

Annex I

**RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC,
TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE AT ITS TWELFTH MEETING
*UNESCO, Paris, 2-6 July 2007***

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XII/1. Application of the ecosystem approach

1. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, in its consideration of the in-depth review of the application of the ecosystem approach, based on background documentation available, expert inputs and scientific dialogue, *brings to the attention* of the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting, other Governments, and relevant international and other organizations the following range of views:

(a) The ecosystem approach remains a useful normative framework for bringing together social, economic, cultural and environmental values. The needs are to translate this normative framework into methods for further application which are tailored to the needs of specific users;

(b) “One-size-fits-all” solutions for the ecosystem approach are neither feasible nor desirable. The application of the ecosystem approach should be regarded as a process where learning by doing is the priority need at present;

(c) Global assessments suggest that the ecosystem approach is not being applied systematically to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss, but there are many examples of successful application at the regional, national and local scales which should be widely promoted and communicated. Most of these examples can be considered as positive outcomes for both biodiversity and human well-being;

(d) There is experience with application, in particular at the local level, but the ecosystem approach needs to be applied much more broadly across all levels. The need now is to enhance access and awareness with the transmission of straight forward messages using practical tools;

(e) Wider adoption of the ecosystem approach can contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;

(f) The full application of the approach in all of its ecological, social, economic, cultural and political dimensions remains a formidable task, particularly at the larger scale. There is a clear need to communicate and illustrate it more clearly in order to expedite broader application. There are ongoing efforts to promote this approach. Some initiatives mentioned at the meeting included the “Mountains to the Sea” concept, originally proposed by the Ramsar Convention and partners, as currently being promoted by the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF), and the “Five Steps to Implementation” developed by the World Conservation Union Commission on Ecosystem Management (IUCN-CEM), the Large Marine Ecosystem projects supported by the Global Environment Facility and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other partners;

(g) The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment findings, and in particular their articulation of the role of ecosystem goods and services to human well-being, could be more widely taken into account in the application of the ecosystem approach as appropriate;

(h) There is a need for promoters and leaders for the application of the ecosystem approach that can promote wider application through demonstration of the benefits of doing so amongst their peers and at their level of operation;

(i) The development of standards and indicators for the application of ecosystem approach is in its infancy. Focusing on these needs would constrain further application at present and divert attention from the more pressing need for expanded application through the development of appropriate tools and mechanisms and through learning by doing;

(j) Capacity-building remains the priority. Needs exist across all sectors, biomes, levels and scales. There is a need to strengthen partnerships and coordination between the relevant United Nations bodies and processes and other relevant institutions so that more effective support to Parties to apply the ecosystem approach can be offered; and

(k) Some Parties expressed the view that the principles of the ecosystem approach need to be considered at the earliest stage of policy-making and planning at all levels that relate to or affect natural resources and can be useful in poverty reduction strategies.

2. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice *requests* the Executive Secretary to:

(a) Strengthen and promote the ecosystem approach in ongoing communication, education and public awareness activities of the Convention, including through, *inter alia*, the Communication, Education and Public Awareness Informal Advisory Committee, and in particular provide easy to understand communication materials on the ecosystem approach, illustrated by successful case studies in all United Nations languages, subject to availability of funding, in electronic and published forms in order to further promote awareness and understanding;

(b) Enhance support for updating of the Source Book through *inter alia*:

(i) Strengthened partnerships with relevant agencies;

(ii) The inclusion of additional case-studies that relate to all the programmes of work of the Convention and all economic sectors and that demonstrate the benefits and trade-offs of the use of the ecosystem approach in achieving the 2010 target and the Millennium Development Goals;

(iii) Identifying tools that can integrate the ecosystem approach into planning and monitoring of biodiversity;

(iv) Compiling existing work on the valuation of ecosystem services and the reflection of these values in the market/marketplace; and

(v) The inclusion of initiatives mentioned in paragraph 1 (f) above;

(c) Invite, subject to available resources, the IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management (IUCN-CEM), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Ramsar Convention, to provide their perspectives on approaches to build capacity to understand, interpret and apply, the ecosystem approach, and provide information on opportunities for funding, human and other resources for enhancing application of the ecosystem approach;

(d) Invite initiatives such as the WWF Mountains to the Sea to further develop tools to assist Parties to further integrate the ecosystem approach into the programmes of work of the Convention and make these widely available through the Sourcebook;

(e) Inform Parties, as appropriate, on ways to use the ecosystem approach more widely and effectively as a useful tool for the formulation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and in other relevant policy mechanisms;

(f) Communicate the findings of the in-depth review of the application of the ecosystem approach to the Commission on Sustainable Development and the United Nations General Assembly to promote more coordinated actions under the United Nations system to overcome underlying management and political challenges to the wider application of the ecosystem approach; and

(g) Report on the progress on these activities of the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting.

3. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice *recommends* that the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting:

(a) *Urges* Parties, other Governments and relevant organisations, as appropriate, and subject to funding and availability of technical capacity, to:

- (i) Strengthen the promotion of the ecosystem approach in ongoing communication, education and public awareness activities;
 - (ii) Further promote the use of the ecosystem approach in all sectors and enhance inter-sectoral cooperation, as well as promote the establishment of concrete national and/or regional initiatives and pilot projects;
 - (iii) Implement further capacity-building initiatives to applying the ecosystem approach, using, *inter alia*, the tools made available through the sourcebook and other sources of information, as appropriate;
 - (iv) Recalling decisions VI/12, paragraph 2 (a), and VII/11, paragraph 9 (d), of the Conference of the Parties, urge Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to continue submitting case-studies and lessons learned and provide further technical input to the Source Book;
 - (v) Further facilitate the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities in the development of tools and mechanisms for the application of the ecosystem approach;
 - (vi) Strengthen and promote the use of the ecosystem approach more widely and effectively as a useful tool for formulation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and in other relevant policy mechanisms; and
- (b) *Invites* Parties to:
- (i) Take into account the application of the ecosystem approach in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
 - (ii) Develop effective cooperation at all levels for the effective application of the ecosystem approach;
 - (iii) To provide a framework for the promotion of the ecosystem approach, as appropriate;
 - (iv) Give consideration to the challenge of incorporating land and marine tenure in the application of the ecosystem approach; and
 - (v) Provide information on outcomes and progress in these activities through the national reporting process and their national clearing houses;
- (c) *Acknowledges* the efforts of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in advancing the ecosystem approach within its areas of competence and *invite* the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations to further apply, in cooperation with other relevant organizations, the ecosystem approach; and
- (d) *Invites* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands to further their activities in relation to the ecosystem approach in particular, *inter alia*, within the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, and Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites) as appropriate, as ecosystem-approach research and demonstration sites.

XII/2. In-depth review of the implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation

1. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice in its consideration of the in depth review of the implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, based on background documentation, expert inputs and scientific dialogue, brings the following key messages to the attention of the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting:

(a) In general, the Global Strategy has provided a useful framework to harmonize and bring together various initiatives and programmes in plant conservation at both the national and regional levels;

(b) The Global Strategy has been notably successful in stimulating the engagement of the botanical and plant conservation communities in the work of the Convention, through, *inter alia*, the establishment of national, regional and global networks, including in particular the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation, launched at the seventh meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention;

(c) The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment provide a further rationale for implementing the Strategy, including at the national level, with a view to securing plant resources and their provisioning services and allowing communities to continue to derive benefits from plant diversity, especially for food, medicines, fuel, fibre, wood and other uses;

(d) The national implementation of the Strategy provides opportunities for addressing the Millennium Development Goals especially poverty reduction (goal 1), the health crisis (goal 6) and environmental sustainability (goal 7);

(e) There has been progress in achieving targets 5 (Protection of 50 per cent of the most important areas for plant diversity assured); 8 (60 per cent of threatened plant species in accessible *ex situ* collections, preferably in the country of origin, and 10 per cent of them included in recovery and restoration programmes), 9 (70 per cent of the genetic diversity of crops and other major socio-economically valuable plant species conserved, and associated indigenous and local knowledge maintained), 11 (No species of wild flora endangered by international trade), 14 (The importance of plant diversity and the need for its conservation incorporated into communication, educational and public-awareness programmes);

