

*Annex***RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY THE AD HOC OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON
REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION AT ITS FOURTH MEETING***(Montreal, 7-11 May 2012)***CONTENTS**

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**4/1. Implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020
and progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets**

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

1. *Takes note* of the progress which has been made in implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020, and the urgent need for further progress;

2. *Emphasizes* the importance of, and taking into account the challenges to, setting specific, measurable, ambitious, realistic, and time-bound national targets as a means of implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets;

3. *Recalling* that the role of the Conference of the Parties is to keep the implementation of the Convention under review, *recommends* that the Conference of the Parties consider an update of this review in light of the information available at its eleventh meeting and issue guidance as appropriate;

4. *Recalling* decision X/2, paragraphs 3 (b) and (c), *invites* Parties to report on their plans and progress for revising and/or updating their national biodiversity strategy and action plans, and national target-setting, preferably by 30 June 2012, so that this information can be made available to the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to compile relevant information from Parties, including revised and updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans and examples of best practices related to national targets, and to update the information contained in this document and to make it available for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting;

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to redouble efforts to promote the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization at international, regional and subregional events organized or attended by the Secretariat, in order to assist national actions in pursuing ratification or accession of the Protocol.

7. *Recommends* that the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties,

Reaffirming the need for enhanced technical and scientific cooperation among Parties, in line with Article 18 and related articles of the Convention, in order to implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020,

Recognizing the potential for enhanced cooperation at the regional and sub-regional level, among developing countries (South-South cooperation) and between developed and developing countries (North-South and triangular cooperation), consistent with the Convention, and, in this context, *noting* the potential role of national, regional and international organizations and the private sector in facilitating technical and scientific cooperation,

Noting also the potential contribution of information, technical and scientific cooperation and related capacity-building under the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services to the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020,

Taking note of the activities of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity in 2011 and *expressing its appreciation* to the Government of Japan for its generous support,

Also taking note of the strategy for the celebration of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity in support of the Convention, its Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets,

1. *Urges* those Parties and other Governments that have not yet done so to develop, revise or update, as appropriate, their national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) in line with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020;

2. *Calls upon* Parties and *invites* other Governments, intergovernmental organizations and other relevant organizations to continue to provide support for the revision and updating of NBSAPs, to enhance wider stakeholder consultations for setting national targets and indicators at the national level, and to provide additional support to ensure completion and review of NBSAPs in a timely manner;

3. *Invites* Parties to include all stakeholders, including the indigenous and local communities and women in planning and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, thus contributing to the achievement of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020;

4. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Japan Biodiversity Fund and expresses its appreciation to the Government of Japan for its most generous contribution to support developing countries, particularly the least developed countries and small island developing states among them, and countries with economies in transition, in implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets;

5. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Secretariat and its partners to enhance support to Parties for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets through, *inter alia*, capacity-building workshops and training modules and further work to enhance the clearing-house mechanism and related initiatives, and *expresses its appreciation* to Japan and other donor countries and host countries of workshops for their support to capacity-building activities;

6. *Thanks* all the international organizations, convention secretariats, the Global Environment Facility for their contribution in facilitating the implementation of the Strategic Plan and invites them to further support the implementation of the Strategic Plan;

7. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Governments of Brazil and the United Kingdom for co-hosting the global workshop on NBSAPs, as well as to the Governments of Botswana, Germany, Lebanon, China, Senegal, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Switzerland, Ecuador, Fiji, Grenada, Turkey, Costa Rica, Belarus, India, France, and Ethiopia that have hosted or otherwise contributed to the preceding subregional workshops;

8. *Recalling* decision IX/8, paragraph 16 (a), *reiterates* the request to the Executive Secretary in cooperation with partner organizations to facilitate the continued exchange of best practices and lessons learned from the preparation, updating and revision of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, through appropriate forums and mechanisms such as the clearing-house

mechanism and, subject to availability of resources, strengthened cooperation with regional and subregional processes, south-south and triangular cooperation and voluntary peer-review;

9. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to continue promoting and facilitating, in partnership with relevant organizations, activities to strengthen implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, at the national, subregional and regional levels, and *encourages* other donors and Parties to complement the funds provided by the Government of Japan;

10. *Welcomes* the work programme for the clearing-house mechanism in support of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/4/3/Add.1) and *agrees to*:

(a) Keep the work programme for clearing-house mechanism under review in light of the need to contribute significantly to the implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Plan and to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation, knowledge sharing and information exchange;

(b) Strengthen communication with, and build the capacity of, the national focal points for the clearing-house mechanism;

(c) Call on Parties to share information through national clearing-house mechanisms or other relevant mechanisms on results from monitoring of progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and for projects funded through Articles 20 and 21;

11. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to:

