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Item 17 of the provisional agenda*

THEMATIC PROGRAMMES OF WORK: PROGRESS REPORTS ON IMPLEMENTATION AND CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE ACTION: FOREST BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY; BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY OF DRY AND SUB-HUMID LANDS; AND AGRICULTURAL BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Note by the Executive Secretary

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present note has been prepared to assist the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting in its consideration of item 17 of the provisional agenda: progress reports on the implementation of the programme of work on forest biological diversity; on biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands; and on agricultural biodiversity, as enabled through decisions V/23, VI/4, VI/5 and VI/22, respectively. It covers activities implemented in the period between the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in April 2002 and the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and supplements the relevant progress reports on thematic areas prepared for the eighth and ninth meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/8/2 and UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/2). The report aims to highlight some of the most important developments and events.

2. The Conference of the Parties may wish to:

(a) Take note of the progress made in the implementation of the programmes of work and provide additional guidance to the Executive Secretary, as needed, in the further implementation of the work programmes; and

(b) Consider for adoption recommendation VIII/4 on biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) contained in the report of its eighth meeting (UNEP/CBD/COP/7/3), and recommendation IX/3 on the impacts of the application of genetic use restriction technologies on smallholder farmers, indigenous and

* UNEP/CBD/COP/7/1.

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local communities and Farmers' Rights as contained in the report of its ninth meeting (UNEP/CBD/COP/7/4).

3. Other relevant recommendations from SBSTTA are also contained in these two reports.

4. Draft decisions under all these items, incorporating the relevant recommendations of the inter-sessional bodies, will be contained in the compilation of draft decisions for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties (UNEP/CBD/COP/7/1/Add.2).

II. FOREST BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

5. In decision VI/22, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to:

(a) Initiate, in collaboration with the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) Secretariat and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), first steps towards the implementation of the expanded work programme (paragraphs 19 (a) to (g));

(b) Develop, in consultation with other partners, a format to report on implementation of the expanded programme of work (paragraph 22) and develop a format for voluntary thematic national reports (paragraph 27);

(c) Identify and/or foster, in consultation with the SBSTTA and the clearing house mechanism focal points, partners, partnerships, and regional and international cooperative initiatives to undertake or support implementation activities (paragraph 23); compile information on the implementation and disseminate it through the clearing-house mechanism (paragraph 24);

(d) Establish an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) to provide advice in the review of implementation of the programme of work (paragraph 26);

(e) Support the work of the UNFF and the CPF (paragraph 36);

(f) Invite the CPF to support the implementation of the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity (paragraph 38) and to consider the Convention on Biological Diversity as its the focal point for forest biological diversity (paragraph 39);

(g) Invite the AHTEG on Biological Diversity and Climate Change to consider issues related to interlinkages between biological diversity and climate change (paragraph 41);

(h) Establish a liaison group on non-timber forest resources (paragraph 42);

(i) Invite members of the CPF and its network to explore possibilities for enhancing the integration of non-timber forest resources in forest inventory (paragraph 43);

(j) Invite the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC) to include forest biodiversity in their assessments of fire impacts and to explore possibilities for a joint work programme (paragraph 44);

(k) Transmit the report of the AHTEG on Forest Biological Diversity to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and their bodies, and to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (paragraph 45).

6. In addition, the Conference of the Parties urged Parties and Governments to:
- (a) Incorporate relevant objectives and related activities of the programme of work into their national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national forest programmes (paragraph 28);
 - (b) Undertake national-level implementation and to coordinate their work at an international level (paragraph 29);
 - (c) Address the effectiveness of forest and forest related laws and their enforcement and implementation of policies and related trade (paragraph 30);
 - (d) Encourage the development of community-based approaches for the conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity (paragraph 31);
 - (e) Recognize the role that women in indigenous and local communities play in the sustainable use and conservation of forest biological diversity (paragraph 32);
 - (f) Encourage the development of closer collaboration for the conservation and sustainable use of transboundary forest ecosystems (paragraph 33); and
 - (g) Apply criteria and indicators for the purposes of the expanded work programme (paragraph 34).

7. In response to these decisions, the following activities were carried out.

A. *Identified priority activities*

8. *Ecosystem approach and sustainable forest management:* The Executive Secretary convened an expert group meeting on the ecosystem approach, Montreal, 7 to 11 July 2003. The meeting clarified the conceptual basis of the ecosystem approach in relation to the concept of sustainable forest management (see documents UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/8 and UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/INF/4). On the basis of these results, SBSTTA recommended further work on the integration of the concepts of ecosystem approach and sustainable forest management (recommendation IX/14).

9. *Collaboration with other bodies:* A preliminary assessment of the comparison between the activities of the Convention's expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity and the IPF/IFF proposals for action was undertaken by the Executive Secretary and submitted to the ninth meeting of SBSTTA (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/INF/31). SBSTTA welcomed the work and recommended that further views be developed on this assessment with relevant partners including the Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests (recommendation IX/2).

