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### SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

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Item 3 of the provisional agenda\*

### PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMMES OF WORK ON RELEVANT 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 progress in the implementation of the work under the cross-cutting issues 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/10/3).

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;
- (i) Alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats and species;
- (j) Protected areas; and
- (k) Biodiversity and climate change.

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

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

### **SUGGESTED RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

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## PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORK UNDER RELEVANT CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

### A. *Identification, monitoring, indicators and assessment (decisions, VII/6, VII/7 and VII/8)*

#### 1. *Scientific assessments (decision VII/6)*

1. In decision VII/6, the Conference of the Parties (COP) took note of the progress of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and the outline for the synthesis report being for the Convention on Biological Diversity, and encouraged national focal points to participate in the review of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment process. The Conference of the Parties also requested the Executive Secretary to cooperate with the United Nations Environment Programme on the follow-up of the process of international environmental governance and encouraged him to continue collaborating with the international assessment of agricultural science and technology for development.

##### (a) *The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA)*

2. On 19 May 2005, Millennium Ecosystem Assessment report *Ecosystems and Human Well-being: Biodiversity Synthesis*. The report was launched as part of the celebrations for the International Day for Biological Diversity. On this occasion, the Secretariat, in collaboration with McGill University, Montreal, organized a seminar aiming at providing an in-depth discussion of the report and its relationship to science, and policy and a press conference.

3. At the same occasion, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) held a press briefing on the findings at the Royal Society, followed by a scientific seminar organized by the UNEP- World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), and hosted at University of Cambridge. The State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA) of China also held a press conference highlighting the Chinese Government's efforts to protect biodiversity in the past 10 years.

4. The Secretariat has prepared a note reviewing the findings of the Millennium Assessment, in particular the Biodiversity Synthesis Report (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/7).

##### (b) *International environmental governance*

5. As a follow-up to the International Conference on "Biodiversity: Science and Governance", held in Paris from 24 to 28 January 2005, the Secretariat participated in a meeting held in Paris on 28 June 2005 to launch an international multi-stakeholder consultative process to assess the need for and feasibility of an international mechanism of scientific expertise on biodiversity. The Secretariat of the Convention also represented the Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals at this meeting.

##### (c) *International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development*

6. The International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD) is an international effort to evaluate the relevance, quality and effectiveness of agricultural knowledge, science, and technology (AKST); and effectiveness of public and private sector policies as well as institutional arrangements in relation to AKST. IAASTD is a three-year collaborative effort (2005-2007) that was developed out of a consultative process involving 900 participants and 110 countries from all regions of the world.

##### (d) *Global International Waters Assessment (GIWA)*

7. Following the publication of 24 regional assessment reports, the Global International Waters Assessment Global Report is currently being finalized. The Global Report will conclude the assessment and

its bottom-up and multi-disciplinary process and highlight the findings and the root causes identified. The report will be widely spread to environment stakeholders around the world and it aims to inspire actions to obtain global food security and ecosystem health in international waters.

2. *Environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment (decision VII/7)*

8. Through its decision VI/7 A, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to, *inter alia*, prepare, in collaboration with relevant organizations, in particular the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA), proposals for further development and refinement of guidelines for incorporating biodiversity-related issues into environmental-impact-assessment legislation or processes and in strategic impact assessment. In decision VII/7, the Conference of the Parties urged Parties and other Governments that have not done so to contribute case-studies on current experiences in environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment procedures that incorporate biodiversity related issues as well as experiences in applying the guidelines contained in the annex to decision VI/7 A.

(a) *Further development of the guidelines on biodiversity-inclusive impact assessment*

9. In response to these decisions, the Secretariat has compiled case-studies and other submissions received from Parties and through members of the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) and made them available through the Clearing-house Mechanism in the form of a searchable database. The system permits users to register and to submit additional case-studies on line.