(a) Establish a standard information-exchange mechanism for the clearing-house mechanism to interconnect the central and national clearing-house mechanisms;

(b) Continue to use automated translation tools to facilitate exchange of technical and scientific information, in line with Articles 17 and 18;

12. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to develop, in cooperation with relevant partner organizations, a coherent, consistent and coordinated approach to technical and scientific cooperation, with a view to facilitating the full and effective implementation of Article 18 and related articles of the Convention in support of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, building upon existing mechanisms;

13. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources, to engage in a process towards establishing a capacity-building network of national and regional centres of excellence in biodiversity to support the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, in developing countries, particularly the least developed countries and small island developing States among them, and countries with economies in transition, and to collaborate with the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, as appropriate;

14. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to explore, in cooperation with Parties and partner organizations, the development of thematic and regional or subregional pilot initiatives for enhanced technical and scientific cooperation in support of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020;

15. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility, *urges* Parties, in particular developed country Parties, and *invites* donor organizations to support enhanced technical and scientific

cooperation and the clearing-house mechanism for implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020;

16. *Invites* Parties and all stakeholders to use the following message in activities related to the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity (UNDB): “Living in harmony with nature”;

17. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to promote the implementation of the strategy for the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity, within the programme of work of communication, education and public awareness (CEPA), based on the availability of resources and maintain the Decade’s web portal to highlight all activities;

18. *Encourages* bilateral and multilateral agencies to support the implementation of the strategy for the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity, in developing countries, particularly the least developed countries and small island developing States among them, and countries with economies in transition;

19. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to undertake, subject to the availability of financial resources, a review of the impacts of disasters and conflicts on biodiversity and ways and means to take actions for implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets under such conditions, and *invites* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to integrate as far as feasible the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 in the initiatives of the UNEP programme of work on conflicts and disasters, and to submit a report to the next meeting of SBSTTA in accordance with the rules of procedure highlighted in decision IX/29;

[20. *Also recalling* Article 20, paragraph 4, of the Convention, and its decisions IX/11 and X/3, *highlights* the need for adequate means for implementation in order to enable developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States among them, and countries with economies in transition, to implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and *urges* the effective commitment of the developed country Parties related to the provision of financial resources, transfer of technology and benefit-sharing.]

4/2. Review of implementation of the Strategy for Resource Mobilization

The Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention,

Expressing its gratitude to the Governments of Ecuador, Japan, Sweden, Norway and India for jointly hosting the informal seminar dialogue, together with the Secretariat, on Scaling-up Biodiversity Finance held in Quito, Ecuador from 6 to 9 March 2012 and welcomes the co-chair's summary of the dialogue (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/4/INF/9),

Also expressing its gratitude to the Governments of Finland and the United Kingdom for undertaking research on Assessing the Adopted Indicators for the Implementation of the Strategy on Resource Mobilization of the Convention on Biological Diversity: A Scoping Study (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/4/INF/8),

Taking note of the submissions on the review of implementation of goals 2, 5, 6, 7 and 8 of the Strategy for Resource Mobilization and the examples of positive trends in taking action to mobilize new and additional resources for biodiversity provided in document UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/4/INF/16,

Recalling decision X/3 of the Conference of the Parties and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, *reiterating* that resources (financial, human and technical) need to be mobilized from all sources and that this should be balanced with the effective implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and *highlighting* the need for further consideration on the evaluation of the resources mobilized in terms of the biodiversity outcomes achieved,

1. *Welcomes* the establishment of a high-level panel on global assessment of resources for implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, *expresses its gratitude* to Governments of the United Kingdom and India for co-sponsoring the panel and *invites* the panel to report to the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to elaborate the further development of the preliminary reporting framework and *invites* Parties to use the preliminary reporting framework (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/4/6/Add.1) as a flexible and tentative framework to monitor resources mobilized for biodiversity at national and global level, adapting it to national needs and circumstances, as appropriate, to build on this flexible framework as part of national monitoring, including the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and provide the information to the Executive Secretary by the end of June 2012;

3. *Invites* Parties to implement the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, along with its concrete actions and initiatives, to substantially enhance international financial flows and domestic funding for biological diversity;

4. In line with the Strategy for Resource Mobilization (decision IX/11), *encourages* Parties to develop, as appropriate, country specific resource mobilization strategies, including assessment of resource needs, as part of their updated NBSAPs, as a matter of priority, and, where possible to finalize them by the end of June 2012 with a view to informing a decision on resource mobilisation at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to undertake the following for consideration by the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties:

(a) Explore the need for and possibility of establishing a finance portal on biodiversity, complemented by other means (that do not rely on high-speed internet connections), to serve as a gateway to provide Parties with information on:

