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Item 3 of the provisional agenda\*

### **PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE THEMATIC PROGRAMMES OF WORK UNDER THE CONVENTION**

*Note by the Executive Secretary*

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The present note has been prepared by the Executive Secretary to provide a brief report on progress in the implementation of the thematic programmes of work of the Convention since the last report submitted to the tenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, in February 2005 (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/10/2).

The thematic programmes considered are:

- (a) Biological diversity of inland water ecosystems;
- (b) Marine and coastal biological diversity;
- (c) Agricultural biodiversity;
- (d) Forest biological diversity;
- (e) Biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands;
- (f) Biological diversity of mountain ecosystems; and
- (g) Island biodiversity.

The present note has been prepared for reporting purposes only. Any substantive issues and recommendations relating to the thematic programmes of work concerned are presented in the other relevant working documents for the eleventh meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (see UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/1/Add.1, annex II).

#### **SUGGESTED RECOMMENDATION**

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) may wish to take note of the progress in the implementation of the work under the thematic programmes of the Convention.

\* UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/1.

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## PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE THEMATIC PROGRAMMES OF WORK

### A. *Biological diversity of inland water ecosystems (decision VII/4)*

1. In decision VII/4, the Conference of the Parties adopted a revised programme of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems.
2. As part of the implementation of the programme of work, the Secretariat carried out the following activities in the reporting period:
  - (a) Contribution to the in-depth review of the synthesis report of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment on “Wetlands and Water: Ecosystem Services” prepared as a guide for the Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands;
  - (b) Collaboration with Working Group 4 (Ramsar site designation) of the Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) on the development of additional designation criteria in relation to Annex I of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the elaboration of guidelines for their interpretation (decision VII/4, paras. 29 and 30). A comprehensive analysis of the current situation has been carried out for consideration by SBSTTA (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/13);
  - (c) Preparation, with regard to paragraphs 3 and 16 of decision VII/4, relating to national reporting and information generation on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems, of a note (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/12) consolidating relevant considerations, including proposals on ways and means for making the review of the programme of work more comprehensive and on developing cost-effective means to report on implementation of the programme of work as measured against the global targets;
  - (d) Contribution for the published outputs (training workshop materials) for the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) Training Workshop on Wetlands, Biodiversity and Water: New Tools for the Ecosystem Management, held in Kushiro, Japan, from 29 November to 3 December 2004. The contribution focuses on the role of multilateral agreements in wetland management;
  - (e) Contribution to the Comprehensive Assessment of Water Management in Agriculture (see para. 3 (b) below), with the Secretariat attending a workshop held in Montpellier, France, from 5 to 8 June 2005 to finalize the outline for the chapter on “ecosystems” and to provide relevant technical inputs and case studies. Linkages between the Comprehensive Assessment and the Convention on Biological Diversity, in particular the programmes of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems and agricultural biodiversity, were established. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity was invited to formally join the Assessment as a “co-sponsor”;
  - (f) Compilation, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting, of information on mountain ecosystems and their role as water suppliers and examples of transferable technologies relevant to the implementation of the revised programme of work on inland water biodiversity also relevant to mountain ecosystems (decision VII/4 paragraph 14 (a));
  - (g) Preparation, in accordance with paragraph 7 of SBSTTA recommendation X/4, of: (i) an overview of the goals and targets contained in the Strategic Plan (decision VI/26), the framework for evaluating progress towards the 2010 target (decision VII/30), and those integrated into the various programmes of work of the Convention, showing the relationship among them; (ii) a matrix relating the goals and targets of the programmes of work on marine and coastal biodiversity and biodiversity of inland water ecosystems to the activities of these programmes of work; and (iii) a glossary of terms used in the framework of goals and targets adopted in decision VII/30 to clarify the terms used and to facilitate the application of the framework of goals and targets to all programmes of work in a consistent manner, taking into account the terms used in other biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements;
  - (h) The Executive Secretary informed the Secretary-General of the Ramsar Convention of the contents of recommendation X/4, particularly paragraph 3, and requested that relevant information be forwarded to the Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel.

