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PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORK ON CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

Note by the Executive Secretary

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The present note has been prepared by the Executive Secretary to provide a brief report on the progress in the implementation of the work programmes on cross-cutting issues under the Convention since the last report submitted to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) at its eighth meeting, in March 2002 (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/8/3). The cross-cutting issues considered are:

- (a) Identification, monitoring, indicators and assessment;
- (b) Global Taxonomy Initiative;
- (c) Global Strategy for Plant Conservation;
- (d) Ecosystem approach;
- (e) Sustainable use;
- (f) Biological diversity and tourism;
- (g) Incentive measures;
- (h) Cooperation with other organizations, initiatives, and conventions; and
- (i) Alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats and species.

The present note has been prepared for reporting purposes only, as any substantive issues and recommendations relating to the cross-cutting issues concerned are presented in the other relevant

* UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/1.

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working documents for the ninth meeting of the Subsidiary Body (see UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/1/Add.1, annex II).

SUGGESTED RECOMMENDATION

The SBSTTA may wish to take note of the progress report on the implementation of the work on cross-cutting issues.

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PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORK ON CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

A. Identification, monitoring, indicators and assessment (decisions VI/7 A, B and C)

1. Impact assessment

1. In paragraph 3 of decision VI/7 A, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to:

(a) Compile and disseminate, through the clearing-house mechanism and other means of communication, current experiences in environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment procedures that incorporate biodiversity-related issues, as well as experiences of Parties, in applying the guidelines for incorporating biodiversity-related issues into environmental impact assessment legislation or processes and in strategic environmental assessment;

(b) Prepare, in collaboration with relevant organizations, in particular the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA), proposals for further development and refinement of the guidelines; and

(c) Provide a report of this work to the SBSTTA prior to the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

2. In response to this decision, the following activities were carried out:

(a) *Compilation and dissemination of information.* The Secretariat has solicited, through a notification to CBD focal points and other means, the submission of relevant case-studies that incorporate biodiversity issues into environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment to date. Only two submissions, from the European Commission and Germany, were received. The Executive Secretary therefore solicited additional case studies, including from participants at the Annual Conference of IAIA. In collaboration with the Biodiversity and Ecology section of IAIA and the Netherlands Environmental Impact Assessment (NEA) Commission. These case-studies have been compiled and analyzed and the lessons learned have been documented. In addition, an electronic forum for the efficient exchange of views and information has been set up under the Convention website;

(b) *Further development and refinement of the guidelines - Participation in the Annual Conference of IAIA.* Following the adoption of the "Guidelines for incorporating biodiversity-related issues into environmental impact assessment legislation and/or processes and in strategic environmental assessment" in decision VI/7, the Ramsar Convention, in resolution VIII/9, also adopted the guidelines (with annotations for the Ramsar context) for the application to impact assessment concerning wetlands. To further develop the guidelines, the Secretariat participated in the 23rd annual conference of the IAIA on Capacity Building in Impact Assessment, held in Marrakech, Morocco, from 17 to 20 June 2003 and organized a joint session with the Ramsar Convention. In this session, proposals for the further development of the guidelines were discussed. In March 2003, the German Federal Agency for the Environment and the Technical University in Berlin organized a national expert workshop on the further development of the guidelines. The amendments proposed by this workshop were considered at IAIA Annual Conference in 2003 and a consolidated proposal has been prepared for consideration by the ninth meeting of SBSTTA;

(c) *Report to SBSTTA prior to the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.* A report on the analysis of case-studies that incorporate biodiversity issues into environmental impact

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assessment and strategic environmental assessment is being prepared for the ninth meeting of SBSTTA as an information document;

2. Indicators

3. In its decision VI/7 B, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to:

(a) Report on the development and use of indicators in all thematic areas and cross-cutting issues to SBSTTA prior to the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (paragraph 1);

(b) Urge the Parties that have not yet done so to respond to the questionnaire on the subject of indicators that was sent in May 2001 and to update the analysis (paragraph 2);

(c) Convene an expert group meeting to further develop the three annexes on ongoing work on indicators on the following issues (paragraph 3):

(i) Principles for developing national-level monitoring and indicators;

(ii) A set of standard questions for developing national-level indicators; and

(iii) A list of available and potential indicators based on a conceptual framework that has qualitative and quantitative approach. In developing the list of indicators, mention was made of the need for harmonization and collaboration with regional and international initiatives, *inter alia*, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the Pan-European processes, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) (paragraph 4 (d)); and

(d) Report to a SBSTTA meeting prior to the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (paragraph 4).

4. In response to this decision, the following activities were carried out:

(a) Report on development and use of indicators.

