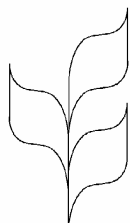




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Item 3.2 of the provisional agenda*

**PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMMES OF WORK ON
CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES**

Note by the Executive Secretary

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The present note has been prepared by the Executive Secretary to provide a brief report on progress in the implementation of the work programmes on cross-cutting issues under the Convention since the last report submitted to the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting, in April 2002 (UNEP/CBD/COP/6/12 and Add. 1-4). The cross-cutting issues considered are:

- (a) Identification, monitoring, indicators and assessment;
- (b) Global Taxonomy Initiative;
- (c) Global Strategy for Plant Conservation;
- (d) Ecosystem approach;
- (e) Sustainable use;
- (f) Biological diversity and tourism;
- (g) Incentive measures;
- (h) Cooperation with other organizations, initiatives, and conventions; and

* UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/8/1.

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- (i) Alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats and species.

The present note has been prepared for reporting purposes only, as any substantive issues and recommendations relating to the crossing-cutting issues concerned are presented in the other relevant working documents for the eighth meeting of the Subsidiary Body (see UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/8/1/Add.1, annex II).

SUGGESTED RECOMMENDATION

The SBSTTA may wish to take note of the progress report on the implementation of the programmes of work on cross-cutting issues.

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PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMMES OF WORK ON CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

A. *Identification, monitoring, indicators and assessment (decisions VI/7 A, B and C)*

Impact assessment

1. In paragraph 3 of decision VI/7 A, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to:

(a) Compile and disseminate, through the clearing-house mechanism and other means of communication, current experiences in environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment procedures that incorporate biodiversity-related issues, as well as experiences of Parties in applying the guidelines for incorporating biodiversity-related issues into environmental impact assessment legislation or processes and in strategic environmental assessment;

(b) Prepare, in collaboration with relevant organizations, in particular the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA), proposals for further development and refinement of the guidelines; and

(c) Provide a report of this work to the SBSTTA prior to the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

2. In response to this decision, the following activities were carried out:

(a) *Participation in Conference of the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA)*. The Secretariat attended the 22nd Annual Conference of the IAIA on Assessing the Impact of Impact Assessment, held from 15 to 21 June 2002 in The Hague, and contributed to the discussions during the Biodiversity and Ecology Group workshop;

(b) *Compilation and dissemination of information*. The Secretariat has informally requested the members of the Biodiversity and Ecology Group of the International Association for Impact Assessment to submit relevant case-studies that incorporate biodiversity issues into environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment. In response, a few case-studies have been received to date. By mid-November, the Secretariat is planning to formally request the members of the International Association for Impact Assessment, as well as the national focal points, to submit case-studies and impact assessment reports. In addition, preparations are under way to set up an electronic forum for the efficient exchange of views and information;

(c) *Cooperation with IAIA on the development and refinement of impact assessment guidelines*. A Memorandum of Cooperation between the Secretariat of the Convention and the IAIA was signed on 15 August 2002 in order to prepare proposals for introducing biodiversity considerations in all stages of impact assessment, taking into account the ecosystem approach;

(d) *Report to SBSTTA and the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties*. Impact assessment will be considered at the ninth meeting of SBSTTA in November 2003.

Indicators

3. In its decision VI/7 B, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to:

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- (a) Report on the development and use of indicators in all thematic areas and cross-cutting issues to SBSTTA prior to the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (paragraph 1);
- (b) Urge the Parties that have not yet done so to respond to the questionnaire on the subject of indicators that was sent in May 2001 so as to update the analysis (paragraph 2);
- (c) Convene a technical expert meeting to further develop the three annexes on ongoing work on indicators on the following issues (paragraph 3):
 - (i) Principles for developing national-level monitoring and indicators;
 - (ii) A set of standard questions for developing national-level indicators; and
 - (iii) A list of available and potential indicators based on a conceptual framework that has qualitative and quantitative approach. In developing the list of indicators, mention was made of the need for harmonization and collaboration with regional and international initiatives, *inter alia*, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the Pan-European processes, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) (paragraph 4 (d)); and
- (d) Report to a SBSTTA meeting prior to seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (paragraph 4).

