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Montreal, 10-14 November 2003

Item 4.1 of the provisional agenda*

PROTECTED AREAS

***Recommendations of the International Workshop on Protected Forest Areas,
Montreal, 6-8 November 2003***

Note by the Executive Secretary

1. The Executive Secretary is circulating herewith, for the consideration of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) at its ninth meeting, the recommendations of the International Workshop on Protected Forest Areas, which was held in Montreal from 6 to 8 November 2003 in response to the request of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention in paragraph 19 (d) of its decision VI/22.
2. The full report of the Workshop is available as an information document (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/INF/39).

* UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/1.

Annex

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON
PROTECTED FOREST AREAS**

Having met in Montreal, from 6-8 November, 2003, the participants of the International Workshop on Protected Forest Areas, recommend that the Subsidiary Body on Scientific Technical and Technological Advice may wish to consider the following in order to further implement activities under programme element 1, goal 3, objective 3 of the work programme on forest biological diversity:

I. GENERAL

1. The Workshop emphasized that:

(a) Forests hold a large proportion of global biodiversity and loss of forest biodiversity is a major contributing factor to global biodiversity loss. The effective protection of forests will contribute substantively to global biodiversity conservation, and to achieving the 2010 target;

(b) They provide ecosystem goods and services and contribute to poverty alleviation and sustainable development;

(c) Forest protected areas can contribute greatly to achieving the target of significantly reducing the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010 and the relevant Millennium Development Goals;

(d) Forest protected areas play an important role as gene banks (seeds, animals, etc) and blueprints for restoration efforts;

(e) The implementation of the proposed programme of work on protected areas will provide a strong framework for implementation of element 1, goal 3, objective 3 of the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in decision VI/22;

(f) Forest protected areas should be seen within the wider context of the landscape and other elements of the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity;

(g) The effective participation of all relevant stakeholders, and in particular: indigenous and local communities, in the establishment and management of forest protected areas is important;

(h) The role of forest protected areas in the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change and the reduction of impacts of climate change on biodiversity should be more widely recognized.

2. In the light of the above, the Workshop recommended that:

(a) Targets be developed for the contribution of forest protected areas to the achievement of the 2010 target, e.g., “ensure sufficient forest protected areas established and effectively maintained to reduce forest biodiversity loss”;

(b) The term “forest protected areas” be used throughout to ensure consistency with other programmes of work, such as the term “marine and coastal protected areas”;

(c) The term “forest protected area” should apply to those areas that meet the definition for protected area under the Convention on Biological Diversity. An IUCN category should be assigned to all forest protected areas;

(d) The implementation of activities under the programme of work on forest biological diversity should proceed in support of and in harmony with the framework of the programme of work on protected areas;

(e) Cooperation between forest, environment and other agencies that are involved with forest protected areas be strengthened;

(f) The programme of work on forest biological diversity and the IPF/IFF/UNFF proposals for actions be implemented in harmony and synergistically;

(g) National forest programmes and national biodiversity strategies and action plans should be taken into account in planning and establishment of forest protected areas;

(h) More effort should be devoted to landscape-level planning of protected areas with respect to the goods and services they provide (e.g., pollination services, water catchment protection);

(i) Establishment, monitoring, assessment and identification of gaps of forest protected areas systems and networks should be done at national, regional and global levels;

(j) Communication and information-sharing between scientific community, local communities and among others should be improved to increase acceptance of all values of protected areas;

(k) Capacity should be built both in local communities and in government agencies;

(l) Parties should assess the need for additional financial resources and sustainable financing mechanisms to establish and implement forest protected areas;

(m) By the end of 2004, the current and potential contribution of forest protected areas to achievement of the Millennium Development Goals should be assessed and quantified;

(n) Forest protected areas, currently not officially included in national systems (for example, privately protected and community managed forest protected areas) and their role in forest biological diversity conservation should be taken into account in assessments and establishment of protected areas.

II. SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

A. *Assess the comprehensiveness, representativeness and adequacy of protected areas relative to forest types and identification of gaps and weaknesses*

3. For the purposes of the present report, the Workshop agreed that:

(a) *Representativeness* should be defined for the planning and monitoring not only using habitats (in this respect, the forest classification system included in the Forest programme of work is an essential tool}, but also genetic variability, species and ecological processes. A forest protected areas system based solely on protecting representatives of each habitat type will not necessarily be adequate for the needs of key stone or threatened species.

(b) **Comprehensiveness** and effectiveness includes consideration of socio-economic aspects (e.g. cultural, water, ecosystem goods and services)

(c) **Adequacy** is the sum of representative, comprehensive and effective. Using the message of the World Parks Congress to the Convention on Biological Diversity, an adequate forest protected areas network could be defined as one that:

- (i) Effectively conserves all globally/regionally/nationally threatened species *in situ*;
- (ii) Effectively conserves viable representations of every forest type within protected areas
- (iii) Protects all natural ecological processes in forests that generate and maintain biodiversity and provide humanity with vital ecosystem goods and services.

This is also in line with the recommendations of the IFF country-led initiative on forest protected areas. ^{1/}

4. Although current data on assessment of comprehensiveness, representativeness and adequacy are inadequate, existing coarse assessments suggest that forest protected areas are not yet representative of all types of forest or comprehensive.

5. Assessing the representativeness and comprehensiveness of forest protected areas should take place at different scales: local or sub-national, national, regional and international. Criteria and indicators for assessment may vary at different spatial scales; they may partly be biome-specific, and should cover genetic variability, species parameters, ecosystem types and ecosystem processes, goods and services. Socio-economic and cultural criteria and indicators should also be used.

6. Current assessments are inadequate, partly because forest type classification is inadequate. To remedy this problem, efforts to harmonize regional and national forest classification need to be accelerated and remote sensing techniques should be increasingly used.