(i) Progress on the development and use of indicators is reported in the note by the Executive Secretary on designing national-level monitoring programmes and indicators (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/10) as well as in the progress report on the implementation of the thematic programmes of work (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/2) and the progress report on the implementation of the work on cross-cutting issues (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/3);

(ii) The Secretariat is participating in the GEF-funded medium-sized project coordinated by UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) on Biodiversity Indicators for National Use (BINU), as a member of the Steering Committee. The project tests the development of indicator frameworks for forests, agricultural land, inland waters and marine and coastal areas in four participating countries (Ecuador, Kenya, Philippines and Ukraine). The Secretariat participated in the mid-term workshop held in Cambridge, United Kingdom, from 30 June to 4 July 2003;

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- (iii) Additional work on the development and use of indicators is contained in several information documents including the note by the Executive Secretary on the development of practical principles, operational guidance and associated instruments for sustainable use (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/9), the review of inter-linkages between biodiversity and climate change (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/11), and the report of the meeting on “2010 – The Biodiversity Challenge” (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/INF/9), held in London, from 21 to 23 May 2003.

(b) *Questionnaire on indicators.* An analysis of the 52 responses received since May 2001 is contained in the note from the Executive Secretary on designing national-level monitoring programmes and indicators (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/10);

(c) *Expert group meeting.* The Executive Secretary has convened a meeting of an expert group on national-level monitoring and indicators held in Montreal, from 10 to 12 February 2003. During the meeting and subsequent inter-sessional work, the expert group prepared a document, which was submitted to peer-review. A summary including the three elements specifically requested by the Conference of the Parties is contained in the note by the Executive Secretary on designing national-level monitoring programmes and indicators (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/10).

3. *Scientific assessments*

5. Decision VI/7 C of the Conference of the Parties:

(a) Requested SBSTTA to review findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) and provide recommendations to the Conference of the Parties based on the review; and

(b) Encouraged the Executive Secretary to facilitate the development and implementation of the assessment of the status of the world's protected areas, in close collaboration with the UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) and IUCN;

6. In response to this decision, the following activities were carried out:

(a) *Participation in Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Board and Working Group meetings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment.* The Secretariat participated in the Board Meeting of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment held in Gland, Switzerland, from 11 to 12 February 2003, the Biodiversity Cross-Cut meeting also held in Gland, from 13 to 15 February 2003, the Marine/Coastal Cross-cut held in Vancouver, Canada, from 7 to 11 April 2003, which reviewed a draft of the work on marine and coastal biodiversity as well as a chapter on responses related to marine and coastal biodiversity. An effective communication channel with the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment has been established to ensure that comments from the Secretariat are reflected in the drafting process of relevant sections and chapters of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment;

(b) *Assessment of the status of the world's protected areas.* The Secretariat reviewed the structure of the report on the assessment of the status of the world's protected areas prepared by UNEP-WCMC, which is expected to be launched at the fifth World Congress on Protected Areas to be held in Durban, South Africa, from 7 to 17 September 2003. A prototype database of nationally-designated protected areas is already available; 1/

1/ http://www.unep-wcmc.org/protected_areas/data/nat2.htm

(c) *Rapid assessment of marine and coastal biological diversity.* The progress report on the development of methods and guidance on the rapid assessment of marine and coastal biological diversity is being reviewed by a liaison group. A consolidated document is being prepared for the ninth meeting of SBSTTA.

B. Global Taxonomy Initiative (decision VI/8)

7. In decisions IV/1 D, V/9 and VI/8, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to:

(a) Encourage the involvement of existing national, regional, subregional and global initiatives to support Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations in carrying out the programme of work of the Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI) (decision VI/8, paragraph 3);

(b) Coordinate activities with other existing initiatives, such as the Global Biodiversity Information Facility and the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity (decision VI/8, paragraph 4);

(c) Initiate regional meetings of scientists, managers and policy makers to prioritize the most urgent global taxonomic needs (decision V/9, paragraph 3 (b), decision VI/8, paragraph 3 and planned activities 2 and 3 of the GTI programme of work endorsed by decision VI/8);

(d) Establish mechanisms to use the Global Taxonomy Initiative as a forum to promote the importance of taxonomy and taxonomic tools in the implementation of the Convention (decision V/9, paragraph 3 (d));

(e) Complete the guide to the GTI (paragraph 5 of decision VI/8).

8. In response to this request, the Executive Secretary has carried out the following:

(a) *Encouragement of initiatives to carry out the programme of work.* A workshop was organised in partnership with the Man and the Biosphere programme of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO-MAB) and BioNET-INTERNATIONAL, during February 2003 at UNESCO headquarters in Paris. This built on the outputs of the global workshop held in Pretoria, in July 2002, in conjunction with the same partners. As a basis for the workshop, a detailed plan of activities necessary to implement the GTI programme of work, particularly in terms of the capacity-building elements, was provided. Twenty-eight delegates representing 26 organizations and initiatives participated in the Paris workshop. The outcome was a plan of action to implement components of the GTI programme of work, with detailed activities and commitments from a number of organizations and initiatives. The plan of action, with details of the meeting, is available on the Secretariat website;

(b) *Regional networks for taxonomic capacity-building.* NAFRINET, a technical cooperation network for taxonomic capacity-building affiliated to BioNET-INTERNATIONAL, was set up in February 2003 with formal Government endorsement from Egypt, Morocco and Algeria. Following the United Nations Development Programme rules for technical cooperation networks, the network is now formally operational and will focus on implementing the GTI by building capacity in taxonomy to meet priority user-needs in the region. Further endorsements are anticipated from the Governments of Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania and Tunisia. A formulation document for another network, the Andean Community Network for Taxonomic Capacity Building (AndinoNET), was discussed, with the Secretariat's involvement, in Venezuela, in 2002. The Government of Venezuela has formally endorsed the proposal to join AndinoNET; further endorsements are expected from Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and

