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IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIVITIES RELATED TO MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY, DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY REDUCTION

Note by the Executive Secretary

I. BACKGROUND

1. In 2002, The Hague Ministerial Declaration adopted during the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties stated that the most important lesson of the previous decade was that the objectives of the Convention will be impossible to meet until consideration of biodiversity is fully integrated into other sectors. The need to mainstream the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources across all sectors of the national economy, society and through policy-making frameworks was recognized as a complex challenge standing at the heart of the biodiversity conservation agenda.

2. The preamble of the Convention affirms that the conservation of biodiversity is a common concern of humankind and an integral part of the development process and recognizes that “economic and social development and poverty eradication are the first and overriding priorities of developing countries”. The preamble to the Convention also states that “conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity is of critical importance for meeting the food, health and other needs of the growing world population, for which purpose access to and sharing of both genetic resources and technologies are essential”, while Article 6(b) of the Convention calls for the integration of the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies.

3. A large number of decisions from the previous meetings of the Conference of the Parties refer to the close links between biodiversity, development and poverty reduction in the Convention’s various programmes and cross-cutting issues. As an example, 20 decisions of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties are of direct relevance to biodiversity for development and poverty alleviation. Moreover, poverty alleviation is referred to explicitly in the 2010 biodiversity targets. In April 2002, the Parties to the Convention committed themselves to “achieve by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level as a contribution to poverty alleviation and the

* UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/3/1.

benefit of all life on Earth”. Mainstreaming is mentioned in three of the four goals of the current Strategic Plan of the Convention.

4. The 2010 target was subsequently endorsed by the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the United Nations General Assembly and was incorporated as a new target under the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

5. However, much has been discussed, planned and decided on this topic, but little success has been achieved to date, and efforts to link biodiversity and poverty alleviation are still facing a number of obstacles, including: a lack of information on the nature and extent of links, a lack of political will to mainstream biodiversity within development strategies, and a weak framework for scaling-up good practices and lessons learned.

6. For this purpose and to fulfil its mandate of providing support to Parties towards the implementation of the Convention, the Secretariat of the Convention launched after the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties the Biodiversity for Development Initiative¹ to engage Parties and development partners with the aim of increasing the links between biodiversity, development and poverty reduction.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE INITIATIVE

7. Recognizing that the task of mainstreaming biodiversity considerations worldwide into broader development processes is an ambitious and long-term task, the timeframe of the Biodiversity for Development Initiative is considered a first phase in order to push a coherent and effective mainstreaming strategy forward in the lead up to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

8. The overall goal defined by the Biodiversity for Development Initiative is to “improve the integration of the three objectives of the Convention into development plans and priorities following the provisions of Article 6(b) of the Convention” focused on three specific objectives:

(a) To promote the integration of biodiversity considerations into sectoral policies or cross-sectoral strategies (e.g. Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers or Sustainable Development Strategies) as well as ensuring the development dimension in national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs);

(b) To facilitate the exchange of experiences and the dissemination of lessons learned and good practices regarding the integration of biodiversity into development sectors and poverty reduction strategies and programmes; and

(c) To strengthen the consideration of issues related to poverty reduction and development in the Convention’s planning processes (Strategic Plan, programmes of work, in-depth reviews, national biodiversity strategies and action plans, the clearing-house mechanism, etc.) and to raise awareness of the Parties on these crucial linkages.

III. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES OF THE INITIATIVE SINCE THE NINTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (2008 -2010)

9. Recognizing that the environment as well as the development domain needs to develop awareness, skills, and institutional capacities in order to establish the desired dialogue for mainstreaming,

¹ See <https://www.cbd.int/development/>.

concrete products and several initiatives were realized addressing both, the environmental and the development community:

(a) *Addressing the development community.* Development of tools, guidelines and other outreach materials were elaborated for different policy makers of key development sectors, other stakeholders, and the general public audience. Initiatives and events were realized with development partners, such as development cooperation agencies, development banks and United Nations development implementation organizations, addressing biodiversity and associated ecosystem services as assets for broader development agendas;

(b) *Addressing the environment community:* The Convention Secretariat itself, environment ministries of Parties to the Convention as well as the environmental departments of regional organizations, such as SADC, SGCAN, ACTO, PRCM, COMIFAC or ASEAN with regional biodiversity strategies were supported. Specific measures were taken aiming to achieve a better integration of development and poverty concerns, catalysing mainstreaming efforts within their own environmental strategies and approaches.

