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AD HOC OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

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INTEGRATION OF BIODIVERSITY INTO POVERTY REDUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

Note by the Executive Secretary

I. BACKGROUND

1. 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 that recognizes that “*economic and social development and poverty eradication are the first and overriding priorities of developing countries*” (*emphasis added*).

2. Furthermore, 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, to which purpose access to and sharing of both genetic resources and technologies are essential”.

3. Therefore, Article 6(b) of the Convention on Biological Diversity calls for the integration of the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies.

4. In this context, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention launched at the ninth meeting the Biodiversity for Development Initiative based on support by Germany and France.

5. The essential lesson learned from the Biodiversity for Development Initiative under the Convention on Biological Diversity during its first year is that mainstreaming biodiversity and associated ecosystem services in broader development and poverty reduction processes is a vital step to advance the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity. This requires capacity development so that effective national action can benefit from the limited experiences and knowledge available to mainstream. (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/3/INF/2).

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

6. Mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services require a sustained effort to develop, highlight, and exchange among Parties a repository of experiences and documented case-studies and to be followed by putting together a significant group of qualified capacity development initiatives and institutions in the regions. Parties need to be assisted within their own efforts at the national and at regional level.
7. The Biodiversity for Development Initiative under the Convention on Biological Diversity started by putting together a knowledge base on the subject and publishes and disseminates guides and tool kits for Parties, and initiated collaboration on mainstreaming with their regional organizations and development partners.
8. The main challenge remains to review sectoral policies and development plans in the context of reducing poverty and the ecological footprint on biodiversity by simultaneously increasing awareness of proactive approaches to deal with biodiversity and ecosystem services as an indispensable asset for sustainable development.
9. The process initiated by the Biodiversity for Development Initiative therefore needs to be intensified and requires continued and sustained support and the promotion of appropriate collaboration on mainstreaming around regional nodes.
10. Capacity development for mainstreaming is also crucial to enable implementation of effective national actions and the achievement of the strategic goals within the new Strategic Plan beyond 2010.
11. Achieving the vision, mission, strategic goals and targets of the updated and revised Strategic Plan will require substantial improvements in the functioning of the Convention in order to foster an improved enabling environment at global and national levels. While most activities to implement the Convention are carried out at national level, the Convention bodies have a key role to play in reviewing implementation, promoting cooperation to address common issues, and to ensure that effective support mechanisms are provided for capacity development, knowledge-generation, use and sharing, and access to financial and other resources.
12. Just as mainstreaming is necessary at the national level, biodiversity-related issues need to be integrated into international instruments, through cooperation between the Convention on Biological Diversity and other conventions, international organizations and processes, civil society and the private sector. In particular, efforts will be needed to: ensure that the Convention, through its new Strategic Plan contributes to sustainable development and the elimination of poverty; and the other Millennium Development Goals.
13. While most Parties have developed national biodiversity strategies and action plans, other Parties are operating with equivalent planning instruments. In many cases these will need to be enhanced to ensure that they are effective tools for implementing the Convention. The lessons from earlier reviews of implementation have been codified in guidance from the Conference of the Parties and suggest that national biodiversity strategies and action plans should be regarded less as static documents and more as dynamic processes to catalyse a number of strategic actions in countries.
14. Mainstreaming biodiversity concerns and the goals of the Convention will be well served if biodiversity represents a significant factor in decisions made across a wide range of sectors, departments and economic activities, systems for planning the use of land, freshwater resources and marine areas (spatial planning), and policies to reduce poverty and adapt to climate change.

15. In 2002, The Hague Ministerial Declaration from the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties¹ stated that the most important lesson of the previous decade was that the objectives of the Convention would be impossible to meet until consideration of biodiversity was 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.

16. A large number of decisions from previous Conferences of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity refer to the close links and interdependence between biodiversity, development and poverty reduction in various programmes and cross-cutting issues under the Convention. As an example, 20 decisions adopted at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties are of direct relevance to biodiversity for development and poverty reduction.

17. While the links between biodiversity, development and poverty reduction have long been recognized and discussed at length, few tangible success have been achieved. Efforts to link biodiversity and poverty alleviation are still facing a number of obstacles, including: a lack of general awareness and information regarding the nature and extent of links and interdependence, a lack of political will to mainstream biodiversity within development strategies, and a weak framework for scaling-up good practices and lessons learned.