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Peru. AndinoNET will be the Andean Community network of BioNET-INTERNATIONAL: the Global Network for Taxonomy. AndinoNET will be dedicated to strengthening capacity in taxonomy in support of sustainable development. It has been designed especially to help build taxonomic capacity to meet priority user-needs in the Andean region; it will assist countries in the implementation of the Convention, especially through its support for the Convention's Global Taxonomy Initiative and the Andean Community Biodiversity Strategy;

(c) *Coordination of activities with the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) and the clearing-house mechanism.* Collaboration has continued between the GTI, the CHM, GBIF and other initiatives, as listed in the programme of work. A Memorandum of Understanding is being prepared between the Secretariat and GBIF; GBIF has expressed a commitment, within its mandate, to act in the implementation of the GTI programme of work;

9. *Regional meetings to prioritize needs.* A report from the GTI Regional Workshop for East Asian countries, held in Putrajaya, Malaysia, from 10 to 17 September 2002 has now been produced, and is available on the web site of the Japanese GTI Focal Point. ^{2/} The report includes a version of the GTI programme of work, tailored by the delegates to reflect the particular needs and issues in Asia, as well as a number of resources to assist in implementation.

C. Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (decision VI/9)

10. In decision VI/9, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to implement the further work required to develop and implement the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC), as presented in section E of the Strategy annexed to the decision, giving due consideration to the need to:

(a) Clarify the scope of activities, develop sub-targets or milestones for each target and, develop baseline data and indicators to monitor progress towards achieving the targets (paragraph 17 of the annex);

(b) Develop regional components of the Strategy (paragraph 18 of the annex); and

(c) Establish, if appropriate, a flexible coordination mechanism (paragraph 20 of the annex).

11. In paragraph 10 (a) of the same decision, the Conference of the Parties requested SBSTTA to take the targets into consideration in its periodic reviews of the thematic and cross-cutting programmes of work of the Convention (paragraph 10 (a)).

12. In decision VI/29, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to enter into an arrangement with the Botanic Gardens Conservation International who offered to second a staff member to the Secretariat in order to promote the implementation of the Strategy.

13. In response to these requests, the following activities were carried out:

(a) *Further development of the targets of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation and stakeholder consultations.* In line with the recommendations made at the Liaison Group meeting on GSPC held in Cartagena, Colombia from 11 to 12 October 2002 (UNEP/CBD/LG-GSPC/1/2), the Executive Secretary invited the following lead organizations to facilitate and support the stakeholder consultations prior to the ninth meeting of SBSTTA, to initiate the development of sub-targets, milestones

^{2/} <http://www-gti.nies.go.jp/>

and indicators for each of the 16 targets included in the Strategy, as well as would the elaboration of baseline data for monitoring: Kew Garden and Millennium Seed Bank (target 1); IUCN (target 2); WWF (targets 4 and 13), Plantlife International (target 5), FAO (targets 6, 9, 12 and 13), the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP/WCMC) (target 7), Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) and the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI) (target 8), the Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP) (target 10) and CITES (target 11). The cross-cutting targets 3, 14, 15 and 16 are considered under each other targets. The consultations will be carried out through electronic consultations, consultancies or meetings. To date, the following meetings have been confirmed:

- (i) Brussels, from 19 to 20 July 2003 (target 8); organized by BGCI and IPGRI;
- (ii) Geneva, Switzerland, from 12-15 August 2003 (target 11); point 22 to the agenda of the Thirteenth meeting of the Plants Committee of CITES;
- (iii) Durban, South Africa, on 10 September 2003 (targets 4 and 13); side-event to the World Congress on Park Areas organized by WWF; and
- (iv) Durban, South Africa, on 11 September 2003 (target 5); side-event to the World Congress on Park Areas organized by Plantlife International and IUCN.

(b) *Brochure on the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation.* The Executive Secretary has prepared and distributed, with the financial support of and in collaboration with BGCI and the partnership "Investing in Nature", supported by HSBC, an international banking and financial services organization, a brochure on the strategy. The brochure is available in English at the Secretariat, at BGCI and through the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention;

(c) *Secondment of an officer from BGCI to the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation.* A Memorandum of Cooperation has been signed between the Secretariat and BGCI. Through this agreement, BGCI is supporting the development and implementation of the GSPC and provides staff support.

D. Ecosystem approach (decision VI/12)

14. The Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting requested the SBSTTA to review the incorporation of the ecosystem approach into various programmes of work (decision V/6, paragraph 5).

15. The Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting adopted decision VI/12 on the ecosystem approach and in paragraph 2, requested the Executive Secretary to undertake the following activities:

(a) Continue the compilation and dissemination of case-studies and lessons learned and report to the SBSTTA prior to the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

(b) Carry out the activity specified in subparagraph (a) above in collaboration with relevant organizations and bodies, in particular the United Nations Forum on Forests, to convene a meeting of experts to compare the ecosystem approach with sustainable forest management and develop proposals for their integration; and

(c) Develop proposals for the refinement of the principles and operational guidance.