(f) However, limited progress was made with respect to the targets 1 (A widely accessible working list of known plant species, as a step towards a complete world flora), 2 (A preliminary assessment of the conservation status of all known plant species, at national, regional and international levels), 4 (At least 10 per cent of each of the world's ecological regions effectively conserved), 6 (At least 30 per cent of production lands managed consistent with the conservation of plant diversity), 10 (Management plans in place for at least 100 major alien species that threaten plants, plant communities and associated habitats and ecosystems), and 12 (30 per cent of plant-based products derived from sources that are sustainably managed) and 15 (The number of trained people working with appropriate facilities in plant conservation increased, according to national needs, to achieve the targets of this Strategy);

(g) There are some gaps in achieving target 3 (Development of models with protocols for plant conservation and sustainable use, based on research and practical experience) especially in relation to the development of tools and protocols for the targets of the Strategy whose progress is limited;

(h) Efforts to achieve target 7 (60 per cent of the world's threatened species conserved *in situ*) have been constrained by limited progress in achieving target 2, as target 7 is dependent on the base line data generated under target 2;

(i) Constraints to the national implementation of the Global Strategy include limited institutional integration, lack of mainstreaming, and inadequate policies and legal frameworks at the planning stage; and at the operational level, lack of taxonomic capacity, lack of data (taxonomy, biology and conservation), tools and technologies, limited sectoral collaboration and coordination, and limited financial and human resources;

(j) The emerging issues of the global environmental change, namely, the impact of climate change and nutrient loading can be addressed through the achievement of the existing targets.

2. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice *recommends* that the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting:

(a) *Urges* Parties that have not yet done so, to:

(i) Nominate focal points for the Strategy;

(ii) Develop national and/or regional strategies for plant conservation with targets as appropriate, within the context of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and other relevant national and regional policies and action plans, as part of broader plans to achieve the 2010 biodiversity target and the relevant Millennium Development Goals;

(b) *Recommends* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to consider:

(i) Activities for achieving enhanced implementation of the Strategy, in particular its targets 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 10, 12 and 15;

(ii) Providing as appropriate additional information on the progress made towards achieving the targets of the Strategy, including quantitative data and information from other sectors and processes such as in forestry and agriculture, in order to strengthen future reviews of the implementation of the Strategy;

(c) *Considers* the further development of the Strategy beyond 2010 including a review of the current targets. Such consideration should be carried out in the broader context of the Strategic Plan, within the further development of the Convention beyond 2010, taking into account national priorities, capacities and differences in plant diversity between countries;

(d) *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation and other relevant organizations:

(i) To develop a toolkit, in pursuance of paragraph 7 of decision VII/10 of the Conference of the Parties, that describes *inter alia* tools and experiences that can help enhance national, subregional and regional implementation of the Strategy. The toolkit should be made available in all the United Nations languages in both electronic and printed form, with the option of making the electronic version interactive in the long term;

(ii) To facilitate the development of capacity-building, technology transfer, and financial support programmes to assist developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States, and countries with economies in transition to effectively implement or to achieve enhanced implementation of the Strategy;

(iii) To identify regional tools for the exchange of information and capacity-building;

(e) *Expresses appreciation* to Botanic Gardens Conservation International for the secondment of a Programme Officer to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological to support the implementation of the Strategy.

3. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice *requests* the Executive Secretary to develop by the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in collaboration with the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation, UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre and relevant organizations, and taking into account contributions from Parties, other Governments and relevant stakeholders, a "Plant Conservation Report" that could provide inputs to the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook and serve as a communication and awareness-raising tool on the implementation of the Strategy.

XII/3. Implications of the findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment on the work under the Convention

1. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice *recommends* that the Conference of the Parties:

(a) *Invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to promote and support, through various mechanisms, integrated national, regional and subglobal ecosystem assessments including, where appropriate, response scenarios that build on the framework and experiences of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment;

(b) *Invites* Parties, other Governments, relevant organizations, stakeholders and indigenous and local communities to consider, when designing integrated local, national or subglobal assessments, as appropriate, to take into account:

- (i) The engagement of stakeholders, including local and national decision makers, and indigenous and local communities in the assessment;
- (ii) The conceptual framework of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and its principles, including the services provided by ecosystems, as a contribution to the Millennium Development Goals;
- (iii) The relevance of including documented case studies contributed by indigenous and local communities, including those highlighting economic values as well as traditional non-market benefits of sustainable ecosystem management;
- (iv) The particular value of assessments such as the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment for capacity development among participants and stakeholders;
- (v) The usefulness of providing, whenever possible, free and open access to all past, present and future research results, assessments, maps and databases on biodiversity, in accordance with national and international legislation;
- (vi) The relevance of supporting further elaboration of coherent standardized formats for the collection and integration of biodiversity data and information for future assessments and analyses.