10. *Forest protected areas:* With financial support from the Government of the Netherlands, an international workshop on protected forest areas took place in Montreal, from 6 to 8 November 2003. A note by the Executive Secretary on opportunities and challenges to establishing and ensuring long-term sustainability of protected forest areas in the context of the programme of work on forest biological diversity (UNEP/CBD/IW.PFA/1/2) provided background information to the meeting. The report of the workshop was submitted to the ninth meeting of SBSTTA (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/INF/39).

11. *Forest law enforcement and related trade:* A report on the effects of insufficient forest law enforcement on forest biological diversity will be presented as an information document.

12. *Sustainable use/benefit sharing:* The Executive Secretary prepared a report based on a questionnaire circulated to Parties and relevant organizations on "Management of forest biodiversity to

derive products and services, and benefit-sharing”, which was considered during the ninth meeting of SBSTTA (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/9/Add.1).

13. *Servicing capacity-building:* The Executive Secretary developed a first trial version of an Internet portal accessible through the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention (<http://www.biodiv.org/programmes/areas/forest/links.asp>) as requested, and is currently working on a refined version that will provide a space for exchange of information and best practices related to the activities of the programme of work.

B. Progress in the implementation of the programme of work

14. *Reporting formats:* A format for a voluntary thematic report on successes, challenges, and impediments to the implementation of the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity was developed in consultation with the bureaux of SBSTTA and Conference of the Parties, and sent to Parties in June 2003. As of 15 November 2003, 12 Parties had submitted their reports. A synthesis of the thematic reports is being made available to the Conference of the Parties as an information document (UNEP/CBD/COP/7/INF/7).

15. The Secretariat actively participated in two meetings of the CPF Task Force on Streamlining Forest-related reporting in November 2002 and in February 2003. During the meetings, members of the Task Force carried out a comparative analysis of their reporting formats, and highlighted the current opportunities and constraints facing the harmonization and streamlining process. The Task Force also launched, during the CPF meeting in Rome on 9 March 2003, a web-based “portal” that provides access to national reports submitted to the CPF Task Force member organizations.

16. *Partnerships for and information on the implementation of the programme of work:* The synthesis of the voluntary thematic reports submitted by Parties (see paragraph 14 above) on the implementation of the programme of work reveals that Parties undertake a number of partnerships and cooperative activities. For example, the Ministerial Conference of the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) conglomerates many forest-related activities undertaken by European countries. The World Bank, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), FAO, ITTO, the ASEAN Regional Centre for Biodiversity Conservation, the Regional Initiative for Dry Forests in Asia, and IUCN—The World Conservation Union, the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution under the Economic Commission for Europe, among others are also mentioned by Parties as important catalysts for partnership and cooperation in regional forest issues.

17. *Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Work on Forest Biological Diversity* convened its first meeting, in Montpellier, France, from 24 to 27 November 2003 with the support of the French Government.

18. *Support and participation in the work of the UNFF and CPF:* A meeting was held with two representatives of the UNFF Secretariat in Montreal on 11 and 12 July 2002 to discuss all decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its sixth meeting that require collaboration with UNFF and CPF. On 10 January 2003, a meeting was held in Montreal between the Head of the Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests and the Executive Secretary of the CBD to identify ways and means of increasing coordination between the two Secretariats. At the request of the UNFF Secretariat, the Executive Secretary provided input into pre-session documents related to (a) economic aspects of forests; (b) forest health and productivity; and (c) maintaining forest cover to meet present and future needs, all of which were discussed as main items on the third UNFF session in 2003.

19. As the CPF focal agency for traditional forest related knowledge, the Secretariat led the preparation of the Secretary General's paper on this topic, to be considered at the fourth session of the UNFF scheduled for May 2004.

20. *CPF support for the implementation of the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity and role of the Convention on Biological Diversity as focal point within CPF:* Several CPF members participated in a number of meetings under the Convention, including: (i) the Expert Meeting on the Ecosystem Approach (see paragraph 8 above); (ii) the meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Forest Biological Diversity (see paragraph 17 above); and (iii) the International Workshop on Forest Protected Areas (see paragraph 10 above).

21. At the ninth meeting of CPF, held in Rome on 9 March 2003, members clarified that the role of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity as the focal point within the CPF on forest biodiversity was similar to that of any of the focal agencies within CPF.

22. *Interlinkages between biological diversity and climate change:* A report on the work on biological diversity and climate change is included in the progress report on cross-cutting issues (UNEP/CBD/COP/7/13).

23. *Liaison group on non-timber forest resources:* The Executive Secretary initiated the work of the liaison group on non-timber forest resources by: (i) opening an electronic forum on a restricted website from 5 to 23 September 2003, and (ii) providing a discussion paper prepared in collaboration with the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR). The results from the electronic consultations were presented to the ninth meeting of SBSTTA (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/9/Add.2) under the agenda item on sustainable use.

24. *Integration of non-timber forest resources in the forest inventory and management:* The Executive Secretary prepared an information document on the integration of non-timber forest resources in the forest inventory and management for the ninth meeting of SBSTTA (UNEP/SBSTTA/9/INF/14). The assessment shows different initiatives by CPF members and other relevant institutions on integrating non-timber forest resources into forest inventory, at both national and regional levels.