3. Activities of partners in the implementation of the programme of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems included, *inter alia*:

(a) Major progress made by the Ramsar Convention, including the submission of 18 draft resolutions (as of 12 July 2005) to ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention, to be held in mid-November 2005. The draft resolutions address, *inter alia*: (i) additional scientific and technical guidance for implementing the Ramsar wise use concept - with new guidelines annexed; (ii) future priorities for the scientific and technical implementation of the Convention; (iii) engagement of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands in ongoing multilateral processes dealing with water; (iv) the Ramsar Convention and the conservation and sustainable use of fish resources; (v) synergies with other international organizations dealing with biological diversity; including collaboration on, and harmonization of, national reporting among biodiversity-related conventions and agreements; (vi) designation and management of [transnational] [transboundary] Ramsar sites; (vii) guidance for addressing Ramsar sites or parts of sites which no longer meet the criteria for designation; regional initiatives in the framework of the Ramsar Convention; (viii) a strategic framework for the implementation of the Convention 2006-2008; (ix) the role of the Ramsar Convention in natural disaster prevention, mitigation and adaptation; (x) a revised *modus operandi* of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel of the Ramsar Convention; (xi) evaluation of the Ramsar Endowment Fund as a mechanism to resource the Small Grants Fund; (xii) wetlands and poverty reduction; (xiii) the status of sites in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance; (xiv) the Convention's international organization partners (IOPs); and (xv) the important role of regional forums in effective implementation of the Convention in the Asia region;

(b) The Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) has undertaken a Comprehensive Assessment of Water Management in Agriculture, led by the International Water Management Institute, in collaboration with other CGIAR centres and partners. Direct reference is being made to the objectives and work programmes of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

(c) The Global Water Partnership continues to make advances and recent activities have in particular focussed on training including in Integrated Water Resources Management and the training of trainers;

(d) The River Basin Initiative (a joint initiative of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Ramsar Convention) is rapidly developing its operational potential, particularly through the substantially upgraded website ([www.riverbasin.org](http://www.riverbasin.org));

(e) The World Water Assessment Programme continues to coordinate 24 UN entities' efforts in writing the second United Nations World Water Development Report (WWDR II), which is nearing completion;

(f) A Freshwater Fish Specialist Group has been identified as a priority by both Wetlands International and the IUCN Species Survival Commission and is now established as a collaborative venture towards the conservation and sustainable use of freshwater dependent fishes globally. The first meeting of the Group was held from 7 to 9 March 2005 in Chester, United Kingdom;

(g) UN-Water attracted a high level of attention and discussion at the thirteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development and is the focus of its recommendations on follow-up on water and sanitation which, *inter alia*, requests UN-Water to give equal consideration in its terms of reference to the thematic issues of sanitation and water addressed by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its thirteenth session, and to promote, within its mandate, system-wide inter-agency cooperation and coordination among relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes on these issues, and requests the Secretary-General to include in his report to the Commission on Sustainable Development the activities of UN-Water as they relate to the aforementioned thematic areas, including the roles and responsibilities of relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes in implementing and monitoring the water and sanitation agenda, including identifying duplication, overlap and gaps; and

(h) The Global International Waters Assessment is soon presenting a global report to summarize the assessments on transboundary waters around the world. The full report is based upon a large number of regional assessments and several of these include inland waters such as the reports for the Baltic and Caspian Seas, Amazon and Lake Chad Basins, East African Rift Valley lakes and the Gulf of California/Colorado river basin.

4. Of the eleven countries that had submitted their third national report by 15 July 2005, in relation to the incorporation of the objectives and relevant activities of the programme of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems: two report they have fully integrated this into their biodiversity strategies and action plans, whereas six have partially achieved this; one has fully integrated this into wetland policies and strategies, whereas six have partially done so; two fully implemented this in relation to integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans, and six partially; and, two achieved full integration into enhanced coordination and cooperation between national actors and seven achieved this partially.

#### ***B. Marine and coastal biological diversity (decision VII/5)***

5. In decision VII/5, the Conference of the Parties adopted an elaborated programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity. The present section provides a brief review progress made in each programme element.

##### *1. Integrated marine and coastal area management (IMCAM)*

6. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Implementation of Integrated Marine and Coastal Area Management (IMCAM) met in Montreal from 11 to 15 July 2005. The terms of reference of this Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) were approved by SBSTTA in annex I to its recommendation VIII/3 A. The work of the AHTEG will contribute towards activity (c) under operational objective 1.1 of the programme of work on the identification of obstacles to the implementation of IMCAM nationally and regionally, and the development and implementation strategies, such as partnerships, tools and other means, to overcome those obstacles, including provision of guidance on the application of such tools. The report of the AHTEG is available to SBSTTA as an information document (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/INF/9). In addition, the results, including tools and strategies, will be made available through the Convention's clearing-house mechanism.