18. In paragraph 4 of its decision IX/8, the Conference of the Parties note 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”.

19. Within the assessment of 85 fourth national reports regarding to the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, 70 Parties reported a “lack of mainstreaming, fragmented decision making, communication and coordination”, 51 Parties a “lack of studies and information about the economic value of biodiversity and ecosystem services”. 70 Parties reported the “recognition that biodiversity is linked to human wellbeing” and 73 Parties are implementing “activities related to mainstreaming, generation of synergies, and integration of biodiversity concerns into other planning processes”, while 18 Parties reported that “spatial planning” and 52 Parties that “subnational level policies” are being used within the national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

20. The Strategic Plan recognizes the dual challenge of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity by simultaneously contributing to development and poverty reduction. The challenge to meet targets for these coupled objectives will only be achieved through a coherent and effective mainstreaming effort, and by mainstreaming the needs for informed-decision making by all actors involved.

21. A fundamental entry point to generate informed decision-making is capacity development of key actors involved in national planning and policy making, as noted in paragraph 10 above.

22. In developing countries, where the most biodiversity-rich regions are located, but where the first priority is poverty reduction, impacts from environmental and socio-economic global changes are expected to be disproportionately intense for the forthcoming decades. Capacity development therefore represents more than ever an indispensable strategic task to meet basic development needs and priorities by simultaneously maintaining biodiversity as a foundation for vital ecosystem services. These challenges can only be achieved, when the necessary knowledge, political will, and institutional, legal, financial and technological conditions as well as capacities are built.

¹ UNEP/CBD/COP/6/20, annex II.

23. Ecosystem services provide a new framework to advance with biodiversity conservation goals. Ecosystem services are the benefits people obtain from ecosystems. The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA, 2005) uses four different classes of ecosystem services. These are “provisioning services”, such as food, water, timber, and fibre; “regulating services” that affect climate, floods, disease, wastes, and water quality; “cultural services” that provide recreational, aesthetic, and spiritual benefits; and “supporting services” such as soil formation, photosynthesis, and nutrient cycling.

24. The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) and other studies already continue to develop these concepts linking biodiversity through ecosystem services to human well-being. The new understanding could reinforce mainstreaming approaches, new arrangements between institutions and stakeholders, and a more coherent involvement of all the multilateral environmental agreements in one coordinated environmental mainstreaming effort.

25. Ecosystem services, valuation and price discovery is the language of the development community and has an appealing logic for all actors (economic, scientific and political), whose compliance to environmental provisions is of more practical and utilitarian concern. By this logic, it just might be possible that we will witness a higher likelihood of equitable sharing and ethical business and development.

26. This new understanding is applicable to all ecosystem services, for example water (a non-biotic service) provided by ecosystems in watersheds and wetlands that is indispensable for sectoral, commercial and household uses. Genetic resources traded in the context of an international regime, food provided by productive agro-ecosystems and critical for food security, or recreational ecosystem services provided by conserved and protected areas for the tourism sector.

27. The challenge of capacity development in this context can be expressed thus: scientists from different disciplines, politicians and decision makers from the various development sectors and other stakeholders such as indigenous people, local communities, and business 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 sustainable development and poverty-reduction processes.

28. The report of the second meeting of the ad hoc intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services (IPBES) pointed out that “a strengthened science-policy interface needed: scientific independence (credibility, relevance and legitimacy); knowledge generation (collaboration and coordination for common and shared knowledge bases); knowledge assessments (regular and timely assessments to generate and disseminate policy-relevant but not policy-prescriptive advice with full and equal involvement of experts from all regions of the world); knowledge use (support for policy development and implementation); and capacity-building to enhance the science-policy interface and mainstream biodiversity and ecosystem services for human well-being”.

29. The IPBES report went on to point out that “strengthening the interrelations between science and policy at all levels is necessary (but not sufficient) for more effective governance of biodiversity and ecosystem services. Current environmental problems, often of considerable magnitude and complexity, challenge science, politics, policy and their interrelations in unprecedented ways, confronting them with situations in which facts are uncertain, values in dispute, stakes high and decisions urgent”.

