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Item 6.5 of the provisional agenda*

SUSTAINABLE USE: FURTHER CONSOLIDATION OF THE WORK ON THE USE OF TERMS AND ON ASSOCIATED INSTRUMENTS

Note by the Executive Secretary

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. In paragraph 5 of decision VII/12 on sustainable use, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to undertake further work on issues pertaining to use of terms for sustainable use, adaptive management, monitoring and indicators building on the outcome of the Addis Ababa Workshop, and in particular to further consolidate the work on the use of terms and on associated instruments based on sections I D and II D together with appendix I of annex I to the report of the Addis Ababa Workshop (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/INF/8). The present note explains that an electronic forum was set up by the Executive Secretary in order to gather further comments and proposals on the pertinent issues from relevant experts, but remained inactive. Taking into account the lack of contributions, the note provides a summary of pertinent work as well as a number of observations and suggestions for further activities. Section II addresses use of terms, while sections III, IV and V address adaptive management, monitoring, and indicators, respectively.

2. Section II, on use of terms, provides a consolidated summary and review of the definitions provided in section I D of annex I to the report of the Addis Ababa meeting. Some of these definitions depart from definitions in the Convention. In light of the lack of contributions from experts received on this issue, it is suggested to collect further information on the use of terms, including identified needs for further work on use of terms and related suggestions for definitions, in conjunction with the collection of information and experiences in implementing Article 10 and the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines called for in paragraph 4 of decision VII/12.

3. Section III, on adaptive management, explains that an opportunity for consolidating work on adaptive management was provided by work to implement decision VII/11, on the ecosystem approach, and in particular in the development of a web-based sourcebook and of a Users' Guide on the Ecosystem

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Approach. The section suggests further consolidating work on adaptive management under this process, and provides suggested recommendations along these lines.

4. Section IV, on monitoring, explains that an opportunity for consolidating work on monitoring was also provided by the work on the web-based sourcebook and the Users' Guide on the Ecosystem Approach. The section suggests consolidating work on monitoring under this process, and provides suggested recommendations along these lines.

5. Section V, on indicators, provides an overview of pertinent work since decision VII/30, in which the Conference of the Parties requested that work on indicators for sustainable use be integrated into the broader work on indicators for assessing progress towards the 2010 target. It reports on two recent initiatives by collaborating partners to further address indicators for sustainable use in the context of the 2010 target. The section suggests to take note of the progress made in integrating work on indicators for sustainable use into the broader work on indicators in the context of the 2010 target, and to request the Executive Secretary to collaborate with relevant initiatives, processes and organizations in the further development and consolidation of indicators for sustainable use of biodiversity.

SUGGESTED RECOMMENDATION

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice may wish to consider adopting a recommendation along the following lines:

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice,

Recalling paragraph 5 of decision VII/18, on sustainable use,

Use of terms

Recognizing that the experiences that will be gained in implementing the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines on Sustainable Use may provide useful information on the need for further work on use of terms and its scope,

1. *Invites* Parties, Governments and relevant international organizations to submit, as appropriate, identified needs and suggestions for further work on use of terms for sustainable use in conjunction with success stories, best practices and lessons learned in the application of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines provided to the Executive Secretary in accordance with paragraph 4 of decision VII/12, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at a meeting prior to the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

Adaptive management and monitoring

2. *Takes note* of the recent progress made in consolidating work on adaptive management and monitoring by including information and guidance on adaptive management and monitoring into the web-based sourcebook and the Users' Guide on the Ecosystem Approach, prepared pursuant to paragraph 9 (d) of decision VII/11 in collaboration with Parties and relevant international and regional organizations;

Indicators

Taking note of the progress made on indicators relevant to the focal area on sustainable use of the framework for assessing progress towards the 2010 target contained in decision VII/30,

Recognizing the need to further consolidate work on indicators for sustainable use initiated primarily at the thematic (decision VII/12, paragraph 5), national (decision VII/8) and global (decision VII/30) levels,

Recalling the list of headline indicators associated with the sub-targets of goal 4 ("Promote sustainable use") contained in annex II to recommendation X/5 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice,

3. *Welcomes* the establishment of an Expert Group on Sustainable Use Indicators under the initiative on Streamlining European 2010 Biodiversity Indicators, coordinated by the European Environment Agency, the European Centre for Nature Conservation and the World Conservation Monitoring Centre of the United Nations Environment Programme to further develop indicators for assessing and informing about progress towards the European 2010 targets;

4. *Also welcomes* the establishment of the IUCN ad hoc working group on sustainable use indicators in the context of the 2010 target;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to collaborate with these initiatives, processes and organizations to further develop and consolidate indicators on the sustainable use of biodiversity.

