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SECOND GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY OUTLOOK REPORT: DRAFT OUTLINE*Note by the Executive Secretary***EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

At its seventh meeting, the Conference of the Parties, in paragraph 8 of decision VII/30, requested the Executive Secretary, with the assistance of the World Conservation Monitoring Centre of the United Nations Environment Programme and other relevant international organizations, to prepare the second Global Biodiversity Outlook for publication prior to the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties following peer-review and review by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its tenth or eleventh meeting.

As a follow-up to this decision, the Executive Secretary has prepared a draft outline of the second edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook that will contain an assessment of progress towards the 2010 biodiversity target at the global level and communicate effectively trends in biodiversity related to the three objectives of the Convention, based on the focal areas listed in paragraph 1 of decision VII/30. The report outline will serve as a basis for further elaboration of the full draft of the report and will be based on indicators listed in annex I of the same decision that are successfully developed and tested, information provided in the national reports, as well as information provided by international organizations.

SUGGESTED RECOMMENDATIONS

SBSTTA may wish to review the draft outline of the second edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook and endorse the outline and format for further development and refinement as well as the compilation of the full first draft incorporating elaborated indicators listed on annex I of decision VII/30.

GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY OUTLOOK (GBO-2)

Proposed content outline

Foreword

1. The aim of this section is to briefly present the purpose of the Global Biodiversity Outlook.
2. The text will emphasize the importance of biodiversity in achieving human development goals, introduce the Global Biodiversity Outlook as a means for: (a) communicating information on progress in conserving and sustainably using biodiversity; and (b) communicating what is being done to improve delivery of conservation and sustainable use

Preface

3. This section will outline the relevant mandates of the Conference of the Parties, relationship to the first edition of the GBO report, aims, intended audience, linkages to other global reporting processes and the conceptual framework underlying the GBO-2 analysis.

Executive Summary

4. The executive summary will provide a condensed narrative of the purpose and scope of the report, highlight the key findings and messages, and emphasize the main conclusions and recommendations for further follow-up actions.

SECTION I: INTRODUCTION - BIODIVERSITY IN THE BROADER POLICY CONTEXT

5. The aim of this section is to set the GBO report in the context of global policy initiatives and processes and the associated challenges for biodiversity and the Convention.
6. The analytical part of this section will describe the role of biodiversity in the sustainable development process and more specifically, it will highlight major current international policy initiatives concerning development and the environment, and explain how biodiversity relates to these. In this regard, the section will emphasize the strategic plan of the convention, the 2010 biodiversity target and its endorsement by the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), the United Nations Secretary General's WEHAB initiative and other biodiversity-related targets set at WSSD, the continuing role of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), and the relationship between biodiversity and the Millennium Development Goals. The contribution of biodiversity to poverty alleviation will be given due prominence and will serve as a basis for further treatment of this issue in the subsequent sections. Poverty alleviation will be one of the common threads that will run through all the four sections of the report.
7. This part will also cover cooperation with other initiatives and processes, emphasizing the fact that the Convention does not operate in isolation but in collaboration with a wide range of other conventions, initiatives and programmes. Stress will be laid on effective liaison and joint programming, leading in to more detailed discussion in later sections where appropriate case-studies of working arrangements will be highlighted.
8. This section will be rounded off with reference to the Ecosystem Approach as the primary framework for addressing the three objectives of the Convention in a balanced way, incorporating elements of stakeholder involvement, cross-sectoral collaboration, and its recognition by WSSD as an important instrument for enhancing sustainable development and poverty alleviation.
9. The section will conclude with a synthesis that will provide a logical linkage between the global policy context of the report and the challenges to be addressed in greater detail in subsequent sections. In

view of the foregoing, it is envisaged that section I of the report will comprise, in the first instance, the following sub-sections:^{1/}

- I.1 Introduction (mandates of the Conference of the Parties, linkages to GBO-1 and other relevant global reporting processes, conceptual framework for the GBO analysis, etc.);
- I.2 The Strategic Plan of the Convention and the 2010 target (also including establishment of targets and objectives within the Conventions programmes of work and strategies, and the recommendations on targets and objectives at the national level);
- I.3 CSD, WSSD, WEHAB and biodiversity;
- I.4 Biodiversity and the Millennium Development Goals;
- I.5 Other relevant initiatives and processes (biodiversity-related conventions, UNFCCC, UNCCD, etc.);
- I.6 The ecosystem approach;
- I.7 Conclusion and synthesis.

SECTION II: PROGRESS TOWARDS THE 2010 TARGET – THE GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY CHALLENGE

10. The aim of this section is to review the current status and trends of biodiversity and threats to it, and to set out the challenges of achieving the 2010 target. In addition, the section will provide an assessment of the current status of progress in moving towards the 2010 target, the challenges that lie ahead and the level of effort required to overcome these challenges in order to achieve the 2010 target.