10. On the basis of the guidance contained in decision VI/7 A, experiences and case-studies made available and the note by the Executive Secretary on proposals for further development and refinement of the guidelines for incorporating biodiversity-related issues into environmental impact assessment legislation or procedures and in strategic environmental assessment prepared for the ninth meeting of SBSTTA (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/INF/18), as well as review comments provided by a number of experts including practitioners attending the 2005 Annual Conference of IAIA, held in Boston from 13 May to 3 June 2005, the Secretariat, in collaboration with IAIA and the Netherlands Commission for Impact Assessment, has prepared revised Guidelines on biodiversity-inclusive environmental impact assessment (EIA) and strategic environmental assessment (SEA) as well as an information document containing additional material to support the guidelines. Through notification 2005/082 dated 11 July 2005, national focal points for the Convention and relevant organizations were invited to provide review comments. These comments will be incorporated into the documentation in preparation for the consideration of this subject at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

(b) *Other initiatives*

11. On 15 July 2005, the UNEP Economics and Trade Branch (UNEP-ETB) launched the ETB trade and biodiversity initiative. 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. The Convention Secretariat is a member of the steering committee.

12. The International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM) has prepared draft good practice guidance for mining and biodiversity through its dialogue with IUCN. The document is intended for use by technical and environmental managers at mines as guidance on how to improve their performance in biodiversity conservation and management by setting out what is currently understood to constitute good practice. A draft has been made available for public comment and the final document will be published by ICMM as guidance for its members and others who wish to use it.

13. The IAIA project on capacity-building in biodiversity and impact assessment in developing countries (CBBIA) entered its second year. Key activities included participation of project members in the review of early drafts of the Guidelines on biodiversity-inclusive environmental impact assessment and strategic

environmental assessment, the commissioning of centres of excellence in South Asia, southern Africa and Central America to conduct training and the issuing of small grants and bursaries. Project participants benefited from a workshop held at the margins of the 2005 Annual Conference of IAIA. The Convention Secretariat is a member of the steering committee of the project.

3. *National-level monitoring and indicators (decision VII/8)*

14. In decision VII/8, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to, *inter alia*:

(a) Develop an effective system of information-sharing on lessons learned on the development of national-level biodiversity indicators and monitoring;

(b) Further develop the identification, development and testing of indicators based on accrued experience;

(c) Identify, and bring to the attention of parties, areas with potential for better coordination and integration, as applicable, between sets of indicators prepared within the various programmes of work and cross-cutting themes of the convention to avoid duplication of efforts in developing indicators, data-gathering and reporting, particularly at the national level;

(d) Update, complete and make available, through the clearing-house mechanism and other appropriate means, the indicative list of indicator initiatives and sources of information contained in appendix 2 to annex II to the note by the Executive Secretary on designing national-level monitoring programmes and indicators prepared for the ninth meeting of SBSTTA (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/10).

15. In response to these requests, the Secretariat has developed a database of existing datasets relevant to the suite of agreed headline indicators for assessing progress towards the 2010 biodiversity target. Under each indicator, relevant parameters (i.e. specific application of the headline indicator), existing datasets at global, regional or national level are described and referenced. Each dataset includes a detailed technical description of the methods for calculating indicators/indices and limitations of both dataset and indicator methodology. The contents of the indicative list of indicator initiatives and sources of information contained in appendix 2 to annex II to document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/10 will also be included in this database. This will facilitate the sharing of information on existing approaches and protocols.

16. Efforts on the further development and testing of indicators as well as on ensuring coherence between sets of indicators prepared within the various programmes of work and the suite of global indicators related to the 2010 biodiversity target are reported on in the context of the follow-up to decision VII/30.

17. The project on Biodiversity Indicators for National Use (BINU) has launched a report on its experience and lessons learned in developing biodiversity indicators for national use. It observes *inter alia* that many of the indicators identified by the BINU partners correspond closely with the framework of 2010 indicators and concludes that the 2010 indicators are policy relevant and generally fit well in the national context and with existing data and expertise. A brief analysis on the experience in each of the participating countries is available as an information document.

18. Of the eleven countries that had submitted their third national report by 15 July 2005, eight (Algeria, Bangladesh, Botswana, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Namibia, Norway, Republic of Korea, Sweden) have established one or more specific national targets and one (Senegal) applies the global targets at national level.

4. *Global-level monitoring and indicators (decision VII/30)*

19. In decision VII/30, the Conference of the Parties adopted a framework to enhance the evaluation of achievements and progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan. The Conference of the Parties requested the SBSTTA at its tenth or eleventh meetings to evaluate information on the changes in trends and status of biodiversity by reviewing a draft of the Second Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO-2).

20. The Secretariat, in collaboration with the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) and other relevant international organizations, has prepared a detailed production schedule for the preparation of GBO-2. Drafts of all sections of GBO-2 have been prepared and will be submitting to relevant experts for review. The executive summary of the GBO (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/6) and the complete text will be made available to SBSTTA for review.