10. Most of the products and initiatives have multiple purposes and are associated with one or more of the specific objectives.

Building partnerships with development cooperation

11. A significant initiative in 2009 was the Expert Meeting on Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Development Cooperation hosted by the Convention Secretariat in Montreal in May 2009. It was the first meeting of this type ever hosted by the Secretariat.²

12. The meeting gathered 45 representatives from development cooperation agencies, development banks, United Nations agencies and international non-governmental organizations involved in development cooperation. The exchange of experiences and discussions on the best means to integrate biodiversity in the development cooperation agenda resulted in important conclusions and recommendations on how to better consider biodiversity in the central strategies of the agencies, as well as within the practical work at the country and field-level. The group decided to create an informal network of practitioners and other follow-up activities. Next steps to reinforce more technical and political engagement of Development Cooperation partners are envisaged through a follow-up meeting back to back to the OECD-DAC environet meeting in Paris (February 2010), and a high-level segment with heads of cooperation agencies during the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Nagoya.

13. The intended outcomes of this high-level segment are an expanded engagement of development cooperation agencies to:

(a) Strengthen the systematic integration of biological diversity and ecosystem services in development cooperation processes and support;

(b) Facilitate a convergence between poverty reduction activities and biodiversity conservation strategies at the country level;

(c) Support partner-country-led processes of integration of biodiversity priorities in national development processes and associated budget;

² See the report of the Expert Meeting on Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Development Cooperation (UNEP/CBD/EM-BD&DC/1/2) at <https://www.cbd.int/development/meetings>.

- (d) Use national biodiversity strategies and action plans for development planning on the one hand while contributing to their successful implementation on the other;
- (e) Facilitate the adoption of nature-based solutions for mitigation and adaptation to climate change;
- (f) Adopt effective financial mechanisms to optimize support to biodiversity through aid, overseas investments and new financial mechanisms for dealing with climate change.

Cooperation with regional bodies

14. Several mainstreaming initiatives are ongoing with regional organizations such as COMIFAC (Congo basin - Central Africa), PRCM (Programme Regional de Conservation de la Zone Côtière et Marine), SADC (Southern Africa) and SGCAN (Andean Community). As biodiversity strategies more and more are being elaborated at the regional level, additional and complementary entry points to the national strategies (i.e., national biodiversity strategies and action plans) have emerged for mainstreaming.

15. As a result of partnership initiatives, case-studies were put together and submitted from different regions: a joint publication with COMIFAC on sustainable forest management in the Congo basin and with PRCM on good marine conservation practices for the West Africa region were finalized; with SADC case studies at the grassroots level from member countries were gathered and systematized providing substantial information on good practices for scaling up, and to define a regional portfolio of priority interventions within the SADC regional biodiversity strategy. SADC member States concluded also that biodiversity conservation in their region is not a goal in itself but a means for poverty reduction and engage the Convention Secretariat to highlight this fact clearer in the proposed strategic plan beyond 2010.

16. Furthermore, a letter of collaboration with the Environment Ministry of Peru was signed to capture case-studies and the lessons learned regarding mainstreaming biodiversity at the country level and promoting a regional meeting within the Andean Community to discuss the role of biodiversity and ecosystem services within the post 2010 framework of the Convention.

17. Common transboundary environmental challenges, the need to exchange experiences and lessons learned between countries of the same region and mainstreaming opportunities into regional development and poverty reduction strategies, as well as capacity building, are important entry points to establish South-South and North-South partnerships with these regional organizations.³

Public awareness-raising in the context of the International Year of Biodiversity

18. An on-line publication *Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use for Local Development Processes* showing case experiences and lessons learned through a photo gallery was finalized in partnership with the UNDP small grants programme and the Equator Initiative.