30. In addition, the report stated:

“Numerous institutions and processes are helping to build capacity to use science effectively in decision-making at all levels. Further efforts, however, are required to integrate multiple disciplines and knowledge systems to produce relevant knowledge effectively; to translate knowledge into policy action and to coordinate these processes;

and to build the capacities of developing countries to use science more effectively in decision-making and to participate fully in the science-policy dialogue.”²

31. 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 agenda with those working at other levels in order to generate both vertical and horizontal coherence between global and regional agreements, national policies and local implementation.

32. This requires a well structured dialogue between the so called environment and development community integrating their various disciplines into a common trans-disciplinary framework for equitable, inclusive and sustainable development.

33. Mainstreaming efforts in general, and mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services for development and poverty reduction in particular, need integrative and adaptive approaches: biodiversity concerns should be integrated into broader development and poverty reduction processes. Conversely, the development and poverty dimension should be integrated into the environmental agenda.

34. 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.

35. In paragraph 2 of decision IX/25 related to South-South cooperation on biodiversity for development, the Conference of the Parties encouraged “developing country Parties to engage in South-South Cooperation on the issue of biodiversity, complemented and, supported by North-South cooperation, and to incorporate biodiversity concerns in regional and subregional cooperation agreements and associated activities”.

36. The Conference of the Parties encourages Parties in paragraph 3 of the same decision “to establish, as appropriate, multi-stakeholder collaborative partnerships between Parties and other countries at subregional and regional levels to address biodiversity concerns at regional, subregional, national and subnational levels”.

37. Responding to these decisions of the Conference of the Parties, the proposed initiative “Capacity development for mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services for development and poverty reduction” has been prepared to support implementation of the Strategic Plan beyond 2010, specifically by providing a framework for knowledge generation and capacity development, identifying providers of capacity-building services, target groups, the full range of biodiversity and ecosystem’s concerns and an organizational option for partnerships around regional nodes to strengthen mainstreaming and the desired science-policy dialogue between the environment and development community.

² Gap analysis conducted by UNEP and related to the weaknesses of actual science-policy interface mechanisms and analyzed during the Second ad hoc intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meeting on an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services held in Nairobi, 5–9 October 2009

II. DRAFT RECOMMENDATION

The Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention may wish to recommend that the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting consider adopting a decision along the following lines:

“The Conference of the Parties,

Recognizing the urgent need for improved capacity for mainstreaming the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into poverty reduction strategies and processes as a means to implement the Strategic Plan of the Convention and enhance its contribution to sustainable human development,

Aware of the large number of existing processes, mechanisms and institutions addressing poverty reduction, the needs to maintain common but differentiated responsibilities and to mainstream relevant biodiversity considerations within existing platforms and processes,

1. *Calls for* enhanced efforts to promote capacity development for mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services into broader poverty reduction and development processes as a means to contribute to the implementation of the revised strategic plan of the Convention for the period beyond 2010 and the Millennium Development Goals, especially by developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States;

2. *Welcomes* the provisional framework for an initiative on capacity development for mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services for development and poverty reduction, as annexed to the present document, as a possible basis for the further development of the initiative through continued dialogue with partners and based on practical experience;

3. *Notes* that an initiative should take into account the available scientific information and traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities and ensure their participation in its development, in accordance with Article 8(j) and related provisions of the Convention;

4. *Notes* the relevance of the South-South cooperation forum on biodiversity for development, the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-Building, and other processes, to the development of the initiative;

5. *Emphasizes* that the initiative is intended as a long-term global effort utilizing regional mechanisms as nodes for South-South and North-South cooperation to assist country-driven mainstreaming processes through capacity development for a more effective science-policy-practice interface, enhanced environmental governance, more effective biodiversity finance mechanisms and the generation, transfer, and adaptation of biodiversity related technologies and innovations through the promotion of win-win solutions to development needs;

6. *Invites* Parties, other Governments, relevant international organizations such as bilateral and multilateral development cooperation agencies, development banks, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations involved in development cooperation, civil society, the business sector and other relevant stakeholders to contribute to the development of an effective initiative in support of the objectives of the Strategic Plan of the Convention and recognized development strategies and frameworks;

