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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
Fourth meeting
Bratislava, 4-15 May 1998

REPORT OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

CONTENTS

<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
INTRODUCTION	1	5
1. OPENING OF THE MEETING	2 - 45	5
1.1 Opening of the meeting by the President of the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties	2	5
1.2 Welcome address by the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic	3 - 5	5
1.3 Opening addresses by the President of the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties and by Mr. Josef Zlocha, Minister of the Environment of the Slovak Republic and President of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties	6 - 11	6
1.4 Opening statements by the Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)	12 - 25	7
1.5 Statements on behalf of the Global Biodiversity Forum and the Diverse Women for Diversity Network	26 - 28	10

1.6	Statement by the Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Global Environment Facility	29 - 30	11
1.7	Statements by the representatives of multilateral environmental agreements related to biological diversity	31 - 35	12
1.8	Statements by other United Nations organizations and specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations	36 - 39	13
1.9	Statements on behalf of groups of countries	40 - 45	14
2.	ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS	46 - 57	15
2.1	Election of officers	50	19
2.2	Adoption of the agenda	51	19
2.3	Organization of work	52 - 57	21
3.	REPORTS OF THE REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETINGS	58 - 59	22
4.	REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE, AND INSTRUCTIONS BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE <u>and</u>		
4.1	The urgency of needed action on taxonomy	60 - 66	23
5.	PENDING ISSUES ARISING FROM THE WORK OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES	67 - 70	24
6.	STATUS AND TRENDS OF THE BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY OF INLAND WATER ECOSYSTEMS AND OPTIONS FOR CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE	71 - 81	24
7.	REPORTS ON PROGRAMMES OF WORK	82 - 109	26
7.1	Jakarta Mandate on marine and coastal biological diversity	85 - 92	27
7.2	Agricultural biological diversity	93 - 101	28
7.3	Forest biological diversity	102 - 109	29
8.	ASSESSMENT AND REVIEW OF THE OPERATION OF THE CLEARING-HOUSE MECHANISM	110 - 116	31
9.	ISSUES RELATED TO BIOSAFETY	117 - 125	32
10.	IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 8(J) AND RELATED PROVISIONS	126 - 141	33

/...

11.	SYNTHESIS OF INFORMATION CONTAINED IN NATIONAL REPORTS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION	142 - 149	37
12.	THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE CONVENTION WITH THE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND BIODIVERSITY-RELATED CONVENTIONS, OTHER INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS, INSTITUTIONS AND PROCESSES OF RELEVANCE	150 - 169	38
12.1	Results of the special session of the General Assembly for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21	150 - 156	38
12.2	Cooperation with other agreements, institutions and processes relevant to <u>in situ</u> conservation (Article 8)	157 - 161	39
12.3	Relationship with other international conventions	162 - 169	40
13.	REVIEW OF THE OPERATIONS OF THE CONVENTION .	170 - 179	41
14.	FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND MECHANISM	180 - 194	42
14.1	Memorandum of Understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the Council of the Global Environment Facility		
14.2	Activities of the Global Environment Facility		
14.3	Review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism		
14.4	Additional financial resources		
14.5	Further guidance to the financial mechanism		
15.	MEASURES FOR IMPLEMENTING THE CONVENTION . .	195 - 216	44
15.1	Incentive measures: consideration of measures for the implementation of Article 11	195 - 200	44
15.2	Public education and awareness: consideration of measures for the implementation of Article 13	201 - 208	45
15.3	Impact assessment and minimizing adverse effects: consideration of measures for the implementation of Article 14	209 - 216	46
16.	MATTERS RELATED TO BENEFIT-SHARING	217 - 224	47
16.1	Measures to promote and advance the distribution of benefits from biotechnology in accordance with Article 19 ("Handling of Biotechnology and Distribution of Benefits")		

/...

16.2	Means to address the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of genetic resources		
16.3	Compilation of views of the Parties on possible options for developing national legislative, administrative or policy measures, as appropriate, to implement Article 15 ("Access to Genetic Resources")		
17.	ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS	225 - 233	49
17.1	Administration of the Convention and		
17.2	Budget of the Trust Fund for the Convention on Biological Diversity		
18.	REPORT ON THE CREDENTIALS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES	234 - 235	50
19.	VENUE AND DATE OF THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES	236	51
20.	OTHER MATTERS	237 - 238	51
21.	ADOPTION OF THE REPORT	239	52
22.	CLOSURE OF THE MEETING	240 - 241	52

INTRODUCTION

1. In accordance with rules 3 and 4 of the rules of procedure for meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and decision III/25 adopted at its third meeting, the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, hosted by the Government of the Slovak Republic, was held at the Incheba Exhibition Centre, Bratislava, from 4 to 15 May 1998.

AGENDA ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

1.1 Opening of the meeting by the President of the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties

2. The meeting was opened at 10.20 a.m on Monday, 4 May 1998 by Ms. Maria Julia Alsogaray, Minister of the Environment and Natural Resources of Argentina and President of the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

1.2 Welcome address by the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic

3. Welcoming participants at the opening session of the meeting, Mr. Vladimir Meciar, Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic, said that Slovakia was honoured to host the present meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the first to be held in the Central European region. He was grateful for such an expression of trust in Slovakia, a young State which had just celebrated the fifth anniversary of its independence. Although the biological diversity of the region was not as rich and varied as in some other areas, Slovakia considered its conservation to be an issue and a challenge of great importance, and he was convinced that Slovakia's national strategy for biological diversity would enable the country to attain that goal.

4. Within the 49,000 square kilometres of Slovakia's territory, 48 per cent was forest, of which 40 per cent was naturally renewable, with a species distribution that varied only slightly from its original state. In addition, 50 per cent of the total territory was used for agriculture, mainly based on traditional land-use techniques. The conservation and protection of nature were enshrined in the national strategy and policies, with certain areas being granted the status of national parks and protected landscapes.

5. The Convention on Biological Diversity addressed the challenges facing the world, particularly the unknown threat from the release of genetically modified organisms. He urged all participants at the meeting, on which the implementation of the Convention depended, to recall that there was a common responsibility to all mankind and to future generations to protect the world's wealth of biological diversity. He thus wished success to the Conference and expressed the hope that the name of Bratislava would come to be linked with a new phase in the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, one that addressed even the most sensitive issues.

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- 1.3 Opening addresses by the Ms. Maria Julia Alsogaray, Minister of the Environment and Natural Resources of Argentina and President of the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties and by Mr. Josef Zlocha, Minister of the Environment of the Slovak Republic and President of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

6. In her opening address, the outgoing President, Ms. Alsogaray, described the progress made since the last meeting of the Conference of the Parties and said that there were now a total of 172 Parties to the Convention. She drew attention to the special session of the United Nations General Assembly held in June 1997, which had recognized that an ecosystem approach, which took into account social aspects and people's needs, was the most viable way for the Convention to go forward. She noted that, at its third meeting, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice had addressed the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems and the need to initiate activities in that area. Under an ecosystem approach, such activities required the participation of local and indigenous communities, as well as the protection of their traditional knowledge.

7. With regard to the multi-year programme on agricultural biological diversity, decided upon at the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties, a memorandum of cooperation had been signed with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) integrating elements of a joint work programme. Further collaboration with FAO included the ongoing negotiations with the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) with a view to harmonizing the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources with the Convention on Biological Diversity. Concerning forests, work had been ongoing, in collaboration with the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF) and its successor, the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF), and the Inter-Agency Task Force on Forests (ITFF).

8. Among the important inter-sessional activities, she pointed to the meetings of the Open-ended Working Group on Biosafety, which had prepared a revised consolidated draft text for finalization at its fifth meeting, to be held in August 1998, and to the Workshop on Traditional Knowledge and Biological Diversity, held in Madrid in November 1997. The clearing-house mechanism had held four regional workshops to examine needs and priorities. With regard to the financial mechanism, the memorandum of understanding signed with the Global Environment Facility had entered into force. Countries had prepared national reports on the implementation of the Convention and, to date, 100 such reports had been received by the Secretariat.

9. In conclusion, she pointed to the heavy agenda of the current meeting, noting that it called for important decisions on the implementation of the Convention. She expressed her thanks to the members of the Bureau and to the Executive Secretary for their work since the last meeting of the Conference of the Parties and, in particular, to Bureau member Ms. Zuzana Guzióvá for her efforts in helping to organize the meeting in Bratislava.

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10. Mr. Jozef Zlocha, Minister of the Environment of the Slovak Republic, was nominated for the post of President of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Mr. Zlocha was elected by acclamation.