(c) *Invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to:

- (i) Take note of the need for further improvement of the availability and interoperability of biodiversity data and information; and
- (ii) Support, contribute and promote synergy to the ongoing efforts to digitize data in a standardized format, make data and analytical tools widely available, and further develop analytical tools to use this data for policy and management purposes;

(d) *Takes into account* the framework, and experiences of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment in preparing

- (i) In-depth reviews of programmes of work under the Convention in accordance with the guidelines for review of programmes of work under the Convention contained in annex III to decision VIII/15, including an analysis of the extent to which these programmes of work address ecosystem services;
- (ii) A revision of the Strategic Plan beyond 2010;

(e) *Invites* Parties and other Governments to make full use of the framework, experiences and findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment when they review, revise and implement their national biodiversity strategy and action plans, relevant development plans, and development cooperation strategies, as appropriate.

2. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice *requests* the Executive Secretary for consideration by the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to:

(a) *Collect* from Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations information required to undertake a detailed assessment of the use and impact of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment from the point of view of stakeholders, including national decision makers;

(b) *Contribute* to the preparation of a coherent international multi-agency strategy for follow-up to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, including by:

- (i) Identifying ways to support national and subglobal assessment based on the conceptual framework of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, in particular by inviting the United Nations Environment Programme to convene a global workshop for practitioners on the preparation of national, regional and other subglobal biodiversity assessments;
- (ii) Considering ways in which the financial mechanism of the Convention could assist in strengthening capacities and supporting implementation of national and subglobal biodiversity assessments;
- (iii) Taking into consideration the three objectives of the Convention;
- (iv) Developing and/or strengthening capacity to provide coherent, timely and relevant scientific advice on biodiversity and ecosystem services and their relationship to human well-being;
- (v) Considering the need for, and timing of, another global assessment, taking into account the experiences from evaluations of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and other processes aimed at improving scientific expertise on biodiversity.

3. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice *further requests* the Executive Secretary to:

(a) *Carry out*, through the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention and in collaboration with the Global Biodiversity Information Facility, the Global Biodiversity Indicators Partnership and other relevant partners, an inventory of existing interoperability mechanisms and their respective prospects for facilitating and promoting the exchange of data and information in support of the 2010 target as well as options for wider collaborative implementation of modern information exchange mechanisms through common methods, operational protocols, and formats;

(b) *Participate* in and promote relevant processes towards coherent and inclusive biodiversity observation systems with regards to data architecture, scales and standards, observatory network planning and strategic planning for implementation, such as the Global Earth Observation System of Systems;

(c) *Bring to the attention* of Parties and other Governments any guidance on best practice for integrated local, national or subglobal assessments;

(d) *Promote and facilitate*, through the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions, the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions and other forums, standardized national, regional and subglobal ecosystem assessments as the basis for the harmonization of national reporting formats.

XII/4. Lessons learned from the preparation of the second edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook

1. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA):
 - (a) *Notes* the progress made in preparing products that complement and strengthen the messages contained in the second edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook;
 - (b) *Requests* the Executive Secretary to:
 - (i) Continue disseminating the second edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook and future supplementary products to different audiences in all the regions;
 - (ii) Pursue efforts to make the second edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook available in the six languages of the United Nations;
 - (iii) Pursue efforts to develop focused ancillary products that present and communicate key messages to specific audiences as recommended by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators for Assessing Progress Towards, and Communicating, the 2010 target at the Global Level and foreseen in the communication strategy for the second edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook, and, recalling decision VIII/7, undertake as a priority a short graphic summary that highlights the headline indicators and actions needed to achieve the 2010 target;
 - (iv) Make these ancillary products available through the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention and other appropriate means;
 - (v) Invite the clearing-house mechanism focal points to assist in the dissemination at the national level of the second edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook and relevant ancillary products;
 - (vi) Report the deliberations in the Subsidiary Body on lessons learned from the preparation of the second edition of Global Biodiversity Outlook and proposals on the scope and focus of the third edition to the second meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation for its consideration;
 - (vii) Reflect on the lessons learned from the incorporation of information from the second edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook into the United Nations Environment Programme's fourth Global Environment Outlook in order to inform cooperation in the production of future editions of the Global Biodiversity Outlook and the Global Environment Outlook and follow-up to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment.
2. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice *recommends* that the Conference of the Parties *urge* Parties and *invite* other Governments, organizations and relevant scientific bodies to make available relevant data on status and trends of biological diversity, progress in the implementation of the Convention including its Strategic Plan and lessons learned in carrying out actions designed to contribute to a significant reduction in the rate of biodiversity loss, including by timely submission of the fourth national reports for use in the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook.