7. The Secretariat participated in a workshop titled "Changing Currents – Charting a Course of Action for the Future of the Oceans", which took place in Vancouver, Canada, from 23 to 26 February 2005. The goal of the workshop was to identify strategies and practical actions to effect change in the management of marine resources, and to halt the decline of biodiversity. The report of the workshop is available at <http://www.sfu.ca/coastalstudies/changingcurrents.htm>.

8. The Secretariat is collaborating with the World Conservation Monitoring Centre of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP-WCMC) in the preparation of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment synthesis report on marine and coastal ecosystems and human well-being. The Secretariat has provided review comments on two versions of this report.

9. The global report of the Global International Waters Assessment (GIWA) summarizes assessments of transboundary waters from 66 regions around the world. GIWA performed a multi-disciplinary, bottom-up assessment of the ecological status of international waters and the root causes of environmental problems. The report will be available at <http://www.giwa.net>.

10. A Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) has been adopted by the members of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (MCSD) and their partners from civil society and international organizations during their tenth meeting, which took place in Athens from 20 to 22 June 2005. The Strategy will be submitted for adoption to the fourteenth meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, which will take place in Portoroz, Slovenia, from 8 to 11 November 2005.

11. A new partnership between the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA) and the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) has been launched during the H<sub>2</sub>O - From Hilltops to Oceans Global Partnership

Conference, held in Cairns, Australia, from 11 to 14 May. It links the Wastewater Emission Targets (WET) initiative to the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for All campaign (WASH). WET-WASH ensures that the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) targets on water and sanitation include all aspects, in particular hygiene awareness and the safe discharge and re-use of wastewater. The campaign aims to clean up marine and coastal areas by ensuring that people have access to toilets and safe drinking water. Further information is available at <http://www.gpa.unep.org/news/gpanew.htm>.

12. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has developed guiding principles for post-tsunami rehabilitation and reconstruction. These guidelines rely on concepts of integrated coastal zone management, including public engagement in local decision-making. The principles were adopted at a meeting on coastal zone rehabilitation and management in the tsunami-affected region, which was held in Cairo on 17 February 2005. The guiding principles are available at <http://www.gpa.unep.org/tsunami/>.

## 2. *Marine and coastal living resources*

### *Coral reefs and related ecosystems*

13. The specific work plan on coral bleaching was updated by the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and is contained in appendix 1 to annex I of decision VII/5. The Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to continue facilitating the implementation of this work plan in active collaboration with the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI), its partners, the regional seas programmes of UNEP, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and other relevant organizations. The present section reports on a number of implementing activities.

14. A progress report describing relevant activities under the Convention on Biological Diversity has been made available to the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) General Meeting, which took place in the Seychelles from 25 to 27 April 2005.

15. Guidelines for rapid assessment and monitoring of tsunami damage to coral reefs have been prepared by a team of experts from the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN), Coral Reef Degradation in the Indian Ocean (CORDIO), IUCN, ReefBase, ReefCheck and the International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN) working under the umbrella of ICRI and the International Society for Reef Studies (ISRS). The guidelines were submitted to the UNEP Asian Disaster Task Force so that they could be applied by experts undertaking coral-reef assessments.

16. The Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) has produced global and regional manuals on socio-economic monitoring. GCRMN is also working with the WorldFish Center to develop a global database to assess global, regional and national trends in people's dependence on marine resources, threats and status of governance. Additional information is available at [www.gcrmn.org](http://www.gcrmn.org).

17. A second edition of the World Atlas of Mangroves is being prepared as a joint initiative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Society for Mangrove Ecosystems (ISME), the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme, UNEP-WCMC and the International Network on Water, Environment and Health of the United Nations University (UNU-INWEH). The World Atlas of Mangroves was originally published in 1997. The second, updated edition is expected to be published in late 2005, and is aimed at managers, conservation experts and scientists.