16. In addition, in paragraph 19 (a) of decision VI/22 on forest biological diversity, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the Coordinator and Head of the

Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests, to undertake a series of activities with regard to the ecosystem approach:

(a) Carry out a comparative study to clarify the conceptual basis of the ecosystem approach in relation to the concept of sustainable forest management with adequate consideration for regional conditions;

(b) Undertake a synthesis of case-studies; and

(c) Invite the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to provide a discussion paper drawing on concrete national or regional experiences and inter-sessional meetings for consideration by the Convention.

17. In response to these requests, the Executive Secretary has carried out the following activities:

(a) *Review of the incorporation of the ecosystem approach into the programmes of work from under the Convention.* The Executive Secretary has prepared a short assessment of the decisions of the Conference of the Parties and recommendations of the Eighth Meeting of SBSTTA relevant to various programmes of work and pertaining to the ecosystem approach. An assessment of the progress of implementation of these decisions and recommendations was also done. The result of this review will be before the ninth meeting of the SBSTTA in the note by the Executive Secretary on further elaboration and guidelines for implementation in ecosystem approach (UNEP/CBD/SBSTT/9/8);

(b) *Case-studies.* In May 2003, the Secretariat co-sponsored, in cooperation with the IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management, the Ramsar Convention, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the WWF and the Royal Holloway Institute of the University of London, the publication of the report entitled "Using the ecosystem approach to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity". The publication presents a compilation and analysis of case-studies collected from different regions of the world since 2000. The case-studies analysis cuts across a number of thematic areas under the Convention, and also illustrates the application of most of the principles of the ecosystem approach. The document served as input for the meeting of experts referred to in subparagraph (c) below;

(c) *Meeting of experts.* An expert meeting on the ecosystem approach, organized with the financial support from the Government of the Netherlands, was held in Montreal, from 7 to 11 July 2003. The meeting: (a) reviewed the analysis of case-studies and lessons learned on the ecosystem approach; (b) reviewed and further elaborated on the principles of the ecosystem approach in order to prepare operational guidelines for its implementation; and (c) linked the conceptual basis of the ecosystem approach in relation to the concept of sustainable forest management. The results and recommendations of the meeting are included in the note from the Executive Secretary on further elaboration and guidelines for implementation of ecosystem approach (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/8);

(d) *Contribution to the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration.* As the concept and application of forest landscape restoration is highly harmonized with the Convention's ecosystem approach, and because it links with many of the thematic programmes of work of the Convention, the Secretariat continues collaborating with this initiative. The Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration, promoted by IUCN, WWF and the United Kingdom Forestry Commission, was launched in Rome as part of the meeting of the Committee on Forestry (COFO) on 11 March 2003. The Secretariat participated in the First Sub-Regional Meeting to Promote forest landscape restoration in West Africa, held in Accra, Ghana, from 24 to 26 March 2003 and organized by WWF in cooperation with the Ministry of Lands and Forests of Ghana. The workshop presented forest landscape restoration concepts,

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shared field experiences from regions in West Africa, and worked towards implementation activities for West African landscapes.

E. Sustainable use (decision VI/13)

18. In its decision VI/13, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to:

(a) Organize a fourth open-ended workshop on the sustainable use of biodiversity to synthesize outcomes of the three workshops, integrate different views and regional differences and develop a final set of practical principles and operational guidelines (paragraph 4); and

(b) Continue compiling case-studies submitted by Parties, other Governments, international organizations and other relevant organizations on the sustainable use of biological diversity (paragraph 7);

19. In response to these requests, the following activities were carried out:

(a) *Organization of the fourth open-ended workshop on sustainable use.* The fourth workshop on sustainable use of biological diversity was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 6 to 8 May 2003. The report of the meeting is contained available as an information document (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/INF/8). The Executive Secretary has prepared a note drawing on this report, containing recommendations on possible future work for consideration by the ninth meeting of the SBSTTA (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/9);

(b) *Compilation of case-studies.* The Secretariat continues to compile case-studies submitted by Governments and organizations on the sustainable use of the components of biological diversity. Compiled case-studies are regularly made available through the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention. A synthesis of relevant case-studies was also made available at the fourth workshop (UNEP/CBD/WS-Sustainable Use/4/3).

F. Biological diversity and tourism (decision VI/14)

20. In paragraph 3 of decision VI/14, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to:

(a) Review the current draft guidelines taking into account consultations received, and transmit the reviewed draft to SBSTTA for consideration at a meeting prior to the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and

(b) Gather and compile existing case-studies on the implementation of the guidelines and make them available to SBSTTA prior to the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

21. Pursuant to this decision, the following activities have been carried out:

(a) *Review of the draft guidelines and submission to the eighth meeting of SBSTTA.* The draft guidelines on sustainable tourism in vulnerable ecosystems, developed by the Convention on Biological Diversity, were reviewed and submitted to the eighth meeting of SBSTTA. SBSTTA endorsed the guidelines in its recommendation VIII/5 on Biological Diversity and Tourism and forwarded them to the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

(b) *Case-studies on the implementation of the draft guidelines.* In order to assess the adaptability of the draft guidelines, test their effectiveness and identify constraints to their implementation,

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the Secretariat is also gathering and analyzing the case-studies on the implementation of the guidelines (decision VI/14). The case-studies are compiled and made available through the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention, and a synopsis of the case-studies was circulated as an information document at the eighth meeting of SBSTTA (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/8/INF/8).