21. The Secretariat collaborated with UNEP-WCMC to develop a project on the further development and long-term implementation of the 2010 indicators. A GEF project to build partnerships among relevant organizations is being negotiated. Work on individual indicators is progressing in collaboration with UNESCO (indicator on indigenous languages), the Streamlining European 2010 Biodiversity Indicators programme (particularly the indicator on sustainable use), the Global Invasive Species Programme (trends in invasive species), the University of British Columbia's Sea Around Us Project (marine trophic index), and the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (biodiversity for food and health).

22. The Advisory Committee for the Programme of Work on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions Article 8(j): Traditional Knowledge, Innovations and Practices, which met in Montreal from 11 to 14 July 2005, recommended a number of possible indicators on the status of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices.

23. On the basis of a note by the Executive Secretary on future evaluation of progress in the Strategic Plan (UNEP/CBD/WG-ABS/3/6), the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-Sharing at its third meeting, held in Bangkok from 14 to 18 February 2005, adopted in its recommendation 3/5 a process to develop indicators for access to genetic resources and in particular for the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources.

24. In preparation of the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation, to be held from 5 to 9 September 2005 in Montreal, the Executive Secretary has prepared notes on the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan and progress towards the 2010 target (UNEP/CBD/WGRI/1/2) and on the framework for monitoring implementation of the Convention and achievement of the 2010 target and review of the thematic programmes of work (UNEP/CBD/WGRI/1/9).

#### ***B. Global Taxonomy Initiative (decisions VI/8, and VII/9)***

25. The review of the programme of work for the Global Taxonomy Initiative, adopted in decision VI/8 and carried out in accordance with the process and guidelines for the in-depth review requested in decision VII/9, is reported on in detail in the note by the Executive Secretary under agenda item 4.2 (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/5) and related information document (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/INF/1).

#### ***C. Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (decision VII/10)***

26. In decision VI/9, the Conference of Parties: (i) invited relevant organizations to endorse the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC) and to contribute to its implementation according to national priorities, capacities, and differences in plant diversity; (ii) further invited Parties and Governments to develop national and/or regional targets; (iii) emphasized the need for capacity-building; and (iv) invited funding organizations and the financial mechanism to provide support for the implementation of the strategy, particularly in developing countries, small island developing States, and countries with economies in transition.

27. In decision VII/10, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary, with the support of members of the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation (GPPC), to elaborate proposals for a toolkit, including a checklist to assist Parties in integrating the targets into their strategies, plans and programmes, for review by SBSTTA prior to the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties emphasized that, in line with paragraphs 3, 4, 6 and 7 of decision VI/9, the Strategy is to be implemented in a flexible way, and with due regard to the need for capacity-building in identifying

and achieving national targets, particularly in developing countries, especially the least developed and small island States among them, and countries with economies in transition.

28. In response to these requests the following activities were carried out.

*1. Stakeholder consultations*

29. The Global Invasive Species Programme led a global stakeholder consultation on the identification of priority invasive alien species (IAS) for which management plans need to be prepared to achieve target 10. The consultation recommended to support the national identification of problematic invasive alien species through a framework that focuses on important plants and important plant areas—and the invasive alien species that threaten them.

30. GISP and the IUCN Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG) therefore convened a Target 10 Task Team and developed a Target 10 Draft Implementation Matrix, which was circulated to Parties to the Convention, other Governments and organizations to be completed and applied. Further information is available at [www.gisp.org](http://www.gisp.org) and at [www.issg.org](http://www.issg.org).

31. The stakeholder consultations on target 1 prioritized three large families, *Asteraceae* (*Compositae*), *Malvaceae* (including *Tiliaceae* and *Sterculiaceae*) and *Melastomataceae*, which together constitute nearly 10 per cent of vascular plant diversity and are a high priority for global checklist production ([www.plants2010.org/targets/target1.html](http://www.plants2010.org/targets/target1.html)). The Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) provided seed grant money for the development of electronic catalogues of these three taxonomic groups ([www.gbif.org](http://www.gbif.org)).