- (i) The financial mechanism to the Convention;
- (ii) The mobilization of new and additional financial resources, in accordance with Article 20, through public and private sources and new and innovative financial mechanisms;
- (iii) Enabling conditions for scaling up biodiversity financing; and
- (iv) Wider resource mobilization options;

(b) Collaborate, as appropriate, with expert teams, such as the High-Level Panel on Global Assessment of Resources, to develop proposals outlining how the funding gap for each Aichi Biodiversity Target can be bridged using the most appropriate funding sources while also considering synergies;

(c) Organize regional and expert workshops, as appropriate and based on the availability of resources, to assist Parties in exploring relevant financing mechanisms, including guiding principles and safeguards, and in gathering information and sharing national experiences on using the flexible reporting framework;

(d) Recalling decision X/3 paragraph 8 (h), compile and consolidate data provided by Parties through the preliminary reporting framework and present this for the consideration of Parties at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

(e) Complete the review of implementation of Goals 2, 5, 6, 7 and 8 of the strategy for resource mobilization, based on the input provided by Parties and other relevant stakeholders at the fourth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on the Review of Implementation of the Convention, as well as additional relevant sources of data;

(f) *Prepare* a synthesis report, taking into account the submissions in response to X/3 8(c) as well as other sources of information as appropriate, such as the informal seminar dialogue on Scaling-up Biodiversity Finance held in Quito, Ecuador from 6 to 9 March 2012 and the workshop on Financing Mechanisms for Biodiversity held in Montreal, Canada on 12 May 2012, for the consideration of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

6. *Recommends* that the Conference of the Parties, at its eleventh meeting, adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Welcomes* the collaboration between the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Global Environment Facility in organizing a series of subregional workshops on resource mobilization, and *expressing its gratitude* to the European Union, Japan, the Netherlands, and Spain for their generous financial support of these workshops;

2. *Recognizing* that the Convention on Biological Diversity's strategy for resource mobilization calls for the exploration of new and innovative financial mechanisms at all levels with a view to increasing funding to support the three objectives of the Convention and that

some of them are already being applied and *recalling* decision X/3, *reiterates* that any new and innovative financial mechanisms are supplementary and do not replace the financial mechanism established under Article 21 of the Convention;

3. *Encourages* Parties to undertake institutional mapping/analysis, covering the whole range of biodiversity resourcing options, as part of developing country-specific resource mobilization strategies in the framework of the revision of their national biodiversity strategies and action plans;

4. [*Encourages* Parties to consider the [initial findings][recommendations] of the high-level panel on global assessment of resources for implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 when exploring biodiversity resourcing options and mechanisms;]

5. [*Takes note of*][*Welcomes*][*Adopts*] the preliminary reporting framework and methodological and implementation guidance (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/4/6/Add.1) as a flexible and tentative framework to report on and monitor the resources mobilised for biodiversity at a national and global level, and *invites* Parties to build on this flexible framework at a national level as part of monitoring, including the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, as appropriate, and to report prior to the fifth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention on the success and the barriers encountered in reporting on and monitoring the resources mobilised for biodiversity;

6. *Invites* Parties and other Governments to submit information on applying the preliminary reporting framework adopted by the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties [and using the average of annual biodiversity funding for the years 2006-2010 or a single year during this period as a tentative baseline,] prior to the fifth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention in a timely manner for their consideration by the Working Group;

7. *Requests* the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on the Review of Implementation of the Convention to further review the preliminary reporting framework at its fifth meeting based on information received from Parties on its application, funding needs, gaps and priorities;

8. *Invites* Parties agencies and other relevant institutions, including the financial mechanism of the Convention, to [continue to] allocate [additional] funds to allow for better engagement in the reporting process;

9. *Taking into account* decision X/3 paragraph 9 (c), *invites* Parties and relevant partner organizations to examine their role in establishing enabling conditions, for the public and private sector, in supporting the objectives of the Convention and its two protocols, and submit information on their experiences to the Executive Secretary (also see UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/4/9);

10. *Invites* Parties to consider the advice and technical information from the sixteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice on Incentive measures contained in recommendation XVI/14;

11. *Recalling* decisions IX/11 paragraph 6, *invites* Parties, as appropriate, to support developing countries and countries with economies in transition to enhance national

administrative and managerial capacities, in order to increase the effectiveness and sustainability of the international and national financial flows;

12. *Encourages* Parties to integrate national resource mobilization strategies, including existing needs assessments, into the decision making process on their funding targets in order to address the funding gap as soon as possible;

13. *Urges* Parties to consider all possible sources and means that can help to meet the level of resources needed, in accordance with Article 20 and consistent with decision X/3;

14. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to:

(a) Report to the fifth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open Ended Working Group on the Review of Implementation of the Convention on the status of implementation of paragraphs 8 (d) and 12 of decision X/3;

(b) Develop additional guidance and training tools to assist Parties in providing the necessary data to apply, review and evaluate the indicators for the mobilization of financial resources;

(c) Elaborate additional guidance for Parties to apply the indicators for national and subnational application, and to undertake an assessment of the indicator framework based on Party experiences.

