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SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL  
AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

Eleventh meeting

Montreal, 28 November - 2 December 2005

Item 6.3 (a) of the provisional agenda\*

**FOREST BIODIVERSITY: CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS ARISING FROM THE  
IMPLEMENTATION OF PARAGRAPH 19 OF DECISION VI/22**

*Note by the Executive Secretary*

**INTRODUCTION**

1. In paragraph 19 of decision VI/22 on forest biological diversity, the Conference of the Parties (COP) requested the Executive Secretary to initiate a series of actions addressing some initial focus areas identified as important steps towards the implementation of regional and international activities expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity, and to complement national implementation. More specifically, these actions relate to the following subparagraphs of the decision: (a) ecosystem approach; (b) collaboration with other bodies; (c) cross-sectoral integration; (d) protected areas; (e) forest law enforcement; (f) sustainable use; and (g) servicing capacity-building. The present note reviews what has been achieved, including any obstacles and constraints in implementation, and as appropriate, outlines future actions.

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

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## SUGGESTED RECOMMENDATIONS

The Subsidiary Body may wish to adopt a recommendation along the following lines:

*The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice,*

*Recalling* paragraph 19 of decision VI/22 of the Conference of the Parties in which the Executive Secretary was requested to initiate a series of actions in support of the implementation of the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity,

1. *Welcomes:*

(a) The note prepared by the Executive Secretary on matters arising from the implementation of paragraph 19 of decision VI/22 (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/14); and

(b) The report on the effects of insufficient law enforcement on forest biological diversity (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/INF/12), and the compilation of best practices to reduce negative impacts and enhance positive impacts of other sectoral policies on forest biological diversity (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/INF/13);

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Parties, other Governments, non-governmental organizations, members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, other United Nations bodies and conventions, intergovernmental organizations, and research institutes, for their various inputs and collaborative efforts in the implementation of the different actions outlined in subparagraphs 19 (a)-(g) of decision VI/22;

3. *Invites* Parties, non-governmental organizations, and all relevant stakeholders, to make use of the Convention's forest web portal as a way to promote discussion of relevant topics aimed at facilitating the implementation of the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity;

4. *Recommends* that the Conference of the Parties request the Executive Secretary to:

(a) Develop further collaboration on issues regarding forest law enforcement with the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), and other relevant members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, with a view to strengthening the implementation of relevant activities of the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity at the national level;

(b) Obtain further information on the way countries are promoting the implementation of their national forest programmes and national biodiversity strategies and action plans, in collaboration with relevant members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests;

(c) Develop the toolkit on cross-sectoral, integrated approaches to reduce negative impacts and enhance positive impacts of other sectoral policies on forest biological diversity, in collaboration with relevant members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests;

(e) Invite the World Heritage Convention to strengthen collaboration at the national level between the Convention on Biological Diversity and UNESCO focal points in order to increase the effectiveness of implementation of the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity, and the programme of work on protected areas, in relevant World Heritage sites.

## I. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PARAGRAPH 19 OF DECISION VI/22

### A. *Ecosystem approach*

1. Paragraph 19 (a) of decision VI/22 requested an analysis of the links between the conceptual basis of the ecosystem approach in relation to sustainable forest management. Since 2002, a number of analytical studies, aimed at comparing the ecosystem approach and the concept of sustainable forest management, have been carried out by research organizations, Governments, and relevant intergovernmental bodies, <sup>1/</sup> also in response to a similar request from the United Nations Forum on Forests. <sup>2/</sup> These studies served as further input for a global assessment on sustainable forest management and ecosystem approaches, undertaken between 2004 and 2005. <sup>3/</sup> One of the main findings from this pioneering study derived from this specific subparagraph is that the principles of the ecosystem approach have, in practice, helped to catalyse the reform of policies and practices of sustainable forest management towards a more holistic, human-centred activity that is less commodity-oriented and that includes other benefits and services provided by forest ecosystems. In this context, the assessment also reveals the need for further strengthening the institutional and human capacity for implementing adaptive management and for facilitating dialogue among all forest stakeholders, and for enhancing the effectiveness of payment for environmental services in supporting the productive function of the world's forests.

### B. *Collaboration with other bodies*

2. In response to the request contained in paragraph 19 (b) of decision VI/22, on the relationship between the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IPF/IFF) and the activities contained in the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity, a series of detailed comparative assessments at the national and global levels have been carried out, <sup>4/</sup> with the overall goal of facilitating better implementation of common objectives in the context of national forest programmes and national biodiversity strategies and action plans. These assessments

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<sup>1/</sup> Among others:

Ellenberger, H. 2003. Ecosystem approach versus sustainable forest management—attempt at a comparison. Federal Research Centre for Forestry and Forest Products, Hamburg, Germany;

Wilkie, M. L., P. Holmgren, and F. Castaneda. 2003. Sustainable forest management and the ecosystem approach: two concepts, one goal. FAO Working Paper FM 25, Rome;

Hausler, A., M. Scherer-Lorenzen. 2001. Sustainable forest management in Germany: the ecosystem approach of the Biodiversity Convention reconsidered. BfN, Germany.

<sup>2/</sup> See the report of the fourth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests—agenda item on enhanced cooperation ( E/CN.18/2004/17).