19. For the International Day and Year of Biodiversity, a booklet entitled *Biodiversity for Development and Poverty Alleviation* was elaborated. Giving an overview of the best available knowledge about the linkages between biodiversity and development, the booklet aims to convince a broad, informed audience that investing in biodiversity and associated ecosystem services is rational and indispensable. The booklet also identifies entry points for mainstreaming, and presents case studies and survey facts that demonstrate the urgency to act in order to avoid dangerous ecological tipping points.

³ See the note by the Executive Secretary on integration of biodiversity into poverty reduction and development (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/3/2/Add.1).

20. A generic information kit on access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing (ABS) was prepared and directed to different stakeholders and the broader audience. The information kit gives an overview on ABS-issues and its relationship with the implementation of the Convention. A description of the benefits for human-well being and poverty reduction expected from the international regime raise awareness about the importance of ABS in the context of development. Messages and case-studies from different parts of the world are presented in fact-sheets. A more specific and deeper tool for capacity building purposes will be elaborated once the contents of the international regime on ABS are fully specified and concerted.

21. A CBD Technical Series publication for an informed political and scientific audience entitled *Interdependence between Biodiversity and Development under Global Change* is also under preparation. In this partnership initiative with the universities of Montreal and Eberswalde (Germany), voluntary writing teams will provide sound scientific manuscripts that analyze with a systemic approach future scenarios and possible solutions for the global environmental and development challenges from different disciplinary perspectives.

22. A preliminary training module for a new generation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans will be prepared to reinforce mainstreaming and to make national biodiversity strategies and action plans more adaptive, inclusive and policy relevant.

Toolkits for stakeholders in developing countries

23. The Initiative started also to develop a set of tools and good practice guides. Seven sectoral good-practice guides were developed for, respectively, forestry, tourism, health, fisheries, pastoralism, drinking water, and quarrying. These guides target decision makers and other stakeholders involved in key development sectors, mostly designed for developing countries.

24. A cross-cutting tool has been elaborated on biodiversity and ecosystem services for stakeholders involved in planning processes, and especially for planning and finance ministries, responsible to lead multi-stakeholder planning and budgeting processes in developing countries. The purpose of this guide is to provide the best available arguments, case studies, facts and mainstreaming instruments in order to pursue and facilitate the integration of biodiversity and associated ecosystem services within national policies, development plans, and poverty reduction strategies.

25. All these tools are designed as a kit with similar structures, layouts and in a user-friendly way, and presented in the form of a booklet, CD-ROM, and a Power Point presentation, to aid capacity-building purposes. All the products and publications are illustrated by case-studies. Additionally, the Initiative publishes and disseminates periodically newsletters, maintains a web page and elaborates brochures and fact sheets.

26. The next challenge is to design a proper strategy to use these guides in the context of capacity-development efforts and to monitor their acceptance and effectiveness by providers of capacity-building services and addressed target groups. Further adaptation of these tools to the particular regional, national, and local conditions and needs will also be part of future capacity-building processes.

27. As an important complement to scientific findings and to facilitate knowledge management and exchange of experiences, case-studies on what works are being gathered, systematized, creating an evidence-base for policy options and scaling up of good practices and lessons learned. An interactive case-study database was established within the Convention Secretariat.

28. The database became an interactive common source of raw materials, which are used for multiple purposes, such as illustration to underpin Global Biodiversity Outlook reports, tools and guides for capacity-building, the Strategic Plan of the Convention, programmes of work and other outreach instruments. To gather, systematize and present in a user-friendly and interactive way case-studies from

all parts of the world, that link biodiversity and ecosystem services with poverty reduction and development need to turn a permanent task of the global , regional and national Convention's clearing-house mechanism.(see proposed mechanism in element 3 of the capacity development on mainstreaming programme/initiative within [UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/3/2/Add.1](#))

Integrating the development and poverty dimension into the Convention's planning processes

29. A fundamental entry point to reinforce the linkages between the Convention on Biological Diversity and poverty reduction is the coherent integration of the development and poverty dimension into the planning processes of the Convention. The current strategic planning process to review and draft a new Strategic Plan of the Convention beyond 2010 offers a good opportunity for that purpose.

