areas (TBPAs): To strengthen existing and establish new TBPAs to enhance conservation of biological diversity, implement the ecosystem approach, and improve international cooperation.	Peter BOS Chape STUART Ishwaran NATARAJAN
15:00 – 15:15	1.5	International systems of protected areas: To strengthen international systems of protected areas in order to enhance conservation of biological diversity, implement the ecosystem approach, and improve international cooperation	Jane ROBERTSON Peter BOS Mohamed BAKARR
15:15 – 15:30	1.6	Site-based protected area planning: To support systematic, highly participatory and science-based site planning processes that lead to clear biodiversity objectives, targets, management strategies and monitoring programs, drawing upon existing methodologies.	Chris HAILS Mohamed BAKARR

Time	Goal		Suggested leading reviewers
15:30 – 15:45	1.7	Prevent and mitigate the negative impacts of key threats: To prevent and mitigate the negative impacts of key threats to protected areas, in accordance with national legislation and, where appropriate, employ suitable and rigorous impact assessments	Robyn BUSHELL
15:45 – 16:00	1.8	Prevent the introduction of invasive alien species and mitigate their negative impacts: To prevent the introduction of invasive alien species that potentially threaten the biodiversity of protected areas, and to control and, where possible, eradicate established invasive species in protected areas.	Mohamed BAKARR Christoph THIES Jeff MCNEELY
16:00 – 16:15	General discussion on programme element 1		
PROGRAMME ELEMENT 2: Enabling activities			
10:00 – 10:15	2.1	Policy, Institutional and Socio-Economic Reforms: To identify and implement policy reforms, including use of social and economic valuation and incentives, to provide a supportive enabling environment for more effective establishment and management of protected areas and protected areas systems.	Jim JOHNSTON Maria Fernanda ESPINOSA Grazia BORRINI- FEYERABEND
10:15 – 10:30	2.2	Capacity Building: To enhance and strengthen capacity to manage protected areas at local, national and international levels, ensuring that capacity-building initiatives are comprehensive, and develop knowledge, skills, and raise professional standards at individual, community and institutional levels, with particular emphasis on social equity.	Walter LUSIGI Ishwaran NATARAJAN Kenton R. MILLER Maria Fernanda ESPINOSA Grazia BORRINI- FEYERABEND
10:30 – 10:45	2.3	Financial sustainability: To ensure the financial sustainability of national and international systems of protected areas.	Mario RAMOS Sheldon COHEN
10:45 – 11:00	2.4	Education and Communication: To increase public awareness and understanding of the importance and benefits of protected areas, and support for their effective management.	Ishwaran NATARAJAN Jane ROBERTSON

Time	Goal		Suggested leading reviewers
11:00 – 11:15	2.5	Stakeholder Involvement: To enhance the fair and effective involvement of stakeholders in all phases and levels of work related to protected areas.	Grazia FEYERABEND BORRINI- Maria Fernanda ESPINOSA
11:15 – 11:30	General discussion on programme element 2		
PROGRAMME ELEMENT 3: Standards, assessment, monitoring and technology development			
11:30 – 11:45	3.1	Minimum Standards and Best Practices for Protected Areas: To develop and adopt voluntary minimum standards and best practices for planning, selecting, establishing, managing and governance of protected area sites and systems.b	Maria Fernanda ESPINOSA Pedro M. ROSABAL GONZALES Grazia FEYERABEND BORRINI- Jim JOHNSTON
11:45 – 12:00	3.2	Evaluating Protected Areas Management Effectiveness: To adopt and implement a framework for monitoring, evaluating and reporting protected areas management effectiveness at sites, national system, and transboundary protected area levels.	Chape STUART; Marc HOCKINGS Ishwaran NATARAJAN
12:00 – 12:15	3.3	Assessing and Monitoring Protected Area Status and Trends: To undertake regular assessment of national PA statistics, which will enable monitoring of PA status and trends at national, regional and global scales, and assist in evaluating progress in meeting global biodiversity targets.	Chape STUART Stephen WOODLEY Christopher O'GRADY
12:15 – 12:30	3.4	Biodiversity status in protected areas: To develop an improved understanding of the biodiversity found in protected areas and the values, goods, and services they provide.	Stephen WOODLEY Christopher O'GRADY
12:30 – 12:45	3.5	Development, application and transfer of appropriate technologies for protected areas: To improve the development, validation, and transfer of appropriate technology and innovative approaches for the effective management of protected areas, taking into account COP decision on technology transfer and cooperation.	Peter J. SCHEI

Time	Goal	Suggested leading reviewers
12:45 – 13:00	General discussion on programme element 3	
16:15 – 16:30	Suggested additions to the executive summary of the document on status and trends of, and threats to, protected areas	Chape STUART
SUGGESTED RECOMMENDATIONS (please refer to section II in the programme of work document)		
16:30 – 16:55	Comments on overall programme of work	Peter J. SCHEI David SHEPPARD Kenton R. MILLER
	Programme of work: marine and coastal protected areas	
	Programme of work: targets (paragraph (j) on page 3 and goal 1 of the programme of work)	Mohamed BAKARR
	Programme of work: outstanding issues (see paragraph (m) on pages 3 and 4 of the programme of work document)	
	Programme of work: international classification system for protected areas and UN list (page 4)	Chape Stuart
	Programme of work: Supporting activities of the Executive Secretary (page 5)	