7. *Recognizes* the need for resources, human, institutional, and financial capacity, to develop the initiative, including the testing of various approaches and strategies at the regional and as appropriate national levels;

8. In accordance with Article 20 of the Convention, *invites* developed country Parties, other Governments and donors to provide financial and technical support to the development and testing of the initiative;

9. *Invites* the financial mechanism to support the development and testing of the initiative;

10. *Establishes* an Ad-Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity for Poverty Reduction and Development, to further elucidate the linkages between the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and poverty reduction and development, drawing upon expertise in both communities;

11. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to resources, to:

(a) Promote and where necessary coordinate the development of the initiative in collaboration with relevant partners;

(b) Assist Parties, regional networks, relevant organizations and mechanisms, in developing the initiative and, as relevant and appropriate, in testing approaches on a trial basis;

(c) Ensure that the full range of biodiversity and ecosystem services considerations are taken into account within the initiative and that it is responsive to the objectives of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;

(d) Promote, through the clearing house mechanism and other appropriate means, the sharing of knowledge and experience and communication and awareness to support a multi-stakeholder dialogue on the needs of and options for the initiative;

(e) Assist Parties and their regional bodies to establish partnerships and institutional arrangements catalysing triangular cooperation (south-south and north-south cooperation) for capacity development around regional nodes;

(f) Provide existing, and develop further as necessary, sectoral and cross-sectoral tools and best practice guides on biodiversity and ecosystem services for key stakeholders including packaging the relevant findings and lessons learned from the implementation of the programmes of work of the Convention as user-friendly and policy-relevant information for addressing the capacity-building needs of various target groups;

(g) Support Parties and regional organizations in fund raising and further engagement of technical assistance for capacity development efforts at the regional and national levels; and

(h) Report on progress in the above activities and prepare, in collaboration with partners and subject to resource availability, further draft objectives, goals, elements and activities of the initiative for capacity development on mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services for poverty reduction for consideration by the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

12. *Welcomes* the initiative of developing countries to adopt a multi-year plan of action on South-South cooperation on biodiversity for development, the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building, and the current discussions regarding the establishment of an intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services (IPBES), as they are relevant processes for the implementation of the proposed Capacity Development Initiative;

13. *Emphasizes* that the proposed Capacity Development Initiative is designed as a long-term and worldwide effort incorporating regional organizations as nodes for South-South and North-South cooperation to assist country-driven mainstreaming processes through capacity development for a more knowledge generation, effective science-policy and policy-practice interface, integrative environmental

planning, adaptive management, enhanced environmental governance, appropriate environmental finance mechanisms, and the transfer, adaptation and generation of environmental technologies and innovations improving solutions in practice;

Annex

**PROVISIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR AN INITIATIVE ON CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT FOR
MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES FOR SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY REDUCTION**

**A. *Overall purpose and scope of the Capacity Development Initiative
under the Convention on Biological Diversity***

1. The overall purpose, to which the Capacity Development Initiative under the Convention on Biological Diversity will contribute, is to integrate biodiversity and ecosystem services considerations into broader development and poverty reduction processes at regional, national and subnational levels, through capacity development on environmental mainstreaming in developing countries. That will enable conditions for biodiversity conservation and the sustainable management of ecosystem services as a fundamental contribution to poverty reduction and development in developing countries.

2. The implementation of the Capacity Development Initiative under the Convention on Biological Diversity, will also contribute to the achievement of the vision, mission and strategic goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention on Biological Diversity and other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEA) beyond 2010 and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development including the Millennium Development Goals.

3. The Capacity Development Initiative focuses on addressing characteristics and problems that are specific to mainstreaming of the Convention's and other Multilateral Environmental Agreements' – objectives into broader development processes in developing countries.

4. Capacity-building services will be provided basically for the following target groups from the national, sub-national and regional level:

- (a) Policy-makers from various government sectors and departments;
- (b) Practitioners from relevant public, private and business sector, local communities and indigenous organizations;
- (c) Scientists and researchers from different disciplines.