25. *Including forest biodiversity in fire impact assessment:* The Executive Secretary prepared a document on biodiversity considerations in fire impact assessments (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/INF/15) for the ninth meeting of SBSTTA. The document includes a list of possible elements for a joint work programme between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC) and the Convention. The Convention Secretariat was appointed in 2003 as a member of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction Working Group on Wildland Fire whose members include, among others, GFMC and FAO.

C. Activities by Parties, Government and others

26. *Incorporation of relevant objectives of the programme of work into national programmes:* A questionnaire was sent to 35 Parties from all United Nations regions in September 2002 to assess in selected countries on how they are integrating the activities in the context of the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity in their national forest plans (NFP) and national biodiversity strategy and action plan (NBSAPs). The information provided by respondent countries to the questionnaire on implementation of the expanded programme of work indicates that biodiversity conservation is increasingly being integrated into other sectors, including forest conservation and use.

27. *Coordination of work on forest biological diversity at the international level:* The Government of Austria, through the Institute of Forest Sector Policy and Economics, carried out an analysis on Implementation of the IPF/IFF Proposals for Action in relation to the work programme of the Secretariat. The Australian Government and the World Bank programme on forests (PROFOR) produced a similar assessment in its publication *Implementing the Proposals for Action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests and the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests* in 2003.

28. *Effectiveness of forest and forest related laws:* Information derived from the voluntary country report on implementation of the programme of work reveals the existence of measures to promote forest law enforcement and related trade, as well as development of good governance practices. Programmes and policies to mitigate economic distortions that impinge negatively on forest biodiversity are being implemented, or in the process of development.

29. *Community-based approaches for the conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity, including the role of women:* Country-level information contained in document prepared for the ninth meeting of SBSTTA (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/9/Add.1) includes views from 25 Parties on issues related to sustainable use of forest biodiversity by indigenous and local communities. The majority of projects described by Parties aim at the enhancement of the quality of life of local communities through the sustainable use of biodiversity. Several projects to further achieve community participation have been implemented.

30. *Conservation and sustainable use of transboundary forest ecosystems:* Several Parties and Governments are undertaking activities and projects related to the establishment and/or management of transboundary forest protected areas. Recent initiatives include the Central Asia Transboundary Biodiversity Project (Kyrgyz-Kazakhstan-Uzbekistan), Kluane/Wrangell-St. Elias/Glacier Bay/Tatshenshini-Elsek Parks (Canada-United States of America), Carpathians (Poland-Slovakia), Pha Taem Protected Forest Complex (Thailand-Cambodia-Laos), Cross-border Protection in Borneo (Malaysia-Indonesia), Great Lakes Region (Democratic Republic of Congo-Rwanda-Burundi), Cordillera del Condor (Peru-Ecuador), and the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor (Mexico to Panama).

31. *Criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management:* About 150 countries in association with regional and/or national processes have endorsed criteria and indicators as a tool for assessing and monitoring status and trends of forest resources and for measuring progress towards sustainable forest management. In particular, Parties appear to have adopted criteria and indicators developed at the international level, and have adapted them to national and local conditions and specific forest types.

III. BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY OF DRY AND SUB-HUMID LANDS

32. In decision V/23 the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to:

(a) Review the programme of work and identify expected outcomes, activities to achieve these outcomes, potential actors, and timetables for action and follow-up, in collaboration with the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) (decision V/23, paragraph 6);

(b) Finalize the joint work programme with UNCCD; and seek inputs and collaborate with countries with sub-humid lands, and with relevant bodies in the implementation and further elaboration of the programme of work (paragraph 8);

(c) Update the roster of experts on the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands in close collaboration with UNCCD (paragraph 9); and disseminate relevant information on the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands through various means (paragraph 10).

33. The Conference of the Parties also requested SBSTTA to assess periodically the status and trends of the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands and make recommendations on the further prioritization and refinement of the programme of work (paragraph 5).

34. To assist SBSTTA, the Conference of the Parties decided to establish an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity of Dry and Sub-Humid Lands with a well-defined mandate (paragraph 7).

35. In decision VI/4, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to prepare, in collaboration with the secretariats of relevant conventions, proposals to develop a mechanism to coordinate activities in biodiversity, desertification/land degradation and climate change, and enhance synergies in the implementation of this programme of work and other thematic programmes of the Convention.

36. Through paragraph 1 of its recommendation VIII/4, SBSTTA invited the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), as the executing agency of the Global Land Degradation Assessment (LADA), and Millennium Ecosystem Assessment to consider integrating, in the context of their respective mandates, the needs for information on status and trends of dry and sub-humid land biodiversity, and ways to strengthen national efforts to conduct assessments, and to report on this matter to the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

37. The following sections review progress made:

(a) In response to the requests of the Conference of the Parties in decisions V/23 and VI/4, and SBSTTA recommendation VIII/4;

(b) In the implementation of each activity of the programme of work on biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands; and

(c) In the implementation of the joint work programme between the Convention to Combat Desertification and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

A. *Progress made in response to the requests of the Conference of the Parties in decisions V/23 and VI/4, and SBSTTA recommendation VIII/4*

38. At its eighth meeting, SBSTTA considered: (i) a proposal for the periodic review and assessment of the status and trend of biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands; (ii) a review of the programme of work and identification of expected outcomes, further activities to achieve these outcomes, potential actors, and timetables for action and follow-up; and (iii) a proposal for the development of a mechanism to coordinate activities in the areas of biodiversity, desertification/land degradation and climate change and for linking and ensuring integration of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national action programmes as requested in decisions V/23 and VI/4 (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/8/10). The relevant recommendations are included in annex I to the report of the meeting (UNEP/CBD/COP/7/3).