4/3. The financial mechanism: review of GEF-5 and needs for GEF-6

A. Review of guidance to the financial mechanism

The Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention,

Recalling that the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties will adopt a four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities, taking into account the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including its Aichi Biodiversity Targets and associated indicators, in accordance with paragraph 7 of decision X/24,

Noting the considerable allocation of resources made by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to improve sustainability of protected areas and *encouraging* the continuation of this trend,

Welcoming the increased orientation at the Global Environment Facility towards recipient country needs, ownership and synergies between conventions,

Commending the efforts that the Global Environment Facility has made to simplify the process of access to funding,

1. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in consultation with Parties and the Global Environment Facility, to develop a new four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities for consideration at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of Parties, taking into account the following elements:

(a) The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including its Aichi Biodiversity Targets and associated indicators;

(b) The draft report on the full assessment of the amount of funds that are necessary to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition for the sixth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund on the understanding that it is a preliminary draft report and will likely be adjusted;

(c) Assessment of current GEF results, remaining programming gaps that need to be met and prioritization of key programming areas;

(d) The need for strengthening capacity-building initiatives;

(e) Further implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;

(f) Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of the Benefits Arising from Their Utilization.

2. *Recommends* that the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Adopts* four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities for the period 2014-2018 and requests the Global Environment Facility to implement it and report back to the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth meeting;

2. *Encourages* the Global Environment Facility to further improve the timeliness of the provision of financial support;

3. *Invites* donors to increase their financial contributions through the financial mechanism during the GEF-6 replenishment period while recognizing the increase of funds made available under GEF-5, taking into account the substantial financial needs in order to implement the obligations of the Convention, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.”

B. Assessment reports of the amount of funds needed for the Implementation of the Convention for the sixth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund

The Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention,

Noting that the preliminary assessment report (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/4/INF/10), once it is finalized, will be relevant in the overall discussion of resource mobilization,

Also noting that the Global Environment Facility can only provide the incremental costs for global biodiversity benefits, and the assessment presented in the report provide inputs to the discussion on the overall funding needs,

1. *Reminds* Parties to provide the Secretariat with the data and information requested in the Executive Secretary’s notifications regarding the GEF-6 funding needs assessment and the preliminary reporting framework in a timely manner;

2. *Takes note* of the preliminary report of the assessment of needs for GEF-6, prepared in accordance with decision X/26, and *expresses its appreciation* to the members of the expert group;

3. *Takes note* of the preliminary conclusions of the expert group as summarized in the annex to the note by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/4/7);

4. *Requests* the expert group, with the support of the Executive Secretary, to further develop the report (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/4/INF/10), taking into account the following, for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting:

(a) The views expressed by Parties and observers at the fourth meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention;

(b) Additional views submitted by Parties, other Governments and organizations prior to 30 June 2012;

(c) Work conducted by the high-level panel on financing for biodiversity, co-sponsored by India and the United Kingdom;

(d) Other relevant technical information on the costs of implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets;

5. In response to paragraphs 6 in the annex to decision X/26, *requests* the Global Environment Facility and the Executive Secretary to conduct a review of the draft assessment report of the expert team to ensure accuracy and consistency of approach and data, and assessment of availability of funding through all sources;

6. *Recommends* that the Conference of the Parties adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision X/26,

1. *Emphasizes* that the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets provides the overall framework for the implementation of the Convention for the decade, including for the activities during the period of the GEF-6 (2014-2018);

2. *Notes* that implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 will require the funding of activities that contribute to all five goals and all twenty targets;

3. *Also notes* the report of the assessment of needs for GEF-6 and *expresses its appreciation* to the members of the expert group;

4. *Takes note* of the key messages of the assessment as summarized in the annex to the present note;

5. *Takes note* of the range of funding needs estimated for the sixth replenishment. This includes both what might be provided through the replenishment of the GEF trust fund for the biodiversity focal area, as well as what might be provided through other funds leveraged through the financial mechanism;

6. *Further notes* the need for a strengthened focus on mainstreaming and synergies, and *requests* the Executive Secretary and *invites* the GEF to identify the Aichi Targets benefiting the most from synergies with other GEF focal areas and make this information available for further use;

7. *Emphasizes* that:

(a) The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets are an ambitious framework adopted by Parties to the Convention that require a substantial increase in the resources available;

(b) Achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets will require activities that address all five goals of the strategic plan;

(c) Full use of the financial mechanism of the Convention, including GEF and its network of agencies, with improved efficiency of resource utilization and expanded financial support to recipient countries, is instrumental and critical in advancing the implementation of the Strategic Plan and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets;

(d) International financial institutions and development organizations, national governments, and the private sector may need to play a greater role than hitherto in facilitating the mobilization of financial resources beyond the replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund itself;

(e) Prioritization of activities needs to be done in consultation with the Convention through its Conference of Parties, based on the Four Year framework of programming priorities;

8. *Transmits* to the Global Environment Facility the report on the assessment of needs for GEF 6, for consideration by the Global Environment Facility, so that the Facility will in its regular report to the Conference of Parties indicate how it has responded during the replenishment cycle to the previous assessment by the Conference of the Parties.