4. In response to this decision, the following activities were carried out:

(a) *Indicators questionnaire.* In mid-October, a notification was sent to the national focal points of the Parties that have not yet responded to the May 2001 questionnaire. The Secretariat is planning on updating the analysis based on additional responses received, as well as using this information for preparing background documents for upcoming meetings on biodiversity indicators. No additional responses have been received as of 31 October 2002;

(b) *Informal consultations with representatives of the Government of the Netherlands.* During the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Secretariat held informal meetings with representatives of the Government of the Netherlands to explore how the Netherlands can further assist the Executive Secretary in preparing documents on a number of issues including on monitoring and indicators for the ninth meeting of SBSTTA and the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties. A letter of intent is being prepared containing a list of possible joint activities including in the areas of monitoring and the development of indicators;

(c) *Expert group meeting.* In light of the discussion on targets at the recent World Summit on Sustainable Development, consideration is given to hold an expert group meeting at the end of 2002. Preparations for this meeting have been initiated;

(d) *Ad hoc expert group meetings on climate change and biodiversity and on biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands.* Issues pertaining to biodiversity indicators were discussed and reported during the second meetings of the ad hoc technical expert groups on both climate change and biodiversity and the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands, held in September 2002;

(e) *Participation in 33rd meeting of the Working Group on Environmental Information and Outlooks (WGEIO).* The Secretariat participated in the 33rd meeting of the Working Group on

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Environmental Information and Outlooks (WGEIO) organized by the OECD in Paris from 16 to 18 October 2002), which held a special session on national and international approaches to the development of biodiversity indicators. The Secretariat delivered a short presentation outlining decision VI/7 B and sought collaboration with the participating OECD member States, as well as international organizations present. In addition, the global targets for the year 2010 from the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (decision VI/9) were introduced during the meeting;

(f) *Discussions with the Ramsar Bureau on harmonized criteria.* In the framework of harmonizing criteria for the identification of inland water biodiversity important for conservation and sustainable use (paragraph 12 in annex of decision IV/4) discussions are being held with the Ramsar Bureau on criteria and indicators;

(g) *Collaboration within the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF).* In response to decision VI/22, paragraph 19 (b), the Secretariat and the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) have identified common elements in the proposals for action of the International Forum on Forests/International Panel on Forests and the programme of work of the Convention on Biological Diversity on forest biological diversity. In UNFF element 7 on criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management, activity 4 involves developing, refining, disseminating and using criteria and indicators for the assessment and prediction of the status and trends of, and threats to, components of forest biodiversity important for conservation and sustainable use. Moreover, activity 9 C pertains to identifying key structural ecosystem elements to be used as indicators for decision-making;

(h) *Biodiversity Indicators for National Use (BINU).* The Secretariat is participating in the GEF-funded medium-sized project coordinated by UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) on Biodiversity Indicators for National Use (BINU) as a member of the Steering Committee. In a telephone conference held on 11 October 2002, progress was reviewed on this initiative designed to test the development of indicator frameworks for forests, agricultural land, inland waters and marine and coastal areas in four participating countries (Ecuador, Kenya, Philippines, and Ukraine);

(i) *Report to a SBSTTA meeting prior to the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.* Work on monitoring and indicators will be considered at the ninth meeting of SBSTTA in November 2003.

Scientific assessments

5. Decision VI/7 C of the Conference of the Parties encouraged the Executive Secretary to facilitate the development and implementation of the assessment of the status of the world's protected areas, in close collaboration with the UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) and IUCN.

6. In response to this decision, the following activities were carried out:

(a) *Preparation of documents on protected areas.* The Secretariat reviewed relevant documents and commissioned WCMC to prepare documents on protected areas. IUCN and WCMC have contributed to the work on marine and coastal protected areas. In addition, a representative from the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) visited the Secretariat in July to facilitate preparations for the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, when protected areas will be discussed as one of the main themes;

(b) *Participation in World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA).* A representative of the Convention Secretariat attended the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) Steering Committee meeting held in Durban, South Africa, from 28 October to 2 November 2002 in preparation for

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the fifth World Congress on Protected Areas scheduled in September 2003 to promote synergy between WCPA activities and the future work plan on protected areas of the Convention;

(c) *Letter on relevant decisions sent to various organizations.* The Executive Secretary sent letters to a number of organizations outlining relevant decisions adopted at the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties dealing with identification, monitoring, indicators and assessments of biological diversity.