*2. The Global Partnership for Plant Conservation*

32. Since its establishment, the members of the Partnership have assisted in the implementation of the Global Strategy through their own programmes. In addition to facilitating and contributing to the stakeholder consultations process on targets, specific activities supported or organized by Partnership member organizations have included:

(a) *Communication and public awareness:*

- (i) Preparation of several language versions (French, Chinese, Russian and Spanish) of the brochure on the Global Strategy, supported by Botanic Gardens Conservation International and partners and distributed at relevant events. By September 2005, it is expected to have the brochure also available in Arabic, Bahasa Indonesia, Italian, Japanese and Portuguese;
- (ii) Establishment of a website for the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation (<http://www.plants2010.org>) to provide tools and resources in support of the Global Strategy, making information accessible and providing links to the collaborating organizations;

(b) *Implementation:*

- (i) Definition of criteria for designating Important Areas for Plant Diversity (IPAs) (target 5) in various European and other countries (Plantlife International);
- (ii) Development of a proposal to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) involving 10 countries to identify important and threatened plants in each of the countries and their Important Plant Areas, as well as to put in place sustainable management plans for these areas (IUCN and Plantlife International);
- (iii) Completion of a pilot project investigating ways of accelerating production of a working list of known plant species (target 1) and preliminary assessments of

conservation status of selected species (target 2) (Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Missouri Botanical Garden, New York Botanical Garden);

- (iv) Large-scale mobilization and analysis of specimen data to assist in targeting seed collections and preparation of preliminary assessments of conservation status (targets 2 and 8) (Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew);
- (v) Investment towards the completion of global checklists for *Leguminosae*, *Rosaceae* and *Rubiaceae* and all monocot families as contributions to target 1 (GBIF, International Legume Database & Information Service, Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew);
- (vi) Establishment of a European network of seed banks for the conservation of wild species (Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, the European Native Seeds Conservation Network (ENSCONET)) and on-going collaboration with 31 institutes in 17 countries engaged in ex-situ seed conservation (Target 8) (Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and partners);
- (vii) Support to a major new reference book *Plant* published by Dorling Kindersley, as a contribution to target 14 on public awareness (Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI));
- (viii) Contribution to the International Symposium on the *Ex Situ* Conservation of Wild Plants, held in Cordoba, Spain, from 8 to 9 April 2005;
- (ix) Provision of technical support and resources to the Threat Assessment for Plant Species Workshop in Malaysia, organized by the Forest Research Institute of Malaysia from 28 to 30 June 2005 (Flora and Fauna International);
- (x) Development and implementation of the GEF-funded crop wild relatives project (Bolivia, Sri Lanka, Armenia, Uzbekistan, Madagascar) (International Plant Genetic Resources Institute);
- (xi) Integration of Global Strategy targets into the Global Plan of Action of Commission on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations FAO);
- (xii) Organization of a symposium on the implementation of the Global Strategy at the XVII International Botanical Congress held in Vienna from 17 to 23 July, 2005 (BGCI). Various other symposia are organized by members of the Partnership, such as on the implementation of target 8 of the Global Strategy (Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew) and target 13 (Plantlife International).

(c) *Partnership meetings:*

- (i) Organization of a planning meeting for the Partnership hosted by FAO and held in Rome from 16 to 17 May 2005;
- (ii) organization of a Regional Meeting of the Arabian Plant Specialist Group (Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 3-4 May 2005) to develop of a regional GSPC strategy. Various draft sub-targets and priority activities to achieve selected targets were agreed;
- (iii) Preparations for the Plants2010 Conference, held in Dublin from 22 to 25 October 2005 on strengthening the implementation of the Global Strategy at national and regional level. The HSBC Investing in Nature Partnership, through Botanic Gardens Conservation International, provides limited support to Global Strategy focal points to attend the Conference with additional support raised by the Partnership.

3. *Development of a toolkit to support the national implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation*

33. As a first step towards the development of a toolkit, the Plants2010 Conference will serve as a platform to document case-studies of the implementation of the Global Strategy at national and regional levels, identify elements of the toolkit and develop a way forward for strengthening national and regional implementation of the Strategy. The conference outcomes will be made available on the Partnership website ([www.plants2010.org](http://www.plants2010.org)).

**D. *Ecosystem approach (decision VII/11)***

34. In decision VII/11, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the relevant international and regional organizations, to: (i) undertake an analysis of the range of existing tools and approaches, that are consistent with the Convention's ecosystem approach, in order to learn from their experiences and build upon their approaches, and identify any gaps in the coverage of such tools; (ii) where needed, facilitate development of new tools and techniques to enable the implementation of the ecosystem approach in each sector and biome; (iii) continue collection of case-studies at national, sub-regional, regional and international level, and develop, in cooperation with the clearing-house mechanism, a database of case-studies, searchable by biome/ecoregion and sector; and (iv) make the above widely available to Parties through the development of a web-based "sourcebook" for the ecosystem approach, accessible through the clearing-house mechanism.

