

CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/WG.1/CRP.6
17 May 2010

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

Fourteenth meeting

Nairobi, 10-21 May 2010

WORKING GROUP 1

Agenda item 4.2

BIODIVERSITY OF DRY AND SUB-HUMID LANDS: FOLLOW-UP TO REQUESTS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES IN DECISION IX/17

Draft recommendation submitted by the Co-Chairs of Working Group I

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical, and Technological Advice *recommends* that the Conference of the Parties adopts a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties:

1. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), to:

(a) Develop and implement, preferably through the means and procedures already established within each of the relevant conventions (e.g. programmes of work of the Convention on Biological Diversity) joint actions to increase cooperation between the natural and social science communities to increase the integration of biodiversity considerations in disaster reduction, including as a contribution to the follow-up to the World Climate Congress 3;

(b) Publish, subject to the availability of financial resources, a peer-reviewed special CBD Technical Series report on the value of arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid lands, similar to the Technical Series reports on valuing wetlands and forests taking into account the role of pastoralists and other indigenous peoples and local communities in the conservation and sustainable use of the biodiversity resources of arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid lands and their associated traditional knowledge;

(c) Participate in the second Scientific Conference of the Committee on Science and Technology of the UNCCD to be held in 2012, with the specific thematic topic of “Economic assessment of desertification, sustainable land management and resilience of arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas”; and

(d) Take into consideration the results of the second International Conference on Climate Change, Sustainability and Development in Semi-arid Regions, held in Fortaleza, Brazil, in August 2009 and other events of interest;

2. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to expand:

(a) The online database of good practices and lessons learned with regards to linking biodiversity conservation and sustainable use to livelihoods in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid lands, particularly in the case of indigenous peoples and local communities and to coordinate with the UNCCD Committee on Science and Technology efforts to set up a knowledge management system;

(b) The incentive-measures database to better include programmes in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid lands;

3. *Welcoming* the guidance on pastoralism contained in the good practice guide on pastoralism, nature conservation and development,¹ *further requests* the Executive Secretary to identify:

(a) In collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), best practices to address conflict between biodiversity conservation and sustainable use and pastoralism and agriculture in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid lands in order to fill identified gaps in information with the full participation of indigenous peoples and local communities and subject to the availability of financial resources;

(b) Good practice examples of the engagement of marginalized groups in the implementation of the programme of work on the biodiversity of arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid lands, especially nomadic pastoralists and mobile indigenous peoples, recognizing that institutional changes may be required to facilitate such engagement;

4. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to consult Parties and with the full participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, in order to explore the possibilities to develop a proposal on joint activities between the three Rio conventions and report on the progress to the Conference of the Parties for its consideration at its tenth session;

5. *Further invites* Parties and other Governments to:

(a) Develop and implement, or revise existing, drought management plans and early warning systems at all levels, including regional and subregional and basin level management plans taking into account the impact of drought on biodiversity and the role of biodiversity in increasing the resilience of arid semi-arid and dry sub-humid lands, seeking (i) the inclusion of risk evaluation, impact assessments and impact management; and (ii) to direct biodiversity management for the prevention of drought, including through the involvement of all stakeholders, particularly pastoralists and other indigenous peoples and local communities including women and in accordance with traditional community-based strategies, particularly through customary use systems;

(b) Integrate issues related to arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid lands into relevant national strategies, plans and programmes, in particular, revised national biodiversity strategies and action plans, national action programmes to combat desertification, (NAPs) and national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs) with a view to improve and harmonize implementation where possible, with the full participation of indigenous peoples and local communities;

(c) Continue to implement those activities contained in paragraphs 29 and 30 of the progress report and consideration of proposals for future action prepared by the Executive Secretary for the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (UNEP/CBD/COP/9/19), including through regional programmes, and more effective coordination between the Rio conventions, recognizing that implementation has, thus far, been limited;

(d) Consult with neighbouring countries and other countries in their respective subregions and region to develop and execute collaborative drought management strategies and action plans to reduce the impact of drought on biodiversity at regional, subregional and/or basin levels;

(e) Develop and implement guidelines for integrated planning between arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid lands and wetlands, and to create an environment for demonstration and pilot activities in farming and the use of wild resources.

6. *Welcomes* the Hua Hin Declaration which addressed climate change adaptation and risks to biodiversity as common challenges of countries in the Mekong River Basin and *urges* the Mekong River Commission member countries to include the development of the joint drought management to reduce the impacts of drought on biodiversity in the follow-up to the Declaration;

¹ <https://www.cbd.int/development/doc/cbd-good-practice-guide-pastoralism-booklet-web-en.pdf>

7. *Further invites* Parties and other Governments to establish specific national and regional targets, in accordance with national circumstances and in line with the Strategic Plan for 2011 to 2020 to assess implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity programme of work on the biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands in order to better reflect the particular challenges faced by such ecosystems and the people living in them, particularly indigenous peoples and local communities, including, *inter alia*, vulnerability to climate change and the urgent need for economic development;

8. *Further invites* Parties and other Governments and relevant organizations to support activities identified in national capacity self-assessments that promote synergies between the three Rio conventions at the subnational, national and regional level.

9. *Further encourages* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to make use of the information contained in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/6/Add.1, with the full participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, in their future work on integrating climate change into the implementation of the programme of work on the biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands.