11. Mr. Zlocha thanked the meeting for electing him as President and welcomed participants to Slovakia. His country had become a Party to the Convention in 1994, thus giving proof of its concern for matters of biological diversity. Protected landscapes constituted 22 per cent of the national territory, which lay at the crossroads between eastern and western Europe. Commenting on the Convention's long-term work programme, he said that its objectives were ambitious and would require the cooperation of all strata of society. The decentralized approach to implementation was the most appropriate one, and the Conference of the Parties had an important role to play in arriving at negotiated solutions to problems. He wished the Conference success in its deliberations.

1.4 Opening statements by the Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

12. At the opening session, the Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Mr. Calestous Juma, thanked the outgoing President of the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties, Ms. Maria Julia Alsogaray, saying that her guidance and support had played a critical role in shaping the work of the Secretariat. He expressed his deep appreciation to the Government and people of Slovakia for hosting the current meeting. He also thanked all those who had contributed financially and in kind to the activities of the Convention since the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties. In particular, he wished to thank Mr. Zakri A. Hamid, Chairman of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice; Mr. Veit Koester, Chairman of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group on Biosafety; Mr. Manuel Piñeiro, Chairman of the inter-sessional Workshop on Traditional Knowledge and Biological Diversity; and the Secretariat host country, Canada, for the support given.

13. The first national reports on the implementation of the Convention, provided evidence that the Convention was starting to influence social, economic and political behaviour at the national level. A preliminary review showed that Parties and Governments were starting to integrate the objectives of the Convention into their operations and were setting priorities for future actions. Those priorities would, in turn, influence the way business was conducted under the Conference of the Parties.

14. The Global Environment Facility (GEF), which had contributed to the production of the national reports in over 90 countries, played a significant role in raising the profile of the Convention and supporting its implementation at the national level. The successful completion of the replenishment of GEF opened up a new phase of cooperation between the Convention and GEF. The Secretariat was happy with the cooperation so far with GEF and looked forward to guidance from the Parties on areas that would further the relationship.

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15. Mr. Juma then outlined the accomplishments of the Convention over the previous year, highlighting the progress made by the Ad Hoc Working Group on Biosafety, the work of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice in drawing up recommendations for a programme of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems and for the Jakarta Mandate on marine and coastal biological diversity, and the results of the Workshop on Traditional Knowledge and Biological Diversity.

16. The Convention had developed close working relationships with the Commission on Sustainable Development, through its Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF), and the various biodiversity-related conventions, including the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat (the "Convention on Wetlands"), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS). In addition, close partnerships were being developed with the United Nations Convention on Desertification and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). As well as working closely with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank, and with international non-governmental organizations such as World Conservation Union (IUCN) and World-Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), the Convention had extended cooperation to international scientific networks such as DIVERSITAS.

17. With the conclusion of the medium-term programme of work, the Conference of the Parties at its current meeting was expected to adopt a longer-term programme. To be successful, that programme would need to address at least five major issues: the need to build on the best available scientific and technical knowledge; better and intensified cooperation with other institutions and processes; the effective functioning and review of the institutions under the Convention; the importance of scientific and technical cooperation in the implementation of the Convention, as demonstrated by the results achieved during the pilot phase of the clearing-house mechanism; and the need to reach out to the wider world, including non-governmental organizations, the private sector, educational institutions and society in general.

18. At the 4th plenary session, on 5 May 1998, the Executive Director of UNEP, Mr. Klaus Töpfer, addressed the meeting. After apologizing for being unable to attend the opening session of the Conference due to the need to assist the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Kofi Annan, during the latter's visit to Africa, he passed on the Secretary-General's best wishes for the success of the Conference and congratulated the Government of the Slovak Republic on its exemplary organization of the event.

19. With respect to the Convention on Biological Diversity, he said it was now necessary to look at the role and task of UNEP, which remained the principal body for providing policy advice, and catalysing and promoting environmental cooperation and action. The tasks that were now being faced were reflected in a paper prepared by UNEP and submitted to the current meeting, entitled "A commentary by the Executive Director of UNEP on the

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proposed programme budget of the Convention on Biological Diversity for the biennium 1999-2000", which was intended to stimulate the discussion. UNEP's role within the implementation of the Convention needed to be identified.

20. To support the implementation of the work programme of the Convention, the Conference of the Parties might wish to call upon UNEP to undertake or coordinate a number of actions, in collaboration with relevant bodies. Such actions could involve: the enhancement of cooperation and synergy among the biodiversity-related conventions, including taking the lead in the process for harmonizing their work programmes, information systems and reporting requirements; the development of methodologies, guidelines and tools for undertaking scientific assessments of inland-water biodiversity, coastal and marine diversity, forest diversity, and agrobiodiversity; the provision of legal advice and technical support to the development and implementation of the future protocol on biosafety, coordination of the expert panel on access to genetic resources and the undertaking of case studies on national legislation for benefit-sharing and studies on the impact of intellectual property rights; better integration with regard to ecotourism and biodiversity and trade and biodiversity; and the provision of support for the work of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to develop indicators to monitor the implementation of the Convention, as well as indicators for forest biodiversity and inland-water ecosystems.

21. In its capacity as the entity responsible for the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) of GEF, UNEP needed to ensure more coordination, and not overlapping or competition. The link to GEF and its outstanding work was important, and he applauded the achievements of its Chief Executive Officer, Mr. El-Ashry. However, he questioned whether the financial mechanism could provide adequate financial resources for all identified priorities. For example, only \$14,000 had been allocated to each developing country for the establishment of a national clearing-house mechanism, and that was clearly not enough. Funds were needed by the developing countries and additional trust funds had to be set up. He thanked those Governments that had contributed funds in the past, but emphasized that more needed to be done.

22. There was a need for greater coordination within the global framework, he said, and was glad that the Secretary-General of the United Nations had entrusted him with the task of chairing the task force on the coordination of questions relating to the environment and human settlements and of reporting back on the results by 15 June. It was necessary to build on the synergies among the Convention on Biological Diversity, CITES and CMS in order to stimulate their effective implementation. There were additional areas of those conventions in which synergies could be developed, such as: the harmonization of agendas and work programmes through the development of joint or coordinated programmes; the establishment of a joint supporting infrastructure; and the harmonization of reports by Parties.

23. He announced that he intended to revitalize and utilize the Ecosystem Conservation Group (ECG), for which UNEP was the convenor. ECG had originally been established in 1974 to advise member organizations on the development and implementation of their biodiversity work programmes and had been active and helpful in assisting the Executive Director of UNEP during the negotiation of the Convention and the establishment of the interim

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Secretariat until the Convention entered into force, during which time it provided a great deal of scientific and technical support. ECG stood ready to assist the Parties and the Secretariat as and when required.

24. He said that there was a need for better linkages between the conventions. Vital issues of relevance to them had to be addressed in a better way, in order to make the best use of available resources. It was necessary to bring together representatives from the different groups engaged in value-added business partnerships and access legislation. Through partnership and collaboration, the private sector could assist in countries' independent development. Governments might need to take steps to harmonize the provisions of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) with the equitable-benefit-sharing and prior-informed-consent provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity. In the field of tourism, he said, there was a need to provide more incentive measures to ensure the conservation of biological diversity.

25. He concluded by saying that it was necessary to ensure the success of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and UNEP was determined to do its utmost to that end.

1.5 Statements on behalf of the Global Biodiversity Forum and the Diverse Women for Diversity Network

26. At the opening session of the meeting, the Conference of the Parties also heard statements from Mr. Maurice Iwu, Chairman of the Global Biodiversity Forum, and Ms. Beth Burrows and Ms. Fareda Akhter, representatives of the Diverse Women for Diversity Network.

27. Mr. Iwu reported on the tenth session of the Global Biodiversity Forum, which had been held in Bratislava immediately prior to the meeting of the Conference of the Parties and had brought together more than 300 participants from 57 countries. He said that the Forum had called for public education and awareness to be put to work as vital instruments to engage both adults and children in the prevention of the loss of biological diversity. It also called on the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to invest in capacity-building within educational institutions, to adopt such capacity-building as a programme area and to require comprehensive education and communication plans within GEF-funded projects. The Forum had also recognized the need to develop clear criteria and indicators for investments supporting conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, such as the certification of sustainable practices in forestry, fisheries, agriculture and tourism, and has called for the establishment of a standing conference on trade and environment, which should endeavour to resolve environmental policy issues relating to matters of trade. The Forum also called on the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to formulate guidelines to assist national Governments in the implementation of Article 8(j), with the participation of indigenous peoples in the process being ensured. It also noted that the systematic replacement of customary tenure systems with government regimes had operated largely to the detriment of the conservation of biodiversity. Finally, he said that the Forum had called on the Parties to commit themselves to the full implementation of the clearing-house mechanism and to continue support for the Secretariat during the pilot phase and beyond.