39. The Executive Secretary is presenting as an information document the agreed joint work programme on dry and sub-humid lands between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). In September 2003, the Conference of the Parties to the UNCCD welcomed the joint work programme, and invited Parties to take the necessary measures to ensure its effective implementation, particularly at the local level (ICCD/COP/(6)/4).

40. The Executive Secretary convened the second meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on the Biological Diversity of Dry and Sub-Humid Lands from 23 to 27 September 2002 in Montreal. The final report of the group was submitted to SBSTTA at its eighth meeting (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/8/INF/2).

B. Progress in the implementation of the programme of work

Activity 1: Assessment of status and trends

41. In response to paragraph 1 of SBSTTA recommendation VIII/4, the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and FAO LADA are expected to submit relevant proposals and progress reports. These will be made available as information documents

Activity 2: Areas of particular value and/or under threat

42. The Executive Secretary, together with the UNEP-WCMC, based on the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group and in consultation with country Parties and other collaborators, prepared a proposal for developing an “alternative” hotspot map, which would identify areas in which biodiversity is under the threat of land degradation/desertification as priority areas for action, amongst other. A first draft set of maps identifying such and areas is being prepared by WCMC and will be available as an information document.

Activity 3: Indicators

43. Ongoing work on indicators and benchmarks under the UNCCD is relevant to the programme of work. Information exchanges in this regard, also foreseen in the joint work programme between the UNCCD and the Convention on Biological Diversity, was initiated, *inter alia*, by establishing stronger working linkages with the chairman of the Group of Experts of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) and other relevant UNCCD bodies, especially in follow-up to the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the UNCCD, which was held in Havana from 25 August to 5 September 2003. Ongoing UNCCD work on benchmarks and indicators during the reporting period includes: (i) a subregional workshop for the Caribbean, in Saint Lucia, from 24 to 27 February 2003; and (ii) a final consultation and adoption of benchmarks and indicators by the Thematic Programme Network 1 (TPN 1) for the Asian region, in November 2003. Working contacts were initiated with the Observatoire du Sahara et du Sahel (OSS), based in Tunisia. The OSS has developed a long-term ecological monitoring network in Africa, which also has experience with biodiversity indicator work. OSS is fostering North-South-South partnerships in developing country-based indicator and monitoring systems of land degradation and other natural resources. ^{1/}

44. The land use cover change (LUCC) project of the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP), at the third IGBP Congress in Banff, Canada, from 19 to 24 June 2003, addressed desertification and biodiversity indicators during two workshop sessions. ^{2/}

45. Ongoing work on indicators and assessments under the Convention on Biological Diversity takes into consideration dry and sub-humid lands ecosystems, and experts with relevant backgrounds participated in the Expert Meeting on Indicators of Biological Diversity, held in Montreal from 10 to 12 February 2003.

^{1/} <http://www.unesco.org/oss>

^{2/} <http://www.igbp.kva.se/congress/downloads.html>

Activity 4: Knowledge on processes that affect biodiversity

46. One expected outcomes under this programme activity is the generation of reports on the structure and functioning of dry and sub-humid lands ecosystems, including the potential impacts of climate change and poverty on these. The work undertaken by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biological Diversity and Climate Change includes relevant work in this regard.

47. As part of a recently agreed collaborate work between the Drylands Development Centre (DDC) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (see paragraph 55 below), the DDC held a side-event on the margins of the ninth meeting of SBSTTA seeking inputs into a proposal that foresees to produce a “challenge paper” series on dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity issues for the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention. A number of potential topics were brainstormed, including the identification of alternative biodiversity “hotspots” in dry and sub-humid land ecosystems, i.e., featuring areas under threat e.g. through high levels of poverty. The Secretariat contributed to the “challenge paper” ^{3/} series organized for the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention to Combat Desertification, focusing on topics such as increasing capabilities through an ecosystem approach for the drylands, land tenure reform and the drylands and pastoralism and mobility in the drylands.

Activity 5: Benefits derived from biological diversity

48. The WWF Macroeconomics for Sustainable Development Programme Office (MPO) and its project on economic change, poverty, and the environment have released a new publication, *Paying for Environmental Stewardship*. ^{4/} In this report, the authors identify key issues and international experiences in using markets and common-pool property to reduce rural poverty and enhance resource conservation, amongst other in dry and sub-humid lands.

Activity 6: Best management practices

49. The Third World Network of Scientific Organizations (TWNSO)-UNEP/GEF project “Promoting best-practices for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity of global significance in arid and semi-arid zones” held a workshop in Rabat, Morocco, from 27 to 30 August 2003. ^{5/} The Secretariat made a presentation on the programme of work and the joint work programme. The 36 case studies of best practices resulting from the project, ^{6/} are posted on the webpage of the Convention on Biological Diversity. For a second phase of the project, TWNSO agreed to consider integrating the programme of work explicitly.