18. The Coral Reefs Initiative for the South Pacific project (CRISP) has commenced its activities with a technical workshop, which took place in Noumea from 24 to 28 January 2005. CRISP will support protection and adaptive management of coral reefs as a basis for sustainable development. Financed by the French Development Agency, the French Global Environment Facility (FGEF) and a number of other partners, this US\$ 11 million initiative will support on-the-ground activities relating to marine protected areas, watershed management, economic valuation, coral reef restoration, and will integrate regional database and monitoring networks. There will be a strong technology and knowledge transfer component. Ten Pacific island countries and three French territories will be involved.

*Other living resources*

19. The Secretariat participated in the sixth meeting of the United Nations Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and Law of the Sea (ICP), which took place in New York from 6 to 10 June 2005. In addition, the Secretariat took part in two side meetings that were held in the margins of the ICP. These were a meeting of the United Nations coordinating mechanism on oceans issues (UN-OCEANS) and a meeting of the Steering Committee of the Global Forum on Oceans and Coasts.

20. The FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) adopted a set of voluntary guidelines for the eco-labelling of fish products during its twenty-sixth session, held from 7 to 11 March 2005. The new guidelines set out general principles for eco-labelling schemes and establish minimum requirements and criteria for assessing whether an eco-label should be awarded, consistent with the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.

21. The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean has banned bottom-trawling at depths below 1,000 metres. The ban is the first of its kind in the world. Seabeds below 1,000 metres have not yet been exploited by Mediterranean fleets, and the ban is a precautionary measure to protect still intact and poorly understood deep-sea ecosystems. Over half the Mediterranean Sea is now protected from the impacts of bottom trawling.

22. Calculations of the marine trophic index (one of the global indicators approved by the Conference of the Parties for immediate testing in decision VII/30) are now available on the website of the University of British Columbia's Sea Around Us Project ([www.seaaroundus.org](http://www.seaaroundus.org)). Time-series data of the marine trophic index and the related fishing-in-balance (FiB) index are available for each country's exclusive economic zone for the years 1950 to 2001. The time-series data will be periodically updated until 2010. The development of this indicator also implements activity (a) under operational objective 2.1 of the programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity.

23. FAO has produced two new reports of importance for global fisheries. These are the *2004 State of the World Fisheries and Aquaculture* (SOFIA) report <sup>1/</sup> and the *Review of the State of the World Marine Fishery Resources* report <sup>2/</sup>. The SOFIA report is published every two years with the purpose of providing policy makers, civil society and those who derive their livelihood from the sector a comprehensive, objective and global view of capture fisheries and aquaculture, including associated policy issues. The *Review of the State of the World Marine Resources* report updates the regular review of the state of the world's marine fisheries and fishery resources, based mainly on catch statistics throughout 2002 and relevant stock assessments and other complementary information available until 2004. The report presents the global situation, major trends and more detailed information for each FAO statistical area.

24. The UNEP Caribbean Environment Programme has set up a small grants fund for promoting sustainable fishing practices and alternative livelihoods for fishers. The fund was initiated as a pilot programme in 2005 with funding provided by the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA). <sup>3/</sup>

25. The Census of Marine Life, a 10-year initiative to assess and explain the diversity, distribution and abundance of marine life in the oceans, has updated its Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS) with additional data and functionality. OBIS is a Web-based information system providing geo-referenced data on marine species globally. <sup>4/</sup>

26. The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) has adopted an international ban on shark finning (the practice of slicing off a shark's fin and dumping the rest of the body back into the ocean) in the Eastern Pacific Ocean. The resolution also aims to improve information about sharks in IATTC fisheries. <sup>5/</sup>

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<sup>1/</sup> See [http://www.fao.org/sof/sofia/index\\_en.htm](http://www.fao.org/sof/sofia/index_en.htm).

<sup>2/</sup> See <ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/007/y5852e/y5852e00.pdf>

<sup>3/</sup> More information about this initiative can be found at <http://www.cep.unep.org>.

<sup>4/</sup> Information about the Census of Marine Life can be found at <http://www.coml.org/coml.htm> while OBIS is available at <http://www.iobis.org/>.

<sup>5/</sup> Additional information may be found at <http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/jun2005/2005-06-29-03.asp>.

### 3. *Marine and coastal protected areas*

27. Aspects of decision VII/5 relating to marine and coastal protected areas (MCPA) are being implemented through a number of ongoing activities, some of which are summarized below:

28. The Secretariat intends to use the outputs of the First International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC 1), which will take place in Geelong, Australia, from 23 to 27 October 2005, to develop further technical advice on network design and in particular the ecological coherence of networks, as requested in paragraph 37 of decision VII/5. The ICRI task force on marine protected areas will also assist in this effort.