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28. Ms. Fareda Akhter described the philosophy of her organization, stating that its members took responsibility for their use of the things of the Earth and demanded that others do the same. As moral human beings, they rejected distrust, greed, violence and fear as ways of relating to one another. Ms. Beth Burrows expressed support for Article 8(j) of the Convention and stressed the importance of the sovereignty of communities over their knowledge and resources, and of the precautionary principle in the search for knowledge. Their organization recognized the diversity and interrelatedness of species, cultures and ways of knowing and, in particular, supported the Convention on Biological Diversity.

1.6 Statement by the Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Global Environment Facility

29. At the opening meeting of the session, the Conference also heard a statement by Mr. Mohamed El-Ashry, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Global Environment Facility, who reported on the key developments in the Facility and related points of interest to the Conference of the Parties. He said that the recent new replenishment of GEF would enable the Facility to continue its efforts to play a significant part in supporting the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. GEF looked forward to the speedy completion of the national biodiversity strategies and plans, and the national reports that were being financed as a major component of the enabling activities portfolio which to date amounted to over \$94 million. To the extent that those strategies, plans and reports highlighted national priorities, they would allow GEF to significantly expand its country-driven activities in conformity with such priorities. The previous month, the GEF Assembly had acknowledged the significant progress made by the Facility and its Implementing Agencies and had spelt out a number of priorities, including a stronger focus on country-drivenness and country ownership of GEF's work, a streamlined project cycle, a more user-friendly and pragmatic approach to the application of "incremental costs" and a greater engagement with and mobilization of the private sector. GEF looked forward to taking those and other important steps towards becoming even more responsive and effective in the months and years ahead. Recommendations, particularly on streamlining the project cycle and simplifying incremental costs, would be presented to the GEF Council at its meeting in October 1998, and the Secretariat of the Convention, as well as other interested organizations, would be invited to participate in the work on incremental costs.

30. In view of the interdependency between the Convention on Biological Diversity and GEF, there was a need to further strengthen the cooperation by building on the strong foundation that already existed and the commitment made by GEF to implement the guidance of the Conference of the Parties on policies, programme priorities and eligibility criteria. He hoped that a dialogue could be started on the provision of guidance on an annual basis. The question was whether new guidance should constantly add to the long list that already existed, thus proliferating priorities and making it difficult to focus resources to achieve an impact on the ground, or whether it should reflect operational lessons from implementation and strive towards refinement and fine tuning. The issue might be one of timing: while all strategic objectives should be addressed over time, not every goal could be effectively addressed at once, and programmes could be developed and implemented

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sequentially or retrofitted into existing programmes as applicable. Finally, he said that, because of the ecosystem focus that had characterized the initial guidance of the Conference of the Parties and the GEF operational strategy, the Facility's activities on coastal and marine biological diversity also provided support for the associated fresh waters or inland waters. Its activities in the focal area of international waters also supported those efforts. Accordingly, GEF would welcome guidance from the Conference of the Parties highlighting inland waters as a priority area, but he would request the Conference of the Parties to leave it to GEF to translate that guidance into the most appropriate activities at the country level.

1.7 Statements by the representatives of multilateral environmental agreements related to biological diversity

31. At the opening and 2nd sessions of the meeting, on 4 May 1998, the following representatives of the secretariats of four multilateral environment conventions related to biological diversity gave brief presentations on the aims, achievements and ongoing work under their respective instruments: Mr. Izrev Topkov, Secretary-General of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES); Mr. Arnulf Müller-Helmbrecht, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS); Mr. Delmar Blasco, Secretary-General of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat; and Mr. Hama-Arba Diallo, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa.

32. Mr. Topkov underlined the need for close cooperation between CITES and the Convention on Biological Diversity and reported on recent developments under the CITES process. In particular, a new strategic plan for the first decade of the third millennium was actively under preparation, one of its pillars being cooperation with other multilateral environmental agreements. At its tenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties to CITES had adopted a resolution on cooperation and synergy with the Convention on Biological Diversity, drafted with the active cooperation of the Secretariat of the latter Convention. Tangible results had yet to be achieved, however, on the exploration of opportunities to obtain funding from the Global Environment Facility. There was also a need to work together with other instruments and processes outside the family of conservation conventions. The relationship with WTO was vital, since there was no doubt that the two conventions and the WTO trade rules could be mutually supportive and must be placed on a convergent course, as the Global Biodiversity Forum had recently concluded. In conclusion, he presented to the Executive Secretary a CITES twenty-fifth anniversary commemorative certificate in recognition of the outstanding contribution to wildlife conservation made by the Convention on Biological Diversity.

33. Mr. Arnulf Müller-Helmbrecht drew attention to the key features of the relationship between CMS and the Convention on Biological Diversity, which, he said were complementary and reinforced one another in their application. Although the progress made by CMS over recent years was encouraging, there was still much room for improvement. Approximately two thirds of the world's States had not yet acceded to it, thus impeding it from playing a greater

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role in the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity. He invited those States to reconsider their position. He believed that the most appropriate way forward was for the two Conventions to seek an integrated approach to their implementation. That would, of course, imply decisions by the Parties to provide more funds for action on migratory species and biological diversity, as well as on the habitats on which those species depended. The CMS Secretariat, in conjunction with that of the Convention on Biological Diversity, would provide the meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the latter Convention with more detailed information on the scope for a complementary approach to implementation of the two conventions.

34. Mr. Blasco said that pursuant to the signing of the memorandum of cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on Wetlands had made a significant effort to act as a lead partner in the implementation of biological diversity activities related to wetlands. The Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention had urged the Convention's 102 parties to work towards an integrated approach in the implementation of the two conventions at the country level, and there were indications of considerable progress in that direction. In order to further the cooperation, the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention had submitted a proposal for a joint work plan (UNEP/CBD/COP/4/Inf.8).

35. Mr. Diallo pointed out that the question of biological diversity was particularly relevant to arid regions. The loss of biological productivity because of desertification was a real and serious threat in certain areas. The Convention to Combat Desertification urged Parties to adopt an integrated approach, covering the physical, biological and socio-economic aspects of desertification and drought. In that context, coordination of activities with those carried out under other conventions was a matter of great importance. In particular, the emphasis placed by the Convention to Combat Desertification on participatory development at the local level was providing a considerable boost to the synergy between conventions. Such coordination should be strengthened. To date, 124 countries had deposited their instrument of ratification or accession to the Convention to Combat Desertification, thus recognizing the urgency of its implementation. He called on countries that had not yet done so to ratify or accede to the Convention.

1.8 Statements by other United Nations organizations and specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations

36. At the 2nd session of the meeting, on 4 May 1998, the Conference of the Parties heard statements from Mr. Robert Lenton (United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)), Mr. Patricio Bernal, speaking on behalf of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and Mr. David McDowell (IUCN - the World Conservation Union), who described the activities of their respective organizations in support of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

37. Mr. Lenton said that the direction of the UNDP water programme in the coming years was in full support of the recommendations made at the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties on inland water ecosystems and on marine and coastal biological diversity. Its programmes on agricultural biological diversity and forests were also consistent with those of the

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Convention. The UNDP-GEF portfolio in the focal area of biological diversity supported country-driven projects aiming at the conservation and sustainable uses of biodiversity. Since 1994, UNDP-GEF had approved 28 large projects for a total of over \$150 million dealing with capacity-building and technical assistance to protect biological diversity, to which more than that amount had been added in co-funding. In conclusion, he said that UNDP was taking far-reaching steps to bring global environment concerns into the mainstream of its operations and was particularly receptive to the needs of local and indigenous populations.

38. Mr. Bernal reported that the UNESCO Executive Board had approved the memorandum of cooperation between UNESCO and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. As part of that cooperation, UNESCO would provide the clearing-house mechanism with data and knowledge from various programmes and networks such as the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, the World Heritage Information Network, and others. As the Conference of the Parties would be examining Article 13, on public education and awareness, at its current meeting UNESCO had prepared a document (UNEP/CBD/COP/4/Inf.15) describing various activities which might assist Parties in the implementation of that Article. Finally, he said that if the Conference of the Parties so desired, UNESCO was prepared to launch a global initiative on biological-diversity education, training and public awareness, as described in the note by the Executive Secretary on public education and awareness: consideration of measures for the implementation of Article 13 (UNEP/CBD/COP/4/19, paras. 44-46).

39. Mr. McDowell urged greater participation by civil society, including indigenous peoples and the private sector, in matters of common interest to IUCN and to the Convention. The Union would like to work with Parties in giving added attention, for example, to in situ conservation. He called on the Conference to request the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to develop a work programme on protected areas for adoption at the fifth meeting of the Conference, and offered his organization's collaboration in that respect. The Conference should consider including the subject of alien invasive species in its longer-term programme of work. There would be advantages also to linking work on such species with Article 8(g) on genetically modified organisms. With regard to the funding of in situ conservation, he suggested that an expert group be established to advise the Parties on how to make progress on that front.