5. The Initiative on capacity development under the Convention is intended to assist Parties in promoting regional collaboration for capacity development on mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services with targeted goals, objectives, and actions, with specific actors, timeframes, inputs, and expected measurable outputs. Parties and their regional organizations may select from, adapt, and/or add to, the goals and capacity-building contents suggested in the current Initiative according to their particular local, national and regional conditions. Implementation of this Initiative should take into account the ecosystem approach of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the main approach for building capacities will follow the methods of adaptive management and “learning by doing”.

B. *Programme elements, goals and capacity development contents and activities*

6. The overall goal of the Capacity Development Initiative under the Convention is: policy makers, practitioners and researchers are able to mainstream the Convention on Biological Diversity and other

multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) as a fundamental contribution for sustainable development and poverty reduction in their countries and regions.”

7. Capacity development is crucial to enhance the implementation of the Strategic Plan beyond 2010 under the Convention. It requires to work on the **science-policy interface**, as well as on the **policy-practice interface**, to translate and package emerging scientific knowledge, traditional knowledge, and evidence on best practices and lessons learned into policy and practice-relevant information facilitating informed decision-making and implementation.

8. The achievement of the capacity development overall goal will lead to the following specific outcomes:

(a) A more holistic and systemic recognition on the **fundamental interrelations and interdependences between biodiversity, ecosystem services and human well-being**, and on the full range of benefits and ecological limits that the environment offers for development and poverty reduction;

(b) A more **effective environmental governance approach** including the support to governance structures that help to enable and empower all groups to participate fully in decisions on resource and ecosystem-services usage and expanding effective governance practices – equivalently as described within and in accordance with the programme of work for protected areas - from protected areas to the whole land and seascape;

(c) A more **integrative and adaptive environmental planning approach** incorporating strategic measures for environmental sustainability into sectoral, spatial, and broader multi and cross-sectoral development and poverty reduction policies, programmes and strategies at the regional, national, and decentralized subnational level, in accordance with the mainstreaming guides and provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity for national biodiversity strategies and action plans;

(d) A more effective **environmental finance management system** based on national and external finance sources and investments in biodiversity and ecosystem services through public, market-based, and community-based mechanisms in accordance with the Strategy for Resource Mobilization and the programme of work on incentive measures of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

(e) A more effective **transfer, adaptation and generation of environmental technologies and innovations** aiming at solutions for sustainable management of biodiversity in practice in accordance with the programme of work on technology transfer, technological and scientific cooperation and its implementation strategy.

Programme element 1: Capacity development on (inter-)dependence between biodiversity, ecosystem services and human well-being:

Goal 1.1: Policy-makers, practitioners and researchers undertake a full scoping exercise, exploring fundamental interrelations between biodiversity, ecosystem services and human well-being and recognizing its implications for their own tasks.

That includes capacity-building contents 1.1.1 to 1.1.9 exploring answers to the following questions:

1.1.1 What are the inter-linkages and dependence of socio-economic processes from ecosystem goods and services? How could these affect economic growth, poverty reduction, resilience and vulnerability to natural disasters?

- 1.1.2 Does biodiversity conservation improve under conditions where ecosystems are managed to deliver a suite of ecosystem services sustainably over time? Under what management or policy conditions?
- 1.1.3 Which ecosystem services are especially required for the mitigation of and adaptation to global environmental change (e.g., regulating services such as cooling, maintenance of hydroclimatic processes, flood protection)? What are the characteristics of the ecosystems that provide these kinds of ecosystem services, and what is the probable degree of ecosystem integrity required for the conservation of these services?
- 1.1.4 How can ecosystems contribute to new forms of income? What are the primary ecosystem goods and services that a country needs to use and maintain, especially in terms of self-sufficiency and taking into account their ecological footprint? What are the costs and risks of not protecting them?
- 1.1.5 What are the main ecosystem goods and services that are both important to society and to economic development? Are economic activities depleting ecosystems beyond their resilience and hence beyond ecosystems renewal capacity? How can the usage of ecosystems goods and services be optimized in terms of sustainable “socio-economic development and in accordance with the principles of ecological economics? What kind of perspectives exist for sustainable development without any growth of resource and energy flow?
- 1.1.6 What tools and mechanisms exist to value and manage ecosystems services for socio-economic development and human well-being?
- 1.1.7 How can access to ecosystems goods and services be balanced to ensure sustainable livelihoods of poor and vulnerable communities and reducing their vulnerability against global (environmental) change impacts?
- 1.1.8 What are the potential win-win situations and trade-offs that can be put in practice between poor and vulnerable communities and development sectors? What vital ecosystem services need to be protected and equitably shared to secure the livelihoods of poor and vulnerable communities?
- 1.1.9 What tools and mechanisms exist to involve poor and vulnerable communities in decision-making processes and policy development?