35. The Executive Secretary was also requested to collaborate with the Coordinator and Head of the United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests in order to further integrate the concepts of the ecosystem approach and sustainable forest management (decision VI/22, paragraph 19 (a)).

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

(a) In collaboration with the Government of the United Kingdom, a first version of the sourcebook is now available on the Secretariat's website at <http://www.biodiv.org/programmes/cross-cutting/ecosystem/sourcebook/home.shtml>. The sourcebook will be updated with additional case-studies and materials in the future;

(b) The Secretariat has conducted a preliminary analysis of the range of existing tools and approaches consistent with the ecosystem approach, but also related to sustainable forest management, and identified relevant case studies. Once reviewed, these tools and approaches will be incorporated into the ecosystem approach sourcebook;

(c) The Secretariat has published a handbook on the ecosystem approach. The handbook documents the 12 principles of the ecosystem approach and their rationale, suggested annotations to the rationales and implementation guidelines. It is available at <http://www.biodiv.org/doc/publications/ea-text-en.pdf>.

**E. *Sustainable use (decision VII/12)***

37. In decision VII/12, the Conference of the Parties invited Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to initiate a process for the implementation of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines at the national and local levels, and requested the Executive Secretary, for consideration by SBSTTA prior to the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to: undertake further work on issues pertaining to use of terms for sustainable use, adaptive management, monitoring and indicators, and in particular to further consolidate the work on the use of terms and on associated instruments based on the report of the Addis Ababa Workshop; to convene a series of technical expert workshops on ecosystem services assessment, financial costs and benefits associated with conservation of biodiversity, and sustainable use of biological resources; and to integrate the work on indicators for monitoring sustainable use also into the broader work on indicators.

38. In response to these requests, the following activities were carried out by the Executive Secretary:

(a) *Further work on the use of terms and on associated instruments for sustainable use, and consolidation of work:* The Secretariat organized an electronic forum in order to gather further comments and proposals on issues pertaining to use of terms for sustainable use, adaptive management, monitoring and indicators. Despite reissuing an invitation to experts to submit their comments and proposals (notification 2005-033), no input was received by the time of preparation of this report. The Secretariat prepared the requested consolidation of the work on use of terms and associated instruments contained in the Addis Ababa workshop on sustainable use. This consolidation is provided in a note by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/17) for consideration by SBSTTA at its eleventh meeting;

(b) *Technical expert workshops on sustainable use:* The Secretariat, with the financial assistance from the Government of the Netherlands and at the kind invitation of the Russian Federation and of Argentina, respectively, organized the Central and Eastern Europe as well as the Latin American and Caribbean regional workshops on sustainable use. The reports of these workshops are provided as information documents for consideration by SBSTTA at its eleventh meeting;

(c) *Implementation of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines:* In order to support capacity-building activities and assist Governments to understand and apply the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines, the Secretariat, in cooperation with IUCN, developed a Manual on Sustaining Uses of Biodiversity. The Manual is in the stage of being introduced and tested in the regional technical experts workshops organized in response to decision VII/12;

(d) *Integration of work on indicators.* The Secretariat is currently exploring, in cooperation with relevant partners, on how to integrate the work on indicators for monitoring sustainable use into the work on indicators. In this regard, the following activities were carried out by collaborating partners:

- (i) In response to decision VII/12, IUCN organized an ad hoc brainstorming session on indicators for sustainable use on 27 May 2005, Gland, Switzerland. Based on the brainstorming, a concept paper on further work on sustainable use indicators will be prepared and circulated by IUCN for further comments and input;
- (ii) *The Regional Office for Europe of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP-ROE)*, acting as the Secretariat of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS), launched the work of its Expert Group on Sustainable Use Indicators under the process of Streamlining European 2010 Biodiversity Indicators (SEBI2010).