1.9 Statements on behalf of groups of countries

40. At the 2nd session of the meeting, on 4 May 1998, the representative of Slovenia, speaking on behalf of the group of Central and Eastern European countries, stressed the importance of biological diversity to those biogeographical zones. The fact that those countries were all in a state of economic transition offered an opportunity to incorporate the goals of the Convention in national legislation. Parties in that region would however need the assistance of the international community in order to implement the Convention.

41. Also at the 2nd session of the meeting, the representative of Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) reported that work on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and on

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the fair sharing of the benefits arising from the use of genetic resources formed part of the new strategic role of the OECD, as laid down by its new Secretary-General, and listed five areas in which OECD was making significant contributions to work under the Convention on Biological Diversity: incentive measures for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, such as subsidy removal or fiscal incentives; information and analysis in the area of benefit-sharing; technical information, through the OECD World Wide Web site, on regulatory developments, biosafety assessments and similar areas; coordination of biological-diversity-related databases; identification of ways for donors to assist developing countries to meet their obligations under the Convention.

42. At the 5th plenary session, on 5 May 1998, the representative of Indonesia made a statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. She expressed appreciation for the host country's organization of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Bratislava. Now that the Convention had been in force for some five years, the time was opportune for a review of its progress. Unfortunately, the actual status of the implementation of the Convention fell far short of what had been expected, despite the wide recognition that biological diversity was at risk and needed to be conserved. Indeed, there were signs of scepticism about the role of the Convention.

43. She stressed the importance of ensuring the full participation of all Parties, especially the developing countries, in the decision-making process and in the implementation of the Convention. Due to various constraints, members of her group often found it difficult to participate in the many meetings held under the Convention. She stressed that it would be very difficult to reach consensus on any decision taken outside the context of the Conference of the Parties.

44. Noting that the Convention on Biological Diversity had three main objectives, her group considered that too much focus had been concentrated on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, with not enough attention devoted to the third element, namely, equitable sharing of benefits. In the implementation of the Convention, it was necessary to ensure that all three objectives were treated equally as a package.

45. In conclusion, she said that the Group of 77 and China was committed to strengthening international cooperation through mutual partnership and also through South-South cooperation and, to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity, there was a need to consolidate efforts and set priorities.

AGENDA ITEM 2. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

46. All States were invited to participate in the meeting. The following Parties to the Convention attended: Albania, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, China (People's Republic of), Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic,

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Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, European Community, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Korea (Republic of), Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lesotho, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Samoa, Senegal, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

47. The following States were represented by observers: Angola, Azerbaijan, Brunei Darussalam, Holy See, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, United States of America.

48. Observers from the following United Nations bodies, Secretariat units, specialized agencies and Convention secretariats also attended: Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa (CCD), Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat, Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS), Division of Industry and Environment of UNEP, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Global Environmental Facility (GEF), Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF), Intergovernmental Oceanic Commission (IOC) of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), United Nations University (UNU), World Bank, World Heritage Centre, World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

49. The following other organizations were represented:

(a) Intergovernmental organizations: Arab Centre for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD), Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD), Commonwealth Secretariat, Council of Europe, European Community, International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI), Organisation for Economic Development and Cooperation (OECD), Organization of African Unity (OAU), Southern African Development Community (SADC), Secretariat of the Pacific Community, South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), World Tourism Organization.

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(b) Non-governmental organizations: Abya Yala Fund and the South and Meso American Rights Center (SAIIC), African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS), AIDSEP, Alianza Mundial de Pueblos Indigenas, Ambio Foundation, ANPA-ITALIA, ART, Association for the Promotion of Batwa (APB), Asociacion Iguanes, Asociacion Napguana, Asociacion para la Defensa de los Derechos Naturales (AND), Asociacion Peruana Para la Conservacion de la Naturaleza, Assessoria e Serviços a Projetos em Agricultura Alternativa (AS-PTA), Australian Marine Conservation Society, Australian Parliamentary Research Service, B.C. Biotechnology Circle, Biodiversity Action Network (BIONET), BIOECO, Biotechnology Industry Organization, Biowatch South Africa, Birdlife International, Botanic Gardens Conservation International, BP Exploration Operating Company, Breakwater Books Limited, Buko Agro Coordination, CAB International, Centre for Agriculture and Environment, Centre for Environment, Technology and Development (CETDEM), Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL), Centro Cultural Flor de Lirio, Centro de Estudios Regionales para el Desarrollo de Tarija (CER-DET), Centro Internacional de Informacion y Comunicacion de los Pueblos Indigenas, CIAS, City University Bratislava, Climate Action Network, Coalition for Amazonian Peoples and their Environment, Collage of Indigenous Australian Peoples, Comenius University in Bratislava, Comision Centroamericana de Ambiente, Consejo de Organizaciones, Consejo de Todas las Tierras, Conservation and Management Foundation, Consejo Nacional Indio de Venezuela (CONIVE), Contag, Cooperativa Tecnico Scientifica di Base (COBASE), Coordinating Body for the Indigenous Peoples' Organizations of the Amazon Basin (COICA), Coordinating Body of Indigenous Organizations of the Brazilian Amazon (COIAB), Corner House, Cultural Survival Canada, DAPHNE, Diversity News Journal, Dobbin International Inc., Earthcare, East Africa Natural History Society, Ecooperation, Edmonds Institute, Emanzi Food and Peace Development Centre, Ethnic Minority and Indigenous Rights Organisation of Africa (EMR), Environment and Development Group, Environment Liaison Centre International (ELCI), European Group for Ecological Action (ECOROPA), EXPO 2000 Hannover, Fauna & Flora International, Federation Nacional de Organizaciones Campesinas Indigenas y Negras (FENOCIN), Fédération des organisations Amerindienne de Guyana (FOAG), FERN, FONAIAP - CENIAP, For Mother Earth, Forest Peoples Programme, Forum Environment and Development, Foundation for International Environmental Law and Development (FIELD), Friends of Environment, Fundacao André Tosello, Fundación Amigos de la Naturaleza, Fundación Biosfera, Fundación Futuro Latino Americano, Fundación Moises Bertoni, Fundación para la Conservación de las Especies y el Medio Ambiente (FUCEMA), Gaia Foundation, Genetic Concern, Genetics Forum, Genetic Resources Action International (GRAIN), Genetic Resources Communication System/Diversity, Geomatics International Inc., Gesellschaft für Bedrohte Volker, GFA Gesellschaft für Agraprojekte mbH, Green Industry Biotechnology Platform (GIBIP), Greenpeace International, Greifswald Ernst-Moritz-Arndt University, GSS - Engineering and Trade, Healing Forest Conservancy, Hogan e Harbon LLP, Humane Society of the United States, IBIS, IDEM, ILSA, Indian Institute of Public Administration, Indigenous Biodiversity/Information Network (IBIN), Indigenous Instituto de Gestion Ambiental, Indigenous Knowledge Programme (IKP), Indonesia Bioforum, Indonesia Institute for Forest and Environment, Industry Nature Conservation Association (APOP), Institute of Cultural Affairs, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), Institute of Landscape Ecology SAS, Instituto Centrale per la Ricerca Applicata al Mare (ICRAM), Instituto de Gestion Ambiental, Instituto Socioambiental, Interdisciplinary Group for Science, Technology and Security (IANUS), Intermediate Technology Development Group (ITDG), International