29. Two background studies on marine areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction were prepared for the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Protected Areas, held in Montecatini, Italy, from 13 to 17 June 2005. The first study explored scientific aspects of biodiversity in marine areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, while the second study provided an analysis of the international legal regime in these areas. This work jointly implements decisions VII/5 and VII/28.

30. The UNEP regional seas programme and the Convention Secretariat have completed an analysis of how regional networks of marine and coastal protected areas contribute towards the WSSD 2012 target on a representative networks, which was also agreed upon in decisions VII/5 and VII/28. The regional seas programme provided an intern to work under the supervision of the Secretariat to complete this project. The final results will be used for the information of SBSTTA, pursuant to paragraph 39 of decision VII/5, in which the Executive Secretary was requested to provide an assessment of progress toward the global goal, as part of reporting on the programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity.

31. The first version of the marine protected areas database called for in paragraph 38 of decision VII/5 is now available on-line at <http://www.mpaglobal.org/index.php?action=search>. The work to develop this database was undertaken by the Fisheries Centre of the University of British Columbia in collaboration with UNEP-WCMC and WWF.

32. A project on marine protected areas as a tool for ecosystem conservation and fisheries management has been launched by the European Union. Seventeen European research institutes collaborate to provide policy advice and develop methodologies to assess the potential of different marine-protected-area regimes. The main outcomes will be an improved science base for the use of marine protected areas and tools for ecosystem conservation and fisheries management in European Union waters.

33. The Caribbean Environment Programme of UNEP is continuing its training-of-trainers programme in marine protected area management. To date, four regional courses have been organized and two additional courses will be organized in 2005 and 2007 respectively, with local follow-up training conducted by the participants. The aim of this activity is to increase the number of trained marine protected area managers in the Caribbean region.

### 4. *Mariculture*

34. FAO is developing a new series of fact sheets on aquaculture, which will include specific subject information and profiles supported by graphics, including geographic information systems maps. The fact sheets contain a synthesis of information tailored to illustrate the various characteristics of each aquaculture subject. <sup>6/</sup>

35. FAO has collaborated with other agencies to produce several new publications of relevance to aquaculture. These include reports of relevant expert meetings and workshops, as well as technical guidance related to aquaculture. <sup>7/</sup>

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<sup>6/</sup> The fact sheets are accessible at:  
<http://www.fao.org/figis/servlet/static?dom=root&xml=aquaculture/index.xml>.

<sup>7/</sup> The publications are available at:  
[http://www.fao.org/fi/eims\\_search/advanced\\_s\\_result.asp?title=aquaculture|acuicultura&owner=serv\\_4&sortorder=3&form\\_c=A ND&lang=en](http://www.fao.org/fi/eims_search/advanced_s_result.asp?title=aquaculture|acuicultura&owner=serv_4&sortorder=3&form_c=A ND&lang=en).



## 5. *Alien species and genotypes*

36. The Secretariat in collaboration with the Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP) and the UNEP regional seas programme held a workshop to develop a joint work programme on marine invasive alien species with key stakeholders and organizations. This workshop, which took place at the Secretariat offices in Montreal from 27 to 29 June 2005, identified gaps in activities relating to marine invasive species and developed a programme to address those gaps. This work will contribute towards the establishment of an initiative for the management of marine invasive alien species in accordance with activity (a) of operational objective 5.2 in the elaborated programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity (decision VII/5, annex I). The report of the meeting is available to SBSTTA as an information document (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/INF/10). The workshop also responded to a request in decision VI/23\*, paragraph 26 (e), which calls for the development of a joint work programme through the GISP partnership network among the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Ramsar Convention, the International Maritime Organization, the International Plant Protection Convention and other relevant bodies.

37. The Secretariat is collaborating with GISP and the UNEP regional seas programme on a project to develop and pilot a regionally based training course on marine invasive alien species.

## 6. *General*

38. The Secretariat participated in the meeting of UN-Oceans, which took place at the offices of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO on 25-26 January 2005. Several task forces were set up at this meeting. The Secretariat is coordinating the work of the Task Force on Biodiversity in Marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction, which has, *inter alia*, reviewed background documents relating to this issue prepared for the Ad hoc Open-ended Working Group on Protected Areas.