G. Incentive measures (decision VI/15)

22. In paragraph 4 of its decision VI/15, the Conference of the Parties recognized that further work has to be undertaken on positive incentives and their performance, as well as on perverse incentives and ways and means for their removal or mitigation. It encouraged Parties and relevant organizations to submit case-studies, lessons learned and other relevant information on incentive measures, especially on positive and perverse incentives, to the Executive Secretary (paragraph 5), and requested the Executive Secretary to:

(a) Continue compiling and disseminating the information on incentive measures, especially on positive and perverse incentives, submitted by Parties and organizations (paragraph 6); and

(b) Elaborate proposals for the application of ways and means to remove or mitigate perverse incentives for consideration by SBSTTA before the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (paragraph 7).

23. In response to this decision, the following work has been carried out by the Secretariat:

(a) *Compilation and dissemination of information on incentive measures.* The Secretariat sent notifications to Parties and relevant organizations, inviting them to submit to the Secretariat case-studies, lessons learnt and other relevant information on incentive measures. As of 31 May 2003, the Secretariat has received ten submissions from Parties and four submissions from international organizations (Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the United Nations, IUCN, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the World Intellectual Property Organization), which are available on the Convention website;

(b) *Elaboration of proposals to remove or mitigate perverse incentives.* With the assistance of the Government of the Netherlands, the Secretariat convened a workshop on incentive measures in Montreal, from 3 to 5 June 2003. Based on background documentation prepared by the Secretariat, the workshop elaborated proposals for the application of ways and means to remove or mitigate perverse incentives for consideration by SBSTTA at its ninth meeting (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/INF/10);

(c) *Work on domestic support measures in agriculture and their incentive effects.* The Secretariat completed a study on domestic support measures in agriculture and their incentive effects for the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity. This activity is part of the programme of work on agricultural biological diversity to implement paragraph 17 of decision VI/5, in which the Executive Secretary was requested to further study the impact of trade liberalization on agricultural biological diversity.

24. In response to these requests, the following activities have been carried out by collaborating partner institutions:

(a) *The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).* The Conference of the Parties to CITES, at its twelfth meeting held in Santiago, from 3 to 15 November 2002, discussed the role of economic incentives and trade policy, and directed the CITES

Secretariat to organize a technical workshop on wildlife trade policies and economic incentives applicable to the management of and trade in CITES-listed species, in particular in order to develop a methodology to review those policies and to make targeted recommendations on the use of those incentives, in collaboration with a number of relevant international organizations. It also requested the CITES secretariat to conduct, in cooperation with the Parties, a review of their national policy regarding the use of and trade in CITES-listed species, taking into account, inter alia, economic incentives, to compile and synthesize the information provided by the Parties, and to produce a report analysing the economic impacts of wildlife-trade policies. Preparations of the technical workshop and the report are under way;

(b) *Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)*. The OECD Working Group on Economic Aspects of Biodiversity (WGEAB) is developing a handbook on market creation for biodiversity. An important aspect of the handbook will be an examination of the role of perverse incentives in undermining biodiversity. Work on environmentally perverse subsidies, in general, is carried out by the OECD Council, as well as by its Committees and subsidiary bodies. This work focuses on the following sectors: agriculture, energy, fisheries, manufacturing industries and services, shipbuilding, steel, transport, water and cross-cutting areas of work and an expert group meeting on environmentally perverse subsidies was held in Paris, from 7 to 8 November 2002. The report of this workshop is under preparation;

(c) *UNEP/Economics and Trade Branch (ETB)*. The Working Group on Economic Instruments of the UNEP/ETB is working on two policy documents designed to provide guidance for policy-makers on the use of economic incentives measures, entitled "Opportunities, prospects and challenges for the use of economic instruments in environment policy making" and "The role of economic instruments in the context of biodiversity related multilateral environmental agreements". The Working Group also initiated a number of country studies that examine the use of economic instruments in specific sectors (Kenya: waste sector; Philippines: forestry; Indonesia: industry; Argentina/Uganda/Senegal: fisheries). The policy template developed in the first paper mentioned above will assist future country studies in choosing, designing and implementing economic instruments for future case-studies. Furthermore, under the fishery programme of UNEP/ETB, work has been initiated in collaboration with OECD, to analyse the impacts of different types of fisheries subsidies on resource sustainability under the different possible combinations of management systems and bio-economic parameters;

(d) *The World Bank/World Bank Institute*. The World Bank Institute undertakes work on payments for ecological services provided by landowners. Such payments can generate positive incentive measures for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. Its work includes designing a system for payments for environmental services, as well as operational project work in a number of countries, including Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Mexico.