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Alliance of Indigenous Tribal Peoples of Tropical Forest, International Center for Living Aquatic Resources Management (ICLARM), International Coalition of Fisheries Associations, International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), International Council of Environmental Law, International Development Research Centre (IDRC), International Seed Trade Federation/International Association of Plant Breeders for the Protection of Plant Varieties (FIS/ASSINSEL), International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), International Indian Treaty Council (IITC), International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association (IPIECA), International Programmes Minority Rights Group, International Support Group For Sustainable Tourism, IPEL UNION, ISA-Net/Forest People Program, ISB GmbH, Inter. Mountain People in Thailand, Istituto Agronomico Oltremare, International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA), IWMC World Conservation Trust, Japan Biological Association, Japan Center of International and Comparative Environmental Law, JAZP-Banska Bystrica, Jeevan Vikal Maitri, Kister SA, KONPHALINDO, Latinoamerican Forest Network, La Trobe University, Legwork Environmental Inc., London School of Economics, London University, McGill University, Microbial Strain Data Network/Information Resource on the Release of Organisms into the Environment (MSDN/IRRO), M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation - India, Mongolian Environmental Trust Fund, Monsanto, Montagna Experimental, Movimiento Autoridades Indigenas de Colombia, Museum National d'Histoire naturelle, Naga Peoples Movement for Human Rights (NPMFHR), Napguana, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration/National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service (NOAA/NESDIS), Native American Studies, UC-Davis, Naturschutzbund Deutschland, Nepal Federation of Nationalities, Nepal Forum of Environmental Journalists, New York Botanical Garden, Nigeria Society for the Improvement of Rural People, North American Indigenous Peoples Biodiversity Project, Norwegian Forum for Environment and Development, Nottingham Trent University, Oglala Lakota Nation, OIS, OPIAC-COICA, Ornamental Aquatic Trade Association, Pacific BioWeb, Pacific Concerns Resource Centre Inc., Partners of Community Organizations (PACOS), Pesticides Action Network Regional Centres (PAN) Netherlands, Pronatura Ac., Raices - Medicinal Plants for Health Publication, Rural Advancement Foundation International (RAFI), RED de Cooperación Amazonica, Regional Environment Center, Research Foundation/Third World Network, Resource Futures International, RMI the Indonesian Institute for Forest and Environment, Royal Botanic Garden, Kew, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Saami Council, Safari Club International, Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology, Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE), Service d'appui aux initiatives locales de developpement (SAILD), Senegal Institute for Agricultural Research (ISRA/FLEUVE), SETTOUR SLOVAKIA, Simpul Indonesia, Slovak Agricultural University, Slovak Association of National Parks and Protected Areas, Slovak National Committee Research Institute of Irrigation (SVK ICID), Sobrevivencia Amigos de la Tierra, Paraguay, Social Environmental Institute, Sociedad Peruana de Derecho Ambiental, Societed Cultural Autena-WEDO, Society for Endangered Peoples, Society for the Protection of Birds in Slovakia, Society for Wildlife and Nature International (SWAN), Softwaves Educational Software, SOSNA, Southern African Traditional Leaders' Council for the Management of Natural Resources, Stottenettuerk for Urfolkene, STU, Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSCN), SWEU, Taller de Mujeres Kunas, Tebtebba Foundation, Te Iwi Moriori Trust Board, The Nature Conservancy, Third World Network, Treaty of Waitangi Fisheries Commission, TVI Touristik Union International, Union of Civic Associations and Foundations of Slovak Republic, Union of Concerned

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Scientists, University College London, University of London, University of Oxford, University of Pretoria, University of Wisconsin, UNORCA-VIA CAMPESINA, WAINIMATE, Washington Biotechnology Action Council, Watu/Accion Indigena, Wetlands International, WIDE-Austria, Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO), Women's Environmental Network, World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC), World Conservation Union (IUCN), World Endangered Species Protection Association (WESPA), World Rainforest Movement, World Resources Institute (WRI), World Wide Fund For Nature (WWF), Zero Regional Environment Organization, Zimbabwe Trust.

2.1 Election of officers

50. In accordance with rule 21 (Officers) of the rules of procedure for meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Conference elected the following officers:

President: Mr. Jozef Zlocha (Slovakia)

Vice-Presidents: Mr. Sid Ali Ramdane (Algeria)
 Mr. Mohammad Reza Salamat (Islamic Republic of Iran)
 Ms. Elaine Fisher (Jamaica)
 Ms. Ilona Jepsen (Latvia)
 Mr. Marcel Vernooij (Netherlands)
 Mr. Ralph Adewoye (Nigeria)
 Ms. Bernarditas Muller (Philippines)
 Mr. Stefan Schwager (Switzerland)

Rapporteur: Ms. Feliciano Ortigao de Sampaio (Brazil)

2.2 Adoption of the agenda

51. At the 1st session of the plenary, on 4 May 1998, the provisional agenda as contained in document UNEP/CBD/COP/4/1 was adopted with the addition of two sub-items. The agenda as adopted is as follows:

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organizational matters:
 - 2.1 Election of officers;
 - 2.2 Adoption of the agenda;
 - 2.3 Organization of work.
3. Reports of the regional preparatory meetings.
4. Report and recommendations of the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, and instructions by the Conference of the Parties to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.
 - 4.1 The urgency of needed action on taxonomy.

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5. Pending issues arising from the work of the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
6. Status and trends of the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems and options for conservation and sustainable use.
7. Reports on programmes of work:
 - 7.1 Jakarta Mandate on marine and coastal biological diversity;
 - 7.2 Agricultural biological diversity;
 - 7.3 Forest biological diversity.
8. Assessment and review of the operation of the clearing-house mechanism.
9. Issues related to biosafety.
10. Implementation of Article 8(j) and related provisions.
11. Synthesis of information contained in national reports on the implementation of the Convention.
12. The relationship of the Convention with the Commission on Sustainable Development and biodiversity-related conventions, other international agreements, institutions and processes of relevance:
 - 12.1 Results of the special session of the General Assembly for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21;
 - 12.2 Cooperation with other agreements, institutions and processes relevant to in situ conservation (Article 8);
 - 12.3 Relationship with other international conventions.
13. Review of the operations of the Convention.
14. Financial resources and mechanism:
 - 14.1 Memorandum of Understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the Council of the Global Environment Facility;
 - 14.2 Activities of the Global Environment Facility;
 - 14.3 Review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism;
 - 14.4 Additional financial resources;
 - 14.5 Further guidance to the financial mechanism.

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15. Measures for implementing the Convention:
 - 15.1 Incentive measures: consideration of measures for the implementation of Article 11;
 - 15.2 Public education and awareness: consideration of measures for the implementation of Article 13;
 - 15.3 Impact assessment and minimizing adverse effects: consideration of measures for the implementation of Article 14.
16. Matters related to benefit-sharing:
 - 16.1 Measures to promote and advance the distribution of benefits from biotechnology in accordance with Article 19 ("Handling of Biotechnology and Distribution of Benefits");
 - 16.2 Means to address the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of genetic resources;
 - 16.3 Compilation of views of the Parties on possible options for developing national legislative, administrative or policy measures, as appropriate, to implement Article 15 ("Access to Genetic Resources").
17. Administrative and budgetary matters:
 - 17.1 Administration of the Convention;
 - 17.2 Budget of the Trust Fund for the Convention on Biological Diversity.
18. Report on the credentials of representatives to the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
19. Venue and date of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
20. Other matters.
21. Adoption of the report.
22. Closure of the meeting.

2.3 Organization of work

52. At the 1st plenary session of the meeting, on 4 May 1998, the Conference approved the suggestions for the organization of the work of its fourth meeting, as contained in annex I of the annotated provisional agenda.

53. Accordingly, the Conference established two working groups: Working Group 1, under the chairmanship of Mr. Marcel Vernooy (Netherlands), to consider agenda items 6, 7, 10 and 16, and Working Group 2, under the

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chairmanship of Ms. Bernarditas Muller (Philippines), to consider agenda items 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15. It was further decided that the remaining items would be taken up directly in plenary.

54. Working Group 1 held 11 meetings, from 6 to 14 May 1998. It adopted its report (UNEP/CBD/COP/4/L.6) at its 11th meeting, on 14 May 1998.

55. Working Group 2 held 8 meetings, from 6 to 14 May 1998. It decided to establish two open-ended contact groups: a contact group on review of operations/institutional and other issues, dealing with agenda items 11 and 13, chaired by Mr. Jonathan Tillson (United Kingdom); and a contact group on financial resources and the financial mechanism, dealing with issues under agenda item 14, chaired by Mr. John Ashe (Antigua and Barbuda). The Working Group also set up an informal sub-group, under the aegis of the Chair, Ms. Bernarditas Muller, to consider issues under agenda items 12 and 15.

56. The Working Group adopted its report (UNEP/CBD/COP/4/L.7) at its 8th meeting, on 14 May 1998.

57. In addition, in accordance with the organization of work of the meeting, a Ministerial Roundtable on Biological Diversity was held at the same venue on 4 and 5 May 1998. The President of the Conference of the Parties presented a summary of the results of the Roundtable to the Conference at the 5th plenary session of the meeting, on 6 May 1998.

AGENDA ITEM 3. REPORTS OF THE REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETINGS

58. At the 2nd plenary session, on 4 May 1998, the Conference of the Parties took up this item.

59. The representatives of China, Mali, Peru and Slovenia (on behalf of their respective regional groups), referring in particular to document UNEP/CBD/COP/4/Inf.4, introduced the reports of the four regional meetings on biological diversity that had been convened pursuant to decision III/26 of the Conference of the Parties. The representative of Guatemala reported on the work of the Central American Commission on Environment and Development and of the recent meeting of Central American ministers of environment and natural resources. The representative of the Marshall Islands reported on the recent subregional meeting of 11 Pacific island countries, which had culminated in the adoption of the Nadi Statement.