50. UNEP compiled a set of best practices ^{7/} on combating desertification also relevant to conservation of biological diversity. The World Bank published a set of case-studies from South Africa, entitled “Mainstreaming biodiversity in development”. ^{8/} An International Symposium on Rural Community Interaction, and Workshop Exploring Alternative Ways to Combat Desertification by Connection Community Action with Science and Common Sense took place in Southern Africa in

^{3/} <http://www.undp.org/drylands>

^{4/} <http://www.panda.org/downloads/policy/shilling.pdf>

^{5/} <http://www.twngo.org/>

^{6/} Lemons, J., Victor, R. & D. Schaffer, (eds.), 2003. Conserving biodiversity in arid regions: best practices in developing nations, Kluwer Academic Publishers, USA

^{7/} “Success stories in the struggle against desertification: a holistic and integrated approach to Environmental conservation and sustainable livelihoods”, <http://www.unep.org/bsgn/>

^{8/} Pierce, S.M., Cowling, R.M., Sandwith, T. & MacKinnon, K., 2002. Mainstreaming biodiversity in development: case studies from South Africa. The World Bank Environment Department

2002. ^{9/} A number of relevant best practices in combating desertification and managing biodiversity, including on a local level, were illustrated.

Activities 7-9: Measures for conservation and sustainable use - promotion of responsible resource management - support for sustainable livelihoods

51. Activities 7-9 of the programme of work on biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands should primarily be implemented by Parties; at this stage no systematic assessment of such activities has been done. The following paragraphs primarily report on activities that have been initiated in collaboration with the Executive Secretary and other institutional partners.

52. In line with decision VI/4 and SBSTTA recommendation VIII/4 on synergies, as well as contributing to various sub-activities of activities 7 and 8 of the programme of work, the Executive Secretary, together with the Secretariat of the UNCCD, the UNDP DDC, IUCN, the GTZ/UNCCD project, the Government of the Netherlands and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), is organizing a series of subregional workshops on “practising synergy”. These workshops aim to facilitate the sharing of relevant experiences made by national focal points of various conventions and other relevant stakeholders in the synergistic implementation of the multilateral environmental agreements on a national and local level. A number of relevant local, national and regional synergy workshops took place in 2003. ^{10/} Lessons learnt from such experiences build the foundation for the “practising synergy initiative.

53. A meeting of the Global Biodiversity Forum (GBF) held in Havana on 30 and 31 August 2003, in conjunction with the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention to Combat Desertification, focused on “The ecosystem approach to dryland management: integrating biodiversity conservation and livelihood security”. A representative of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity gave a presentation on the ecosystem approach under that Convention, and its relevance to dry and sub-humid lands and participated in the associated technical workshops (on integrated land and water management, community participation in drylands management, gender concerns for dryland management and innovative financing mechanisms). The outcomes of the Global Biodiversity Forum ^{11/} contribute directly to the implementation of activities 7 to 9 of the work programme.

54. Through the IUCN ecosystem management programme's arid lands initiative ^{12/} the existing Memorandum of Understanding between IUCN and the CBD Secretariat was amended in July 2003 to include specific activities addressing the needs of the programme of work. Amongst these are, for example, work together with the IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management, on developing a rationale and framework for addressing ecosystem restoration with an arid lands component. ^{13/} and on integrated water and arid lands management. ^{14/}

^{9/} The proceedings are forthcoming (<http://des2002.az.blm.gov/homepage.htm>).

^{10/} Relevant synergy workshops that took place in 2003: (i) A consultative meeting of African francophone focal points on synergies between the Rio conventions, Marrakesh, Morocco, 27 to 31 January 2003; (ii) Forum on the development of local level synergies between environmental conventions in Kenya, Nairobi, Kenya, 28 to 30 May 2003; (iii) international workshop on synergies and cooperation with other conventions, Espoo, Finland, 2 to 4 July 2003 (iv) workshop on building synergies at the local level among the environmental conventions (UNCCD, UNFCCC and UNCBD) “Connecting science with community action: rangelands management as an element for synergy among the Rio Conventions at the local level”, Grootberg, Namibia, 6 to 12 July 2003; (v) national workshop for promoting synergies among the three Environmental conventions, Asmara, Eritrea, 28 to 29 July 2003; (vi) the first “Reunión Centroamericana de Sinergías de las Convenciones de Biodiversidad, Humedales y Desertificación”, Belize, 19 to 22 August) (vi) workshop on best practices in agroforestry and soil conservation in southern and eastern Africa (considering synergies between the Rio Conventions), Palapye, Botswana, 2 to 4 December 2003

^{11/} <http://www.gbf.ch/>

^{12/} <http://www.iucn.org/themes/cem/initiatives/arid/index.htm>

^{13/} <http://www.iucn.org/themes/cem/work/restoration/rest.htm>

^{14/} <http://www.iucn.org/themes/wetlands/>

55. The UNDP DDC signed a memorandum of cooperation with the Secretariat in August 2003. The memorandum contains elements of a joint work plan in support of the implementation of the programme of work, especially considering the synthesis table of expected outcomes and timeframes, potential actors, and indicators of progress in the implementation of the programme of work on dry and sub-humid lands annexed to SBSTTA recommendation VIII/4.