30. The current strategic objectives beyond 2010 focus on underlying causes (indirect drivers) and direct drivers of biodiversity loss and decline of ecosystem services. A Strategic Plan that is more human-centred and development-oriented would be attractive and comprehensive for the development community.

31. The Biodiversity for Development Initiative contributed to the development of proposals for a revised and updated Strategic Plan of the Convention, facilitating a clearer orientation on poverty and development issues and a common strategic focus with other multilateral environment agreements (especially among the Rio conventions) linking environmental issues to sustainability and human development.

32. Another important entry point to integrate the poverty dimension into the formal planning cycle under the Convention are the findings of gap-analysis of the seven thematic programmes of work conducted in partnership with UNEP/WCMC. A systematic screening of the seven thematic programmes of work shows to what extent the programmes of work are linked to or incorporate poverty reduction and human well-being issues. During an internal workshop, SCBD Programme Officers elaborated a desired common approach to link coherently the thematic programmes of work to development, human well-being and poverty reduction. Poverty reduction, development and human-well being are not only cross-cutting issues, but an overarching goal considering the preamble of the Convention. Special attention was paid to the relevance that programmes of work need develop for sustainable development and poverty reduction as an overarching goal and to the internal programmatic vertical and horizontal coherence of the programmes of work assessing their baseline information, system of goals, strategic elements and monitoring procedures.

33. In order to get an international commitment for cooperation and a robust mandate from implementation agencies to reinforce mainstreaming processes in developing countries, a decision by the Conference of the Parties on a specific initiative for capacity development on mainstreaming in developing countries is probably required.

34. A first draft of this Capacity Development Initiative was elaborated as part of the Biodiversity for Development Initiative. The capacity development on mainstreaming mechanism is designed to cover subsequently all the developing countries through regional nodes, where partnerships and institutional arrangements through triangular cooperation (South-South and North-South cooperation) can be established aiming to create the necessary human, institutional, financial and technological capacities for the implementing the Convention and other multilateral environment agreements as a means for and in the context of development and poverty-reduction processes.⁴

⁴ For further information see document [UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/3/2/Add.1](#).

IV. LESSONS LEARNED

Mainstreaming approach

35. *“The basic reason why environmental mainstreaming is important is that economic and social development and the environment are fundamentally interdependent – the way we manage the economy and political and social institutions has critical impacts on the environment, while environmental quality and sustainability, in turn, are vital for the performance of the economy and social well-being. As such the task of environmental integration and mainstreaming is at the forefront of development planning and policy formulation.”* (GEF Mainstreaming Environmental Issues into Development).

36. Horizontal and vertical coherence appears as two integrative needs for mainstreaming approaches in order to generate the proper framework among science disciplines, traditional knowledge, policy and stakeholders with diverse interests interacting at different intervention levels. Therefore, global, regional, and national multi-stakeholder and multi-level platforms are required to deal with such challenges and tasks.

37. Mainstreaming efforts in general, and mainstreaming biodiversity for development and poverty reduction in particular, need integrative and adaptive approaches: biodiversity concerns have to be integrated into broader development and poverty reduction processes, and conversely, the development and poverty dimension has to be integrated into the environmental agenda.

38. Working at the interface of biodiversity, development and poverty reduction in a globalized world also requires the actors and stakeholders involved at each level (global, regional, national or local) to interact and coordinate their agendas with those working at other levels in order to generate vertical coherence between global and regional agreements, national policies and local implementation.

39. This requires a global and well structured dialogue between the so called environment and development community integrating their various disciplines into a common trans-disciplinary framework for sustainable, equitable, and inclusive development. Working at the interface of biodiversity, development and poverty reduction in a globalized world also requires the actors and stakeholders involved at each level (global, regional, national or local) to interact and coordinate their agendas with those working at other levels in order to generate vertical coherence between global and regional agreements, national policies and local implementation.