B. Global Taxonomy Initiative (decision VI/8)

7. In decisions IV/1 D, V/9 and VI/8, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to:

(a) Encourage the involvement of existing national, regional, subregional and global initiatives to support Parties, Governments and relevant organizations in carrying out the programme of work of the Global Taxonomy Initiative (decision VI/8, paragraph 3);

(b) Coordinate activities with other existing initiatives, such as the Global Biodiversity Information Facility and the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity (decision VI/8, paragraph 4);

(c) Initiate regional meetings of scientists, managers and policy makers to prioritize the most urgent global taxonomic needs (paragraph 3 (b) of decision V/9, paragraph 3 of decision VI/8 and planned activities 2 and 3 of the Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI) programme of work endorsed by decision VI/8);

(d) Establish mechanisms to use the Global Taxonomy Initiative as a forum to promote the importance of taxonomy and taxonomic tools in the implementation of the Convention (paragraph 3 (d) of decision V/9);

(e) Coordinate activities of the Global Taxonomy Initiative with existing initiatives such as the Global Biodiversity Information Facility and the clearing-house mechanism (paragraph 4 of decision VI/8); and

(f) Complete the guide to the Global Taxonomy Initiative (paragraph 5 of decision VI/8).

8. In response to this request, the Executive Secretary carried out the following:

(a) *Promotion of the GTI.* The Executive Secretary has sent letters to relevant national, regional, subregional and global organizations and initiatives encouraging them to assist in the implementation of the Global Taxonomy Initiative. Presentations on the GTI have been made to a number of national and international organizations and initiatives and at international meetings and conferences. A poster on the programme of work was prepared for use at key meetings. The Secretariat participated in a meeting of a technical cooperation network for taxonomic capacity building in East Asia (EASIANET, a Locally Organized and Operated Partnership (LOOP) of BioNET INTERNATIONAL, comprising Japan, China, Mongolia and potentially the Republic of Korea and the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea), continuing earlier work in their original formulation to *inter alia* assist in the implementation of the Global Taxonomy Initiative programme of work. The Secretariat also participated in formulation workshops for two other proposed technical cooperation network for taxonomic capacity building organised by BioNET INTERNATIONAL, one in North Africa (Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Morocco, and Mauritania) and the other in the Andean region (Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia), facilitating their capacity to assist in the implementation of the GTI programme of work;

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(b) *Coordination of activities with Global Biodiversity Information Facility and the clearing-house mechanism.* Collaboration has continued between the GTI, the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention, the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) and other initiatives, as listed in the programme of work. The Global Taxonomy Initiative and the clearing-house mechanism participated in the GBIF scientific and technical advisory group on Outreach and Capacity Building (Australia, 14-17 July 2002). The GTI participated in the outreach and capacity building science subcommittee meeting in Costa Rica in October 2002. The Executive Secretary was represented by the GTI at the GBIF Governing Body meeting in Costa Rica in October 2002. The GTI, the Global Biological Information Facility and the clearing-house mechanism have maintained informal contacts to ensure maximum coordination. Informal linkages have also been maintained with the Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP) in respect of taxonomic needs;

(c) *Regional workshop in East Asia on taxonomic needs.* The Secretariat participated in a Global Taxonomy Initiative Regional Workshop for East Asian countries, held in Malaysia from 10 to 17 September 2002 with support from the Japanese, Malaysian, Swedish and Australian governments and various institutions. A total of 136 delegates from 21 Asian countries and economies and 5 countries outside the region representing a number of "Northern" institutions, international non-governmental organizations and intergovernmental organizations participated in the meeting. The report and resolutions of the meeting will, when published, be used to identify regional priorities and needs;

(d) *Global workshop on taxonomic needs.* A workshop was held in July 2002 in South Africa, in conjunction with BioNET-INTERNATIONAL, with representation from 95 countries including all regions, which addressed global taxonomic impediments, needs and priorities. The participants issued a statement to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) recognizing the essential role and contribution of taxonomy to sustainable development and committing themselves to provide this. A report and action plan is being prepared as a result of the workshop;

(e) *Global Taxonomy Initiative as a forum.* A preliminary compilation of data for inclusion on the Global Taxonomy Initiative web pages was undertaken by the Secretariat. The forum activities will be in place in 2003;