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AGENDA ITEM 4. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE, AND INSTRUCTIONS BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

and

AGENDA ITEM 4.1. THE URGENCY OF NEEDED ACTION ON TAXONOMY

60. At the 2nd plenary session, on 4 May 1998, the Conference of the Parties took up this item. The Chairman of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, Mr. Zakri A. Hamid (Malaysia), introduced the report of the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, held in Montreal from 1 to 5 September 1998, contained in document UNEP/CBD/COP/4/2. He also drew attention to his report on the activities and advice of the Subsidiary Body in 1997/98 (UNEP/CBD/COP/4/Inf.19).

61. Statements under the item were made by the representatives of Australia, Brazil, Colombia, India, Malawi, the Marshall Islands (on behalf of the 11 Pacific Island Parties to the Convention), Mexico, Nepal, South Africa and the United Kingdom (on behalf of the European Union).

62. At its 6th plenary session, on 7 May 1998, the Conference decided that informal consultations on the item should be held under the chairmanship of Mr. Zakri A. Hamid (Malaysia), the Chairman of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.

63. At the 9th plenary session of the meeting, on 15 May 1998, the President drew attention to document UNEP/CBD/COP/4/L.4/Add.2, which contained four draft decisions that had been submitted as a result of the informal consultations conducted by the Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice. After a short discussion, however, the Conference of the Parties decided to defer consideration of the draft decisions until agreement had been reached on a number of outstanding issues that were still the subject of informal consultations in other groups.

64. At the 10th plenary session of the meeting, on 15 May 1998, a representative of the Secretariat introduced the draft decisions on behalf of the Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.

65. The draft decisions, as amended, were adopted by consensus as decisions IV/1 A to D.

66. Following the adoption of decision IV/1 C, on the Global Taxonomy Initiative, the representative of Australia said that his country had been pleased to host a workshop of experts in Darwin earlier in the year, which had crystallized some of the ideas and concepts that had resulted in the decision. Australia was particularly interested to see the implementation of the suggested actions annexed to the decision and was pleased to announce that it wished to make a significant contribution to the establishment of a

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Programme Officer in the Secretariat to advance the Global Taxonomy Initiative. Australia hoped that its contribution would be matched by other interested parties, countries or institutions, that wished to see the Global Taxonomy Initiative advanced as quickly as possible.

AGENDA ITEM 5. PENDING ISSUES ARISING FROM THE WORK OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

67. At its 3rd plenary session, on 5 May 1998, the Conference of the Parties took up the item. The item was introduced by the representative of the Secretariat, who drew attention to the note by the Executive Secretary on the subject (UNEP/CBD/COP/4/3). He recalled that, at its third meeting, the Conference of the Parties had decided to transmit to its fourth meeting for its consideration one issue related to the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties and two related to the financial rules for the administration of the Trust Fund for the Convention on Biological Diversity.

68. Statements under the item were made by the representatives of Australia, Brazil, Colombia, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Japan, Mali, Malawi, the Russian Federation, Senegal, the Seychelles and the United Kingdom (on behalf of the European Union).

69. Also at the 3rd plenary session of the meeting, the President announced that an informal working group would be set up to consider the various issues under the item, under the chairmanship of one of the Vice-Presidents of the Conference.

70. At the 6th plenary session of the meeting, on 7 May 1998, the President, reporting on the outcome of those consultations, said that many Parties maintained differing positions with regard to decisions relating to the rules of procedure and decisions relating to the Trust Fund of the Convention, and no consensus had emerged. He stated that it was his intention to carry out further consultations during the inter-sessional period with a view to enabling the Conference of the Parties adopt its rules of procedure at the outset of the fifth meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 6. STATUS AND TRENDS OF THE BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY OF INLAND WATER ECOSYSTEMS AND OPTIONS FOR CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE

71. At its 1st session, on 6 May 1998, Working Group 1 took up the item. The item was introduced by a representative of the Secretariat, who recalled that, in accordance with decision III/13 of the Conference of the Parties, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSSTA) had considered the topic at its third meeting and, as a result of its deliberations, was forwarding recommendation III/1 for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties. Since that recommendation also dealt with the identification and monitoring of components of biological diversity of inland water ecosystems and the review of methodologies for assessment of biological diversity, two topics arising out of decision III/10 of the Conference of the Parties, the Executive Secretary had prepared a note (UNEP/CBD/COP/4/4) that provided a briefing on the three topics. The main

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recommendation of the note was for the Conference of the Parties to rely upon the recommendation of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice as the basis for a work programme on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems.

72. The representative of Hungary, speaking in her capacity as Chair of the Standing Committee of the Convention on Wetlands, introduced an information document submitted by the Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands on "Cooperation with the Convention on Wetlands" (UNEP/CBD/COP/4/Inf.8), which reviewed the implementation of the 1996 Memorandum of Cooperation between the secretariats of the two conventions and presented a proposed joint work plan between the two conventions, in accordance with paragraph I (b) of recommendation III/1 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice. The proposed joint work plan was designed to ensure cooperation and to avoid overlap between the activities of the two conventions. She recommended the joint work plan for the consideration of the Conference and urged that it receive formal endorsement by way of a Conference decision.

73. Statements under the item were made by the representatives of Argentina, Australia, Bahamas, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Fiji (on behalf of the 11 Pacific Island Parties to the Convention), Guinea, Iceland, India, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritania, Nepal, Nigeria, Norway, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Seychelles, Slovenia (on behalf of the Central and Eastern European Group), South Africa, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom (on behalf of the European Union), the United Republic of Tanzania, and the United States of America.

74. The representative of BirdLife International introduced a Pledge of Commitment to the Convention on Biological Diversity from the "Ramsar Partners" (BirdLife International, IUCN - The World Conservation Union, Wetlands International and World Wide Fund for Nature).

75. A statement was also made by the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI), on behalf of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR).

76. At the 2nd session, on 7 May 1998, a contact group was established, under the chairmanship of Mr. Greg Thompson (Canada), to assist the Chairman of the Working Group in the drafting of a consolidated text under the item.

77. At its 9th session, on 13 May 1998, the Working Group considered an informal paper prepared by the contact group, containing a draft decision on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems. The draft decision, as orally amended, was approved for transmission to the plenary as document UNEP/CBD/COP/4/L.2.

78. At the 10th plenary session of the meeting, on 15 May 1998, the Conference of the Parties adopted draft decision UNEP/CBD/COP/4/L.2, as orally amended, as decision IV/4. The text of the decision may be found in the annex to the present report.

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79. During the discussion on the draft decision, the representative of Argentina, supported by the representatives of Spain and Colombia, clarified that, for the purposes of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Spanish term for "inland waters" should be "aguas continentales" and not "aguas interiores". The term was defined as those fresh- or brackish-water systems found within mainland or island territories. It should not be associated with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which had its own regime.

80. Also during the discussion of the draft decision, the representative of Turkey expressed his delegation's objection to paragraph 9 (k) of the programme of work annexed thereto and proposed that it be amended to read as follows:

"(k) Transboundary cooperation: Develop and maintain effective cooperation for conservation and sustainable use of the biological diversity through appropriate mechanisms, such as plans and programmes based on development and management schemes which mainly foresees the realization of equitable and reasonable utilization of national resources."

81. The Conference of the Parties noted the proposal of the representative of Turkey.

AGENDA ITEM 7. REPORTS ON PROGRAMMES OF WORK

82. Before taking up the first sub-item under agenda 7, the Working Group at its 2nd meeting, on 7 May 1998, heard a statement from the representative of Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), who highlighted the importance of the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources and sustainable management of agricultural, forest and aquatic ecosystems for global food security and reported on collaboration between her organization and the Convention, saying that significant progress was being made in their joint work programme. With respect to inland water and marine and coastal ecosystems, FAO supported the Convention's work plans in the implementation of the Convention in those areas and noted that it was working with partners in support of the ecosystem approach and the precautionary approach.

83. With regard to the work being done in response to Conference decision III/11, she said that FAO, in consultation with the Secretariat, would develop mechanisms for consultations with partners to assist priority setting and programme development by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice. It had recently initiated work, in coordination with interested partners, on the development of sustainable development indicators and would develop further partnerships to support national programmes and actions on biological diversity. FAO was ready to contribute to consultations on the framework for GEF activities for the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biological diversity and to assist member countries in the development and implementation of their national plans. Good progress in the intergovernmental negotiations for the

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revision of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources was noted. Further support was being offered by the Government of the Netherlands in furthering this work programme.

84. FAO considered that coordination between the various agricultural and environmental conventions and agreements was a matter of importance, as was that of streamlining and coordinating national reporting and planning. FAO recognized the need to build a technically capable Secretariat for the Convention on Biological Diversity as illustrated by its secondment of a technical officer. It therefore welcomed the intention of the Executive Director of UNEP to revitalize the Ecosystem Conservation Group but felt that the Group's mandate and functions would need to be re-examined in the light of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its sister conventions.