<sup>3/</sup> Undertaken by the World Conservation Union (IUCN), the World Wildlife Fund, and the World Bank's Programme on Forests (PROFOR), and to be published in the form of a book. <http://www.iucn.org/themes/fcp/publications/arbortvitae/avspecials/avspecials.htm>

<sup>4/</sup> A broad assessment is contained in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/INF/31 carried out by the Executive Secretary, while national level assessments have been undertaken so far:

- Implementing the Proposals for Action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests and the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests. 2003. Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry-Australia—Program on Forests (PROFOR) at the World Bank.
- Schneider, T. W. 2004. Expanded Programme of Work on Forest Biological Diversity versus IPF/IFF Proposals for Action. Work Report of the Institute for World Forestry, Federal Research Centre for Forestry and Forest Products, Hamburg, Germany
- Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, AUSTRIA. 2004. The CBD Expanded Programme of Work on Forest Biological Diversity and the IPF and IFF Proposals for Action. Evaluation of their implementation.

have also provided input for the ongoing work of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) Task Force on streamlining Forest-Related reporting, <sup>5/</sup> specifically, on thematic overlaps in reporting requirements to different global and international forest processes (also in response to paragraph 22 of decision VI/22).

3. The outcomes to be derived from the sixth session of the United Nations Forum on Forest (UNFF) regarding the future of the international arrangement on forests, and scheduled for February 2006, may raise the need for a more refined comparative analysis in order to further facilitate and streamline both national-level implementation and reporting. Additional information related to the joint implementation of their national forest programmes and biodiversity strategies and action plans may be necessary in order to further enhance common implementation.

### ***C. Cross-sectoral integration***

4. Paragraph 19 (c) of decision VI/22 contained a request to compile best practices available to promote and support integrated approaches to reduce negative impacts and enhance positive impacts of other sectoral policies on forest biological diversity with a view to developing a toolkit for building capacity in integrated approaches and planning. An information document (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/INF/13) containing a compilation of best practices derived from case-studies across selected sectors will be made available to SBSTTA at its eleventh meeting and will form the basis for the development of a toolkit.

### ***D. Protected areas***

5. Further to the request in paragraph 19 (d) of decision VI/22 to hold an international workshop on forest protected areas, the outputs of the international workshop (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/INF/39) provided substantial inputs for the preparation of the programme of work on protected areas, adopted by the Conference of the Parties in the annex to its decision VII/28. More recently, the World Heritage Centre, with broader support from UNESCO, held its second International World Heritage Forests meeting <sup>6/</sup> in France on how to focus its interventions to best bolster management in forest protected areas, and to link forest conservation efforts at the landscape scale. The meeting, held in March 2005, called for strengthened coordination among both UNESCO national commissions and national focal points of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and other biodiversity conventions, for enhancing the effectiveness of measures and initiatives taken for implementing the agreements under these conventions while contributing to the 2010 global biodiversity target.

### ***E. Effects on forest biological diversity of insufficient forest law enforcement***

6. Paragraph 19 (e) of decision VI/22 contained a request to develop, in collaboration with members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and relevant bodies, at least two case-studies from each region, with voluntary participation by countries, on the effects on forest biological diversity of insufficient forest law enforcement addressing unauthorized harvesting of forest biodiversity on: (i) fauna (including bushmeat) and flora; (ii) indigenous and local communities; and (iii) revenue loss, at the national and local level. An information document on this subject (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/INF/12) will be made available to SBSTTA at its eleventh meeting. It should however be noted that only two

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<sup>5/</sup> [www.fao.org/forestry/site/26880/en](http://www.fao.org/forestry/site/26880/en)

<sup>6/</sup> [http://whc.unesco.org/documents/publi\\_news\\_49\\_en.pdf](http://whc.unesco.org/documents/publi_news_49_en.pdf)

countries submitted information to the Secretariat as a voluntary contribution as requested in the decision. In order to better assess the effects of insufficient forest law enforcement on forest biological diversity and assist Parties in the implementation of relevant activities contained in the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity, a larger country sample is necessary.

#### ***F. Sustainable use/benefit-sharing***

7. Paragraph 19 (f) of decision VI/22 contained a request to the Executive Secretary to prepare, in collaboration with other relevant organizations, a report on the management of forest biodiversity, and its sustainable use to derive products and services and benefit-sharing. This request was prepared for the ninth meeting of SBSTTA (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/9/Add.1). The information it contains is directly relevant in the implementation of the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity under its element 1, goal 4, objective 1 on sustainable use of forest resources, following SBSTTA recommendation IX/8. Furthermore, the implementation of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity, as emphasized by the Conference of the Parties in its decision VII/12, takes into account existing frameworks for sustainable use of components of biodiversity, including the concept of sustainable forest management.

#### ***G. Servicing capacity-building***

8. Pursuant to the request in paragraph 19 (g) of decision VI/22, the Executive Secretary developed an Internet portal to seek and provide support to facilitate the implementation of the forest work programme. The portal is available at <https://www.biodiv.org/programmes/areas/forest/portal/home.shtml> and it features information and discussions on a given topic drawn from the 27 objectives of the forest work programme. For a given topic the portal also provides selected tools and background material, including an online discussion forum. Since its creation in May 2004, discussion topics have included on forest restoration, forest protected areas, and traditional practices and innovations.

9. In spite of a moderate number of daily visitors to the portal (average per day: 50 visitors from May 2004 to July 2005), the overall use of the discussion forum has been very low. Thus the portal's goal of offering stakeholders the chance to report and exchange views on activities related to the objectives of the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity, and of communicating best practices of their implementation, has met with limited success. It appears that when a topic of current, broad interest is posted, the user's response rate increases, as indicated by the number of respondents to the discussion forum held from May to June 2005 on the incorporation of draft outcome-oriented targets into the forest work programme in the context of the 2010 global biodiversity target (pursuant to subparagraph 7 of decision VII/1 of the Conference of the Parties, and decision VII/30).

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