56. The GEF draft operational programme on sustainable land management identifies capacity-building, on-the-ground investments (sustainable agriculture, sustainable rangeland/pasture management, forest and woodland management) as well as targets research as areas for financial support. It recognizes that under the Convention, the programme priorities highlight the role that land degradation and deforestation prevention and control can play in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

57. Amongst a great number of diverse activities directly underpinning the expected outcomes of the programme of work are workshops, publications, development of guidelines and training materials. The following indicative activities have been carried out in this regard:

(a) *Activity 7(b) (Rehabilitation and/or restoration)*: European Tropical Forest Research Network (ETFRN) e-discussion on rehabilitation of degraded lands in sub-Saharan Africa, 15/ with a focus on drylands;

(b) *Activity 7 (d) (Production systems)*:

(i) Sustainable use: development of practical principles, operational guidance and associated instruments (see the report of the ninth meeting of SBSTTA (UNEP/CBD/COP/7/4), annex I, recommendation IX/7);

(ii) A report on biodiversity and the ecosystem approach in agriculture, forestry and fisheries, proceedings from a satellite event on the occasion of the ninth regular meeting of the commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, 12 to 13 October 2002 (FAO, 2003);

(iii) A report on extractive industries in arid and semi-arid zones - environmental planning and management 16/ (IUCN);

(c) *Activity 8(a) Local institutional structures; and indigenous and local techniques*:

(i) "Local communities, equity and conservation in southern Africa: a synthesis of lessons learnt and recommendations from a southern African technical workshop", 17/ Pretoria, 26 to 28 February;

(ii) Capitalising on local knowledge - community knowledge exchange: A tool kit. 18/

15/ <http://www.etfrn.org/etfrn/workshop/degradedlands/index.html>

16/ Gratzfeld, J. (ed.), 2003. Extractive industries in arid and semi-arid zones - environmental planning and management. Ecosystem Management Series No.1, IUCN

17/ Whande, W., Kepe, T. & Murphee, M., (eds.) 2003. Local communities, equity and conservation in southern Africa: a synthesis of lessons learnt and recommendations from a southern African technical workshop. Pretoria, South Africa, 26 to 28 February. Programme for Land and Agrarian Studies, University of the Western Cape, South Africa

18/ Oettle, N. & Koelle, B., 2003. Capitalising on local knowledge - community knowledge exchange. A tool kit for the preparation, implementation and evaluation of community-to-community knowledge and learning exchanges. The World Bank.

C. Implementation of the joint work programme with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

58. In support of the implementation of the Joint Work Programme, the Secretariats of the Convention to Combat Desertification and the Convention on Biological Diversity jointly hosted a side event during sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention to Combat Desertification. The Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, together with the Convention to Combat Desertification, presented a draft, web-based “synergy portal”, as planned for through the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Secretariats, at that occasion.

59. The Convention to Combat Desertification facilitated a training course on GEF proposal development for Asian country Parties in collaboration with the Istituto Agronomico per l'Oltremare (IAO), in Florence, Italy, 19 to 30 May 2003. Other meetings under the Convention to Combat Desertification particularly relevant to the joint work programme include:

(a) The Thematic Programme Network (TPN) meeting on water resources management in agriculture in arid, semi-arid and dry sub humid areas, Bonn, 5 to 7 March 2003;

(b) The fourth Asia-Africa Forum to Combat Desertification on Agroforestry as an incentive measure for soil conservation and ecosystem restoration, Cotonou, 23 to 27 June 2003;

(c) The Technical Workshop on Agroforestry in Latin America and Caribbean Dry Ecosystems (TPN4), Lima, 24 to 27 November 2003; and

(d) The Regional meeting for strengthening cooperation in the field of land resources management in Central and Eastern Europe, which will take place in Minsk, from 15 to 16 December 2003.

IV. AGRICULTURAL BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

60. In paragraph 2 of decision VI/5, the Conference of the Parties adopted the steps for the further implementation of the programme of work on agricultural biological diversity. In line with that decision, the Executive Secretary was expected to prepare the following reports for consideration by SBSTTA prior to the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties:

(a) A preliminary assessment of the status and trends of agricultural biodiversity in collaboration with the FAO and the MA; and

(b) An analysis of lessons learned from case-studies, in collaboration with FAO, the World Trade Organization (WTO), Parties and other relevant organizations.

61. In addition, the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting is to consider recommendations from SBSTTA on capacity building and policy (decision VI/5, annex I, table 2).

62. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary, *inter alia*, to:

(a) Prepare a draft format for the thematic report on agrobiodiversity and report to the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting (paragraph 5); and

(b) Study further the impacts of trade liberalization on agrobiodiversity (paragraph 17).