(f) *Selection of pilot projects.* Following the receipt of 22 submissions of programmes, projects and initiatives for consideration as pilot projects under the GTI, the Executive Secretary agreed with the GTI Coordination Mechanism on an appraisal mechanism to assess their suitability;

(g) *Facilitation of an improved infrastructure for access to taxonomic information.* Informal discussions have been held with representatives of Global Biodiversity Information Facility, Species 2000 Asia/Oceania, Species 2000 and other initiatives, within the context of workshops on Global Taxonomy Initiative activities;

(h) *Guide to the Global Taxonomy Initiative.* A first draft of the Guide to the Global Taxonomy Initiative was prepared and circulated for review, and is currently being revised to incorporate comments. The draft will be completed in 2003. A brochure on the GTI was prepared and distributed at appropriate meetings.

C. Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (decision VI/9)

9. In decision VI/9, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to implement the further work required to develop and implement the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation annexed to the decision, as presented in section E of the Strategy, giving due consideration to the need to:

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- (a) Clarify the scope of activities, develop sub-targets or milestones for each target and, develop baseline data and indicators to monitor progress towards achieving the targets (paragraph 17 of the Global Strategy);
- (b) Develop regional components of the Strategy (paragraph 18 of the Global Strategy); and
- (c) Establish, if appropriate, a flexible coordination mechanism (paragraph 20 of the Global Strategy).

10. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties requested SBSTTA to take the targets into consideration in its periodic reviews of the thematic and cross-cutting programmes of work of the Convention (paragraph 10 (a)).

11. In response to this decision, the following activities were carried out:

(a) *Invitation to institutions to contribute to the implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation.* The Executive Secretary sent letters inviting institutions such as FAO, the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI), IUCN, WWF, the Berne Convention on the conservation of European wildlife and natural habitats of the Council of Europe, Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI), and the Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP) to assist in the implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation;

(b) *Liaison group meeting on the implementation of the Strategy.* The Secretariat organized, in collaboration with Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) and the Jardín Botánico “Guillermo Pineres” of Cartagena, a liaison group meeting held in Cartagena on 11 and 12 October 2002. The objective of the meeting was to initiate the preparation of further work required to develop and implement the Strategy prior to the ninth meeting of SBSTTA. During the meeting, the Group gave due consideration to the following issues:

- (i) Clarification of the scope of the targets and the development of sub-targets and milestones for each target;
- (ii) Development and identification of national targets and regional components;
- (iii) Development and identification of baseline data and indicators to monitor the progress towards achieving the targets; and
- (iv) Need for the establishment of a flexible coordination mechanism;

(c) *Recommendations made by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on the Biological Diversity of Dry and Sub-Humid Lands.* The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on the Biological Diversity of Dry and Sub-Humid Lands considered this decision and suggested that selected targets on plant conservation should be integrated into the national reports;

(d) *Consideration of targets in periodic reviews.* The targets are being considered in the preparation of the pre-session documents on inland waters and marine and coastal biodiversity for consideration by SBSTTA at its eighth meeting.

D. Ecosystem approach (decision VI/12)

12. The Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting adopted decision VI/12 on the ecosystem approach and, in paragraph 2, requested the Executive Secretary to undertake the following activities:

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(a) Continue the compilation and dissemination of case-studies and lessons learned and report to SBSTTA prior to the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

(b) Carry out the activity specified in subparagraph (a) above in collaboration with relevant organizations and bodies, in particular the United Nations Forum on Forests, to convene a meeting of experts to compare the ecosystem approach with sustainable forest management and develop proposals for their integration; and

(c) Develop proposals for the refinement of the principles and operational guidance.

13. In paragraph 19 (a) of decision VI/22, on forest biological diversity, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the Coordinator and Head of the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests, to undertake a series of activities with regard to the ecosystem approach:

(a) Carry out a comparative study to clarify the conceptual basis of the ecosystem approach in relation to the concept of sustainable forest management with adequate consideration for regional conditions;

(b) Undertake a synthesis of case-studies; and

(c) Invite the Collaborative Partnership on Forests members to provide a discussion paper drawing on concrete national or regional experiences and inter-sessional meetings for consideration by the Convention.