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41. It is also recognized that to halt biodiversity loss, avoid unsustainable development and alleviate poverty we have to address both the indirect and direct drivers as well as manage the negative impacts of unavoidable global environmental change such as climate change. Projected population growth combined with projected increases in per-capita demand for resources are primary drivers of global socio-economic change such as habitat and land conversion, pollution, overexploitation, and other ecological footprints.

42. The removal of perverse and establishment of positive incentives to biodiversity, and substantial investments in reducing carbon emissions, strengthen ecosystem resilience and productivity aiming to maintain as far as possible the flow of ecosystem services for the economy as a whole and for human well-being in particular, could decelerate the global degradation process, but will not resolve the problems as long the current economic growth model maintains business as usual.

43. Therefore, mitigation of and adaptation to these global environmental and socio-economic changes, by simultaneously addressing the root causes of both environmental degradation and

impoverishment, will frame a more sustainable development model. Due to the proximity of dangerous ecological thresholds or “ecosystem tipping points” as described within GBO 3 and the expected consequences beyond them, it is urgent to act as soon as possible and in a concerted manner.

A common mainstream development-orientation strategy among Rio convention implementation

44. Enhanced cooperation between the multilateral environment agreements is crucial to strengthen and prepare the environment community for a coherent mainstreaming approach and effective dialogue with the development community.

45. In its decision IX/27, the Conference of the Parties invited the subsidiary scientific and technical bodies of the three Rio conventions to enhance mutual collaboration in accordance with paragraph 7 of its decision VIII/16, and underlined the important role of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions in exploring options for enhancing synergies, avoiding duplication of efforts and improving the coherent implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions.

46. A common mainstreaming approach among a better institutional arrangement of the three Rio Conventions between their Secretariats could be a strategic contribution to a broader development and poverty reduction agenda.

47. The recognition of the need for these three conventions to work together, while cooperating more strongly with development efforts, should lead to integrated planning following a national logic rather than individual, parallel Convention mechanics at the national level. This process needs to be accelerated before any of the processes commits to an exclusive path once again.

48. At the national level a common mainstreaming plan among the Rio conventions could represent a proper global framework integrating the current still individually elaborated NBSAPs, NAPAs and UNCCD NAPs in a single national mainstreaming environmental strategy and action plan with the obvious advantages and synergies for mainstreaming, reporting and monitoring.

Programmes of work contributing to human well-being and poverty reduction

49. In accordance with the preamble of the convention and the integration of the 2010 Biodiversity Target in the Goal 7 of the Millennium Development Goals, the programmes of work of the Convention should contribute to development processes and poverty reduction. The gap-analysis on linkages between the seven thematic programmes of work and poverty reduction conducted by UNEP/WCMC synthesize in two matrices the actual situation on that issue.

50. The first matrix shows to which extent the programmes of work consider poverty and other socio-economic data within their base line approach, their system of goals, their activities or implementation strategy, and their in-depth reviews (monitoring and evaluation). The matrices make evident that most of the programmes of work are still not or insufficiently linked to human-well being, livelihoods and poverty reduction, and that much more elaboration is necessary to incorporate the socio-economic dimension into the programmes of work in order to make them relevant for policy-makers, practitioners, and scientists from the development community and also to enhance its vertical coherence within their programmatic approaches.

51. The second matrix shows the desirable situation, where the programmes of work are coherently linked to poverty reduction, incorporating socio-economic data within the whole structure and including measurable indicators to monitor progress and impacts. The programmatic approaches of all the programmes of work on how biodiversity and ecosystem services in the different biomes, geographical regions and agro-ecosystems support or represent ecological limits to poverty reduction and development need much more elaboration based on the indications required by the desirable matrix.

52. To facilitate the coherence and the understanding with the development community, the Convention should consider how to use and adapt the appropriate and existing indicators for poverty reduction, human well-being, livelihood or other development index. Through those indicators the programmes of work should describe how they incorporate the management of biodiversity and ecosystem services into the achievement of development goals and how they contribute to poverty alleviation. The elaboration of that contribution is an essential task to mainstream biodiversity and ecosystem services into broader development and poverty reduction processes.