[SBSTTA may wish to add recommendations emanating from the regional expert workshops on sustainable use and from the meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on the Review of Implementation of the Convention]

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. In decision VII/12, on sustainable use, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity and, in paragraph 5 of the decision, requested the Executive Secretary to undertake further work on issues pertaining to use of terms for sustainable use, adaptive management, monitoring and indicators building on the outcome of the Addis Ababa Workshop, held in May 2003, and in particular to further consolidate the work on the use of terms and on associated instruments based on sections I D and II D together with appendix I to annex I to the report of the Workshop (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/INF/8).

2. Further to this request, the Executive Secretary set up 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, and informed Parties accordingly through notification 2004-072 of 30 August 2004. By notification 2005-033, of 5 April 2005, the Executive Secretary renewed the invitation to interested experts to comment and formulate proposals, as appropriate, and to submit them to the Secretariat.

3. By the time of the drafting of this document, only one submission had been received. The lack of contributions to the forum has implications for the work requested by decision VII/12, and in particular with regard to the requested work on issues pertaining to the use of terms, which are further elaborated in section II below.

4. The following sections provide a summary of pertinent work and, taking into account the lack of feedback referred to in the previous paragraph, provide a numbers of observations and suggestions for further activities. Section II addresses use of terms, while sections III, IV and V address adaptive management, monitoring, and indicators, respectively.

II. USE OF TERMS

5. Section I D of annex I to the report of the Addis Ababa Workshop suggested definitions of the following terms: (a) biological diversity; (b) components of biological diversity; and (c) sustainable use. The present section provides a consolidated summary and review of this work as well as suggestions for further activities.

A. *Biological diversity*

6. Section I D of annex I to the report of the Addis Ababa Workshop proposes a working definition of biological diversity, which departs from the definition provided in Article 2 of the Convention. According paragraph 9 of that section:

*“biodiversity means the **variety and** variability of living organisms at the genetic, species and ecosystem levels and the ecological complexes of which they are part.”* (emphasis added)

7. In contrast, the definition in Article 2 of the Convention provides that:

*“biological diversity means the variability among living organisms **from all sources including**, inter alia, **terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and** the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems”* (emphasis added).

8. The proposed definition hence departs from the definition provided in the Convention in two respects:

- (a) The addition of the term “*variety*”, and
- (b) The omission of the phrase “*from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems*”

9. According to paragraph 9 of section I D of annex I to the report of the Addis Ababa Workshop, the term “*variety*” is defined as “*being various, diversity, absence of monotony or uniformity,*” whereas the term “*Variability*” according to the Oxford Dictionary is derived from the word “*variable 1. that can be varied or adapted ...; (Bot. & Zool., of species) including individuals or groups that depart from the type*”.

10. According to the same, the purpose of addressing the definition of biological diversity is the further clarification for operational purposes. Given that the phrase under consideration provides further guidance as regards the scope of biological diversity including practical examples of relevant ecosystems, it is not clear how its omission contributes to the further clarification and operationalization of the definition provided by the Convention.

B. Components of biological diversity

11. Section I D of annex I to the report of the Addis Ababa Workshop points out that the term “*component*” is not defined in Article 2 of the Convention and provides, in paragraph 12, a list of components which includes: (a) genetic material; (b) populations; (c) species; (d) functional groups (guilds such as pollinators) and communities; and (e) ecosystems and habitats (for example, undifferentiated vegetation cover, forest, coral reefs, and other aggregate terms that denote the other biotic components of ecosystems).

12. Annex I to the Convention provides an indicative list of categories of components of biodiversity. According to Article 7 (a), each Contracting Party shall, by having regard to this list, identify components of biological diversity important for its conservation and sustainable use. The list provides three categories of components: (a) ecosystems and habitats; (b) species and communities; and (c) genomes and genes.

13. Hence, the list provided in the Addis Ababa report departs from the indicative list in Annex I of the Convention in the following aspects:

- (a) Addition of the categories “*populations*” and “*functional groups*”;
- (b) Addition of the phrase “*for example, undifferentiated vegetation cover, forest, coral reefs, and other aggregate terms that denote the other biotic components of ecosystems*” as further explanation to the term “*ecosystems and habitats*”.

14. Paragraph 68 of annex I to the Addis Ababa report refers to Annex I of the Convention. In the footnote to paragraph 68, it is further explained that the addition of the phrase “*other aggregate terms that denote the other biotic components of ecosystems*” was inspired by the definition provided in Article 2 on “*biological resources*”.

C. Sustainable use

15. Section I D of annex I to the report of the Addis Ababa Workshop uses the definition of sustainable use as provided in Article 2 of the Convention as a starting point, and proceeds to identify four key terms in the definition, which are subsequently further defined.