25. As of 31 May 2003, the following Parties and governments had submitted information on incentive measures reflecting their national implementation activities, pursuant to the request of the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties: China, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Lebanon, Morocco, Namibia, Oman, Peru, Poland.

H. Cooperation with other organizations, initiatives and conventions (decision VI/20)

26. The Conference of the Parties in decision VI/20 requested SBSTTA and the Executive Secretary to:

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(a) Continue to cooperate with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), including its Kyoto Protocol, and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on relevant issues such as dry and sub-humid lands, agricultural biological diversity, forest biological diversity, marine and coastal biological diversity, especially on coral reefs, and incentive measures and impacts of measures envisaged under the Kyoto Protocol with a view to maximizing synergies between these processes (paragraph 9);

(b) Take immediate actions under the Convention on Biological Diversity and UNFCCC to reduce and mitigate the impacts of climate change on the biodiversity of coral reefs (paragraph 10);

(c) Carry out further work with the UNFCCC Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), especially on issues relating to the national level (paragraph 13);

(d) Take fully into consideration the range of cooperative actions in relation to several ecosystem themes and cross-cutting issues of the Convention, as well as proposing actions to harmonize institutional processes included in the third joint work plan (2002-2006) between the Secretariat and the Convention on Wetlands, (Ramsar, Iran, 1971), in furthering the respective programmes of work for these areas (paragraph 16); and

(e) Take fully into consideration the range of cooperative actions in relation to several ecosystem themes and cross-cutting issues of the Convention as well as proposing actions to harmonize institutional processes included in the joint work programme between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) in furthering the respective programmes of work for these areas (paragraph 18).

27. The Conference of the Parties in decision VI/20 requested the Executive Secretary to:

(a) Invite the Executive Secretary to generate, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the CMS and relevant organizations, guidance for the integration of migratory species into the national biodiversity strategies and action plans and ongoing and future programmes of work under the Secretariat (paragraph 20);

(b) Continue to maintain close cooperation with the Interim Commission on Phytosanitary Measures of the International Plant Protection Convention with regards to the development of standards for plant pest risk analysis involving living modified organisms (paragraph 32); and

(c) Apply for observer status in the WTO Committees on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Committee) and on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT Committee), and to renew the application for observer status in the Council on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs Council) (paragraphs 29 and 30).

28. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties invited:

(a) The Secretariat of the CITES and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to continue to cooperate and coordinate activities with a view to facilitating the exchange of relevant information and experience and enhancing synergies in areas of mutual interest (paragraph 24);

(b) The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) to address, as a priority matter, the invitation extended to it under paragraph 4 of its decision VI/24 C, on the role of intellectual property rights in the implementation of access and benefit-sharing arrangements (paragraph 37); and

(c) The WIPO to further strengthen the complementarity of its work programme with that of the Convention, on intellectual property issues arising from access and benefit-sharing, Article 8(j) and related provisions and to provide appropriate information on these issues (paragraph 39).

29. In response to these requests, the following activities were carried out:

(a) Cooperation with UNFCCC and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD):

- (i) The Secretariat participated in the fourth meeting of the Joint Liaison Group of the three Rio conventions: the Convention on Biological Diversity, UNCCD and UNFCCC, held in Bonn, on 19 May 2003. Each Secretariat of the conventions presented updates on recent developments, including outcomes from meetings and workshops related to their own governing bodies, and exchanged views on new areas of cooperation in the future;
- (ii) The UNFCCC Secretariat and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity participated and provided substantive inputs into the preparation of the final version of the report on interlinkages between biological diversity and climate change and advice on the integration of biodiversity considerations into the implementation of the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol. The report was finalized during the third meeting of the ad hoc technical expert group on biodiversity and climate change, which took place in Helsinki, from 13 to 16 May 2003. The final report provided critical inputs for the preparation by the Executive Secretary of the note on the review of interlinkages between biodiversity and climate changes, (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/11);

(b) *Cooperation with the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971). Cooperation with the Global International Waters Assessment (GIWA).* GIWA provided the Secretariat with a report on its interim results, including case-studies. This report, called "Habitat destruction in the world's waters", was presented to the eighth meeting of SBSTTA as an information document on habitat destruction in the world's waters (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/8/INF/16);

(c) *Cooperation with the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS).* The CMS has forwarded a number of case-studies concerning migratory species to the Secretariat. These case-studies will be distributed through the Convention's clearing-house mechanism. Representatives of the two secretariats met on 19 May 2003 to assess progress in the joint activities and to discuss plans for future work;

(d) *The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).* At its twelfth meeting held in Santiago, from 3 to 15 November 2002, the Conference of the Parties to CITES requested the Plants Committee to:

- (i) In the period between the 12th and 13th meetings of the Conference of the Parties, establish permanent relations with the Convention on Biological Diversity regarding the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC) and other issues of interest to the Plants Committee;
- (ii) Analyse the GSPC adopted at the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in detail and links with its activities and collaborations, especially regarding target (xi) "No species of wild flora endangered by international trade";