14. In response to the requests referred to in paragraphs 12 and 13 above, the Executive Secretary executed the following activities:

(a) *Case-studies.* In July 2002, the Secretariat held discussions with the IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management to finalize the compilation and analysis of case-studies collected since 2000. In addition, a consultant was commissioned to assist with the collection of additional case studies with emphasis on experiences from the developed countries, agrobiodiversity and forest biological diversity. The Executive Secretary also shared his plans with the secretariat of the UNFF, particularly with regard to the comparison between the ecosystem approach and sustainable forest management. The Executive Secretary also held conference calls with representatives of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), IUCN, WWF, the Ramsar Convention and Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) representing the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) Taskforce on Integrated Natural Resources Management to discuss a strategy for future work on ecosystem approach in preparation for the ninth meeting of SBSTTA and the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

(b) *Meeting of experts.* The above-mentioned consultant assisted with the preparation of the pre-session and information documents for the ninth meeting of SBSTTA. The UNFF secretariat is also collaborating on this item;

(c) *Proposals for the refinement of principles.* The work of the consultant and the compilation of case-studies referred to above are providing some elements for the refinement of the principles and operational guidelines;

(d) *Consultations with the Netherlands and CIFOR.* During the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Secretariat interacted with representatives of the Government of The

Netherlands and of the CGIAR group to explore ways of progressing in the implementation of the decisions of the Conference of the Parties on the ecosystem approach. A letter of intent is being considered with the Government of the Netherlands to foster collaboration on a number of themes including on the ecosystem approach. The CIFOR, in its capacity as a member of the Task Force on Natural Resources Management, was commissioned to assist in implementing decision VI/12;

(e) *Contribution to Stockholm meeting.* In addition, in preparing for the Stockholm meeting entitled "Thirty Years On: Progress Achieved and Challenges Ahead in International Environmental Cooperation", the Secretariat investigated the relationships between ecosystem approach, resilience and sustainable use;

(f) *IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management.* Discussions took place at the Secretariat to explore areas of future collaboration in July 2002. It was agreed that both parties would support the publication of the report on the Pathfinder Regional Workshops held in 2002 and 2001, with other partners such as the Ramsar Convention, UNESCO, WWF and CIFOR;

(g) *Participation in a consultative meeting on forest landscape restoration* The Secretariat participated in a Consultative Meeting organized by the United Kingdom Forestry Commission, IUCN and WWF on "Building Assets for People and Nature: A Global Initiative to Catalyse and Reinforce Forest Landscape Restoration". As the Convention on Biological Diversity and other biodiversity-related conventions have provisions on restoration of forests, afforestation and reforestation, the Secretariat will continue to liaise with the global initiative on Forest Landscape Restoration;

(h) *Vilm meeting.* The Secretariat participated in the Workshop on the "Further Development of the Ecosystem Approach" organized by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation at the International Academy for Nature Conservation in the Isle of Vilm, Germany (9-12 October, 2002). The workshop discussed ways to improve the understanding of the ecosystem approach by, *inter alia*, putting forward a proposal for refinement of the principles, their rationales, and operational guidance. The workshop also considered lessons learned from case studies and proposed some ways to foster an enabling environment for applying the ecosystem approach including the development of mechanisms to monitor progress;

(i) *Collaboration with the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.* The Executive Secretary sent letters to a number of organizations including in particular Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) members, and drew their attention to paragraph 19 in decision VI/22 (see paragraph 13 above). In the meeting of the CPF held at the UNFF Secretariat in New York (3-4 October, 2002), the CPF members endorsed the decision of the Conference of the Parties urging CPF to consider the Convention Secretariat to be the focal point for forest biodiversity within the CPF, and requested the secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity and UNFF to draft the terms of reference for the Convention Secretariat to fulfil that role, for consideration by CPF at its next meeting.

E. Sustainable use (decision VI/13)

15. In its decision VI/13, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to:

(a) Organize a fourth open-ended workshop on the sustainable use of biodiversity to synthesize outcomes of the three workshops, integrate different views and regional differences and develop a final set of practical principles and operational guidelines (paragraph 4); and

(b) Continue compiling case-studies submitted by Parties, other Governments, international organizations and other relevant organizations on the sustainable use of biological diversity (paragraph 7).