39. The Secretariat is assisting in the preparations for a coordination meeting between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Black Sea Commission. The meeting is scheduled to be held in Istanbul from 15 to 17 September 2005. The aim of this meeting is to work towards harmonized implementation of the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Black Sea Biodiversity and Landscape Conservation Protocol (BSBLCP), both with regard to legal provisions and to activities relating to targets and indicators.

### *C. Agricultural biological diversity (decisions VI/5 and VII/3)*

40. In response to decision VI/5, which contains, as an annex, the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity, and decision VII/3 the following major activities have been undertaken in collaboration with partners and other relevant organizations, under the programme of work:

(a) The Executive Secretary submitted to FAO a summary report on the activities undertaken within the framework of the Convention on: (i) monitoring the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture; and (ii) preparation of the Second Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources. This report will be considered by the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture at its third meeting;

(b) The Secretariat collaborated with the Economics and Trade Branch of UNEP on the development of an integrated assessment of trade-related policies in the agricultural sector. The aim of this initiative is to support the implementation of the Convention by building national institutional and governmental capacities in developing countries for assessing, designing and implementing policies that maximize development gains from trade-related policies in the agricultural sector while minimizing the impact on agricultural biodiversity;

(c) The Secretariat was represented at the Conference on Water for Food and Ecosystems, held in The Hague from 31 January to 5 February, 2005, organized by FAO and the Government of the

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\* 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 the decision (see UNEP/CBD/COP/6/20, paras. 294-324).

Netherlands, and made a presentation. The topics being discussed at the conference represented an excellent and comprehensive example of the implementation of these programmes of work on agricultural biodiversity and inland water biodiversity at the sector and field levels;

(d) The Secretariat has collaborated with the producers of the draft Strategic Plan for Eco-Agriculture Partners and has actively participated in the development of the CGIAR Comprehensive Assessment of Water Management in Agriculture (see also para 2 (e) above). The Secretariat continues to liaise with the Agriculture and Wetlands Contact Group of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel of the Ramsar Convention.

41. Of the 11 countries that had submitted their third national report by 15 July 2005, regarding the development of national strategies, programmes and plans that ensure the development and successful implementation of policies and actions that lead to the conservation and sustainable use of agrobiodiversity components (decisions III/11 and IV/6): in two countries (Botswana and the Democratic Republic of the Congo) such plans are under development; six countries (Algeria, Bangladesh, Namibia, Norway, Republic of Korea and Senegal) have some arrangements in place, and two (Finland and Sweden) have comprehensively responded to the decisions.

#### ***D. Forest biological diversity (decisions VI/22 and VII/1)***

42. In decision VI/22, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to: (i) clarify the conceptual basis of the ecosystem approach in relation to the concept of sustainable forest management; (ii) compile best practices in form of toolkit to promote integrated and cross-sectoral approaches between forest biological diversity and other policies; (iii) initiate collaborative actions towards the implementation of the expanded work programme; (iv) establish a liaison group on non-timber forest resources; (v) develop an internet portal; (vi) support the work of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), and, in particular, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD); and (vii) invite relevant organizations to collaborate on issues related to forest fire prevention and management.

43. In decision VII/1, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary *inter alia* to: (i) continue its work on the report on the effects on forest biological diversity of insufficient forest law enforcement; and (ii) propose, in collaboration with the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on the Review of Implementation of the Programme of Work on Forest Biological Diversity, outcome-oriented targets to be integrated into the work programme.

44. In response to the above decisions, the Secretariat undertook the following activities:

(a) Participated in the fifth meeting of the Task Force on Streamlining Forest-related Reporting of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), held at FAO headquarters in Rome on 16 January 2005. The meeting discussed the value added of the web-based CPF information framework ([www.fao.org/forestry/site/2082/en](http://www.fao.org/forestry/site/2082/en)) both to the CPF member organizations collecting and analysing information, and to the countries compiling reports; and examined ways to further develop and eventually use the framework to help improve efficiency of reporting at the national level;

(b) Participated in the CPF Task Force Expert Consultation on Streamlining Forest-related Reporting held in New York on 13-14 April 2005. Country experts welcomed the effort of the task force to facilitate access to forest-related country reports to all major international processes and acknowledged the step made to organize the information according to the internationally adopted (seven) thematic elements of sustainable forest management;