***Goal 1.2:** Policy makers, practitioners and researchers explore, share and communicate scientific and traditional knowledge and best practices on **environmental governance** and recognize its implications to improve the performance of their own tasks*

That includes capacity-building contents 1.2.1 to 1.2.5:

- 1.2.1 To develop strategies, appropriate governance structures, multi-stakeholder platforms and legal frameworks to involve all concerned stakeholders for protected areas and the broader land and seascape: in fair and transparent negotiations of desired outcomes, paying attention to power imbalances and aiming to level the playing field by supporting less powerful groups to participate meaningfully; clarifying at the outset the limits of synergies and the possible trade-offs, as well as non-negotiable issues to maintain biodiversity and ecosystem services within and outside protected areas;
- 1.2.2 To negotiate acceptable win-win outcomes and/or trade-offs between biodiversity conservation, maintenance of ecosystem services, development and poverty reduction;
- 1.2.3 To communicate possible synergies and trade-offs in a transparent way to all stakeholders involved to lead to informed decisions;

- 1.2.4 To identify compensation mechanisms where trade-offs are necessary being aware that opportunity costs could vary and increase over time, especially in protected areas, as well as, in community and indigenous conserved areas (ICCAs);
- 1.2.5 To identify instruments and develop strategies to maintain social equity and peace including, if appropriate, conflict management and crisis prevention.

***Goal 1.3:** Policy makers, practitioners and researcher explore, share and communicate scientific and traditional knowledge and best practices on **environmental planning and management** and recognize the implications for better performance of their own tasks*

That includes capacity-building contents 1.3.1 to 1.3.4:

- 1.3.1 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 instruments) relevant to development and poverty reduction, in partnership with the so called “development community” and to adopt national biodiversity strategies and action plans with a focus on capacity development on mainstreaming among the different levels of the target audiences and stakeholder;
- 1.3.2 To integrate those environmental plans and strategies, including the national biodiversity strategies and action plans, into sectoral, spatial, decentralized and cross-sectoral or broader overarching planning processes such as Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRSPs), national, subnational, and regional sustainable development plans and strategies;
- 1.3.3 To implement and monitor those environmental components integrated in broader development plans, programmes and policies, including their financial provisions and respective budgeting processes;
- 1.3.4 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, subnational policies and local implementation.

***Goal 1.4:** Policy makers, practitioners and researchers explore, share and communicate scientific and traditional knowledge and best practices on **environmental finance management** and recognize its implications to improve the performance of their own tasks.*

The development of capacities of target groups (with emphasis on representatives from finance and economic ministries and departments) to identify and factor the wide range of financial and economic opportunities linked to biodiversity and ecosystem services building adequate environmental finance architectures in developing countries will include **capacity-building contents 1.4.1 to 1.4.9:**

- 1.4.1 To explore and identify multiple sources of revenue generated by the environmental sector at the national level (taxes, charges, payments or compensation schemes, benefits for ecosystem services, tourism etc.);
- 1.4.2 To explore potential revenue opportunities from international sources (international Overseas Development Assistance, international taxes, external private sector investments to reduce environmental foot print, international payments for ecosystem services, such as REDD+ and other carbon trade arrangements) through existing mechanisms, including general budget support (GBS), basket funding for sector wide or programme-based approaches, and the

CBD LifeWeb Initiative clearing-house as a means to strengthen financing from a diversity of sources, consistent with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness;

