

CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

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SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL
AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

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WORKING GROUP II

Agenda item 3.2

THIRD EDITION OF THE GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY OUTLOOK: IMPLICATIONS FOR THE FUTURE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

Draft recommendation submitted by the Chair of Working Group II

I. DRAFT DECISION FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

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

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Welcomes* the third edition of Global Biodiversity Outlook and congratulates the Executive Secretary for having made the report available in the official languages of the United Nations in time for use and distribution during the various launches on 10 May 2010;

2. *Acknowledges* the contributions and support from the World Conservation Monitoring Centre of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP-WCMC), the partners of the 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, DIVERSITAS-International, members of the GBO-3 Advisory Group and scientific review panel, interested organizations, other stakeholders and reviewers;

3. *Also acknowledges* the financial contributions from Canada, the European Commission, Germany, Japan, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United Nations Environment Programme;

4. *Takes note* of the conclusions drawn in the third edition of Global Biodiversity Outlook, including:

(a) The target to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level as a contribution to poverty alleviation and to the benefit of all life on Earth has not been met;

(b) Action to implement the Convention has not been taken on a sufficient scale to address the pressures on biodiversity and there has been insufficient integration of biodiversity issues into broader policies, strategies and programmes, and as a consequence the underlying drivers of biodiversity loss have not been addressed significantly;

(c) Limited capacities and technical and financial resources have been an obstacle to achieving the 2010 target in many countries, especially in developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition;

(d) Most future scenarios project continuing high levels of extinctions and loss of habitats throughout this century, with associated decline of some ecosystem services important to human well-being. There are risks of large scale negative impacts on human-well-being if certain thresholds or “tipping points” are crossed;

(e) At the same time, there are greater opportunities than previously recognized to address the biodiversity crisis while contributing to other social objectives. Even though it will be extremely challenging to prevent further human-induced biodiversity loss for the near-term future, well-targeted policies focusing on critical areas, species and ecosystem services can help to avoid the most dangerous impacts on people and societies;

5. *Notes* that a strategy for reducing biodiversity loss requires action at multiple levels including:

(a) Mechanisms for addressing the underlying causes of biodiversity loss, including a recognition of the real benefits of biodiversity and their reflection within economic systems and markets, as well as their consideration in planning and policy processes at the national and local levels;

(b) Urgent actions to curb the five pressures directly driving biodiversity loss (habitat change, overexploitation, pollution, invasive alien species and climate change) with a view to enhancing the resilience of ecosystems and to avoid that ecosystems are pushed beyond certain thresholds or tipping points;

(c) Direct conservation action to safeguard species, genetic diversity and ecosystems;

(d) Measures to enhance the benefits from biodiversity, contributing to local livelihoods and to climate change adaptation and mitigation;

(e) The incorporation of ecosystems-based approaches into planning and policy processes;

(f) Measures to protect and enhance the customary sustainable use and management of biological resource by indigenous and local communities;

(g) Effective assessment of progress, including mechanisms for carrying out comprehensive inventories, sharing of information, and monitoring.

(h) Enabling mechanisms, including adequate means of capacity development, technical and financial resources and the development of an effective international regime on access and benefit-sharing;

6. *Further notes* the need to place greater emphasis on the restoration of degraded terrestrial, inland water and marine ecosystems with a view to re-establish ecosystem functioning and the provision of valuable services, to enhance the resilience of ecosystems and to contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, taking note of existing guidance;

7. *Also notes* the opportunities that arise for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity where management aims to optimize outcomes for multiple ecosystem services instead of seeking to maximize single or few services;

8. *Agrees* to use the third edition of Global Biodiversity Outlook to guide and orient the scientific and technical discussions on the updating of the future Strategic Plan of the Convention, the updating of the programmes of work and discussions during future meetings of the Conference of the Parties;

9. *Urges* Parties, other Governments, and stakeholders to take urgent action to strengthen substantially their efforts to implement decisions of the Conference of the Parties and the actions identified in the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook to curb the continuing loss of biodiversity;

10. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of the necessary resources;

(a) To collaborate with relevant organizations to explore quantitative policy options, including assessments of the financial resources required to address the causes of biodiversity loss, to support the achievement of the post-2010 targets, drawing on the conclusions of the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook;

(b) To commission a review of the process of preparation and production of the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook in order to further improve the process for future editions of the Global Biodiversity Outlook and maintain comparability with earlier editions;

(c) To make available a short synthetic version, in all official United Nations languages, with key messages from the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook, with a view to making it available at relevant events, including the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on biodiversity;

(d) To further develop, in collaboration with the Informal Advisory Committee for Communication, Education and Public Awareness, members of the Consortium of Scientific Partners, and other relevant partners, the communication strategy for the third edition of Global Biodiversity Outlook, bearing in mind different audiences, drawing on the draft contained in document UNEP/CBD/COP/9/15, and invite Parties, relevant organizations and stakeholders to contribute resources, including financial resources, to the further development and implementation of this communication strategy;

(e) To promote the preparation and dissemination of the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook in additional language;

(f) To promote the findings of the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook through regional or sub-regional workshops;

11. *Invites* Parties, other Governments, and funding organizations to provide financial support for, or otherwise facilitate, the preparation of additional languages versions of the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook;

12. *Invites* the United Nations Environment Programme to use relevant parts of the Global Biodiversity Outlook in the further editions of the Global Environment Outlook, and requests the Executive Secretary to make available the information and analyses used in the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook as an input to the Global Environment Outlook.

II. OTHER RECOMMENDATION

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice also *recommends* that the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention at its third meeting and the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting make use of the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook to guide the scientific and technical discussions on the updating of the Strategic Plan of the Convention.