(c) Participated in the Third Expert Meeting on Harmonizing Forest-related Definitions for Use by Various Stakeholders organized by FAO in Rome, from 17 to 19 January 2005, to contribute to improved communication and information on forest-related issues and promote unambiguous use of definitions in various international processes;

(d) Agreed, as a member of CPF, to facilitate the further development of the Global Forest Information Service (GFIS) of the International Union of Forestry Research Organizations (IUFRO)

through sharing relevant metadata and other information initiatives that could help to reduce the reporting burden by countries;

(e) Organized an electronic forum to receive inputs for finalizing the report on the sustainability of bushmeat hunting prepared by the liaison group on non-timber forest resources. A revised version of the report is currently being prepared for publication in CBD Technical Series;

(f) Participated in the fifth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests in New York and delivered statements under the agenda item on enhanced cooperation and the high-level segment. The Secretariat also hosting a side-event on the incorporation of outcome-oriented targets into the forest work programme based on the work of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on the Review of Implementation of the Programme of Work on Forest Biological Diversity;

(g) Contributed a chapter on tropical montane forest restoration to the book *Forest Restoration in Landscapes: Beyond Planting Trees* produced by WWF .

45. The following activities, arranged by programme element of the programme of work, were undertaken by other bodies and contributed to the implementation of decisions VI/22 and VII/1 of the Conference of the Parties.

#### 1. *Conservation, sustainable use and benefit sharing*

46. The Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration held a global workshop on Implementation of Forest Landscape Restoration in April 2005 in Petrópolis, Brazil. The workshop brought together experts from 41 countries to exchange experiences in implementing forest landscape restoration.

47. IUCN – the World Conservation Union and WWF published a report on “ecosystem approaches and sustainable forest management” that covers recent innovative attempts to re-orient forestry to a broader approach. A presentation of the main results, which will become part of an upcoming book, was made at the fifth session of UNFF in May 2005.

48. The International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) held a workshop on phased approaches to certification in April 2005. ITTO also launched a revised version of its criteria and indicators for the sustainable management of natural tropical forest, which includes a simplified set of indicators and a shortened format for reporting.

49. UNESCO organized an expert meeting in Nancy, France, from 9 to 11 March 2005, to assess their contribution to forest conservation and sustainable development and to generate further guidance to the ongoing development of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre forest programme over the coming years. The Secretariat participated in this meeting.

#### 2. *Institutional and socio-economic enabling environment*

50. The World Bank, in partnership with various donor agencies and Governments, continues to support Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG) processes around the world with the objective of curbing illegal logging and the resulting degradation of forests.

51. IUFRO continues the implementation of its project on World Forests, Society and Environment that focuses on identifying and analysing key issues and changing paradigms concerning forests and enhancing the dialogue between policy makers and researchers.

52. As part of the IUFRO World Congress held in August 2005, the IUFRO special programme for developing countries offered a series of training courses on:

- (a) The use of information and communication technology tools in forest research;
- (b) International forest-related initiatives and their implementation in the context of national forest programs- linking research and science with practice;
- (c) Communicating forest research—making science work for policy and management; and
- (d) Sustainable forest management criteria and indicators.

53. FAO published its report *In Search of Excellence: Exemplary Forest Management in Asia and the Pacific*, which concludes that strengthening property rights, paying attention to people's livelihoods and developing appropriate institutional structures are essential to achieving sustainable forest management.

### 3. *Knowledge, assessment and monitoring*

54. The World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) published a report *Forestry Education in Sub-Saharan Africa and Southwest Asia: Trends, Myths and Realities*.

55. FAO launched its *State of the World's Forests 2005*, which includes topics on enhancing the economic benefits from forests, as well as issues related to forest resources, forest conservation and management, institutions and the international forest policy dialogue.

56. FAO is also continuing its support to developing countries in preparing forest and tree resource assessments and improve their forest management through inventories of forest and tree resources, including their uses and benefits. A number of additional country projects are currently being developed.

57. The Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) produced a technical review of ecological information aimed at identifying what makes forest wildlife sensitive to timber harvesting practices. The publication is aimed at those involved in assessing and regulating timber harvesting activities in South-East Asia to achieve conservation goals.