53. For example some appropriate indicators to break down the mission indicators related to poverty reduction (MI 2/MDGs) could be as follows:⁵

- **For food and water security and gender equality (MDG 1, target 1C and MDG 3):** “Adequate/sufficient physical and/or economic access of the poor and vulnerable in rural *and urban areas to essential or vital ecosystem services that meet their minimum requirements for food security is guaranteed*” or “Adequate and equitable access to essential ecosystem services is guaranteed for all, especially indigenous and local communities and the poor and vulnerable”
- **For poverty reduction (MDG 1, target 1A and 1B):** “Economic and non-economic benefits generated through market-based and non-market based supply chains related to genetic and biological resources, bio-diversity friendly agricultural, aqua-cultural, and non-timber forest commodities and other ecosystem services are equitable shared with their providers (keeping the spirit of the third objective of the convention in mind)”
- **For poverty reduction (MDG 1):** “Prevention and protection against natural disaster (including climate change adaptation) are strengthened through investments in ecosystem restoration and ecosystem resilience in particular vulnerable areas and for vulnerable population groups”.
- **For poverty reduction (MDG 1, target 1A and 1B)** “Access to genetic resources is enhanced, and substantial benefits are shared, consistent with the international regime on access and benefit sharing”.

Towards national environmental mainstreaming strategies for development and poverty reduction

54. Over the last few decades, there has been frenzied activity around drawing up national strategies and action plans for addressing development and environment concerns, particularly in developing countries. Agenda 21 called for the formulation of National Sustainable Development Strategies (NSDS). The CBD called for national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs). UNCCD called for National Action Plans (UNCCD NAPs) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) has funded National Capacity Self Assessments (NCSAs). The UNFCCC has called on least developed countries (LDCs) to prepare national adaptation plans of action (NAPAs) and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants calls on all Parties to formulate national Implementation plans (NIPs).

55. In 2008, the Conference of the Parties, in paragraph 4 of its decision IX/8, noted with concern “the inadequate mainstreaming of biodiversity, in particular in sectoral planning processes and in national development and poverty eradication strategies, and the paucity of information in relation to the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans”.

⁵ See the UNU-IAS report *MDG on Reducing Biodiversity Loss and the CBD's 2010 Target* on www.ias.unu.edu, and http://www.ias.unu.edu/resource_centre/Reducing_Biodiversity_Loss_user%20friendly.pdf as well as the booklet *Biodiversity, Development and Poverty Alleviation* on <http://www.cbd.int/doc/bioday/2010/idb-2010-booklet-en.pdf>. See also Trondheim Conference 2010 <http://www.trondheimconference.org/content.ap?thisId=500039631>.

56. National action plans and strategies have a very important role to play in the implementation of sustainable development issue, but only if their need is fully internalized by their environment and development communities at the national and local level, and the process is nationally driven. Most of these plans have a common overall goal (promoting sustainable development) and invoke similar principles for formulating and implementing the action plans: participatory processes, overall coherence, effectiveness and accountability.

57. At the national level, integration must extend beyond just the environment sector. Internationally agreed environment agreements need to be broken down to reflect national goals and integrated into development planning. For this to happen, the environment community has to enter into dialogue with the development community, armed with relevant and localized information – including, for instance, the contribution of ecosystem services to the national or local economy and poverty reduction; and the costs of inaction. Key players must be convinced of the need to address these issues. Individual and organizational capacities need to be strengthened in the course of these processes.

South-South and North-South cooperation for a Capacity Development Initiative

58. Capacity development for developing countries, more than ever, is an indispensable strategic task to give support to their development processes and simultaneously to maintain biodiversity and vital ecosystem services.

59. In developing countries, where the first priority is poverty reduction and impacts of environmental and socio-economic global changes are expected to be disproportionately intense for the forthcoming decades, the achievement of biodiversity target often requires support through dedicated international cooperation. That target could be more easily achieved, when the necessary knowledge, political will, and institutional, legal, financial and technological conditions are consolidated. To implement that target goes far beyond the environment ministries and the elaboration of policies and plans and requires the direct intervention of sector-ministries, planning and finance ministries and other stakeholder involved from the civil society, and the business and private sector.