#### **F. Biological diversity and tourism (decision VII/14)**

39. In decision VII/14, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to: (i) develop a user manual, checklists and, on the basis of experience gained, including the contribution of indigenous and local communities, produce and make available a streamlined and user-friendly core set of improved voluntary guidelines; (ii) prepare a glossary and definitions of terms used in the Guidelines on Biodiversity and Tourism Development; and (iii) promote the use of the clearing-house mechanism to collect and disseminate information on specific case-studies on the implementation of the Guidelines that make clearer reference to the use and application of specific analytical management tools, and on best practices, lessons learned and case-studies on the involvement of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles in sustainable-tourism and eco-tourism activities and projects.

40. Pursuant to this decision, the following activities were carried out by the Executive Secretary:

(a) *Development of a user manual:* The Secretariat, with financial support from the Government of Germany, brought together a number of experts to assist the Secretariat in the drafting of a user manual on the Guidelines on Biodiversity and Tourism Development. The experts met in the Bahamas from 24 to 28

January 2005. As a result of this initiative, the Secretariat prepared a draft manual and, by notification 2005-072, invited Parties, Governments and relevant stakeholders to submit their comments on the draft by 30 September 2005, with a view to its improvement and completion prior to its submission to the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

(b) *Development of a glossary:* The Secretariat prepared a glossary and definitions of technical terms used in the Guidelines and, by notification 2005-072, invited Parties, Government and relevant stakeholders to provide their views and comments no later than 30 September 2005. The final versions of the User manual and the technical glossary will be submitted to the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

(c) *Cases-studies on the implementation of the Guidelines:* The Secretariat continues to collect, analyse and make available case-studies and other pertinent information through the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention.

#### **G. Incentive measures (decision VII/18)**

41. In decision VII/18, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to: (i) prepare an analysis of existing and new instruments that provide positive incentives, to develop proposals on the application of such positive incentives and their integration into relevant policies, programmes or strategies; (ii) explore existing methodologies for valuation of biodiversity and biodiversity resources and functions as well as other tools for prioritisation in decision-making, by preparing a compilation of existing valuation tools, and to prepare proposals for the application of such tools. All documents were to be submitted to the Subsidiary Body prior to the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

42. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties invited Parties, other Governments and international organizations to: (i) submit to the Executive Secretary case-studies, best practices and other information on the use of non-monetary positive incentive measures for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and on the application of methodologies for the assessment of values of biodiversity and its functions, as well as other tools for prioritization in decision-making; (ii) make them available through the clearing-house mechanism and other means, if appropriate; and (iii) prepare a synthesis report for consideration by the Subsidiary Body prior to the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

43. Further to these requests, the Executive Secretary prepared the requested documents for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its eleventh meeting.

44. In the period under review, collaborating partners carried out the following activities:

(a) DIVERSITAS published its EcoSERVICES science plan and implementation strategy. The plan foresees the examination of the links between biodiversity, ecosystem functioning and ecosystem goods and services, and includes an analysis of the human responses to changes in ecosystem services, such as incentive measures;

(b) FAO is undertaking work on policies that impact the level of crop genetic diversity in agricultural commodity and seed markets and assessing how these shape the incentives of farmers for the sustainable utilization of crop genetic resources. FAO is continuing to assist member countries to identify, access and produce for emerging environmental service markets for agricultural and wild biodiversity, and initiated work on the economic valuation of pollination services in agricultural landscapes;

(c) The Economics and Trade Branch of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/ETB) published two studies that analyse the impact of different types of fisheries subsidies under different resource and management conditions, and consider the various options for dealing with resource impacts at the WTO. UNEP/ETB has also initiated a new project on "Subsidies, Development and Sustainable Fisheries Management: Issues and Options for Developing Countries", which aims to strengthen capacities for promoting sustainable fishing, reforming the use of environmentally harmful subsidies and introducing other economic instruments to achieve sustainability in the fishing sector;

(d) The OECD Working Group on Economic Aspects of Biodiversity, whose mandate was recently renewed for another three years, initiated work on distributional issues in biodiversity policies and on efficiency and effectiveness in the management of protected areas; The group also agreed to further consider work on financial instruments for ecosystem services, on market creation for traditional knowledge, and on economic aspects of invasive alien species.

#### **H. Cooperation with other organizations, initiatives and conventions (decision VII/26)**

45. In decision VII/26, the Conference of the Parties urged further enhanced cooperation between the Convention on Biological Diversity and all relevant international conventions, organizations and bodies, strengthening and building on existing cooperative arrangements to enhance synergies and reduce inefficiencies in a manner consistent with their respective mandates, governance arrangements and agreed programmes, within existing resources.