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- (d) *Cooperation with the World Trade Organization (WTO):*
- (i) The Executive Secretary sent applications for observer status to the chairpersons of the WTO committees on sanitary and phytosanitary measures (SPS Committee) and on technical barriers to trade (TBT Committee), and of the Council on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs Council). He also requested that the observer status of the Convention on Biological Diversity in the Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE) should be extended to the special (negotiating) session on this committee. To date, decisions on these requests are pending;
 - (ii) Further to a request conveyed by the chairperson of the TRIPs Council, the Secretariat prepared a briefing note for the TRIPs Council on the activities of the Secretariat of relevance to the review of Article 27.3 (b) of the TRIP Agreement, the relationship between the Secretariat and the TRIPS Agreement, and the protection of traditional knowledge and folklore;
 - (iii) Representatives of the Secretariat attended several meetings of the regular and special sessions of the CTE. During the meeting of the CTE, in regular session in June 2002, including an information session with a number of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), the Secretariat informed delegates of recent developments under the Convention and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and briefed them on activities pertaining to technical assistance, capacity building as well as information exchange and cooperation;
 - (iv) In his statement during the MEA information session of the CTE in Special Session in November 2002, the Executive Secretary reviewed the existing cooperation between the Secretariat and the WTO and, by pointing to his requests for observer status in relevant WTO bodies, underlined the need to strengthen cooperation between the Secretariat and the WTO in order to further mutual supportiveness. The delegation of the Secretariat also met with chairpersons of relevant WTO committees and with the Deputy Executive Director of the WTO, to discuss matters of mutual interest;
 - (v) A representative of the Secretariat attended the meeting of the CTE in regular and in special sessions, in May 2003. Attendance to the CTE in special session was pursuant to an ad hoc invitation conveyed by the chairperson of this Committee to a number of MEA secretariats;
- (f) *Cooperation with the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC):*
- (i) The Secretariat participated in an expert working group on plant pest risk analysis for living modified organisms (LMO), which met under the auspices of the IPPC, in Ottawa, from 24 to 27 September 2002. This group drafted a standard for plant pest risk analysis for LMO pests for consideration by the Interim Commission on Phytosanitary Measures;
 - (ii) The first joint meeting of the secretariats of the Convention and IPPC was held in Montreal, from 24 to 25 February 2003,. The objective of the meeting was to exchange information on common areas of interest and review the collaboration between the two institutions, in order to promote synergy and avoid duplication. In addition to the main common areas of work, biosafety and invasive alien species (IAS), the meeting also considered issues related to information exchange

including the clearing house mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, the Biosafety Clearing-House, how climate change would affect IAS, how the Convention's guiding principles on IAS would be promoted and the possible use of the phytosanitary certificate to accompany living modified organisms. The report on activities related to IAS is presented in paragraph 32 below. A draft memorandum of cooperation (MOC) was prepared and will be further submitted for approval and signature;

- (iii) Additionally, the Secretariats of the Convention and of IPPC are collaborating on the following ongoing activities: (a) preparation of side-events at the ninth meeting of the SBSTTA and the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to promote the IPPC, outline linkages between the Convention and IPPC and highlight the incentives for contracting Parties to accept the revised IPPC or for new members to join; (b) exploration of the potential role of IPPC in contribution to an international instrument for harmful aquatic pests; (c) development of standards on managing IAS based, *inter alia*, on two relevant standards under development: "The Glossary Supplement No. 2 - Guidelines on the understanding of potential economic importance and related terms including reference to environmental consideration"; and the "Supplement to ISPM Publication No. 11 - Analysis of environmental risks, which gives guidance in assessing environmental risks when conducting pest risk analysis, in particular for plants that are considered to be pests"; (d) review of the existing IPPC standards; (e) development of new standards; (e) participation of the Secretariat to the IAS workshop on the role of IPPC for managing risks of invasive alien species, to be held in Braunschweig, Germany, from 2 to 26 September 2003;

(g) *Cooperation with the World Intellectual Property Organization.* In response to paragraph 37 of decision VI/20 and paragraph 4 of decision VI/24 C, WIPO has undertaken a technical study on disclosure requirements related to genetic resources and traditional knowledge (WIPO/GRTKF/IC/5/10). The first draft of the technical study was submitted to the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore at its fourth session in December 2002. The revised technical study will be submitted to the fifth session of the Committee in July 2003. If agreed, the revised study will then be submitted to the twenty-ninth session of the WIPO General Assembly in September 2003, prior to its submission to the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

(h) *Cooperation with the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV).* In response to paragraph 24 of decision VI/5, inviting UPOV and other relevant organizations to examine, in the context of their work, the specific intellectual property implications of genetic use restriction technologies (GURTs), particularly with respect to indigenous and local communities, UPOV submitted to the Executive Secretary on 11 April 2003, a memorandum, adopted by the Council of UPOV, communicating the position of UPOV concerning decision VI/5 of the Conference of the Parties on potential impacts of GURTs;