- 1.4.3 To elaborate a viable finance strategy for biodiversity and ecosystem services based on national and international finance mobilization;
- 1.4.4 To explore options and advantages of investments in ecosystem function or services (environmental infrastructure), that reduce costs (e.g., catchment restoration to restore water quality instead of industrial water treatment facilities);
- 1.4.5 To explore other still not yet recognized benefits and hidden values of biodiversity and associated ecosystem services (indirect socio-economic benefits linked to healthy ecosystems, supporting and regulating ecosystem services);
- 1.4.6 To explore opportunities to remove perverse incentives and reallocation of budget-lines in the context of financial policies aiming at sustainable management of biodiversity and ecosystem services;
- 1.4.7 To identify adequate ways and means for environmental fiscal reforms and payment for ecosystem services schemes at the national, subnational, and local level;
- 1.4.8 To reflect and monitor investments in biodiversity, ecosystem resilience, ecosystem restoration, and ecosystem services strategically within long- and mid-term expenditure frameworks (MTEF) and public environmental expenditure management and reviews (PEEM and PEER), with the use of existing clearing house mechanisms including the CBD LifeWeb Initiative; and
- 1.4.9 To identify opportunities for additional external co-finance arrangements with diversified external sources (ODA, GEF, general budget support, basket funding, etc).

Goal 1.5: Policy-makers, practitioners and researchers explore, share and communicate scientific and traditional knowledge and good practices on **environmental technologies and innovations**, and recognize its implications to improve the performance of their own tasks.

Policy solutions can fail due to technological constraints on the ground. Locally adapted innovations are often a particular result of combining traditional and local knowledge with modern science.

That includes capacity-building contents (CBC) 1.5.1 to 1.5.3:

- 1.5.1. To explore environmental technology in a broader economic context, recognizing its role for the performance of economic sectors in achieving better socio-economic outcomes like job creation, income generation, better safety nets, health care systems, education, etc.;
- 1.5.2. To explore how to produce with more resource efficiency, more sustainably within ecological limits and planetary boundaries;
- 1.5.3. To analyze specific supply chains, business and micro-entrepreneurs services, certification schemes, local arrangements for payment for ecosystem services, bio-trade arrangements and other negotiation patterns among stakeholders involved (from providers to end-consumers), as a contribution to fair trade, equitable benefit-sharing and poverty reduction.

Programme element 2: Organization of capacity development services, networking and knowledge management through South-South and North-South cooperation around regional nodes

Goal 2.1. Partnerships between providers of capacity development services, research institutes, and centres of excellence are organized around regional nodes and provide support according to their expertise.

The capacity development programme will organize its intervention mainly at the regional level with interested regional organizations serving their member States and grouping developing countries that experience significant challenges in managing their ecosystems at trans-boundary level and in the context of poverty reduction. The programme will expand its geographic and thematic coverage based on collaborative partnerships and available resources.

That includes activities 2.1.1 to 2.1.6:

- 2.1.1 Regional organizations³ facilitate relations between providers and users of capacity development services from the national, regional and global level;
- 2.1.2 Regional organizations facilitate the establishment of a regional multi-stakeholder platform for research, knowledge management and capacity development on biodiversity and ecosystem services;
- 2.1.3 Regional organizations facilitate formal and informal south-south and north-south cooperation on research, exchange of experiences, and capacity development;
- 2.1.4 Regional organizations facilitate the elaboration of proposals for fundraising;
- 2.1.5 Parties and their regional organizations maintain the capacity development process closely coordinated and synchronized with the Initiative on intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services (IPBES) and with the implementation process of the multi-year-plan of south-south cooperation on biodiversity for development;
- 2.1.6 Parties and their regional organizations promote synergies between the various multilateral environmental agreements and avoid unnecessary duplications among the different capacity development and research initiatives.

Goal 2.2: Regional clearing-house mechanism on biodiversity and ecosystem services for development and poverty reduction are developed

Activities are in accordance with the existing provisions of the Conference of the Parties for the clearing-house mechanism **and include activities 2.2.1 to 2.2.6:**

- 2.2.1 Parties, their regional organizations and regional centres of excellence establish or further develop regional and national clearing-house mechanisms with user-friendly and comprehensive web portals and addressing capacity-building needs of regional and national target groups;
- 2.2.2 Scientists, researchers and practitioners within the regions explore to what extent biodiversity is a determinant for the maintenance of ecosystem services and ecosystem resilience, in

³ Regional organizations could include among others, SADC, ECOWAS, COMIFAC, CEMAC, IGAD, Arab League, Arab Maghreb Union, SGCAN, ACTO, MERCOSUR, Central American Parliament, CARICOM, ASEAN, SAAR, SIDS, CIS, etc.