XII/5. *Proposals for the integration of climate-change activities within the programmes of work of the Convention, options for mutually supportive actions addressing climate change within the Rio conventions and a summary of the findings of the global Assessment on Peatlands, Biodiversity and Climate Change*

1. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice *recommends* that the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting:

(a) *Decides* that, in conducting future in depth reviews of the programmes of work of the Convention, advice on potential climate-change impacts and [the impact of climate-change] response activities on biodiversity should be integrated into each programme of work where relevant, taking into account, *inter alia*, the reports and recommendations of the Third and Fourth Assessment Reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Technical Series No. 10 and No. 25 of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the global Assessment on Peatlands, Biodiversity and Climate Change, and considering the following:

- (i) Indications or predictions of climate-change impacts and [the impacts of climate change] response activities on relevant ecosystems;
- (ii) The most vulnerable components of biodiversity;
- (iii) The risks and consequences for ecosystem services and human well-being;
- (iv) The threats and likely impacts of climate change and [the impacts of climate change] response activities on biodiversity and opportunities they provide for the conservation of biodiversity and its sustainable use;
- (v) Monitoring of the threats and likely climate-change impacts and [the impacts of climate-change] response activities on biodiversity;
- (vi) Appropriate monitoring and evaluation techniques, related technology transfer and capacity-building initiatives within the programmes of work;
- (vii) Critical knowledge needed to support implementation, including *inter alia*, scientific research, availability of data, appropriate measurement and monitoring techniques technology and traditional knowledge; and
- (viii) The ecosystem-approach principles and guidance and the precautionary approach;

(b) *Encourages* Parties to enhance the integration of climate-change considerations related to biodiversity in their implementation of the Convention, including:

- (i) Identifying, within their own countries, vulnerable regions, subregions and ecosystem types, including vulnerable components of biodiversity within these areas;
- (ii) Integrating concerns relating to climate-change impacts and [the impacts of climate change] response activities on biodiversity within national biodiversity strategy and action plans;
- (iii) Assessing the threats and likely impacts of climate change and [the impacts of climate-change] response activities on biodiversity;
- (iv) Identifying and adopting, within their own countries, monitoring programmes for regions, sub-regions and ecosystems affected by climate change and promote international cooperation in this area;
- (v) Enhancing scientific tools, methodologies, knowledge and approaches to respond to climate change impacts and [the impacts of climate change] response activities on biodiversity, including socio-economic and cultural impacts;

- (vi) Enhancing the methodology and the knowledge needed to integrate biodiversity considerations in climate change response activities, such as baseline information, scenarios, potential impacts on and risks to biodiversity, and resilience and resistance of ecosystems and species populations and communities/assemblages;
- (vii) Increasing stakeholder involvement in the decision-making process relating to climate change impacts and [the impacts of climate change] response activities on biodiversity;
- (viii) Applying the principles and guidance of the ecosystem approach such as adaptive management, the use of traditional knowledge, the use of science and monitoring;
- (ix) Taking appropriate actions to address and monitor climate change impacts and the impacts of climate-change response activities on biodiversity;
- (x) Enhancing cooperation with relevant organizations and among national focal points;

(c) *Urges* Parties, other Governments, donors and relevant organizations to support further action, such as the ones listed in the global Assessment of Peatlands, Biodiversity and Climate Change, that could contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of peatlands and assessment of their positive contributions to climate change response activities;

(d) *Encourages* Parties, other Governments, donors and relevant organizations to support capacity-building activities to enable developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing States and countries with economies in transition, to implement activities related to climate change impacts and [the impacts of climate change] response activities on biodiversity;

(e) *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources, to convene a workshop for small island developing States to support the integration of climate-change impacts and [the impacts of climate-change] response activities within programmes of work and national biodiversity strategy and action plans, with a view to holding similar capacity-building workshops in other groups of countries; and

(f) *Recognizes* the importance of wetlands, and in particular peatlands in the global carbon cycle, and the potential of their conservation and sustainable use as a cost-effective tool to address climate change and *welcomes* the findings of the global Assessment on Peatlands, Biodiversity and Climate Change;

[(g) *Reiterates* that reduced deforestation provides opportunities for multiple benefits for biodiversity and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and *requests* the Executive Secretary to continue to contribute to discussions on deforestation in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.]

2. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice:

(a) *Requests* the Executive Secretary, when preparing the in-depth review of the programmes of work on forest and agricultural biodiversity, to take into account an analysis to identify the elements of the guidance (subparagraphs 1 (a) (i)-(viii) above) already included in the existing programme of work and an assessment of the state of implementation, as well as the identification of gaps in implementation including a review of barriers and suggestions to overcome them;

(b) *Welcomes* the findings of the global Assessment on Peatlands, Biodiversity and Climate Change undertaken by Wetlands International and the Global Environment Centre and *requests* the Executive Secretary:

- (i) To convey the message of the Assessment to the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at its thirteenth meeting; and
 - (ii) In collaboration with the secretariats of relevant multilateral environment agreements and other relevant partners, review opportunities for further action to support the conservation and sustainable use of the biodiversity of tropical forested peatlands as well as other wetlands, and to report on progress to the ninth meeting of Conference of the Parties;
- (c) *Requests* the Executive Secretary to develop proposals for mutually supportive activities as requested in decision VIII/30 paragraph 9, for consideration at the thirteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, taking into account the views discussed by the Subsidiary Body at its twelfth meeting, bearing in mind that these views were not endorsed by Parties during that session because the report of the Joint Liaison Group meeting was not available and, therefore, was not discussed; and
- (d) *Invites* Parties to submit their views on the draft options for mutually supportive activities for secretariats, Parties and other relevant organizations (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/12/INF/17) so as to include these views in the proposals to be presented to the thirteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, referred to in paragraph 2 (c) above.

XII/6. *Guidance on strengthening the assessment of the 2010 biodiversity target in dry and sub-humid lands and proposals for land-use options that promote biodiversity and generate income for indigenous and local communities*

1. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice *recommends* that the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting:

(a) *Invites* relevant organizations and donor agencies to provide technical and financial support to developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States, and countries with economies in transition, to identify and conduct land use options for dry and sub-humid lands that promote the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and generate income for indigenous and local communities including through involving private sector and public partnerships;

(b) *Encourages* Parties to consider land-use options, drawing on ecosystem approach, that promote the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and generate income for indigenous and local communities;

(c) *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and other relevant organizations and collaborators to:

(i) Compile and publish a list of case-studies on scientific and technical knowledge including traditional knowledge regarding the management, and sustainable use of the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands;

(ii) Carry out a feasibility study for the development of a tool-kit to support the efforts of local and indigenous communities with regard to: sustainable pastoralism, adapted agricultural practices, control of soil erosion, valuation of natural resources, water and land-use management and carbon capture;

(iii) Prepare a compilation of experiences in the field of adaptation to climate change, soil management and pastoralism in dry and sub-humid lands;

(d) *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to explore, with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations the means to strengthen the collaboration in pastoralism and agricultural use of dry and sub-humid lands in line with paragraph 11 (c) of decision VIII/2, and to produce a report on the actions that have already been undertaken and actions that needs to be carried out, taking into account the specific needs of dry and sub-humid lands and the people living in these lands, for further consideration by SBSTTA at one of its meetings prior to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

2. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice *requests* the Executive Secretary to undertake the following activities and to report to the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties on progress achieved:

(a) In view of the lack of a common definition of dry and sub-humid lands, to work with relevant collaborators, in particular with the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, to clarify the areas under question with a view to harmonizing the delineation of dry and sub-humid lands, using the UNEP/WCMC work on the definitions and delineations of dry and sub-humid lands under the Convention and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, to facilitate the undertaking of global status and trends assessment;

(b) To strengthen collaboration on assessment of status, trends and threats to the biological diversity in dry and sub-humid lands with:

(i) The Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, recalling that assessment is one of the three elements of the joint programme of work agreed by the secretariats of the two conventions;

- (ii) The Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change giving due consideration to climate-change-related issues; and
- (iii) The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other partners and relevant organizations in pursuance of paragraph 11 (d) of decision VIII/2 of the Conference of the Parties;

(c) In pursuance of paragraph 5 of decision VIII/2, to liaise with relevant partners on activities necessary to fill gaps in information and data related to establishing baselines prior to the assessment of the achievement towards the 2010 target, bearing in mind the additional resources required to fill such gaps, and the need to take a pragmatic approach to overcome gaps noting that it is unlikely to be feasible to provide baseline data and information for all of the indicators contained in decision VII/30.