C. *Fourth Review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism*

The Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention,

Recalling decision X/27 of the Conference of the Parties, and emphasizing the importance of regular reviews of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism,

Also recalling that the Conference of the Parties has obligation to review the effectiveness of the financial mechanism under the Memorandum of Understanding between the Conference of the Parties and GEF,

Noting that the fourth review is essential in the preparations for the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and should be presented to the Parties well in advance of the meeting, in accordance with decision X/27,

Being aware that because of the lack of financial resources, the fourth review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism has not been done,

1. *Urges* the Executive secretary to effectively implement decision X/27 and prepare the fourth review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism in a timely and efficient manner;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to examine the possibility of reallocating funds within existing resources to complete this review before the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties and *encourages* donors that are in a position to do so to make urgent pledges to finance the implementation of decision X/27 in time for the report to be presented at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of Parties.

4/4. Biodiversity for poverty eradication and development

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

1. *Welcomes* the information contained in the proceedings of the Meeting of the Expert Group on Biodiversity for Poverty Eradication and Development including the analysis of the root causes of, and interlinkages between biodiversity loss and poverty;¹

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to invite Parties to express their views regarding the “Dehradun Recommendations” prepared by the Expert Group on Biodiversity for Poverty Eradication and Development at the meeting in Dehradun, India, taking into consideration the discussions during the fourth meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation and the Rio+20 outcomes, and submit a synthesis for consideration by the eleventh meeting of the Conference of Parties;

3. *Recommends* that the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting adopts a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Calls upon* Parties and *encourages* all partners and stakeholders involved in biodiversity and development processes and programmes to take into account the executive summary of *The Root Causes of, and Inter-linkages between, Biodiversity Loss and Poverty* (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/4/5, annex II) and *The Proceedings from the Expert Group on Biodiversity for Poverty Eradication and Development and the Expert Group Analysis of the Root Causes of, and Interlinkages between, Biodiversity Loss and Poverty* (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/4/INF/11) in their related plans, policies and actions and in implementation of related programmes;²

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

3. *Decides* that the Expert Group on Biodiversity for Poverty Eradication and Development continues its work and submits a report before the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, subject to the availability of funding, to move towards a road map for the integration of biodiversity into poverty eradication and development in the context of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets;

4. *Encourages* all partners and stakeholders involved in biodiversity-related programmes to consider different perspectives and priorities in all biodiversity and ecosystem services valuation processes;

5. *Encourages* all partners and stakeholders involved in biodiversity-related programmes in the context of poverty eradication and development to protect and encourage customary use of biological resources in accordance with traditional cultural practices that are compatible with conservation or sustainable use requirements;

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to transmit a report on the progress of the Expert Group on Biodiversity for Poverty Eradication and Development for consideration at the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

¹ UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/4/INF/11.

² Noting for example the UNDP-UNEP Poverty and Environment Initiative (PEI) <http://www.unpei.org/>, the UNEP ecosystem management subprogramme: <http://www.unep.org/ecosystemmanagement/>, the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) Task Team on Environmental Sustainability Climate Change and Rio+20: <http://www.undg.org/index.cfm?P=1050>.

7. *Invites* Parties, the United Nations Development Programme and other relevant organizations to make available through the clearing-house mechanism, as appropriate, best practices on integrating biodiversity into poverty eradication and development.

4/5. Message to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)

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

1. *Invites* the President of the Conference of the Parties to deliver the message on the importance of biodiversity for sustainable development in line with the annex to the present recommendation, as well as the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (decision X/2, annex), to the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20);

2. *Invites* national focal points and others to share the annex to the present note, as well as the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, with the officials in charge of preparations for Rio+20, to ensure that the importance of biodiversity for sustainable development is reflected in national positions for Rio+20.

Annex

**MESSAGE ON THE IMPORTANCE OF BIODIVERSITY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR DELIVERY AT RIO+20
LIVING IN HARMONY WITH NATURE**

1. This is a call from the 193 Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to take effective and urgent action to halt the loss of biodiversity.