16. In response to these requests, the following activities were carried out:

(a) *Organization of a fourth open-ended workshop on sustainable use.* The Secretariat initiated preparations for the fourth workshop on sustainable use of biological diversity, which is tentatively scheduled to take place in Ethiopia in June 2003 with the financial support from the Governments of Norway. The Secretariat is also preparing a synthesis report of the previous three workshops, to serve as the main background document for the final workshop. The participation of different stakeholders in the final workshop is expected to bring about synergies, which aim to widen the influence of the guidelines to a variety of domains, activities and sectors. In addition, the multi-stakeholder participation will place this effort within the general context of sustainable development in an attempt to find a common "code" for conducting and balancing human consumption needs with the conservation of ecosystems;

(b) *Compilation of case-studies.* The Secretariat continues to compile case-studies submitted by Governments and organizations on the sustainable use of the components of biological diversity. Compiled case-studies are regularly made available through the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention.

F. Biological diversity and tourism (decision VI/14)

17. In paragraph 3 of decision VI/14, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to:

(a) Transmit the draft guidelines on sustainable tourism development in vulnerable ecosystems to the World Ecotourism Summit;

(b) Review the current draft guidelines taking into account consultations received, and transmit the reviewed draft to SBSTTA for consideration at a meeting prior to the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and

(c) Gather and compile existing case-studies on the implementation of the guidelines and make them available to SBSTTA prior to the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

18. Pursuant to this decision, the following activities have been carried out:

(a) *World Ecotourism Summit.* A presentation on the guidelines on sustainable tourism development in vulnerable ecosystems was delivered at the World Ecotourism Summit, which took place in Quebec City in May 2002. Copies of the booklet containing the guidelines were distributed to participants;

(b) *Review of the guidelines.* The draft guidelines on sustainable tourism in vulnerable ecosystems developed by the Convention on Biological Diversity have been reviewed. The text, as drafted by a group of experts and stakeholders during the workshop held in Santo Domingo from 4 to 7 June 2001, has been revised by the Secretariat taking into account comments from Parties and organizations and the outcome of the World Ecotourism Summit. To this end, two rounds of consultations on the guidelines were organized by the Secretariat to allow relevant and interested stakeholders to submit their views and comments, in case any modifications to the guidelines are desired. The revised text of the guidelines is contained in annex I to the note by the Executive Secretary on the subject (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/8/11);

(c) *Case-studies on the implementation of the guidelines.* In order to assess the adaptability of the guidelines, test their effectiveness and identify constraints to their implementation, the Secretariat is also gathering and analysing the case-studies on the implementation of the guidelines (decision VI/14). The case studies are compiled and made available through the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention, and a synopsis of the case-studies is being circulated as an information document.

G. Incentive measures (decision VI/15)

19. In its decision VI/15, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to:

(a) Continue compiling and disseminating the information on incentive measures, especially on positive and perverse incentives, submitted by Parties and organizations (paragraph 6); and

(b) Elaborate proposals for the application of ways and means to remove or mitigate perverse incentives for consideration by SBSTTA before the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (paragraph 7).

20. In response to this decision, the following work has been carried out:

(a) *Compilation and dissemination of information on incentive measures.* The Secretariat sent notifications to Parties and relevant organizations, inviting them to submit to the Secretariat case-studies, lessons learnt and other relevant information on incentive measures. As of 7 November, the Secretariat has received seven submissions from Parties and four submissions from international organizations, which have been made available on the Secretariat's website (www.biodiv.org);

(b) *Elaboration of proposals to remove or mitigate perverse incentives.* A workshop on incentive measures is scheduled for June 2003 to elaborate proposals for the application of ways and means to remove or mitigate perverse incentives. The Secretariat has initiated work on the preparatory documents for this workshop by compiling and analysing information on perverse incentives and their removal or mitigation;

(c) *Work on domestic support measures in agriculture and their incentive effects.* The Secretariat has also initiated work on domestic support measures in agriculture and their incentive effects for the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity. This activity is part of its programme of work to implement paragraph 17 of decision VI/5, on agricultural biological diversity, in which the Executive Secretary was requested to further study the impact of trade liberalization on agricultural biological diversity (see also section C of the note by the Executive Secretary on progress in the implementation of the thematic programmes of work (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/8/2)).