11. The analytical approach used will be based on the framework provided in decision VII/30 of the Conference of the Parties. This framework is intended to give structure to evaluation of progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan and, in particular, its mission to achieve a significant reduction in the current rate of biodiversity loss at global, regional and national levels. Specifically, the framework comprises seven focal areas and a provisional set of indicators for assessing progress towards, and communicating the 2010 target at the global level.

12. The section will have an introductory sub-section, which will relate what is about to be presented to the issues raised in section I and also provide a brief description on the presentation and analytical treatment of the content of this section (which is then further built on in sections III and IV of the report).

13. The content of this section will draw heavily on the outcome and findings of the ongoing process involving a number of task forces established to further define and develop the indicators for the various focal areas, and to use the associated indicators to assess progress towards, and communicate the 2010 target at the global level. It will therefore respond directly to the indicators identified in annex I of decision VII/30 of the Conference of the Parties.

14. The work of the task forces is intended to generate information on current baseline trends for the 2010 target, which would then serve as a basis for developing a detailed narrative covering each of the biomes related to the thematic programmes of work of the Convention. To the extent possible, the section will address the rates of biodiversity loss and the consequences of the loss of the components of biodiversity. It is envisaged that this narrative will also draw on other relevant initiatives on biodiversity indicators including for example new material on biodiversity and climate change and the work of other international agreements and programmes that are already working on the 2010 target (Ramsar Convention, CMS, European Environment Agency (EEA), the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS), etc). Linkages to efforts to alleviate poverty will also be articulated.

^{1/} There may be slight modifications in the order of presentations of the sub-sections, when the drafting of the more detailed narrative for the section gets under way.

15. While the indicators will be primarily global in nature, as was recommended in decision VII/30 of the Conference of the Parties, wherever possible examples from contracting Parties will be incorporated, drawing on information submitted by Parties. In addition, consideration will be given to making use of traditional ecological knowledge as a supplementary source of information for supporting the analysis in this.

16. Where appropriate, attempts will be made to describe the actual challenges of monitoring progress towards the 2010 target in view of the associated definitional and data issues. This is important as it may lead to recommendations of options and actions that can be taken to increase understanding of status and trends and therefore better interpretation of the overall target and the associated sub-targets.

17. The section will end with a synthesis highlighting the “key messages” emerging from the indicators and also underlining the gaps that need to be addressed at policy, institutional and data levels as well as the priority challenges for the consideration of the existing mechanisms dealing with biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

18. While the structure of the section will, to the extent possible, correspond to the seven focal areas of the framework adopted by the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as was noted above, there will be sufficient flexibility within this structure to accommodate the analysis of other relevant material and information as well the treatment of issues that cut across these focal areas:

- II.1 Introduction;
- II.2 Reducing the rate of loss of the components of biological diversity;
- II.3 Promoting sustainable use of biodiversity;
- II.4 Addressing the major threats to biodiversity;
- II.5 Maintaining ecosystem integrity and the provision of goods and services;
- II.6 Protecting traditional knowledge, innovations and practices;
- II.7 Ensuring the fair and equitable sharing of benefits;
- II.8 Mobilizing financial and technical resources;
- II.9 Conclusions and synthesis.

19. The order of presentation of the above sub-sections may change when the drafting of the detailed narrative of the section gets underway, but the current order is based on paragraph 1 of decision VII/30 (and also used in annexes I and II of the same decision).

SECTION III: MECHANISMS FOR ADDRESSING BIODIVERSITY LOSS²

20. The aim of this section is to highlight what is being done to work towards effective conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, focussing in particular but not exclusively on the Convention.

21. This section of the report will articulate the range of existing mechanisms that address the challenges highlighted in the preceding section, and will address, among others, the programmes of work, tools and instruments developed under the framework of the Convention. The section will also address other relevant initiatives, programmes and activities of Parties and other partners, and indeed this section will draw on national examples wherever possible based on information submitted by Parties. It will also incorporate “lessons learned” from the experiences of implementation of the convention and other relevant processes such as the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. The section will describe the achievements and impacts of these mechanisms, as well as the constraints and gaps encountered in

^{2/} Other possible titles: *Key response options*, or *Tools for responding to the challenges*, or *Responding to the global biodiversity challenge*.

addressing biodiversity loss and the associated challenges in assessing progress towards the achievement of the 2010 target.

22. To the extent possible, the section will also analyse the linkages and possible impacts of some of the global drivers of change such as globalization, trade, allocation of resources including foreign direct investment, and empowerment, amongst others. As in preceding sections, linkages with and the contribution of the existing mechanisms to overall poverty alleviation will also be emphasized.