63. Additionally, the Conference of the Parties, *inter alia*:

(a) Invited Parties, other Governments, and relevant organizations to submit case-studies on mainstreaming agricultural biodiversity in their plans, programmes and strategies, to be made available through the clearing-house mechanism (paragraph 3);

(b) Adopted and decided to periodically review, the Plan of Action for the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators (paragraph 8);

(c) Decided to establish an International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Soil Biodiversity (paragraph 13);

(d) Established an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on the potential impacts of genetic use restriction technologies on smallholder farmers, indigenous and local communities and Farmer's Rights; report to the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions and SBSTTA prior to the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (paragraph 21); and

(e) Invited the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV), the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and other relevant organizations to examine the specific intellectual property implications of genetic use restriction technologies, particularly in respect of indigenous and local communities (paragraph 24).

64. In its decision VI/6, the Conference of the Parties appealed to Parties and other Governments to give priority consideration to the signature and ratification of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (paragraph 3); and requested the Executive Secretary to develop cooperation with the Secretariat of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture acting as the Interim Committee for the Treaty (paragraph 5);

A. *Steps for the further implementation of the programme of work by the Executive Secretary and partner organizations*

65. The Executive Secretary and main partner institutions (including FAO, the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and UNEP-WCMC) initiated collaborative arrangements for the implementation of the programme of work. Preliminary discussions point to the need to review the deadlines and milestones set in light of: (i) the institutional capacities of the partners; (ii) the timing of the submission of the third national reports in time for the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and (c) the recommendations of the proposed multi-year programme of work until 2010, scheduling the in-depth review of the programme of work on agricultural biological diversity at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

66. On recommendation of the collaborating partners, it is proposed to postpone the preparation of the final report on the World's Assessment on Agricultural Biological Diversity and related milestones by two years. The same proposal is being made for the compilation and analysis of existing data, information and case-studies related to the four programme elements (see decision VI/5, paragraph 2 and annex I), postponing the comprehensive analysis of lessons learned *vis-à-vis* the third national report.

Programme element 1 – Assessments

67. *Comprehensive assessment of the status and trends of agricultural biodiversity*: FAO has agreed to undertake substantial work in support of this assessment. The assessments on the *State of the World's*

Plant Genetic Resources (second report) and *the Animal Genetic Resources* (first report), will contribute to the overall assessment. The Millennium Assessment, which expects to publish their first assessment reports starting in 2004, agreed to specifically address interlinkages and trade-offs associated with management for various ecosystem services as relating to agricultural biodiversity, and to disseminate findings from other ongoing agricultural biodiversity assessment activities. The Millennium Assessment developed specific outlines for chapters related to agriculture and biodiversity in consultation with the Secretariat.

68. *State of the world's traditional knowledge on biodiversity (Article 8(j))*: A study on the status and trends regarding the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities (annex I of decision VI/10), which includes, *inter alia*, information related to traditional knowledge and agricultural biological diversity was prepared. A summary of the final report was submitted to the third meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions (UNEP/CBD/WG8J/3/4). The full report consists of a global (composite) report (UNEP/CBD/WG8J/INF/1), based on regional reports (UNEP/CBD/WG8J/INF/3-10).

Programme element 2 – Adaptive management

69. Case-studies are currently being gathered through ongoing initiatives such as those reported under assessments above.

Programme element 3 – Capacity building

70. The German Government through the German Agency for Technical Co-operation (GTZ) organized, in collaboration with FAO, the Secretariats of UNCCD and CBD, IPGRI, the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) and a number of country partners, a sub-regional workshop on Agricultural Biological Diversity in West Africa, in Bamako from 15 to 19 December 2003, with the objective to develop a common vision on the role of agricultural biodiversity and poverty alleviation at national levels.

71. GTZ further organized a SADC workshop on issues pertaining to animal genetic resources management (AnGR) in Maputo in May 2003 (see <http://www.gtz.de/agrobiodiv>). Consideration of the issue confirmed the urgent need for policies and laws but also the apparent lack of capacity to manage animal genetic resources (see also paragraph 81 below).

Programme element 4 – Mainstreaming

72. To date, no case-study has been submitted on experiences with mainstreaming matters relating to agricultural biodiversity in their plans, programmes and strategies (see also decision VI/5, paragraph 3).

Draft format for thematic report (paragraph 5, decision VI/5)

73. Pursuant to paragraph 5 of decision VI/5, the Executive Secretary finalized the format for the thematic report on agricultural biodiversity to be included in the third national report, taking into account review comments received from the Bureau of SBSTTA, SBSTTA focal points (including during a side-event in the course of the eighth meeting of SBSTTA), and by Parties and other Governments and organizations.

B. *International Pollinators Initiative (IPI)*

74. In support of the IPI, FAO developed a project proposal on the conservation and sustainable use of pollinators, for consideration of the Secretariat of the Global Environment Facility (GEF). ^{19/}

75. Other initiatives exemplifying international, regional and national level activities contributing to the IPI are:

(a) The African Pollinator Initiative (API), collaboratively lead by the Environment Liaison Centre International (ELCI), the Plant Protection Research Institute of the Agricultural Research Council (ARC-PPRI) of South Africa and the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE). The initiative was inaugurated in February 2002. During the first trimester of 2003, API prepared a draft Plan of Action on its future key activities;

(b) An international workshop held from 27 to 29 May 2003 in South Africa, to develop a guide for policy makers on pollinator conservation and sustainable use;

(c) The Brazilian Pollinator Initiative, with the support of FAO and other Agencies, held a meeting in Sao Paulo from 27 to 30 October 2003, ^{20/} including discussions on the Sao Paulo Declaration on Pollinators Plus 5, in support of regional pollinator initiatives. The workshop discussed, amongst other, standardized methodologies, declining of pollinators and management practices.