XII/7. Biodiversity and biofuel production

1. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice *noted* that:

(a) In taking up the request in decision VIII/10, the Bureau of the twelfth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, following consultations within their respective regions, has included the subject of “biodiversity and liquid biofuel production” as an item for discussion on the agenda of its meeting;

(b) The Executive Secretary undertook preparatory work for this discussion, including the electronic forum moderated by the Secretariat between January and March 2007.

2. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice *requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To *invite* Parties and other Governments to provide relevant information on the impacts on biodiversity along the full life cycle of the production and use of biofuels and how these are being addressed;

(b) In collaboration with relevant organizations, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, as well as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the International Energy Agency, the Global Bioenergy Partnership, the private sector partners, the indigenous and local communities and non governmental organisations, to *compile* additional relevant information on the impacts on biodiversity along the full life cycle of the production and use of biofuel and related sustainable-use issues;

(c) To *identify* options for consideration of this emerging issue in the programmes of work of the Convention, including the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity and the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity;

(d) To *synthesize* and *submit* the information resulting from the above activities for consideration at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

(e) [To *bring to the attention* of the fifth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) the outcomes of the discussions of the twelfth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and any other relevant information that can be made available through the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention;]

(f) To bring the outcomes of the discussions of the twelfth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to the attention of the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions.

3. While acknowledging the concerns of some Parties that the following is preliminary and needs further comprehensive analysis, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice *further requests* that the Conference of the Parties *notes* that some of the issues raised during the discussions in the Subsidiary Body included:

(a) There is a wide range of systems and conditions under which biofuels are produced, including different feedstocks used, varying production schemes and management practices, land ownership and land use systems;

(b) Biofuel production and use and the associated production and use of biomass can have beneficial effects on biodiversity and human well-being, including where the production and use processes are associated with:

(i) A reduction of the consumption of fossil fuels;

(ii) A decrease in land use for agricultural purposes associated with the increase in energy outputs per area;

- (iii) A change in agricultural production leading to reduced management inputs, an increase in crop diversity, the restoration of degraded lands, a reduction in the application of pesticides and fertilizers, a reduction in water used for irrigation and increased water use efficiency of crops;
 - (iv) Decreasing land abandonment and decreasing conversion of agricultural land to other uses;
 - (v) An increase of the income-base for farmers and forest owners and improvements of employment opportunities in rural areas;
 - (vi) The reduction of greenhouse-gas emissions derived from the use of liquid biofuels;
- (c) Biofuel production and use can have adverse effects on biodiversity and human well-being, including where the production process and use are associated with:
- (i) The loss, fragmentation and degradation of valuable habitats such as natural and semi-natural forests, grasslands, wetlands and peatlands and other carbon sinks, their biodiversity components and the loss of essential ecosystem services and leading to increases in greenhouse gas emissions due to these changes;
 - (ii) Competition for land managed for the production of alternative crops, including land managed by indigenous and local communities and small-holder farmers, and competition for the commodity prices potentially leading to food insecurity;
 - (iii) Increased water consumption, increased application of fertilizers and pesticides, increased water pollution and eutrophication, soil degradation and erosion;
 - (iv) The uncontrolled cultivation, introduction and spread of genetically modified organisms;
 - (v) The uncontrolled introduction and spread of invasive alien species;
 - (vi) Emissions from burning biomass and potential adverse effects on human health;
- (d) There are gaps in our knowledge and information associated with the impact of biofuel production and use on biodiversity and the production and use of biofuel from second-generation feedstocks, including the application of the precautionary approach;
- (e) Gaps in knowledge and information can be addressed, *inter alia*, by:
- (i) Compiling and sharing relevant information on the actual and potential impacts on biodiversity of the production and use of biofuels and sustainable use issues;
 - (ii) Promoting research on the actual and potential impacts on biodiversity of the production and use of biofuels;
 - (iii) Promoting international cooperation and the transfer of appropriate technologies;
 - (iv) Encouraging greater scientific input into future consideration of the impacts of biofuels on biodiversity[, for example, through an international scientific conference drawing on collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, relevant organizations, private sector, civil society representatives and representatives of indigenous and local communities].