60. Scientists from different disciplines, politicians from different key development sectors and other stakeholders such as indigenous people, local communities, the business and the private sector in developing countries need to develop sound capacities to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity and other multilateral environmental agreements as a means for and in the context of their own specific sustainable development and poverty reduction processes.

61. Among others, the following capacities are the most important:

(a) To elaborate, implement, and monitor environmental strategies and action plans (e.g. national biodiversity strategies and action plans, equivalent instruments and others related to multilateral environmental agreements) relevant to development and poverty reduction, in partnership with the so called “development community”;

(b) To integrate those environmental plans and strategies into sectoral, spatial, decentralized and cross-sectoral or broader overarching planning processes such as Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRSPs), national, sub-national, and regional sustainable development plans and strategies;

(c) To implement and monitor those environmental components integrated in broader development plans, programmes and policies, including their financial provisions and respective budgeting processes;

(d) To replicate and scale up best practices and lessons learned through appropriate policies, plans and programmes, keeping vertical and horizontal coherence through inter-sectoral coordination and

appropriate bottom up and top down approaches between regional, national, sub-national policies and local implementation.

62. Part of the solution would be to develop a joint vision on how to institutionalize enhanced regional capacities for support to national action plans and strategies and their implementation, rather than calling for separate or parallel structures.

63. Guided by the decisions of the Conference of the Parties, the outcomes of the meetings on South-South cooperation, the actual process on a multi-year work plan for South-South cooperation on biodiversity for development, and the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building and the Putrajaya Road Map, a proposal for a Capacity Development Initiative was drafted. This initiative is designed as a worldwide effort incorporating regional organisations of developing countries as regional nodes for triangle cooperation on mainstreaming and upon five capacity building blocks: fundamental interrelations between biodiversity and development, environmental governance, environmental planning and management, environmental finance management, and environmental technologies transfer and innovations (see UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/3/2/Add.1).

V. CONCLUSION

64. Mainstreaming biodiversity and associated ecosystem services is a crucial task that requires a sustained effort to build and highlight a repository of case-studies and to be followed by putting together a significant group of qualified capacity building experts and institutions in the regions to assist Parties. The recently established Biodiversity for Development Initiative at the Secretariat of the Convention has started by putting together a knowledge base on the subject and publishes and disseminates guides and tool kits for Parties to help review their sectoral policies and plans in the context of both reducing poverty and preserving biodiversity. This requires a continued and sustained support. Ongoing efforts need to be acknowledged and developed in order to maintain creativity and credibility and also to encourage a learning process.

*Annex***MAIN OUTCOMES OF THE EXPERT MEETING ON MAINSTREAMING
BIODIVERSITY IN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION**

The Expert Meeting on Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Development Cooperation took place in Montreal, in the offices of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, from 13 to 15 May 2009⁶. This meeting was held in line with an effort that started in Paris, in September 2006, at the Conference on Biodiversity in European Development Cooperation and in response to 3 decisions adopted during the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The overall goal of biodiversity mainstreaming is to help reduce the negative impacts that productive sectors exert on biodiversity, particularly outside of protected areas, and highlight the contribution of biodiversity to economic development and human well being, through enhanced collaboration with development sectors and actors.

The meeting gathered 45 representatives from development cooperation agencies, development banks, United Nations agencies and international non-governmental organizations involved in development to exchange on the best means to integrate biodiversity in the development cooperation agenda. The meeting was structured in three main sessions: an update session summarizing the state of affairs and introducing available tools and approaches for biodiversity mainstreaming; an exchange of experiences and lessons learned from developing countries and development cooperation agencies; and a consideration of options for future action.