76. FAO published a report on biodiversity and the ecosystem approach in agriculture, forestry and fisheries, proceedings from a satellite event on the occasion of the ninth regular meeting of the commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, 12 to 13 October 2002 (FAO, 2003), which explicitly contains case-studies on the importance of pollinator management and managed pollination from the Himalayan region. ^{21/}

77. Case-studies on agricultural biodiversity posted on the Convention website include case-studies relevant to the International Pollinator Initiative (<http://www.biodiv.org/doc/case-studies/default.aspx>).

C. *International Soil Biodiversity Initiative*

78. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) organized an Expert Meeting on Soil Erosion and Soil Biodiversity Indicators in Rome from 25 to 28 March 2003 (<http://www.oecd.org>).

79. FAO has created a Soil Biodiversity Portal on “Conservation and Management of Soil Biodiversity and its role in Sustainable Agriculture”, ^{22/} providing updated information on the Initiative. The FAO report referred to in paragraph 76 above also explicitly contains a chapter on soil biodiversity management for sustainable and productive agriculture. ^{23/}

^{19/} The title of the proposed project is: Conservation & Management of Pollinators for Sustainable Agriculture through an Ecosystem Approach. The development goal of the project is to conserve, sustainably use and manage pollinators. The project has three principal objectives. The project will (1) develop and implement tools, methodologies, strategies and best management practices for pollinator conservation and sustainable use. (2) build local, national, regional and global capacities to enable the design, planning and implementation of interventions to mitigate pollinator population declines, and establish sustainable pollinator management practices, and (3) promote the co-ordination and integration of activities related to the conservation and sustainable use of pollinators at the international level to enhance global synergies. The project would be implemented by FAO together with the following partner countries: Ghana, Kenya, South Africa, China, India, Nepal, Pakistan (<http://www.gefonline.org/projectDetails.cfm?projID=2123>).

^{20/} <http://eco.ib.usp.br/beelab/workshop/presentation.htm>

^{21/} <http://www.fao.org/DOCREP/005/Y4586E/Y4586E00.HTM>

^{22/} <http://www.fao.org/ag/agl/agll/soilbiod/initiative.stm>

^{23/} <http://www.fao.org/DOCREP/005/Y4586E/Y4586E00.HTM>

80. Case-studies on agricultural biodiversity posted on the Convention website include case-studies relevant to the International Soil Biodiversity Initiative (<http://www.biodiv.org/doc/case-studies/default.aspx>).

D. Animal Genetic Resources (AnGR)

81. The GTZ, together with the Southern African Development Community (SADC), FAO and the Technical Centre for Agriculture and Rural Cooperation ACP-EU (CTA), organized an international workshop on “community-based management of animal genetic resources”, Mbabane, Swaziland, 7 to 11 May 2001. FAO published the proceedings of the workshop in 2003. GTZ is now planning a suite of follow-up training workshops that would address the urgent need for capacity building in view of AnGR legislation (see paragraph 71 above).

82. The division of animal production and health of FAO maintains an information portal on animal genetic resources (<http://www.fao.org/ag/againfo/programmes/en/A5.html>).

E. Trade liberalization and agricultural biodiversity

83. In response to paragraph 17 of decision VI/5, the Executive Secretary is presenting two information documents: (i) a study entitled “Domestic support measures and their incentive effects for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity” (UNEP/CBD/COP/7/INF/14), and (ii) a study entitled “The impact of trade liberalization on agricultural biological diversity - a synthesis of assessment methodologies” (UNEP/CBD/COP/7/INF/15).

F. Impacts of the application of genetic use restriction technologies on smallholder farmers, indigenous and local communities and Farmers' Rights

84. The Executive Secretary convened a meeting of an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on the potential impact of genetic use restriction technologies on smallholder farmers, local and indigenous communities and Farmers' Rights, which was held in Montreal from 19 to 21 February 2003. The final report of the meeting was submitted to the ninth meeting of SBSTTA as an information document (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/INF/6). SBSTTA noted the report, and proposed (recommendation IX/3) that the Conference of the Parties recommend that the report be re-submitted to SBSTTA at its tenth meeting. The same report is being submitted to the third meeting on the Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-sessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held in Montreal from 8 to 12 December 2003 (UNEP/CBD/WG8J/3/INF/2).

85. On 11 April 2003, the Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) submitted to the Executive Secretary a memorandum, adopted by the Council of UPOV, on its position concerning decision VI/5 of the Conference of the Parties on potential impacts of GURTs. The document was distributed to the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group for inclusion in its work.

86. FAO has prepared a report on the potential impacts of GURTs on agricultural biodiversity and agricultural production systems, as requested.

G. The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

87. In response to the requests from the Conference of the Parties to the Secretariat, the Executive Secretary is discussing a draft memorandum of cooperation with the secretariat of the Commission acting as the Interim Committee for the Treaty.

88. As of 19 November 2003, 97 States and the European Community had signed the International Treaty and thirty-three States had ratified or acceded to it.
