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

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BIODIVERSITY AND DEVELOPMENT: REPORT OF THE EXPERT MEETING ON BIODIVERSITY FOR POVERTY ERADICATION AND DEVELOPMENT

*Note by the Executive Secretary***

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The present note is intended to present to the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention a summary of the report of the outcome of the first meeting of the Expert Group on Biodiversity for Poverty Eradication and Development, held in Dehradun, India, from 12 to 15 December 2011. Section I provides the background to the convening of the meeting and the Group's mandate, Section II gives an overview of the main issues addressed and the outcomes of the meeting, annex I contains the "Dehradun Recommendations"; arising out of the meeting, and annex II contains an executive summary of the analysis of the Expert Group on the root causes of, and inter-linkages between, biodiversity loss and poverty."

SUGGESTED RECOMMENDATIONS

The Ad Hoc Open Ended Working Group on the Review of Implementation of the Convention

1. *Welcomes* the information contained in the proceedings of the Meeting of the Expert Group on Biodiversity for Poverty Eradication Development including the analysis of the root causes of, and inter-linkages between biodiversity loss and poverty;¹
2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to invite Parties to express their views regarding the "Dehradun Recommendations" as contained in the annex below, taking into consideration the Rio+20 outcomes, and submit a synthesis for consideration by the eleventh meeting of the Conference of Parties;

* UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/4/1.

** This document was reviewed by the COP Bureau at its meeting on 5 April 2012. Following the guidance provided by the COP Bureau, the ADVANCE COPY posted earlier was revised and re-posted for consideration of the Working Group on Review of Implementation at its fourth meeting.

¹ UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/4/INF/11.

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The Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention may wish to recommend the Conference of the Parties to consider adopting a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Calls upon* all partners and stakeholders involved in biodiversity and development processes and programmes to take into account this information² in their related plans, policies and actions and in implementation of related programmes;³

2. *Endorses* the “Dehradun Recommendations” taking into account the submissions by Parties, discussions at the fourth meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation and the Rio+20 outcomes;

3. *Requests* that the Expert Group on Biodiversity for Poverty Eradication and Development continue its work to move towards a road map for action and implementation and assure strong linkages with the processes under the United Nations Development Assistance Framework to contribute fully to the achievement of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets, with active engagement of development actors and stakeholders (governments, sector ministries, implementation agencies and other target groups such as policy-makers, practitioners, scientist, private sector, media, education or other relevant stakeholders) subject to the availability of financial resources.

² The executive summary of *The Root Causes of, and Inter-linkages between, Biodiversity Loss and Poverty* is located in annex II to the present note, and the full report is being made available as an information document (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/4/INF/11).

³ Noting for example the UNDP-UNEP Poverty and Environment Initiative (PEI) <http://www.unpei.org/>, the UNEP ecosystem management subprogramme: <http://www.unep.org/ecosystemmanagement/>, the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) Task Team on Environmental Sustainability Climate Change and Rio+20: <http://www.undg.org/index.cfm?P=1050>.

I. BACKGROUND

1. Since 2008, with funding from Germany, Japan and France, and with in-kind support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the CBD Secretariat organized activities, published technical guidance and established partnerships to facilitate the integration of biodiversity into poverty eradication and development processes, with technical support from UNEP-WCMC, IIED and others.

2. In decision X/6, paragraph 14, on the integration of biodiversity into poverty eradication and development, the Conference of the Parties decided to establish an Expert Group on Biodiversity for Poverty Eradication and Development in recognition of the urgent need to improve capacity for mainstreaming the three objectives of the Convention into poverty eradication strategies and development processes.

3. Accordingly, the Expert Group Meeting on Biodiversity for Poverty Eradication and Development, hosted by India through its Ministry of Environment and Forests, was held from 12 to 15 December 2011 at the Indian Council of Forest Research and Education in Dehradun, India. The meeting was organized by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, co-hosted by the Indian Ministry of Environment and supported through generous financial contributions from Japan, Germany and France.