Participants identified obstacles and challenges to biodiversity mainstreaming and recognized a range of concepts and approaches that are useful for mainstreaming biodiversity into development cooperation including: application of the ecosystem approach; using ecosystem goods and services to highlight the links between biodiversity and human well being; spatial planning and Strategic Environmental Assessment. They reviewed tools and instruments available at different levels within partner countries and donors' internal processes. Participants also proposed considerations for a more effective inclusion of biodiversity in development cooperation processes.

KEY CONCLUSIONS

If participants identified a series of challenges that stand in the way of effective mainstreaming, the spirit of the meeting was outward looking, constructive and focused on solutions. Recommendations were proposed in that light. They include:

- a) Biodiversity mainstreaming efforts should take advantage of the fact that poverty reduction takes an important place on the agenda of development cooperation agencies. Greater convergence between poverty reduction activities and biodiversity conservation strategies at the country level are needed;
- b) Development cooperation agencies should use National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) for development planning on the one hand, while contributing to their successful implementation on the other;
- c) A common development framework based on OECD/DAC's Rio Markers methodology should be worked on to cover the Rio conventions;
- d) Joint Assistance Strategies (JAS) should be used to integrate biodiversity considerations more effectively in National Development Plans (NDP) and Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) with the active participation of environmental ministries;

⁶ 1. The report of the meeting, as well as other related documents can be found at: <http://www.cbd.int/development/emmbdc-01.shtml>

- e) The value of biodiversity should be established for different economic sectors to explain the cost of non-action to decision makers – using the conceptual framework of ecosystem goods and services;
- f) Development practitioners should work through donor coordination mechanisms to achieve greater impact at the systemic level in ensuring the environmental sector works upstream with other relevant sectors to integrate environmental objectives. This is especially important since many donors emphasize wider programmatic approaches to development;
- g) The donor community should promote a systematic and coherent use of SEA across sectors and make sure SEA frameworks are used in exchanges with ministries and appropriate budgets should be earmarked to implement SEA;
- h) A set of criteria should be worked out to track how well biodiversity and development are linked. In this regard, case-studies (including examples of good practice) are useful for illustrating the mainstreaming of biodiversity into development cooperation including the application of relevant tools and guidance.
- i) A set of biodiversity-friendly sector development toolkits should be prepared for the use of, inter alia, sector representatives, local authorities and donors.
- j) Recognize the need for champions to drive changes within institutions and enhance institutional capacity at the country level. Work in specific countries to strengthen links between planning/finance ministries and ministries responsible for the Convention could be developed building on existing initiatives such as the UNEP/UNDP PEI and Poverty and Environment Partnership (PEP).

STEPS FOR MOVING FORWARD

The group decided to build on the momentum created by instituting an informal network of practitioners on biodiversity, development cooperation and poverty reduction. It is expected in a first stage that members of the network will share best practices to support the refining of mainstreaming practice and guidance. The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and the Swedish International Biodiversity Programme (SwedBio) offered to help coordinate the network's activities. The German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) offered to host the next meeting. The meeting may very well focus on lessons learnt from sector specific case-studies and on ways to operationalize biodiversity mainstreaming in these sectors. Practical experiences could also be shared through country level workshops.

Participants would promote the conclusions outlined above. Possible areas for further action were discussed. These include:

1. Setting up a web-based exchange platform on the Secretariat's website to serve as a forum to share existing documents and guidance related to biodiversity mainstreaming produced by organizations active in this practice;
2. Calling for case-studies related to biodiversity mainstreaming (agencies will be invited to provide case-studies or links to agency data sets), and compilation of case-studies by sector with a focus on success stories coming from development agencies;
3. Taking stock of existing guidance tools, and developing further biodiversity mainstreaming toolkits as needed
4. Training on the application of the ecosystem approach targeted for field offices;
5. Undertaking a study of mainstreaming efforts in various organizations to inform future discussions;

6. Developing and applying an umbrella framework linking biodiversity (including the work of the CBD) and poverty alleviation (including the MDGs) in consideration of NBSAPs and PRSPs;
7. Identification of pivotal development sectors as initial grounds for action;
8. Enhancing collaboration and cooperation with the secretariats of the Rio conventions to benefit from synergies such as that of using a resilience or ecosystem based adaptation to climate change approach.