7. To help determine the comprehensiveness, representativeness, adequacy and effectiveness of a forest protected areas system, there is a need, *inter alia*, to know the percentage of each forest type protected under different IUCN categories, bearing in mind the differing situations and forest cover of different countries.

8. Priorities for action need to be set at national, regional and global levels. Community, national and international priorities should be combined at multiple scales rather than viewed as contradictory. Criteria for setting such priorities already exist. They can be derived, *inter alia*, from the programme of work on forest biodiversity, the IPF/UNFF Proposals for Action, and the draft programme of work on protected Areas. They can include *high biodiversity and endemism, irreplaceability, uniqueness and intactness, and high threat of damage*. Priority-setting should also include socio-economic considerations, such as local livelihood needs, watershed protection, erosion control and the provision of other goods and services.

9. Many Parties, particularly developing countries, need technical and financial assistance in carrying out assessments and setting priorities.

^{1/} Final report of the IFF International Experts Meeting on Protected Forest Areas, sponsored by Brazil and the United States of America, Puerto Rico, 15-19 March, 1999.

B. Establishment, with the full participation and with respect for the rights of indigenous and local communities, and other relevant stakeholders, of comprehensive, adequate, biologically and regionally representative and effective networks of forest protected areas

10. Full participation and prior informed consent of indigenous and local communities for the establishment and management of protected forest areas require particular attention. Land tenure, prior informed consent and indigenous land rights are important issues in this regard.

11. Wider stakeholder participation is also important. Other important forest stakeholders, such as the forest industry and other commercial interests and resource users, need also to be involved.

12. Adequate participation needs time and capacity-building. Therefore, in priority forest areas under high levels of threat, moratoriums on extractive activities should be considered until decisions about protection are made.

13. Successful management of forest protected areas often depends on community-led management in which communities develop a sense of ownership, partnership and stewardship. In this regard, empowerment and capacity building are key elements for both local communities and the government agencies they interact with.

14. More effort should be devoted to landscape-level planning of forest protected areas with respect to the goods and services (e.g. pollination services and water catchment protection); they provide within the productive landscape, taking into the ecosystem approach.

15. Individual forest protected areas should be connected both through corridors, buffer zones and stepping stones, as well as through applying sustainable forest management and therewith maintaining or restoring biodiversity in the wider landscape.

C. Establishment of restoration areas to complement the network of forest protected areas

16. The Workshop endorsed the concept of forest landscape restoration, which is understood to mean restoring forest biological diversity and other functions and rehabilitating degraded lands on a landscape scale, based on community involvement and community-led management, including recognition of the importance and use traditional knowledge, and the ecosystem approach.

17. The Workshop noted that restoration can provide significant net economic benefits in the long-term, with respect to the provision of ecological goods and services.

18. Forest restoration and the restoration of biological diversity in forests are important both within and around forest protected areas, buffer zones and corridors, especially in highly fragmented forest landscapes, in irreplaceable ecosystems, and in regions where little natural forest cover remains. Landscape restoration should contribute to livelihoods and the three objectives of the Convention through the application of the ecosystem approach. Restoration should not be seen as a substitute for conserving existing forest stands.

19. Forest restoration should build on and manage natural regeneration processes, including natural disturbance regimes (e.g., fire), and recognize that forest protected areas can play an important role as gene banks and blueprints for restoration efforts.

20. The Workshop commended the work of the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration, encouraged the effort of the Partnership to disseminate case-studies. The Workshop urged the Parties to the Convention to support the Partnership.

D. Revise in a similar manner and ensure comprehensiveness, adequacy, representativeness and efficacy of existing protected forest area networks

21. This item is covered by recommendations under section A above and section E below.

E. Assess the efficacy of protected forest areas, and their efficacy for the conservation of biological diversity

22. For the purposes of this meeting efficacy is mainly defined as the extent to which management objectives are achieved (see below).

23. In conducting management effectiveness evaluations, use should be made of existing frameworks and methodologies, including the IUCN-WCPA Framework on Management Effectiveness Evaluation and the criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management. Effectiveness includes different elements of management quality such as governance, financial sustainability, stakeholder participation, enforcement, equitable cost- and benefit-sharing.

24. The Workshop concluded that it should be recommended that Parties implement management effectiveness evaluations of forest protected areas as a contribution to the relevant goal of the proposed programme of work on protected areas stating that to management effectiveness evaluations of at least 30 per cent of each Parties protected areas should be implemented by 2010.

25. When considering certification or audit schemes for protected areas the experiences of forest certification schemes should be taken into account. Third party certification could be a tool to improve transparent reporting on effectiveness to stakeholders that could improve good governance. Experience under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) may also be relevant.

F. Ensure that relevant protected areas are managed to maintain and enhance their forest biodiversity components, services and values

26. To ensure that protected areas are managed to maintain and enhance their forest biodiversity components, services and values:

(a) Each forest protected area should have a management plan, which should be revised periodically as necessary, utilizing adaptive management;;

(b) As forests produce commercial commodities and provide important ecosystem goods and services, the value of ecosystem services should be reflected in the price of the forest commodities. Opportunities for tapping the value of ecosystem services as a source of income support for forest protected areas, for example water pricing, timber taxation, recreation, should be explored and utilized;

(c) The use of volunteerism to increase capacity for forest protected areas management should be encouraged;

(d) Parties should assess the need for additional financial resources and sustainable financing mechanisms to establish and implement forest protected areas;

(e) Promote economic valuations and assessments of the goods and services provided by forest protected areas in order to quantify the current and potential contribution of forest protected areas to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;

(f) Promote international cooperation partnerships to support the establishment and management of forest protected areas;

(g) Climate change scenarios should be taken into account in the planning and management of forest protected areas.