7.1 Jakarta Mandate on marine and coastal biological diversity

85. At its 2nd session, on 7 May 1998, Working Group 1 took up the item. The item was introduced by a representative of the Secretariat, who reviewed the main points of the report by the Executive Secretary on the implementation of the programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity (UNEP/CBD/COP/4/5). She invited the Conference to consider and adopt the three-year work programme contained in that document and urged Parties, countries and agencies to contribute to the implementation of specific elements of the programme.

86. Statements under the item were made by the representatives of Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Bahamas, Canada, Colombia, Comoros, Ecuador, Ethiopia (on behalf of the African Group), Fiji (on behalf of the 11 Pacific Island Parties to the Convention), Finland, Gambia, Guinea, Haiti, Iceland, Indonesia, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Monaco, Mozambique, Mauritania, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Seychelles, Slovenia (on behalf of the Central and Eastern European Group), South Africa, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom (on behalf of the European Union), the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America, and Uzbekistan.

87. Statements were also made by representatives of the United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, the UNEP Regional Coordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan, the Comisión Permanente del Pacífico Sur (CPPS), the Forest Peoples' Programme, Greenpeace, the Indigenous Knowledge Programme and the International Coalition of Fisheries Associations.

88. At its 3rd session, on 7 May 1998, a contact group was established under the chairmanship of Mr. John Nevill (Seychelles) to assist the Chairman of the Working Group in drafting a consolidated text for the final consideration of the Group.

89. At its 9th session, on 13 May 1988, the Working Group considered an informal paper prepared by the contact group, containing a draft decision on marine and coastal biological diversity.

90. The draft decision, as orally amended, was approved for transmission to the plenary as document UNEP/CBD/COP/4/L.2/Add.1.

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91. The representative of China expressed the view that section II of the draft decision, concerning coral reefs, was not built on sufficient scientific research. After calling for such research to be undertaken, and for the results of its analysis to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting, he requested that the Conference of the Parties take note of his country's position on section II.

92. At the 10th plenary session of the meeting, on 15 May 1998, the Conference of the Parties adopted draft decision UNEP/CBD/COP/4/L.2/Add.1, as orally amended, as decision IV/5. The text of the decision may be found in the annex to the present report.

7.2 Agricultural biological diversity

93. At its 3rd session, on 7 May 1998, Working Group 1 took up the item. The item was introduced by the representative of the Secretariat, who drew attention to the note by the Executive Secretary on the programme of work on agricultural biological diversity (UNEP/CBD/COP/4/6), which recalled the mandate outlined in decision III/11 of the Conference of the Parties, referred to the ongoing collaboration and coordination at the country level with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and its Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and with the Global Environment Facility, and outlined the progress made in implementing decision III/11. She also noted that the reference in the annotated agenda to the consideration of the need for a global assessment for agricultural biological diversity, building on ongoing activities referred to the importance of understanding the relationship between agricultural practices and production systems and biological diversity both within agricultural ecosystems and with other ecosystems. In that connection, she noted two of the three information documents that had been made available under the item, namely the report of the fourth extraordinary session of the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) (UNEP/CBD/COP/4/Inf.20) and a paper submitted by the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI) entitled "Sharing the non-monetary benefits of agricultural biodiversity" (UNEP/CBD/COP/4/Inf.24).

94. She suggested that, in order to support the implementation of decision III/11, the Conference of the Parties might wish to ascertain whether and what type of support Parties may need to identify, assess and report on their relevant activities and instruments; to develop their strategies, programmes and action plans on agricultural biodiversity; and to incorporate them into their national biodiversity strategies. She further suggested that the Conference of the Parties might wish to endorse recommendation III/4 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice taking into account what mechanisms may be needed to continue the compilation and assessment in collaboration with relevant partners; to develop guidance to Global Environment Facility; and to assist the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice in determining the priorities, scope, purpose and timing of the iterative and phased assessment and developing an outline work programme.

95. Statements under the item were made by the representatives of Australia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica (on behalf of the Latin American Group), Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Eritrea, Ethiopia (on behalf

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of the African Group), Haiti, India, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Kenya, Madagascar, Morocco, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Turkey, the United Kingdom (on behalf of the European Union), the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America, and Zambia.

96. Statements were also made by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, the Rural Advancement Foundation International, the Southern African Development Community and the World Resources Institute.

97. A representative of the Intermediate Technology Development Group, speaking on behalf of a group of 30 non-governmental organizations, introduced a call from non-governmental organization observers for the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting to take urgent action on agricultural biological diversity.

98. The Working Group decided that a consolidated text on the item would be prepared by Friends of the Chair, comprising representatives of Brazil, Ethiopia, the Philippines, Poland and the United Kingdom.

99. At its 10th session, on 14 May 1998, the Working Group considered an informal paper submitted by the Chairman of the Working Group containing a draft decision on agricultural biological diversity. The draft decision, as orally amended, was approved for transmission to the plenary as document UNEP/CBD/COP/4/L.2/Add.2.

100. The representative of the Netherlands asked for the following statement to be included in the report of the meeting:

"My delegation would like to state that in the future the possibility of a legally binding instrument on access to genetic resources under this Convention – a protocol – as mentioned by India deserves serious consideration. The willingness to take this into consideration is in our opinion an important signal."

101. At the 10th plenary session of the meeting, on 15 May 1998, the Conference of the Parties adopted draft decision UNEP/CBD/COP/4/L.2/Add.2 as decision IV/6. The text of the decision may be found in the annex to the present report.

7.3 Forest biological diversity

102. At its 4th session, on 8 May 1998, Working Group 1 took up the item. The item was introduced by the representative of the Secretariat, who drew attention to the note by the Executive Secretary on the draft programme of work for forest biological diversity (UNEP/CBD/COP/4/7), prepared in accordance with decision III/12, paragraph 8. The report described the activities undertaken by the Secretariat to develop the work programme, including the establishment of a roster of experts and the convening of a liaison group of experts in Helsinki in May 1997. A list of countries that had submitted names for inclusion in the roster was contained in part C of annex I of the report of the Executive Secretary on the administration of the Convention on Biological Diversity (UNEP/CBD/COP/4/24), although there had been another 15 such submissions since the report had been prepared. The

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views and priorities communicated to the Secretariat by Parties on the development of the work programme were being circulated as document UNEP/CBD/COP/4/Inf.11. The report under the item outlined the general objectives, structure, time-frame, review and planning process for a work programme and elaborated on the means of implementation. The Conference of the Parties was invited to endorse a work programme; decide on assessments of specific thematic issues; provide guidance to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice on the modalities for such assessments; provide guidance to international funding institutions, including GEF, to prioritize activities that advanced the objectives of the Convention; and transmit its decision to the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF) at its second meeting.

103. An introductory statement was also made by the representative of the secretariat of IFF, who pointed to a number of areas in which there were opportunities for forging synergies between the programme of work of IFF and the proposed draft programme of work on forest biological diversity. He also highlighted some issues of particular importance for guiding future cooperation on forest biological diversity between IFF and the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and acknowledged the valuable substantive input and cooperation provided by the Conference of the Parties and the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to the programme of work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests, as well as for the important contributions made by the Convention Secretariat as a member of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Forests (ITFF).

104. Statements under the item were made by the representatives of Australia, Austria, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia (on behalf of the African Group), Finland, Germany, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mexico, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria (on behalf of the States members of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)), Norway, Papua New Guinea (on behalf of the 11 Pacific Island Parties to the Convention), Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Togo, Turkey, Uganda, the United Kingdom (on behalf of the European Union), the United States of America, the United Republic of Tanzania, and Zimbabwe.

105. Statements were also made by FAO, the World Heritage Centre of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Netherlands Committee for IUCN.

106. The Conference decided to establish a contact group on the item, under the chairmanship of Mr. Adam Vai Delaney (Papua New Guinea) to draft a consolidated text for consideration by the Working Group.

107. At its 10th and 11th sessions, on 14 May 1998, the Working Group considered an informal paper prepared by the contact group, containing a draft decision on forest biological diversity. The draft decision, as orally amended, was approved for transmission to the plenary as document UNEP/CBD/COP/4/L.2/Add.3.

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108. The representative of New Zealand asked for the following statement to be included in the report of the meeting:

"New Zealand notes that the majority of its timber production plantations are industrial crops of exotic tree species. New Zealand does not treat these as forests and does not see them as having a role in in situ conservation."

109. At the 10th plenary session of the meeting, on 15 May 1998, the Conference of the Parties adopted draft decision UNEP/CBD/COP/4/L.2/Add.3, as orally amended, as decision IV/7. The text of the decision may be found in the annex to the present report.