23. The issue of cooperation and partnerships between the Convention and other international organizations, initiatives and process is particularly crucial not only to the work of the Convention but also in facilitating the mainstreaming of biodiversity considerations in the work of other organizations and initiatives. The delivery of the key messages about progress towards achieving the 2010 target is a collaborative process and due prominence will be given to the issue of cooperation and partnerships in this section of the report.

24. The structure of the section is tentative and may need to be modified as the report is developed. The key issues are to follow logically from the previous section, but also to ensure coverage of the full range of tools available under the convention and at least examples from other agreements and initiatives. The order of presentation and related supplementary information such as boxes and graphics will be better defined when the drafting of the content for the preceding sections is in progress.

25. It is currently recommended that the structure of the section follow that of the previous section, thereby reflecting the focal areas identified in decision VII/30. As these focal areas are used in the provisional framework for goals and targets (annex II of that decision) this provides a clearer link back to the Strategic Plan that organizing the section by mechanisms.

26. However, it is important that all mechanism, tools, and so forth of the Convention on Biological Diversity are covered in a coherent and obvious manner, and this will be ensured through appropriate use of text boxes as well as discussion in the text. A list of these mechanisms and tools is included in an annex to this paper. This section will include the following sub-sections:

- III.1 Introduction: Providing a logical linkage between sections I, II and III, and stressing the key role of national implementation (NBSAPs, target setting), and the importance of target setting in the context of the convention and implementation of the strategic plan
- III.2 Reducing the rate of loss of the components of biological diversity;
- III.3 Promoting sustainable use of biodiversity;
- III.4 Addressing the major threats to biodiversity;
- III.5 Maintaining ecosystem integrity and the provision of goods and services;
- III.6 Protecting traditional knowledge, innovations and practices;
- III.7 Ensuring the fair and equitable sharing of benefits;
- III.8 Mobilizing financial and technical resources;
- III.9 Conclusions and synthesis.

SECTION IV: FUTURE OUTLOOK FOR THE CONVENTION AND PROSPECTS FOR 2010 AND BEYOND

27. The aim of this section is to address the future outlook for the Convention and for biodiversity, 2010 and beyond, and to review efforts to overcome obstacles and meet the challenge.

28. Building on previous sections, this section will address the issue of assessing the future outlook for the Convention and prospects for 2010 and beyond in the context of the strategic plan and decision VII/30. It will also provide an analytical narrative of efforts required to overcome obstacles and

to meeting the challenges highlighted in the preceding sections of the report. This will necessarily go beyond tools and programmes currently in place and identify potential gaps.

29. Attempts will be made to go beyond providing global perspectives and also focus on presenting realistic and balanced approaches for consideration at the national level. It is important that national implementation processes to meet global goals in the context of national priorities is given due emphasis in this section.

30. The longer-term biodiversity and global development scenarios will be addressed in some of the subsections (eg. 4.1 and part of 4.2) and will draw upon the scenario material currently being developed under the Millennium Assessment process. This section will also make reference to the need to develop scenarios specifically for the next editions of the GBO (GBO-3 and GBO-4)

31. Finally, the design of future targets and the associated data/monitoring systems that would be needed to evaluate progress towards the achievement of these targets will also be highlighted, also relating this to the future of the Convention and future editions of the GBO (GBO-3 and GBO-4). This also relates to continued delivery of the 2010 indicators described and delivered in section II. The following sub-sections will be included in section IV:

- IV.1 Prospects for 2010 and beyond;
- IV.2 Contribution to poverty alleviation and sustainable development;
- IV.3 Overcoming obstacles including sustainable financing;
- IV.4 The future role of the Convention;
- IV.5 Conclusions and synthesis.

Annex/Tables:

1. Supplementary information
2. Information sources and further reading, etc.

Annex

CHECKLIST OF KEY TOOLS TO BE COVERED IN SECTION III

National level mechanisms:

- NBSAPs and integration into sectoral processes
- Setting national targets and assessments
- Implementation of programmes of work
- Constraints

Thematic programmes of work of the Convention:

- Marine and coastal biodiversity
- Forest biodiversity
- Inland water ecosystems
- Dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity
- Agricultural biodiversity
- Mountain biodiversity
- Island biodiversity

Cross-cutting issues (articles, goals & targets, guidance.):

- Access and benefit-sharing
- Article 8(j) and related provisions
- Protected areas
- Ecosystem approach
- Invasive alien species
- Monitoring and implementation
- Financial mechanisms
- Impact assessments
- Incentive measures
- Climate change
- Sustainable use
- Liability and redress
- Technology transfer and cooperation
- Clearing-house mechanism
- Communication, education and public awareness
- National reporting
- Global taxonomy initiative
- Biodiversity and tourism development
- Global strategy for plant conservation

Cooperation and partnerships:

- Cooperation with international organizations, conventions, etc.
- Civil society and private sector
- Initiatives in support of the Convention (GISP, Global Partnership for Plant Biodiversity)
- Global biodiversity partnership

The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.