XII/8. Process to elaborate the procedure for the identification and consideration of emerging issues

1. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) *recalled* that SBSTTA was established, *inter alia*, to provide the Conference of the Parties and, as appropriate, its other subsidiary bodies with timely advice relating to the implementation of the Convention. In accordance with the consolidated *modus operandi* annexed to decision VIII/10, its specific functions include the identification of new and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.
2. At its twelfth meeting, SBSTTA *recognized* the need to further clarify the procedure for the identification of emerging issues, the conditions for their inclusion in the agenda of relevant meetings, and the appropriate ways and means to respond to new and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. It *further recognized* that it is not necessary to consider an emerging issue at each meeting.
3. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice *recommends* that the Executive Secretary:
 - (a) *Seeks*, through established channels, the views of Parties on the suggested elements of the procedure for the identification of emerging issues, the conditions for their inclusion in the agenda of relevant meetings, and appropriate ways to respond to new and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, as contained in the annex to this recommendation;
 - (b) *Prepares*, in consultation with the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, a document that incorporates the views received from Parties; and
 - (c) *Presents* to the Subsidiary Body at its thirteenth meeting options for the identification of emerging issues, the conditions for their inclusion in the agenda of relevant meetings, and appropriate ways to respond to new and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Annex

Suggested procedure for the identification of emerging issues, the conditions for their inclusion in the agenda of relevant meetings, and the mandate to respond to new and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity

1. Before meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice:
 - (a) The Executive Secretary will, in consultation with the members of the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, facilitate a wide consultation with Parties prior to the selection of an emerging issue by the Subsidiary Body and subsequently by the Conference of the Parties;
 - (b) The Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice will apply the following criteria for the selection among different proposals of an emerging issue:

(to be elaborated on the basis of views from Parties)
 - (c) The Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice will advise the Executive Secretary on appropriate sources of information to facilitate preparation of documentation for each emerging issue to be considered by the Subsidiary Body, in accordance with the process established in the consolidated *modus operandi* for the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice contained in annex III to decision VIII/10, including by setting up electronic forums and other appropriate means of consultation;
 - (d) The Executive Secretary, in consultation with the members of the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, will seek to balance the placement of the emerging issue with the existing agenda of the meeting;

(e) The Executive Secretary, in consultation with the members of the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, will identify no more than one emerging issue for each meeting of the Subsidiary Body.

3. During its meetings, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice will:

(a) Assess the impacts of any emerging issue under consideration on the implementation of the Convention and achievement of its three objectives;

(b) Identify any knowledge gaps on any emerging issue and suggest how to fill those gaps;

(c) Consider the relationship of the issue to the existing work and explore the way to integrate it into the work of the Convention;

(d) Identify immediate actions that the Subsidiary Body can take within its mandate and those actions that require consideration by the Conference of the Parties.

*Annex II***PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE THIRTEENTH MEETING OF THE
SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL
ADVICE (ROME, FEBRUARY 2008)**

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Election of officers, adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. In-depth review of the implementation of the programmes of work on:
 - 3.1. Agricultural biodiversity;
 - 3.2. Forest biodiversity.
4. Scientific and technical issues of relevance to the implementation of the 2010 target:
 - 4.1 Marine and coastal biodiversity: options for preventing and mitigating the impact of some activities to selected seabed habitats, and ecological criteria and biogeographical classification systems for marine areas in need of protection;
 - 4.2 Biological diversity of inland water ecosystems: recent developments on Ramsar site designation criteria, streamlining the work and harmonization of national reporting frameworks between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Ramsar Convention;
 - 4.3 Invasive alien species: report on consultations regarding international standards;
 - 4.4 Climate change: options for mutually supportive actions addressing climate change within the three Rio conventions;
 - 4.5 New and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity: *modus operandi* for addressing new and emerging issues.
5. Draft provisional agendas, dates, and venues for the fourteenth and fifteenth meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.
6. Adoption of the report and closure of the meeting