2. Twenty years ago, the Convention on Biological Diversity was opened for signature at the Rio Conference on Environment and Development in recognition that the planet's biological diversity, and the essential ecosystem services it provides, forms the basis of our health, our cultures, our wealth, and our well-being; its maintenance is central to the achievement of sustainable development. The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) provides an opportunity to reaffirm the commitment made to achieving the three objectives of the Convention: the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources.

3. Over those twenty years, immense progress has been made, giving effect to the provisions of the Convention, including adoption and entry into force of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. Understanding of the social, cultural and economic values of biodiversity has greatly improved in recent years. There is also growing recognition of its important role in achieving food-security; mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change; and in the prevention of, and resilience to, natural disasters and the impacts of land degradation. Mainstreaming the multiple values of biodiversity in national policies and measures, and in private sector decision-making, has already resulted in encouraging progress towards sustainable development and poverty eradication.

4. Despite this progress, biodiversity is in a precarious state and if we are to safeguard it as the fundamental basis for sustainable development and growth of present and future generations, effective and urgent action is required more than ever. To this end, in 2010, the 193 Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted an ambitious Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including twenty Aichi Biodiversity Targets and agreed on activities and initiatives to mobilize resources for the implementation of the Convention. They also adopted the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization; and Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety adopted the Nagoya - Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress. Implementing the Strategic Plan and meeting its Aichi Targets are essential prerequisites to conserve biodiversity and achieve sustainable

development. For this purpose, mobilization of financial resources, from all sources, should increase substantially.

5. In view of the fact that the United Nations General Assembly declared 2011-2020 the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity, we urge world leaders to ensure that biodiversity considerations are integrated in all the relevant outcomes of Rio+20 and future decision-making by governments and the private sector and to ensure that adequate and timely financial resources are mobilized. In so doing, they would help to build the foundations for a sustainable future, the future we want.

4/6. Cooperation with other conventions: the biodiversity-related conventions and the Rio conventions

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

1. *Invites* the views of Parties regarding the form and content of a process to enhance coordination, coherence and national level synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions by 30 June 2012 and; *requests* the Executive Secretary to compile these views and prepare options to enhance coordination, coherence, and national level synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting;

2. *Recommends* that the Conference of the Parties, at its eleventh meeting, adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties,

1. *Reiterates* the importance of cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions and the Rio conventions for achieving full implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020;

2. *Recognizes* the importance of enhancing synergies, including at the national and regional levels, among the biodiversity-related conventions, without prejudice to their specific objectives and recognizing their respective mandates, and stresses the need to strengthen synergistic processes among the biodiversity-related conventions, in close collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, taking into account among others the lessons learned from the synergies process involving the conventions relating to chemicals and wastes;

3. *Stresses* the need to support necessary arrangements in order to ensure that the Strategic Plan and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets are embraced beyond the Convention on Biological Diversity by all institutions, organizations and processes concerned;

4. *Highlights* the contribution of the Environment Management Group, and in particular its Issues Management Group on biodiversity, to the streamlining of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets throughout the United Nations system;

5. *Welcomes* the progress made under the Convention on Migratory Species, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the World Heritage Convention, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora to reflect the Strategic Plan and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets;

6. *Also welcomes* the work carried out under the Convention on Migratory Species and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora to support Parties to incorporate the objectives of these conventions in their revision of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans;

7. *Welcomes* the *modus operandi* adopted by the Biodiversity Liaison Group contained in the information document by the Executive Secretary on cooperation with other conventions: supplementary information on working arrangements and the preparation of a

modus operandi and terms of reference for the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/4/INF/18);

8. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and encourages the platform to provide relevant biodiversity information in order to support the implementation of the objectives of the CBD and the Strategic Plan 2011-2020, as well as the objectives of the other biodiversity-related conventions, as appropriate;

9. *Urges* Parties to further strengthen cooperation and synergy among convention focal points and other partners at the national level to enhance capacity for implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets to avoid duplication of activities and further enhance the effective use of resources and utilizing national biodiversity strategies and action plans as the central tool for such collaboration;

10. *Stresses* the role of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans to develop a coherent approach at the national level; and encourages Parties to incorporate the objectives of the biodiversity related-conventions and the Rio conventions into their revised national biodiversity strategies and action plans, as appropriate, and support it with all sources and means available;

11. *Takes note* of relevant projects and initiatives for increasing synergies in reporting to the biodiversity-related conventions and the Rio conventions, such as the pilot project supported by the Global Environment Facility, and the project developed by the Australian Government in collaboration with the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, to facilitate integrated reporting processes and approaches in the least developed countries and small island developing States;

12. *Welcomes* the cooperation of the convention secretariats through the UNEP MEA Information and Knowledge Management initiative (InforMEA), in areas of joint information management;