H. Cooperation with other organizations, initiatives and conventions (decision VI/20)

21. The Conference of the Parties in decision VI/20 requested the SBSTTA and the Executive Secretary to:

(a) Continue to cooperate with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), including its Kyoto Protocol, and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on relevant issues such as dry and sub-humid lands, agricultural biological diversity, forest biological diversity, marine and coastal biological diversity, especially on coral reefs, and incentive measures and impacts of measures envisaged under the Kyoto Protocol with a view to maximizing synergies between these processes (paragraph 9);

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(b) Recognize the need to take immediate actions under Convention on Biological Diversity and UNFCCC to reduce and mitigate the impacts of climate change on the biodiversity of coral reefs (paragraph 10); and

(c) Carry out further work with the UNFCCC Subsidiary Body on Scientific and Technical Advice (SBSTA), especially on issues relating to the national level (paragraph 13).

22. In response to these requests, the following activities were carried out:

(a) *Cooperation with the UNFCCC.* The Secretariat was represented at the sixteenth session of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Body on Scientific and Technical Advice (SBSTA), which took place from 5 to 14 June in Bonn, Germany. The agenda items of high relevance were issues related to cooperation with relevant international organizations, in particular other conventions, and to land use, land-use change and forestry (definitions and modalities for including afforestation and reforestation activities under Article 12 of the Kyoto Protocol). Cooperative activities with the UNFCCC are intended to strengthen practical collaboration between the secretariats, and facilitate information exchange on respective processes. The Convention Secretariat also participated in the eighth session of the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties, as well as the seventeenth session of the SBSTA, which took place in New Delhi from 23 October to 1 November 2002, and contributed in the discussion regarding cooperation with other conventions, including in particular the operationalization of the joint liaison group through, *inter alia*, the organization of a joint workshop to promote coordination of activities relevant to the three Rio Conventions at the national level;

(b) *Cooperation with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).* The Secretariat received the IPCC Technical Paper on Climate Change and Biodiversity and distributed it to the members of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Biological Diversity and Climate Change. The Secretariat established a listserv to improve communication among the members of the Expert Group. The second meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group was held in Montreal from 9 to 13 September 2002. The Group agreed on a revised outline of the report document, drawing upon the two inter-sessional reports, the IPCC assessment reports and on the technical report on land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF). The Group also agreed upon a schedule to finalize the proposed work;

(c) *Cooperation with the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals.* The Secretariat shared information relevant to the interlinkages between biodiversity including migratory species and climate change. The two secretariats are discussing plans to implement the joint work programme. The Convention on Biological Diversity was represented in the meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species through the Chair of the SBSTTA Bureau;

(d) *Cooperation with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).* In response to decision VI/20, paragraph 24, the Executive Secretary, following a request from CITES Secretariat, provided comments on amendments to Resolution Conf. 10.2 (Rev.), which concerns CITES permits and certificates;

(e) *Cooperation with the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment.* The Executive Secretary participated in meetings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Board. The Secretariat is discussing with Millennium Assessment staff how the review of the findings of the Assessment requested in paragraph 3 of decision VI/7 C of the Conference of the Parties will be carried out;

(f) *Cooperation with the Global International Waters Assessment.* The Executive Secretary signed a Memorandum of Cooperation prepared in collaboration with the Global International

Waters Assessment, and forwarded it to the Scientific Director of the Coordination Office of the Global International Waters Assessment (GIWA) for signature. The Memorandum of Cooperation, which aims to facilitate the implementation of the elements of the Convention's programmes of work on biological diversity of inland water, marine and coastal ecosystems, contains a joint work plan for the period 2002-2003. The activities focus on collaboration regarding: information exchange, participation of a representative of each institution in the relevant meetings of the other, development of regional guidelines for rapid assessment, development and refinement of GIWA methodology, incorporation of biodiversity concerns into GIWA methodology, prioritization and analysis of results, and the incorporation of GIWA methodology into assessment-related activities under the Convention.

I. Alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats and species (decision VI/23)

23. In decision VI/23, the Conference of the Parties adopted the Guiding Principles for the Prevention, Introduction and Mitigation of Impacts of Invasive Alien Species and requested the Executive Secretary to:

(a) Carry out specific activities with GISP and other relevant organizations including developing a joint programme of work among the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP), the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971), the International Maritime organization, the International Plant Protection Convention and other relevant bodies (paragraph 26);

(b) Support the development and dissemination on technical tools and related information (paragraph 28);

(c) Integrate invasive alien species considerations into thematic work programmes of the Convention and when reporting on the thematic work programmes to report specifically on how the threats and impacts of invasive alien species will be addressed (paragraph 29);

(d) Explore means to facilitate capacity enhancement for eradication work on alien species on continents and islands (paragraph 31); and

(e) Identify mechanism(s) for providing Parties with access to financial support for rapidly responding to new incursions by alien species in collaboration with GISP, Global Environment Facility (GEF), FAO and the OECD (paragraph 33).

24. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties recommended that:

(a) Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and other Governments, as appropriate, consider ratifying the revised International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), and actively work to enhance its implementation (paragraph 6); and

(b) The Global Environment Facility (GEF), Parties, Governments and relevant organizations support and participate in the international cooperative initiative on invasive alien species on islands (paragraph 19).

25. In response to this request, the following progress has been made:

(a) *Promoting the agenda on alien species.* During the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Secretariat and the Office International des Epizooties explored ways and means through which this decision could be implemented. Following the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties,

the Executive Secretary sent letters to a number of organizations drawing their attention to this and other decisions of particular relevance to them;

(b) *Collaboration with the Global Invasive Species Programme.* The Secretariat also finalized a contract with the Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP) to work jointly on invasive alien species of freshwater ecosystems. In particular, discussions were held on the design of the pilot project on the impact of invasive alien species on the biodiversity of inland waters and of small island States, and on the role of the clearing-house mechanism under the Convention to store and disseminate relevant information;

(c) *Discussion on linkages between climate change and invasive species.* Invasive alien species were integrated in the discussion on interlinkages between biodiversity and climate change during the second meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change;

(d) *Cooperation with the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).* As of 25 October 2002, the IPPC counts 44 contracting Parties. With respect to IPPC activities relating to work programmes under the Convention, IPPC has drafted two supplements to the International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) publication No.11, *Pest Risk Analysis for Quarantine Pests*. The first supplement, *Analysis of environmental risks*, has undergone country consultation and will be reviewed by the Standards Committee scheduled to meet at the end of October or beginning of November 2002. It is anticipated that the standard will be presented to the Interim Commission for Phytosanitary Measures (ICPM) in April for its approval and adoption. This standard is directly relevant to the programme of work under the Convention on Biological Diversity for the implementation of Article 8(h) on invasive alien species and the conservation of biological diversity and follows from decision VI/23 of the Conference of the Parties, which provided for the sectoral implementation of Article 8(h). The IPPC has also responded to requests of the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting to take account of threats to biological diversity from invasive alien species in particular when undertaking to develop new or revise existing international standards for phytosanitary measures. The Strategic Planning and Technical Assistance Working Group (SPTA) that met in October 2002 also identified ongoing collaboration and liaison efforts between the IPPC secretariat and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity as a high priority in the IPPC work programme. SPTA noted, in particular, the importance of continued cooperation between Secretariats with a view to developing possible programmes for collaboration on such activities as training and technical assistance, harmonizing terminology, development of risk analysis procedures, and identifying topics and priorities for research on invasive alien species;

(e) *Cooperative Initiative on Invasive Alien Species on Islands.* Islands and other isolated and vulnerable ecosystems have repeatedly been identified as warranting cooperative approaches to manage invasive alien species by the CBD, the Global Invasive Species Program (GISP) and the IUCN. The Cooperative Initiative on Invasive Alien Species on Islands (the "Cooperative Islands Initiative") was launched at the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and was initiated by the New Zealand Government and the Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG), under the umbrella of GISP. The primary goal of the Cooperative Islands Initiative is to conserve island biodiversity by building capacity to manage invasive alien species, and its initial objectives are to compile and disseminate information, provide technical advice and support, facilitate "demonstration projects" and to develop partnerships. Important progress has already been made by the ISSG in relation to several of these objectives. A strategy is being developed which builds on recent advances. While there is an initial focus on Pacific islands this is a global initiative, involving prevention, early detection and rapid response, eradication and control activities, and the intention is that this is a "bottom-up" exercise to complement strategic planning activities. In addition, priority has been given in identifying management projects where inputs from the ISSG network, in association with partner agencies, will lead to important conservation outcomes. A number of potential

projects involving the full scope of invasive alien species management activities have already been identified.

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