II. OVERVIEW OF THE ISSUES ADDRESSED AND THE OUTCOMES OF THE DISCUSSIONS AT THE MEETING

4. The Expert Group meeting generated the following outcomes:

- (a) The “Dehradun Recommendations” for capacity development (see annex I below);
- (b) An information document⁴ containing:
 - (i) The meeting’s proceedings;
 - (ii) The full text of *The Root Causes of, and Inter-linkages between, Biodiversity Loss and Poverty*; and
 - (iii) A compilation of the results of the participant’s group work at the meeting.

5. Discussions held during the meeting focused on four main themes:

- (a) Integration of biodiversity into poverty eradication and development,
- (b) Value of biodiversity and ecosystem services for poverty eradication and development;
- (c) Capacity development;
- (d) Monitoring biodiversity and ecosystem services for poverty eradication and development.

6. Each of these themes is summarized below, and the outcomes of the discussions are specifically addressed in the Dehradun Recommendations above including specific requests to the Executive Secretary.

A. *Integration of biodiversity into poverty eradication and development*

7. A number of the root causes of poverty are linked to biodiversity. However, these are multiple and diverse, and cannot be aggregated up to a simple cause effect relationship at the global level. All of humankind depends on biodiversity and ecosystem services, but the poor are the most directly dependent. Therefore, loss of biodiversity increases the vulnerability of the poor, while enriching biodiversity and the resulting ecosystem services using appropriate governance mechanisms can contribute to poverty eradication. This potential will only be realized, however, if biodiversity is successfully “mainstreamed”.⁵

⁴UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/4/INF/11.

⁵ Mainstreaming is the iterative process of integrating a concept or process into “policymaking, budgeting and implementation processes at national, sector and subnational levels. It is a multi-year, multi-stakeholder effort that entails working with government actors (head of state’s office, environment, finance and planning bodies, sector and sub-national bodies, political parties and parliament, national statistics office and judicial system), non-governmental actors (civil society, academia, business

Some countries have already mainstreamed biodiversity and ecosystem services into national planning and budgetary strategies as well as poverty-eradication processes, others have ensured that conservation strategies do not hinder community development or citizen well-being.

8. Essentially, mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services into poverty eradication and development processes requires: (i) better dialogue between environment and development communities at the national and international level, (ii) better integration of national and international biodiversity and development agendas, and (iii) vertical coordination and coherence between global and regional agreements, national policies and local implementation.

B. Value of biodiversity and ecosystem services for poverty eradication and development

9. Biodiversity and ecosystem services are largely freely available public goods. Consequently they are often under-valued and over-exploited. The valuation of biodiversity and ecosystem services has the potential to incentivise their better management and hence lead to increased sustainable development and improved livelihoods. A critical step to integrating biodiversity and ecosystem services into poverty eradication and development processes is to improve the knowledge of the spiritual, cultural, social, and monetary value of biodiversity at all levels of government and civil society. While crucial, the valuation of biodiversity must be carefully undertaken, *inter alia* to ensure it is not under-valued, to make sure the valuation process takes into account different peoples perspectives and priorities and to facilitate the management of trade-offs. All appropriate safeguards must be put into place to ensure that development projects, processes, mechanisms, initiatives and policies sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystem services. Once the value of biodiversity and ecosystem services are realised, powerful actors seek to appropriate them and hence there are potentially negative consequences for poor people. Therefore, safeguards also need to be included in the design of policies and projects for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity to ensure that the customary and traditional user rights of all stakeholders are taken into account and protected.

C. Capacity development

10. Capacity development⁶ is critical to ensure successful mainstreaming. This includes developing the capacity (skills, systems, resources etc) of individuals and organizations, developing cooperation among organizations and networks; and developing the appropriate frameworks that support capacity development.⁷ Meeting participants proposed that the documentation, presentations, and reports of the Expert Group Meeting should be considered as a component of a capacity development framework for mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services into poverty eradication and development processes.⁸ There is a great need to determine what capacity is needed and how it can be developed in practice. In this context, lessons and experiences can be shared at the subregional level.

