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Item 6.2 of the annotated agenda*

BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY OF INLAND WATER ECOSYSTEMS

Status of matters identified in paragraph 14 (c) of decision VII/4 relating to cost-effective means to report on implementation of the programme of work as measured against the global targets defined in the Strategic Plan

Note by the Executive Secretary

SUGGESTED RECOMMENDATION

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice may wish to:

1. *Note with appreciation* the present note on the status of matters identified in paragraphs 14 (c) of decision VII/4 and that a number of requirements are being met; and
2. *Request* the Executive Secretary to further develop cost-effective means to report on implementation of the programme of work (as measured against relevant targets) in the broader context of related decisions, recommendations and ongoing activities, as noted in the note by the Executive Secretary on proposals on matters identified in paragraphs 3 and 16 of decision VII/4 (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/12), and to include relevant linkages to paragraph 14 (c) of the same decision in the proposals being developed on that subject for the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

* UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/1.

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STATUS OF MATTERS IDENTIFIED IN PARAGRAPH 14 (c) OF DECISION VII/4

1. In paragraph 14 (c) of decision VII/4, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with relevant organizations and conventions, to develop cost-effective means to report on implementation of the programme of work as measured against the global targets defined in the Strategic Plan, in the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, and in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, essentially using indicators and assessments at the global level by international organizations, or existing data, and propose these to the Subsidiary Body prior to the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

2. Indicators for the sub-targets for the Strategic Plan were considered at the Ad-Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Indicators for Assessing Progress Towards the 2010 Biodiversity Target, which met in Montreal from 19 to 22 October 2004 (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/10/INF/7). The outcomes of that meeting were considered by SBSTTA at its tenth meeting and resulted in the detailed recommendation X/5, in which the Subsidiary Body noted the considerable ongoing work in this area, including by other conventions, international organizations and initiatives. This process considered, and continues to consider, relevant indicators that apply (directly or indirectly) to inland waters. Several indicators have been proposed for use (namely, peatlands and inland wetlands for the headline indicator “Trends in extent of biomes”; sections of the Living Planet Index applying to freshwaters for “Trends in the abundance and distribution of selected species”; the IUCN Red List for “Change in status of threatened species” as applicable to inland water taxa; freshwater fish genetic resources for “Trends in genetic diversity of domesticated animals, cultivated plants, and fish species of major socioeconomic importance”; existing data for freshwater aquaculture for trends in “Area of forest, agricultural and aquaculture ecosystems under sustainable management”; freshwater data for “Nitrogen deposition”; biological oxygen demand/nitrates/sediments/turbidity for “Water quality of freshwater ecosystems”; and, fragmentation of river systems for “Connectivity/fragmentation of ecosystems”. These and other indicators are being further developed under that process.

3. These proposals are considered cost-effective in that they are based upon existing assessments and sources of data.

4. In addition, the relevant sections in the third national report for the Convention on Biological Diversity have been revised to orient the information generated more towards assessing activities and achievements towards outcome-oriented targets. This will hopefully contribute towards improved communication and analysis. The Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on the Review of Implementation of the Convention is exploring how to streamline and improve the national reporting process of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Suggestions are that national reports be divided into: (i) the main national report, which would focus primarily on the status and trends of biodiversity, national progress towards the 2010 target and goals of the Strategic Plan and progress in the implementation of NBSAPs; and (ii) complementary, comprehensive thematic reports that would be submitted prior to the in-depth review of each programme of work (see UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/3/Add.2).

5. Paragraph 14 (c) of decision VII/4 should also be considered in the broader context of related initiatives and subjects. Potential indicators for the draft sub-targets applied to the programme of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems (recommendation X/4) were discussed at the expert group meeting on outcome-oriented targets for the programmes of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems and marine and coastal ecosystems (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/10/INF/6) and summarized for inland waters in a note by the Executive Secretary prepared for the tenth meeting of SBSTTA (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/10/8/Add.2). This process also focused on assessments at the global level using existing data. SBSTTA recommendation X/4 emphasizes in this context the linkages with the activities of the Ramsar Convention in view of the role of the Convention established by decision III/21

as the lead implementation partner on wetlands for the Convention on Biological Diversity. In particular, paragraph 3 of that recommendation invites that Convention to further develop the targets for the programme of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems, as appropriate, through *inter alia*, their quantification and application to specific wetland types and biogeographic regions, and to link those targets with the indicators currently being developed by Ramsar; and paragraph 4 (f) invites the convention to contribute, *inter alia*, to monitoring progress towards the targets.

6. In conclusion, although the specific requirements for paragraph 14 (c) of decision VII/4 have been addressed and are being further developed, an outstanding need is to develop linkages with other initiatives and activities within a broader context. The requirement is for coherent and cost-effective means of harmonizing and streamlining the sub-targets for the programme of work for the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems (and elaborated targets for wetlands), ongoing assessments in that context and related indicators, monitoring and reporting mechanisms in a fashion which contributes relevant information in support of the assessment of progress towards the sub-targets in the Strategic Plan. This subject is discussed in more detail in the note by the Executive Secretary on proposals on matters identified in paragraphs 3 and 16 of decision VII/4 (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/12), which draws attention to, *inter alia*, other relevant elements, including paragraphs 2, 3, and 16 (a), (b) and (c) of decision VII/4.