16. According to Article 2 of the Convention, “ ‘Sustainable use’ means the use of components of biological diversity in a way and at a rate that does not lead to the long-term decline of biological diversity, thereby maintaining its potential to meet the needs and aspirations of present and future generations.”

17. Four key terms are identified and further defined in paragraphs 15 to 19: (i) use; (ii) components; (iii) long-term; and (iv) decline:

(a) *Use*: paragraph 15 explains that *use* is understood to be both consumptive and non-consumptive;

(b) *Components*: the pertinent paragraph reiterates the list of components discussed under section B above;

(c) *Long-term*: paragraph 18 of annex I to the report to the Addis Ababa Workshop explains that “to meet the needs and aspirations of future generations, long term decline for biodiversity as a whole also needs to be considered in human terms” and concludes that “for management purposes, long-term in this context means up to five human generations or 100 years.” However, this approach is not consistent with other guidance available, such as for instance the IUCN *A Guide to the Convention on Biological Diversity*. The *Guide* explains that the definition of sustainable use provided in Article 2 of the Convention “may be read that, under the Convention, use of components of biological diversity, in particular biological resources, is only “sustainable use” if: (a) it can be used **indefinitely** (emphasis added) – in other words it does not cause any significant decline in the resource. (...)”

(d) *Decline*: paragraph 19 of the annex defines “decline” in the context of each of the five components of biological diversity identified earlier in the report, by using a standard phrase “a measurable reduction in” combined with an indication of the relevant measurement unit or units for the individual component, and further amendment as necessary to reflect peculiarities of the component. For instance, as regards species, decline is defined as “a measurable reduction of the total number of individuals, populations or geographical races of a species or increase in fragmentation or decrease in size of a species’ range below the limits necessary for the maintenance of viable populations”.

18. At its seventh meeting, the Conference of the Parties provided a definition of biodiversity loss that may also be of interest in the present context of defining “decline”. According to paragraph 2 of decision VII/30, on the Strategic Plan, biodiversity loss is, for the purpose of assessing progress towards the 2010 target, defined as “the long-term or permanent qualitative or quantitative reduction in components of biodiversity and their potential to provide goods and services, to be measured at global, regional and national levels.”

D. Conclusions

19. Some of the definitions provided in section I D of annex I to the report of the Addis Ababa meeting differ from those of the Convention and from other pertinent guidance. This raises the question of whether it is advisable or desirable to reopen terms already defined in the Convention. It is recalled in this connection that the electronic forum set up by the Secretariat in order to gather further comments and

proposals on issues pertaining *inter alia* to use of terms for sustainable use, despite repeated invitations to relevant experts, remained inactive.

20. Moreover, it is at this stage not clear whether and to what extent further work on use of terms, based on the work contained in the Addis Ababa report as summarized above, is necessary for the effective implementation of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines. As paragraph 4 of decision VII/12 already calls for the collection of information and experiences in implementing Article 10 and the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines, this suggests that information on the use of terms, including identified needs for further work on use of terms and related suggestions for definitions, could be gathered in conjunction with this task, and could feed into preparatory work for the in-depth review of ongoing work on sustainable use, scheduled to take place at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

III. ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

21. Adaptive management is addressed in paragraphs 53-57 of annex I to the report of the Addis Ababa meeting. These paragraphs explain the rationale and importance of principles of adaptive management.

22. Adaptive management is also addressed in decision VII/11, on the ecosystem approach. The implementation guidelines and annotations to the rationale for principle 9 of the ecosystem approach (management must recognize that change is inevitable), annexed to the decision, provide further guidance on adaptive management.

23. An opportunity for consolidating work on adaptive management was provided by paragraph 9 of decision VII/11, which requested the Executive Secretary to facilitate the undertaking of, *inter alia*, an analysis of the range of existing tools and approaches that are consistent with the Convention's ecosystem approach, to make it widely available to Parties through the development of a web-based "sourcebook" for the ecosystem approach, accessible through the clearing-house mechanism, and to also prepare a supporting summary explanation of the ecosystem approach.

24. Further to this request, the Secretariat initiated the development of a web-based sourcebook. The Sourcebook is still under development; however, some information is already available online, under <http://www.biodiv.org/programmes/cross-cutting/ecosystem/sourcebook/tools.shtml>. Under the general heading "*Management and Incentives*", the section of the sourcebook addressing tools and approaches provides a provisional list of entries on adaptive management, some of which already provide links for further information. As the sourcebook is further populated with tools and approaches, additional information on methods, including on adaptive management, will be added to the list.

25. The Secretariat also prepared a Users' Guide on the Ecosystem Approach, which provides guidance, *inter alia*, on adaptive management taking into account the pertinent work included in the report of the Addis Ababa Workshop.