D. Monitoring biodiversity and ecosystem services for poverty eradication and development

11. Implementing new or improved methods for monitoring how biodiversity and ecosystem services are related to poverty eradication and development is critical to an effective mainstreaming process. Monitoring can provide an opportunity for a country or organization to measure its current level of

and industry, general public and communities, and the media) and development actors” (UNPEI, 2009. *Mainstreaming poverty-environment linkages into development planning: a handbook for practitioners*, Earthprint)

⁶ Capacity development is: “The process through which individuals, organizations and societies obtain, strengthen and maintain their capabilities to set and achieve their own development objectives over time. Components of capacity include skills, systems, structures, processes, values, resources and powers that together, confer a range of political, managerial and technical capabilities”(UNDP, *Practitioner’s Guide: Capacity Development for Environmental Sustainability, Group* (New York, NY, 2011), [http://www.beta.undp.org/content/dam/aplaws/publication/en/publications/environment-energy/www-ee-library/mainstreaming/cdes/UNDP Practitioner%27s GuideWEB.pdf](http://www.beta.undp.org/content/dam/aplaws/publication/en/publications/environment-energy/www-ee-library/mainstreaming/cdes/UNDP%20Practitioner%27s%20GuideWEB.pdf).)

⁷Capacity development for cooperation and network systems aims to develop and strengthen cooperation between organizations and networks for knowledge exchange, coordination and co-production whereas system development in the policy field aims to build legal, political and socioeconomic frameworks conducive to capacity development.

⁸ All documentation, presentations, and reports are available at <http://www.cbd.int/development/EGMBPED/>

mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services into poverty eradication and development, to set future goals, and to objectively measure progress. Monitoring supports the evidence base for mainstreaming but is also a necessary part of a capacity development strategy.

*Annex I***DEHRADUN RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Expert Group on Biodiversity for Poverty Eradication and Development,

Recalling decision X/6 on “Integration of biodiversity into poverty eradication and development” from the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD, 18-29, October 2010,

Recalling the eight Millennium Development Goals adopted in 2000 at the Millennium Summit⁹, the objectives and Articles of the Convention, the twenty Aichi Biodiversity Targets of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020¹⁰ adopted at the tenth conference of the Parties, and the United Nations Decade of Biodiversity,

Recognizing the potential of all three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Articles (particularly 8(j), 10(c), and 15, paragraph 7), as well as the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in significantly contributing to specific dimensions of poverty such as lack of income, lack of participation in decision-making, lack of access to education and lack of access to capacity building initiatives,

Recognizing the clear linkages between gender equity, poverty alleviation and the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity,

Recognizing the need, within the context of education, to promote sound income distribution in fiscal policies and programmes as well as wider efforts to improve basic and secondary education coverage and quality,

Recognizing the on-going work being done to advance in the design of Sustainable Development Goals for consideration by the United Nations Conference on Sustainability as input for the post-2015 Goals,

Recognizing the urgent need to improve knowledge, through monitoring and indicator development, the value¹¹ of biodiversity and ecosystem services particularly in the context of poverty and development processes,

Recognizing the need for increased capacity for mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services into poverty eradication and development processes at all levels and for all actors,

Recognizing the root causes of poverty that are possibly linked to biodiversity loss, and the advantages of integrating biodiversity into poverty eradication and development and vice versa as identified by the Expert Group on Biodiversity for Poverty Eradication and Development,

Aware of the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation from the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness,

Integration of biodiversity into poverty eradication and development

1. *Requests* Parties to safeguard universal Human Rights, particularly regarding the most marginal populations, indigenous peoples and local communities, while developing and implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs);

2. *Requests* Parties, international agencies and organizations to take into account the contributions of biodiversity and ecosystem services to human wellbeing, while developing policies, spatial planning and investment programs;

⁹ <http://www.un.org/millennium/>

¹⁰ <http://www.cbd.int/sp/>

¹¹ Spiritual, cultural, social, and monetary value

3. *Requests* Parties, international agencies and organizations, building on the lessons learnt and acquired experience of existing environmental mainstreaming experiences, to integrate biodiversity and ecosystem services into poverty eradication and development processes at all levels by:

(a) Integrating poverty and development concerns into national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) other appropriate plans, policies and programmes;

(b) Integrating biodiversity and ecosystem services into national accounting systems (beyond Gross Domestic Product-based approaches), national and sectoral development plans, and their implementation (e.g., through programme and project level impact assessments).