13. *Invites* international organizations and donors to increase funding to support national efforts in achieving policy coherence and mutually supportive implementation of activities that are relevant to a country's obligations under the biodiversity-related conventions and the three Rio conventions;

14. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility and *invites* other financial mechanisms to continue to support projects and activities to improve synergies between multilateral agreements related to biodiversity;

15. *Welcomes* the Rio Conventions Pavilion as a mechanism to enhance collaboration and invites Parties that are in a position to do so to provide support to this initiative in order to increase visibility of synergies between the three Rio conventions and improve the effectiveness of the Pavilion and achievements of its objectives, and requests the Executive Secretary to collaborate with the Executive Secretaries of the other Rio conventions to further enhance the Pavilion;

16. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To provide a report on the implementation of the *modus operandi* adopted by the Biodiversity Liaison Group, evaluating its impact in enhancing coordination, coherence and national level synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions;

(b) In consultation with other convention secretariats, draft suggestions for the Conference of the Parties for increasing the involvement of Parties in the work of the Liaison Group of the biodiversity-related conventions and the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions;

(c) To make available through the clearing-house mechanism, the lessons learned related to cooperation and synergy at national level, including from the implementation of the GEF pilot project on facilitating national reporting to the Rio conventions;

(d) To compile, review and update the various recommendations for synergistic activities and to cross-map the existing and potential contributions of the biodiversity-related conventions, the Rio conventions and other relevant conventions and organizations, with the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, through the ongoing work of the Issue Management Group on biodiversity of the Environment Management Group.

4/7. *Engagement with business*

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

1. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to compile information from on-going national, regional and international business and biodiversity initiatives *inter alia* on how they promote full integration of the value of biodiversity and ecosystem services, addressing the risks to sustainable use of biodiversity caused by biodiversity loss, into private sector activities making use of *inter alia* the TEEB for business recommendations; building on information collected under decision X/44 for consideration at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

2. *Recommends that* the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting adopts a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties,

Noting that the engagement with business must [take into account] [take responsibility for] the three objectives of the Convention, its Protocols and the rights and needs of indigenous and local communities,

Recalling decision X/2, in which it called upon businesses, amongst other stakeholders, to undertake actions which would lead to the successful implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets,

Also recalling its decision X/44, in which it called for the identification and elimination, phase out or reform of perverse incentives that drive biodiversity loss while also establishing policy contexts that will enhance biodiversity-friendly activities,

Further recalling its decision X/21, in which it called upon Governments and business to take specific steps to actively encourage greater private-sector engagement with the Convention,

Recognizing, in particular, the importance of paragraph 1 of decision X/21, in which it called upon Governments to support “the establishment of national and regional business and biodiversity initiatives and to strive towards a global partnership on business and biodiversity by inviting ongoing initiatives and other stakeholders to be part of the business and biodiversity initiative” and “to develop ongoing dialogue with the business community in relation to biodiversity considerations and activities”,

Understanding that the facilitation and development of these national and regional business and biodiversity initiatives can help businesses: to better understand biodiversity and the business case for its conservation; build capacity; share best practices, as appropriate; and help facilitate dialogue amongst all stakeholders, as well as situating biodiversity in the larger context of sustainable development,

Noting the contribution of the first meeting of the global partnership on business and biodiversity for furthering the goals of the global partnership as well as helping to facilitate the development of various national and regional business and biodiversity initiatives,

Also recognizing the importance of paragraphs 2 (b)-(e) of decision X/21, in which it called upon business to “develop and apply processes and production methods that minimize or avoid negative impacts on biodiversity”,

Recalling decision X/21, which calls upon the Executive Secretary in collaboration with relevant organizations and initiatives to compile, analyse, and disseminate tools and other mechanisms through various means to businesses and other stakeholders, building on information being collected pursuant to decision X/44,

Recalling decision VII/14 adopting the guidelines on biodiversity and tourism development and underlining its importance for the tourism business sector,

Noting the Cha-am Declaration on Biodiversity which emanated from the Asia Regional Forum on Biodiversity, and which recognizes that nature is the foundation of life and that protecting nature is the joint task of business, government, academia, and other multi-stakeholders in society,

Taking note of the revised Keidanren Declaration of Biodiversity, Guide to Action Policy,

Also taking note of the work of the various voluntary standards and certification bodies such as (*inter alia*) the Forest Stewardship Council, the Marine Stewardship Council, Fairtrade Labelling Organizations International, the Rainforest Alliance and LIFE institute,

Noting the links between biodiversity and other aspects of sustainable development and the importance of emphasizing the responsibility of business to take action to address biodiversity loss, as well as climate change and desertification,

Recognizing the importance of continuing to call upon businesses to embrace and act upon the overall goals of the Convention and its Protocols, to help them to understand and implement the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and to help them understand how biodiversity fits into the overall sustainable development agenda,