(i) *Cooperation with the World Heritage Centre of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).* The Secretariat and UNESCO World Heritage Centre have signed a memorandum of cooperation, containing an annexed joint work programme. The memorandum aims to expand further the general cooperation established between the Secretariat and UNESCO in the area of conservation and sustainable use of the world's biological diversity. This

memorandum is particularly timely in light of the new draft programme of work on protected areas for the Convention, which will be under discussion at the ninth meeting of SBSTTA;

(j) *Cooperation with the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA)*. The Secretariat has participated in the review of the conceptual framework for the assessment as well as of the outlines of the main reports. The Secretariat has also participated in two Millennium Ecosystem Assessment meetings on the biodiversity cross-cut, held in Gland, Switzerland, from 13 to 14 February 2003 and the marine and coastal cross-cut, held in Vancouver, from 7 to 11 April 2003. Through June 2003, the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment:

- (i) Completed the technical design phase and produced the initial report outlines and the conceptual framework: "*Ecosystems and human well-being: A framework for assessment*", which will be published in September 2003. This conceptual framework can provide important guidance to governments and other users on how to conduct an integrated ecosystem assessment;
- (ii) Formed the working groups that are preparing the draft assessment reports and carrying out sub-global assessments. First drafts of the global assessment reports will be ready for review in late 2003;
- (iii) Consolidated links with users;
- (iv) Made progress in the design of a synthesis report specifically tailored for the Secretariat. This report will address specific assessment needs expressed by the Secretariat;

(k) *Cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)*. The Executive Secretary is discussing a memorandum of cooperation with FAO, taking into consideration the growing areas of cooperation between the two institutions, including, *inter alia*, the cooperation with the Secretariat of the IPPC, the Secretariat of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture acting as the Interim Committee for the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and the secondment of a FAO staff member to the Secretariat for the Convention on Biological Diversity. FAO is collaborating with the Secretariat in all the thematic programmes of work and all work of cross-cutting issues. The report of this collaboration is contained in the respective sections of the progress report on the programmes of work on thematic issues (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/2) and of the progress report on the work on cross-cutting areas in the present document.

I. Alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats and species

30. In paragraph 26 of decision VI/23, 3/ the Conference of the Parties adopted the Guiding Principles for the prevention, introduction and mitigation of impacts of invasive alien species and requested the Executive Secretary to carry out specific activities with the Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP) and other relevant organizations, including developing a joint programme of work among the Convention on Biological Diversity, GISP, the Convention on Wetlands, the International Maritime Organization, the International Plant Protection Convention and other relevant bodies;

3/ One representative entered a formal objection during the process leading to the adoption of this decision and underlined that he did not believe that the Conference of the Parties could legitimately adopt a motion or a text with a formal objection in place. A few representatives expressed reservations regarding the procedure leading to the adoption of this decision (see UNEP/CBD/COP/2/20, paras. 294-324).

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31. In paragraph 19 of the same decision, the Conference of the Parties recommended that the Global Environment Facility (GEF), Parties, other governments and relevant organizations support and participate in the international cooperative initiative on invasive alien species on islands.

32. In response to these requests, the following progress has been made:

(a) *Ongoing activities between the Secretariats and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)*. The report of the activities carried in collaboration between the two Secretariats, including the first joint meeting of the Convention on Biological Diversity and IPPC secretariats held in Montreal, from 24 to 25 February 2003, is contained in the above paragraph 28 (f), (ii) and (iii);

(b) *Report on pilot assessments being carried out by GISP for the Secretariat*. Article 8 (h) of the Convention calls on governments to “prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate those alien species which threaten ecosystems, habitats, or species”, and calls for particular attention to be directed to evolutionarily isolated ecosystems, including islands. On behalf of the Secretariat, the GISP convened an expert consultation on the impacts of invasive alien species on island ecosystems in Honolulu, on 18 and 19 October 2002, to review the socio-economic and biological impacts of IAS on islands and design a nine-month assessment on the same subject. Experts from 10 countries, as well as the World Conservation Union and the UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre participated. The participants recommended that the following urgent actions be undertaken: (a) develop informatics capacities to increase knowledge of and access to successful and cost-effective IAS prevention and management tools; (b) establish comprehensive IAS surveillance programmes to enable early detection and rapid response; (c) undertake further assessments of IAS pathways and impacts, making the results widely available to resource managers and policy makers; and (d) implement legal frameworks to minimize the risk of bioinvasion and develop alternatives to toxic anti-fouling agents. This activity is being carried out in the context of a pilot assessment in response to SBSTTA recommendation VII/2 on the evaluation of the impacts of invasive alien species. The project briefs of pilot assessments are contained in annex II of the note by the Executive Secretary for ongoing assessment processes, prepared for the seventh meeting of SBSTTA (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/7/3);

(c) Regarding the pilot assessment of the impacts of IAS on island ecosystems, The Nature Conservation is undertaking the study on behalf of GISP. A workshop to design an assessment of the impacts of invasive alien species on inland water ecosystems was held in Washington D.C, on 14 and 15 July 2003. The purpose of this workshop is to advance assessments on current priority issues and to test a range of methods and modalities for assessments of the biological and socio-economic impacts of invasive alien species on inland water ecosystems.