(c) Assuring implementation of relevant technical cooperation through engagement with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) revision process within the timeframe of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011-2020);

(d) Promoting transparent, accountable and inclusive intersectoral collaboration and information sharing between government agencies and other stakeholders by clearly defining stakeholders rights to access and control of biodiversity and ecosystem services;

(e) Avoiding as much possible negatively affecting poor and vulnerable people through ecosystem and biodiversity conservation and where this is not possible, provide fair and equitable compensation for poor and vulnerable people affected - including compensation for limited development opportunities, lack of access and loss of life, property and crops from wildlife damage;

4. *Encourages* Parties and international agencies and organizations, including Multilateral Development Banks, Development Cooperation Agencies, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), to use multi-stakeholder platforms and strategic environment assessments to promote:

(a) Sustainable biotrade (trade in biodiversity-based products and services) that provides opportunities for poverty reduction including up-scaling the existing Capacity Building for Biotrade programme; and

(b) Integration of biodiversity, ecosystem services and poverty eradication considerations into sustainable national product supply chains and value addition processes.

5. *Encourages* international organizations including Multilateral Development Banks, Development Cooperation Agencies, and the UNDP, to integrate biodiversity and ecosystem services into poverty eradication and development processes including within development cooperation strategies including United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs) and multilateral and bilateral country assistance strategies;

Value of biodiversity and ecosystem services for poverty eradication and development

6. *Requests* Parties and international agencies and organizations to assess the economic and non-economic value of biodiversity and ecosystem services for poverty eradication and development while taking into account the work of The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB), the Wealth Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services (WAVES), and the outcomes of the Quito Seminar on Scaling up Biodiversity Finance¹² and to integrate that value into national accounting systems and economic decision-making;

7. *Requests* Parties and international agencies and organizations to carefully assess potential opportunities and risks of placing an economic value to biodiversity and ecosystem services, specifically to:

¹² <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/fin/ds-fb-01/information/ds-fb-01-background-en.doc>

(a) Use the opportunities offered by the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing, payments for ecosystem services schemes, and other biodiversity-related market based mechanisms to address poverty and strengthen livelihoods;

(b) Assess the risks and externalities, as well as to design measures to avoid and mitigate adverse pressures of development, such as the distributional implications of market based mechanisms, on biodiversity and ecosystem services;

8. *Calls upon* Parties and international agencies and organizations to identify and promote conservation and/or development policies, activities, projects and mechanisms which empower women, indigenous and local communities and the poor, marginalised and vulnerable, who depend directly on biodiversity and ecosystem services for their livelihoods.

9. *Requests* Parties and international agencies and organizations, to promote an enabling environment for the valuation of both economic and non-economic aspects of biodiversity and ecosystem services for poverty eradication and development processes:

(a) Ensuring all relevant stakeholders are able to participate in a transparent and accountable process of designing and implementing of market based mechanisms for biodiversity and ecosystem services to address poverty reduction and development objectives;

(b) Establishing appropriate systems to encourage the responsible and sustainable use of biodiversity by the private sector that has a direct bearing on poverty reduction, *inter alia*: incentives and disincentives, compliance and enforcement mechanisms and capacity development of stakeholders; and

(c) Encouraging multilateral and regional development banks to include biodiversity and ecosystem services criteria to their operational and lending practices.

Capacity development

10. *Calls upon* Parties and international agencies and organizations, to develop or strengthen the capacity of individuals, organizations as well as to create an enabling environment to effectively value biodiversity and ecosystem services as well as their integration into poverty eradication and development processes by:

(a) Highlighting and developing the necessary economic, negotiating, management and accounting skills of all relevant actors (planning, budgeting, and other related sectors) and involving them in the designing, implementation and monitoring of capacity development programs for valuation of biodiversity and ecosystem services for integration into poverty eradication and development processes;

(b) Promoting cross country learning groups, South-South cooperation networks, and the clearing house mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity for capacity development at all levels; and

(c) Encouraging all relevant partners including United Nations agencies, bilateral development cooperation agencies and multilateral development banks to promote and effectively implement capacity development programmes at local, national and regional levels;

11. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility and other funding agencies to provide financial support to regional or sub-regional initiatives for learning and capacity development frameworks on biodiversity, poverty and development and mainstreaming;

Monitoring biodiversity and ecosystem services for poverty eradication and development