particular identifying the conditions under which biodiversity conservation may result from mechanisms of payments or compensation for ecosystem services;

- 2.2.3 Scientists, researchers and practitioners within the regions develop more trans-disciplinary, systemic and holistic approaches on knowledge generation and paradigms for informed decision making aiming at sustainability within development and poverty reduction policies, programmes and strategies;
- 2.2.4 Regional organization compile information from the region on implementation of the strategic plan of the Convention on Biological Diversity and other multilateral agreements, and analyse progress made towards capacity development and effective mainstreaming of biodiversity and ecosystem services into broader development and poverty reduction processes at the national and regional level;
- 2.2.5 Parties and their regional organizations regularly gather and share information on the characteristics and problems that are specific to mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services at the regional, national and sub-national level;
- 2.2.6 Parties collect, review, evaluate and share, in collaboration with other relevant conventions and organizations and through the clearing-house mechanism and other means, existing information about the role of biodiversity and ecosystem services for development and poverty reduction;
- 2.2.7 Parties and their regional organization use the clearing-house mechanism for multiple purposes in the context of South-South and North-South cooperation, such as financing, (e.g. CBD LifeWeb Initiative for financing protected areas), research, technology transfer and adaptation, online training, reporting and monitoring and case-study database, among others.

Goal 2.3: Appropriate means and measures are taken to improve national and regional communication, education and public awareness (CEPA) strategies on biodiversity and ecosystem services for human well-being

Activities are in accordance with the programme of work for communication, education and public awareness (CEPA), and in particular, in harmony with the short-list of priority activities, as outlined in decision VIII/6 and re-affirmed in decision IX/32.

- 2.3.1 Parties and their regional organizations establish an implementation structure or process around regional nodes for integrating CEPA into capacity development and policy making, and use the structure to assess the state of knowledge and awareness on biodiversity and communication capacity;
- 2.3.2 Parties and their regional organizations develop a media relations strategy, including the creation of key messages regarding the role of biodiversity and ecosystem services in supporting human well-being, the ecosystem approach and its application, and the successes in mainstreaming and implementing the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity;
- 2.3.3 Parties and their regional organizations develop tools and processes for capacity-development for CEPA including toolkits and workshops. The workshops should not only be stand-alone activities for CEPA, but also modules that can be integrated into capacity development for mainstreaming other activities and instruments, such as national biodiversity strategies and

action plans, national reports and other activities related to implementation of the Convention;

- 2.3.4 Parties and their regional organizations work with a variety of actors to mainstream biodiversity into education and learning processes, including formal, non-formal and informal contexts and the relevant actors for each of these. Wherever possible, the products and curricula should be linked to the activities of the Decade for Education for Sustainable Development.

Supporting activities of the Executive Secretary

(a) Promote and where necessary coordinate the development of the initiative in collaboration with relevant partners;

(b) Assist Parties, regional networks, relevant organizations and mechanisms, in developing the initiative and, as relevant and appropriate, in testing approaches on a trial basis;

(c) Ensure that the full range of biodiversity and ecosystem services considerations are taken into account within the initiative and that it is responsive to the objectives of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;

(d) Promote, through the clearing house mechanism and other appropriate means, the sharing of knowledge and experience and communication and awareness to support a multi-stakeholder dialogue on the needs of and options for the initiative;

(e) Assist Parties and their regional bodies to establish partnerships and institutional arrangements catalysing triangular cooperation (South-South and North-South cooperation) for capacity development around regional nodes;

(f) Provide existing, and develop further as necessary, sectoral and cross-sectoral tools and best practice guides on biodiversity and ecosystem services for key stakeholders including packaging the relevant findings and lessons learned from the implementation of the programmes of work of the Convention as user-friendly and policy-relevant information for addressing the capacity-building needs of various target groups;

(g) Support Parties and regional organizations in fund-raising and further engagement of technical assistance for capacity development efforts at the regional and national levels; and

(h) Report on progress in the above activities and prepare, in collaboration with partners and subject to resource availability, further draft objectives, goals, elements and activities of the initiative for capacity development on mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services for poverty reduction for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting.