46. In response to this request, the following activities were carried out:

(a) The Executive Secretary and relevant Secretariat staff participated in, and prepared all substantive documentation for, the third meeting of the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions (CBD, CITES, CMS, Ramsar and WHC), held in Gland, Switzerland, 10 May 2005. The Liaison Group discussed options for cooperating to achieve and monitor progress towards the 2010 biodiversity target, for a global partnership for biodiversity, and for harmonization of national reporting. The Liaison Group designated focal points among the five conventions to facilitate inter-sessional cooperation, and agreed to increase their participation in each others' meetings, as appropriate. The final report of the meeting was made available as an information document for the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention (UNEP/CBD/WGRI/INF/7). The next meeting of the Liaison Group is scheduled for October 2005, to be hosted by the Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species;

(b) The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species collaborated on a review of how migratory species considerations can be better incorporated into the work programmes and NBSAPs of the Convention on Biological Diversity. This will form a major input into the current review of the joint work programme between the two Conventions, which will be finalized for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eight meeting.

47. The Secretariat participated in the meeting of the Scientific Committee of DIVERSITAS (20-22 April 2005, Tokyo, Japan). The meeting served to review, provide feedback and scientific inputs into the progress reports and DIVERSITAS science plans and to review preparations of the Open Science Conference in November in Oaxaca, Mexico. It also provided an opportunity to strengthen and formalize collaboration between DIVERSITAS and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

48. The Secretariat webpages on cooperation with other conventions, organizations and initiatives were updated with new information, and aligned more closely with the Strategic Plan and 2010 target ([www.biodiv.org/cooperation](http://www.biodiv.org/cooperation)). Work is under way to develop a searchable database of the Convention's partners.

49. Other cooperation activities are described under the relevant decisions in this document and in the note by the Executive Secretary on progress in the implementation of the thematic programmes of work (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/2).

#### **I. Alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats and species (decision VII/13)**

50. In decision VI/23, <sup>1/</sup> the Conference of the Parties: (i) 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). In

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<sup>1/</sup> 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/6/20, paragraphs 294-324)

decision VII/13, the Conference of the Parties requested SBSTTA to establish an ad hoc technical expert group (AHTEG) to address gaps and inconsistencies in the international regulatory frameworks at global, and regional levels, in particular the specific gaps identified in paragraph 7 of decision VII/13, and, on the basis of the work of the expert group, to make recommendations to SBSTTA prior to the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties for the full and effective implementation of Article 8(h) of the Convention.

51. In response to these provisions, the following activities were carried out:

(a) *Gaps and inconsistencies in the international regulatory frameworks:*

- (i) The AHTEG met in Auckland, New Zealand from 16 to 20 May 2005. A total of 23 participants and observers took part in the meeting. The AHTEG identified a number of specific gaps and inconsistencies in the international regulatory framework for invasive alien species, and identified possible actions to address those gaps and inconsistencies. The final report of the meeting is available as document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/INF/4. The recommendations from the AHTEG are reflected in a note by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/16);
- (ii) The Secretariat hosted a workshop, organized by the Global Invasive Species Programme, in collaboration with the Convention on Biological Diversity and the UNEP regional seas conventions unit, aiming to develop a joint work programme on marine invasive alien species (27 to 29 June 2005, Montreal). The workshop identified gaps in activities relating to marine invasive species, and developed a programme to address those gaps (see also under decision VII/5 above);

(b) *Other.* The Secretariat submitted two abstracts for the International Plant Health Risk Analysis Workshop, which is organized under the auspices of the International Plant Protection Convention and will be held from 24 to 28 October 2005 in Niagara Falls, Canada. The proposed sessions are on the work programmes on invasive alien species under the Convention on Biological Diversity and on risk assessment and management of living modified organisms under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, respectively.