12. *Requests* Parties to adapt and integrate existing poverty and development priorities and indicators into their revised national biodiversity strategies and action plans, as well into local and regional biodiversity plans and strategies;

13. *Encourages* Parties to monitor progress on valuation of biodiversity and ecosystem services as well as its integration into poverty eradication and development processes by using the

biodiversity indicators established by the processes under the Convention on Biological Diversity, as well as the indicators used in the Millennium Development Goals, the Rio Markers, or any other relevant indexes;

14. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to:

(a) Ensure effective mainstreaming of poverty eradication and development concerns into all of the Convention's programmes of work, taking into account among others the results from the assessment conducted by the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)¹³ on behalf of the Convention's Biodiversity for Development Initiative;

(b) Incorporate reporting on mainstreaming biodiversity for poverty eradication and development into the national reporting format under the Convention on Biological Diversity using the appropriate indicators;

(c) Collaborate with the UNDP, UNEP (including UNEP-WCMC), the Poverty Environment Initiative (PEI), International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) and other relevant organizations, to ensure that appropriate capacity development packages for mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services into poverty eradication and development processes are developed and implemented; and

(d) Explore with the UNDP, UNEP, PEI, IIED, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and other relevant agencies and organizations, to promote development of toolkits and guidance material designed for national and local governments, as well as international partners, for integrating poverty eradication and development concerns into local, regional and national biodiversity strategies and action plans and facilitate that all Government agencies and sectors are involved in its preparation and implementation.

¹³ www.cbd.int/development/doc/cbd-pow-poverty-en.pdf

*Annex II***THE ROOT CAUSES OF, AND INTERLINKAGES BETWEEN, BIODIVERSITY LOSS AND POVERTY (EXECUTIVE SUMMARY)¹⁴**

1. In response to the terms of reference of the Expert Group on Biodiversity for Poverty Eradication and Development¹⁵, this executive summary aims to provide a better understanding of the common root causes of biodiversity loss and poverty as well as of the existing inter-linkages between them. This knowledge is a prerequisite for the targeted mainstreaming called for specifically in decisions X/6¹⁶ and X/2¹⁷ as well as generally throughout the Convention process.
2. Ultimately all people, poor and rich, depend on ecosystem services and biodiversity for their subsistence needs. However, the poor are disproportionately dependant on ecosystem services and biodiversity to generate income and provide insurance against risk.
3. In most cases, economic development generates some unavoidable biodiversity loss. Even if biodiversity has been previously degraded, win-win outcomes for poverty reduction and sustainable biodiversity use are possible through activities and policies such as green economic transitions, ecosystem restoration, and many others. Some countries achieve development goals through the sustainable use of biodiversity and can serve as positive examples to minimize the negative impacts development has on biodiversity.
4. Care should be taken to ensure that the costs of the strict protection of biodiversity are not borne by the poor and vulnerable. Specifically, safeguards should be included in the design of conservation policy and projects to ensure that poor people are not made worse off or their customary and traditional user rights infringed upon.
5. If the conversion of natural ecosystems is unavoidable to meet human needs the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem functions should be mitigated by transforming the land into sustainable and intensive production systems. The loss of capability to produce biomass (degradation) should be prevented at all cost.
6. Many management decisions affecting biodiversity and ecosystem services are made at the local level and these decisions are influenced by sector, national and international policies. These local management decisions provide clear opportunities to mainstream biodiversity in ways that can support poverty reduction.
7. There are many opportunities for projects and policies to generate win-win outcomes for poverty reduction and the sustainable use of biodiversity yet, negative impacts could be generated if projects or policies are poorly managed or implemented. A major challenge is to ensure that successful policies on poverty reduction and the sustainable use of biodiversity are consistently implemented across sectors, scales and policy domains.
8. A significant body of knowledge has accumulated on environmental mainstreaming. Far fewer tools have been developed on mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services into poverty eradication and development processes. Very valuable guidance for current and future work on mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services could be derived from lessons learnt from previous mainstreaming efforts, specifically poverty-environment mainstreaming.

¹⁴ UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/INF/11.

¹⁵ Decision X/6.

¹⁶ Integration of biodiversity into poverty eradication and development.

¹⁷ The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.