#### **E. *Biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands (decisions V/23 and VII/2)***

58. The review, further elaboration and refinement of the programme of work on dry and sub-humid lands, as enabled by decision V/23 and supported by decision VII/2, is reported on in detail in the notes by the Executive Secretary under agenda item 4.1 (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/4 and Add. 1 and 2 and related information documents).

#### **F. *Biological diversity of mountain ecosystems (decision VII/27)***

59. In decision VII/27, the Conference of Parties adopted the programme of work on mountain biological diversity and requested Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations and the Secretariat to undertake activities towards its implementation.

60. In response to this decision the Secretariat:

(a) Liaised with the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), the International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change, the Sustainable Mountain Partnership and the Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment (GMBA) of DIVERSITAS on the implementation of the programme of work and the establishment of goals and targets for the programme of work;

(b) Provided inputs to the questionnaire on building a Mountain Partnership Initiative and technical material for display and distribution during a side event on the Mountain Partnership, which took place on the margins of the twelfth session of the Commission Sustainable Development;

(c) Contributed to the revised chapter 27 of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment on mountain systems;

(d) Participated in an electronic consultation on the Cuzco Plan of Action of the Mountain Partnership;

(e) Compiled, collated and synthesized information on the role of mountain ecosystems in producing and maintaining fresh water resources;

(f) Prepared, in collaboration with relevant partners, a document on global outcome-oriented targets for the programme of work on mountain biological diversity (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/10);

61. Other bodies undertook the following activities that contributed to the implementation of the programme of work:

(a) The Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment has contributed to implementation of the programme of work on mountain biological diversity especially goals 2.2, 2.3, 3.1 and activities 2.3.2,

3.1.4, 3.4.3 and 3.4.8. It also coordinated preparation of chapter 27 of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, on mountain systems. GMBA prepared a book *Land Use Change and Mountain Biodiversity*, which covers a broad range of topics from high-mountain biodiversity to sustainable land use in tropics and subtropics;

(b) ICIMOD continued implementation of a biodiversity conservation project in the Kangchenjunga complex, adopting ecosystem/landscape approach and development of biological corridors. The Centre is developing a comprehensive database on biodiversity and protected areas of the Himalaya-Hindu Kush region to facilitate sharing of information among member countries. ICIMOD is also implementing a regional programme to strengthen equity and livelihood security through sustainable management of biodiversity resources for the indigenous people of eastern Himalayas;

(c) The Mountain Partnership, in collaboration with partnership members, organized a side event titled "A vision for biodiversity in the Alps and Carpathians: the implementation of the CBD programme of work on protected areas in the conservation of two globally important mountain ecoregions" during the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Protected Areas, held in Montecatini, Italy, in June 2005.

#### **G. Island biodiversity (decision VII/31)**

62. In its decision VII/31 on the multi-year programme of work up to 2010, the Conference of the Parties identified island biodiversity as the new thematic area to be developed for in-depth consideration at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to be held in 2006. A draft programme of work, developed through a preparatory process and refined by SBSTTA at its tenth meeting, was recommended for adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting (SBSTTA recommendation X/1).

63. In accordance with SBSTTA recommendation X/1, the Executive Secretary has begun to compile supporting actions for the programme of work on island biodiversity included in the drafts considered by SBSTTA at its tenth meeting and the suggestions received during that meeting.

64. Other relevant activities include, *inter alia*, the following:

(a) A special issue of the United Nations annual World Statistics Pocketbook on SIDS (ST/ESA/STAT/SER.V/29/SIDS) has been published. It provides a compilation of basic social, economic and development indicators that together comprise a framework for assessing in quantitative terms each State's current development situation;

(b) The Cook Islands Natural Heritage Trust has re-modelled its website including a multimedia database of Cook Islands plants and animals. The database, which took over a dozen years to prepare, lists around 4,000 species, which included most of the species known to experts and recorded in publications;

(c) An International Conference on Built Environment Issues in Small Island States will be held from 14 to 19 August 2005 in Kingston, Jamaica. The Conference is being organized in the context of the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

(d) FAO will hold a special conference on small island developing States in Rome from 19 to 26 November 2005 to follow up on the recommendations of the Mauritius International Meeting for the 10-year Review of the Barbados Programme of Action (BPoA +10), held in Port Luis from 10 to 14 January 2005.

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