#### ***J. Protected areas (decision VII/28)***

52. As part of decision VII/28, the Conference of the Parties adopted the programme of work on protected areas and, *inter alia*: (i) requested the Executive Secretary to undertake supporting activities aimed at facilitating its implementation; (ii) established an Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Protected Areas to support and review implementation of the programme of work; and (iii) requested the Executive Secretary to make arrangements to hold one meeting of the Working Group before the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

53. In response to this decision, the Secretariat:

(a) Commissioned case-studies on the main characteristics of ecological networks, corridors and buffer zones in different regions, and their contribution to poverty alleviation and 2010 biodiversity target and made this information available to the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Protected Areas;

(b) In collaboration with IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (IUCN-WCPA) and The Nature Conservancy, published a user guide on the protected areas programme of work entitled "Towards Effective Protected Area Systems: An Action Guide to Implement the Convention on Biological Diversity" (CBD Technical Series 18);

(c) Also published the programme of work on protected areas in the series of the Convention's programmes of work and a special edition of the CBD News entitled "*Protected areas for achieving biodiversity targets*";

(d) Participated in the Mediterre – Parks Fair, organized by the Government of Italy in Brindisi from 3 to 6 March 2005 and made a presentation on the programme of work on protected areas;

(e) Held discussions with representatives of IUCN, including the Chair of the World Commission on Protected Areas, and finalized an annex to the Memorandum of Cooperation with IUCN on the implementation of decisions VII/5 (Marine and coastal biological diversity) and VII/28 (protected areas);

(f) In collaboration with the Government of Italy organized and serviced the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group on Protected Areas, (13 to 17 June 2005) and the subsequent meeting of donor agencies and other relevant organizations, held at the same venue on 20-21 June, to discuss options for mobilizing new and additional funding to developing countries for the implementation of the programme of work on protected areas. The Working Group adopted six recommendations which are contained in the report of the meeting (UNEP/CBD/WG-PA/1/6). The report of the donors' meeting is also available (UNEP/CBD/PA/DONORS/1/3);

(g) Co-organized and/or participated, during the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group on Protected Areas, in a number of side-events, including on the Countdown 2010 Initiative; high seas and deep oceans beyond national jurisdiction; the Circumpolar Protected Areas Network; country early action towards the implementation of the programme of work; financing African protected areas; migratory ranges, pathways, corridors and networks of protected areas; and getting started: implementing the programme of work on protected areas.

54. The IUCN-World Commission on Protected Areas organized side-events on: (i) governance, participation, equity and benefit-sharing, (ii) management effectiveness, and (iii) knowledge management and capacity building for protected areas management, during the first meeting of the Working Group on Protected areas. The Chair of IUCN-WCPA delivered a keynote address on “Protected areas: key issues for implementation of the programme of work” during the opening plenary of the Working Group meeting.

55. In response to guidance on protected areas from the Conference of the Parties, UNDP decided to develop a project to assist GEF eligible countries to take country-driven early actions with a fast, flexible and transparent mechanism at the level of US\$ 10 million from GEF.

56. The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) supported implementation of the programme of work on protected areas in over 30 countries and provided over \$18 million in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, and the Pacific, working in all programme elements. Since September 2003 WCS, with support from USAID, provided approximately \$28 million in support of the national parks in Gabon, Congo-Brazzaville and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

57. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) entered into formal cooperation agreements with 18 countries to support the implementation of the programme of work on protected areas. The countries involved include Bahamas, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Grenada, Indonesia, Jamaica, Mexico, Palau, Panama, Peru, Papua New Guinea, and St Vincent and Grenadines. TNC earmarked about US \$ 4 million for early action grant funds and already disbursed 2 million to 11 countries. Most of the remaining \$2 million will support marine protected area systems in island countries.

58. The UNESCO World Heritage Centre facilitates implementation of activities pertaining to goals 1.1, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1 and 3.2 of the programme of work on protected areas. The Centre organized a work shop on “ World Heritage Forests – Leveraging Conservation at landscape Level”, held in Nancy, France from 9 to 11 March 2005. The Secretariat participated in the workshop and made a presentation on the programme of work on protected areas and elaborated programme of work on forest biological diversity.

59. Of the eleven countries, that had submitted their third national report by 15 July 2005, five countries (Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Finland, Norway and Sweden) report having taken significant action to establish or expand protected areas in large or relatively unfragmented natural areas or areas under high threat. Three countries (Botswana, Finland and Sweden) have country-level sustainable financing plans,

while such plans are under development in another three countries (Namibia, Norway and the Republic of Korea).

***K. Biodiversity and climate change (decision VII/15)***

60. In decision VII/15 the Conference of the Parties requested the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to develop advice or guidance for promoting synergy among activities to address climate change at the national, regional and international level where appropriate, including activities to combat desertification and land degradation, and activities for biodiversity conservation.

61. In response to this decision, the Secretariat, in collaboration with the Government of Finland, is preparing for the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Adaptation to Climate Change, to be held in Helsinki from 13 to 16 September 2005.

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