1. *Calls upon* businesses to continue liaising with national Governments, civil society organizations, academia, and other stakeholders, to formulate relevant actions for biodiversity conservation for sustainable use of ecosystem services and for the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources, which align with the Strategic Plan and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets;

2. *Further calls upon* businesses to fully consider the revised 2012 International Finance Corporation (IFC) Performance Standards which incorporates sustainability standards;

3. *Invites Parties:*

(a) To promote the full integration of biodiversity and ecosystem services values into private sector activities, taking into account the findings and recommendations of the TEEB for business report and the work undertaken in the framework of national ecosystem assessments;

(b) To ratify and implement the Nagoya Protocol in order to establish legal certainty and transparency for providers and users of genetic resources;

(c) To consider, according to priorities and national circumstances, policies and legislation that halt biodiversity loss and reduces incentives including subsidies that are harmful to biodiversity in government procurement policies and including biodiversity impacts;

(d) To take into account according to priorities and national circumstances other policies that halt biodiversity loss, such as, *inter alia*:

- (i) Encouraging consideration of best practices for voluntary standards and certification schemes that respect the goals and objectives of the Convention and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets that will help incentivize the sustainable management of landscapes and seascapes, and will help companies (particularly small and medium-sized enterprises) assess and effectively address their impact upon biodiversity and on indigenous and local communities;
- (ii) Encouraging, and assisting with (as appropriate), the establishment of monitoring and reporting frameworks to provide motivation for compliance with sustainability policies and standards;
- (iii) Reducing incentives including subsidies that are harmful to biodiversity in accordance with decision X/44;

4. *Encourages* businesses:

(a) To continue to undertake actions which would be instrumental to the implementation of the Strategic Plan and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in accordance with decision X/2 and national policies, and to report on obstacles encountered in doing this;

(b) To urge their supply chains, and other stakeholders, to report on progress made in mainstreaming the objectives of the Convention and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, including their biodiversity strategy, policies and action plans;

(c) To analyse the impacts, dependencies, opportunities and risks of individual sectors as they relate to biodiversity and ecosystem services taking into account the findings and recommendations of the TEEB for Business Report;

(d) To adopt policies which respect the goals and objectives of the Convention and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets including methods for sustainable consumption and production and use of voluntary standards and certification schemes that incorporate effective safeguards for biodiversity, as appropriate;

(e) To align their investments in support of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use;

(f) To continue the dialogue with government on all relevant aspects of the national and international biodiversity agenda through the national business and biodiversity initiatives and other means, so as to ensure that the impacts of business on biodiversity are duly taken into account;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources and in collaboration with relevant organizations:

(a) To continue to facilitate the dialogue among business, government and other stakeholders through ongoing support of national, regional, and international business and biodiversity initiatives using the Global Partnership as a framework;

(b) To compile information on best practices that incorporates all three objectives of the Convention and those of its two Protocols and facilitate the engagement of businesses, governments and other stakeholders in adopting such practices through various means including the Global Platform for Business and Biodiversity website, newsletters and specific, targeted workshops;

(c) To continue to work with partners to further refine the analysis of the various tools and mechanisms and thereby help companies (including small and medium-sized enterprises) understand, assess and adopt cost effective, credible and impactful solutions for managing biodiversity risk;

(d) To help raise awareness about the drivers of biodiversity loss by collaborating with appropriate national, regional and international partners, including national and regional initiatives thus assisting businesses (including small and medium-sized enterprises) build capacity to fit biodiversity as well as accountability into the overall sustainable development agenda.

4/8. *Multi-Year Plan of Action for South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development*

The Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention *recommends* that the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting *adopts* a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision X/23, in which it welcomed the Multi-Year Plan of Action for South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development as adopted by the Group of 77 and China at the South-South Cooperation Forum held on 17 October 2010,

Welcoming the outcomes of the third expert meeting on South-South Cooperation, hosted by the Republic of Korea through its National Institute of Biological Resources from 18 to 20 May 2011,

Recognizing that South-South cooperation, complemented and supported by North-South and triangular cooperation, are important contributions to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020,

1. *Encourages* Parties, other Governments, relevant organizations and other stakeholders to implement the Multi-Year Plan of Action for South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development in the context of nationally determined priorities, capacities and needs;

2. *Reiterates* its invitation in paragraph 7 of decision X/23 to the Global Environment Facility to consider establishing a South-South biodiversity cooperation trust fund for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 [including the Multi-Year Plan of Action on South-South cooperation on Biodiversity for Development] based on voluntary contributions; and welcomes ongoing discussions on this matter;

3. *Recalling* paragraph 5 of decision X/23, *requests* the Executive Secretary to promote South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation as part of a coherent, consistent and coordinated approach to technical and scientific cooperation and information exchange.