IV. MONITORING

26. Monitoring is addressed in subsection 2 of section II D of annex I to the report of the Addis Ababa Workshop. The section identifies a number of important properties and design features of monitoring systems in the context of adaptive management.

27. As explained in paragraph 22 above, the implementation guidelines to principle 9 of the ecosystem approach ("Management must recognize that change is inevitable"), annexed to

decision VII/11, provide further guidance on adaptive management. In this connection, implementation guideline 9.4 also explains that “*monitoring systems, both socio-economic and ecological, are an integral part of adaptive management, and should not be developed in isolation from the goals and objectives of management activities.*”

28. An opportunity for consolidating work on monitoring was again provided by the development of a web-based sourcebook and of a Users’ Guide on the Ecosystem Approach, as explained in paragraphs 23 to 25 above. The section of the sourcebook addressing tools and approaches already provides a provisional list of entries on data collection and monitoring. The Users’ Guide on the Ecosystem Approach also provides guidance on the role of monitoring within adaptive management and on monitoring systems, taking into account the pertinent work included in the report of the Addis Ababa Workshop. In addition, monitoring is also addressed under the work on indicators for assessing progress towards the 2010 target, referred to in section V below.

V. INDICATORS

29. Indicators are also addressed in subsection 2 of section II D of annex I to the report of the Addis Ababa Workshop. The section provides an indicative list of indicators for each of the five components of biodiversity that were identified of being relevant in the context of sustainable use. The section also discusses indicators to address the economic, social and cultural context of sustainable use. Appendix I to annex I to the report of the Addis Ababa Workshop provides a list of desirable properties for indicators.

30. As regards indicators, paragraph 7 of decision VII/12, on sustainable use, is also relevant. In this paragraph, the Executive Secretary is requested to integrate the work on indicators for monitoring sustainable use referred to in section III of the note of the Executive Secretary on sustainable use (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/9) also into the broader work undertaken pursuant to decision IV/7 on “identification, monitoring, indicators and assessment.”

31. Against this background, the work on indicators for assessing progress towards the 2010 target offers an opportunity to consolidate work on indicators for sustainable use. In decision VII/30, on future evaluation of progress in the Strategic Plan, the Conference of the Parties established a provisional framework of goals and targets for seven focal areas in order to clarify the 2010 global biodiversity target, help assess progress towards the target, and promote coherence among the programmes of work of the Convention. The Conference of the Parties also agreed on a set of indicators for the seven focal areas, for assessing progress towards the 2010 target. The set of indicators is provided in annex I to the decision.

32. In paragraph 3 of the decision, the Conference of the Parties agreed that as far as is feasible, the indicators should be identified or developed in such a way that, *inter alia*: (a) the same indicators may be used at the global, regional, national and local levels as tools for the implementation of the Convention and of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, where so desired by Parties; and (b) the indicators relate to one or more of the various programmes of work under the Convention.

33. The set of provisional indicators annexed to decision VII/30 identifies indicators for immediate testing and indicators for development by SBSTTA or working groups for each of the seven focal areas. A number of these indicators are relevant for sustainable use:

(a) First, one of the seven focal areas is “sustainable use”. Under this focal area, annex I to decision VII/30 identifies two indicators for development: “area of forest, agricultural and aquaculture ecosystem under sustainable management” and “proportion of products derived from sustainable sources”;

(b) Second, the indicators identified under the focal areas “status and trends of the components of biodiversity” and “ecosystem integrity and ecosystem goods and services” may be relevant in particular for non-consumptive uses. Section II D of annex I to the report of the Addis Ababa Workshop noted that monitoring of non-consumptive use can be conducted by monitoring the status of the component of biological diversity that is the focus of the management programme and monitoring the services it can provide.

34. SBSTTA at its tenth meeting considered the report of 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, and, in recommendation X/5, considered a number of indicators ready for immediate testing, including indicators for sustainable use (area of forest, agricultural and aquaculture ecosystems under sustainable management).

35. As regards the further development of sustainable use indicators in the framework of assessing progress towards the 2010 target, a concrete initiative was recently initiated within the process of Streamlining European 2010 Biodiversity Indicators (SEBI2010), coordinated by the European Environment Agency, the European Centre for Nature Conservation and the World Conservation Monitoring Centre of the United Nations Environment Programme, to further develop indicators for assessing and informing about progress towards the European 2010 targets. The work of the Expert Group on Sustainable Use Indicators under this process was recently launched.

36. As another concrete initiative, IUCN established an ad hoc working group on sustainable use indicators, which held a brainstorming meeting on 27 May 2005, in Gland, Switzerland, with a view to assist the Secretariat in this task and explore opportunities for further work on indicators for sustainable use. A concept paper on further work on sustainable use indicators will be prepared and circulated by IUCN for comments and input. A follow-up expert workshop is planned for early October with the intent of providing input to the eleventh meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.