AGENDA ITEM 8. ASSESSMENT AND REVIEW OF THE OPERATION OF THE
CLEARING-HOUSE MECHANISM

110. At its 3rd plenary session, on 5 May 1998, the Conference of the Parties took up the item. The item was introduced by the representative of the Secretariat, who drew attention to the report of the Executive Secretary on the implementation of the first phase of the pilot phase of the clearing-house mechanism (UNEP/CBD/COP/4/8). He recalled that, at its second meeting, the Conference of the Parties had decided that the clearing-house mechanism should commence with a pilot phase in 1996-1997 (decision II/3, paragraph 4 (a)), and that, at its third meeting, it had decided that the pilot phase should be extended until December 1998 (decision III/4).

111. Statements under the item were made by the representatives of Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, Colombia, Cuba, Germany, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Malawi, Malaysia, Mexico, Pakistan, Peru, Portugal, Samoa, Slovenia (on behalf of the Central and Eastern European Group), South Africa, Tunisia, Turkey, the United Kingdom (on behalf of the European Union) and the United Republic of Tanzania.

112. A statement was also made by a representative of the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology.

113. A statement was also made by the representative of the Indigenous Peoples Biodiversity Network.

114. At its 6th plenary session, on 7 May 1998, the Conference decided that informal consultations should be held on the item. The representatives of Brazil and the European Community would inform the Bureau of progress.

115. At its 9th plenary session, on 15 May 1998, the Conference of the Parties took up draft decision UNEP/CBD/COP/4/L.4/Add.1, which had been prepared following the informal consultations on the item. The draft decision was adopted as decision IV/2. The text of the decision may be found in the annex to the present report.

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116. The representative of the United Kingdom, speaking on behalf of the European Union, expressed the view that it was premature to adopt the draft decision, since paragraph 9 was still subject to consideration the context of the informal consultations on the draft decision on additional guidance to the financial mechanism.

AGENDA ITEM 9. ISSUES RELATED TO BIOSAFETY

117. At the 4th plenary session of the meeting, on 5 May 1998, the Conference of the Parties took up this item. The Secretariat introduced the note by the Executive Secretary on the subject (UNEP/CBD/COP/4/9), and the Chairman of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on Biosafety, Mr. V. Koester (Denmark), reviewed the work of the Working Group and highlighted those issues calling for action by the Conference of the Parties, namely, the composition of the Bureau of the Working Group, the number, timing, duration and location of meetings of the Working Group in 1998, including the financial arrangements, and the type, venue and date of the meeting of the Conference of the Parties for the adoption of the Protocol.

118. Statements under the item were made by representatives of Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Burkina Faso, China, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Ethiopia (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), the European Community, the Gambia, Haiti, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, the Marshall Islands (on behalf of 11 Pacific Island States Parties to the Convention), Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Norway, Pakistan, Peru (on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean group), the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Senegal, Slovenia (on behalf of the Central and Eastern European group), South Africa, Uganda, the United Kingdom (on behalf of the European Union), the United Republic of Tanzania, and Zimbabwe (on behalf of the African group).

119. The representative of Norway announced that his Government would make available 500,000 Norwegian Krone to assist the travel of developing country Parties to the meetings on biosafety.

120. At its 6th plenary session, on 7 May 1998, the Conference decided that informal consultations should be held on technical issues relating to the item. Mr. John Ashe (Antigua and Barbuda) and Ms. Katarine Kummer (Switzerland), assisted by Mr. Patrick Szell (United Kingdom), would inform the Bureau of progress.

121. Also at the 6th session, representatives of the following Parties were elected to serve on the Bureau of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group on Biosafety: Bahamas, Colombia, Denmark, Ethiopia, Hungary, India, Mauritania, New Zealand, the Russian Federation and Sri Lanka. The Conference re-elected Mr. Veit Koester (Denmark) by acclamation as Chairman of the Working Group.

122. At the 8th plenary session, on 12 May 1998, the Conference considered a draft decision on the item submitted by the President.

123. During the discussion of the draft decision, the representative of the United Kingdom, speaking on behalf of the European Union, stated that the European Union would make available additional voluntary contributions to

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assist the participation of developing countries in the two meetings of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group on Biosafety and the extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties referred to in the draft decision.

124. At the 9th plenary session, on 15 May, 1998, the Conference of the Parties took up a revised draft decision (UNEP/CBD/COP/4/L.4), incorporating amendments made pursuant to the discussion in the 8th session of the plenary.

125. The draft decision was adopted as decision IV/3, with an oral amendment to the effect that the representative of Colombia would be replaced by the representative of Argentina to serve on the Bureau of the Open-Ended Ad Hoc Working Group on Biosafety.

AGENDA ITEM 10. IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 8(J) AND RELATED PROVISIONS

126. At its 5th session, on 8 May 1998, Working Group 1 took up the item. The item was introduced by a representative of the Secretariat, who drew attention to the note by the Executive Secretary on the implementation of Article 8(j) and related provisions (UNEP/CBD/COP/4/10) and the report of the Workshop on Traditional Knowledge and Biological Diversity held in Madrid, Spain from 24 to 28 November 1997 (UNEP/CBD/COP/4/10/Add.1). She pointed out that one of the options for recommendations formulated by the Workshop for consideration by the Conference of the Parties was that of establishing an open-ended inter-sessional working group or subsidiary body on the role of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. Another option was on the formulation of elements of a work plan for future elaboration under the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

127. Mr. Manuel Piñeiro (Spain), Chair of the Workshop's Committee of the Whole, summarized the proceedings and outcome of the Workshop, which had been imbued with a spirit of openness, flexibility and respect on the part of all those who had participated. The outstanding conclusion was that there was a need to achieve the widest participation possible by indigenous peoples and local communities in all the processes relating to implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity. He invited the Conference to consider the options for recommendations drawn up by the Workshop.

128. A presentation was made on the Third International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity, held in Bratislava from 4 to 6 May 1998, highlighting the rationale for establishing an open-ended inter-sessional working group on the implementation of Article 8(j) and other articles related to indigenous and local communities.

129. Statements under the item were made by the representatives of Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Ecuador, Ethiopia (on behalf of the African Group), Finland, France, Gambia, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Malawi, the Marshall Islands (on behalf of the 11 Pacific Island Parties to the Convention), Mexico, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Peru, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Slovenia (on behalf of the Central and Eastern European group), Spain,

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Sri Lanka, Sweden, Togo, the United Kingdom (on behalf of the European Union), the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America, Venezuela and Zambia.

130. Statements were also made by the representatives of the academic and research institutions present at the meeting, the Coordinating Body for the Indigenous Peoples' Organizations of the Amazon Basin (COICA), the Indigenous People's Biodiversity Network, the International Alliance of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples of the Tropical Forests, the International Indian Treaty Council, the Movimiento Autoridades Indigenas de Colombia, and Via Campesina.

131. At its 6th session, on 11 May 1998, the Working Group decided to establish a contact group under the chairmanship of Mr. Vincent McBride (New Zealand) to prepare a draft decision under the item. It was agreed that the contact group would operate under the authority of the Chairman of the Working Group and would endeavour to build on the content of decision III/14, without repeating the elements therein, and would base its work on the statements made at the current meeting, the documents that had been made available under the item, and the outline for the decision of the Conference of the Parties contained in the note by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/COP/4/10). It was also agreed that the contact group would refrain from including issues that had not been raised during the general discussion in the Working Group and would focus on the work that would be necessary after the current meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

132. At its 11th session, on 14 May 1998, the Working Group considered an informal paper submitted by the chairman of the contact group containing a draft decision on the implementation of Article 8(j) and related provisions. The paper was introduced by the chairman of the contact group, who summarized its main points. He then described the procedure adopted by the group in the course of its discussions. He had indicated that, immediately prior to the negotiation stage, representatives of indigenous and local communities would be allowed a limited time to make statements on the elements of the draft decision. They would then be asked to withdraw so that negotiations could take place between Parties only, one Party having indicated that, as a matter of principle and according to the general practice of the United Nations, decision-making, which included the negotiating process, should be reserved for governmental delegations.

133. He said that, through a most regrettable misunderstanding, the indigenous and local communities had gained the impression that in the final discussion session they had not been able to speak and, after a spokesman had made a brief statement, the representatives of those communities had then withdrawn. The representative of Denmark had then made a statement expressing his concern and deep regret at the situation that had arisen. Similar views had been expressed by the representatives of Australia, Canada, Colombia, Ecuador, Ethiopia, the European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Mali, the Marshall Islands (on behalf of the 11 Pacific Island Parties to the Convention), the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, the Philippines, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Republic of Tanzania, and Zambia.

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134. He stressed that the process followed in the contact group of attempting to be as inclusive and participatory as possible within the limits of the rules of procedure should not be taken as a precedent for the operation of any other contact group of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

135. A statement was made on behalf of the indigenous peoples' representatives participating in the Conference expressing deep concern, surprise and disappointment. He stated that no justification for such an attitude could be found in the rules of procedure. Representatives of those peoples had taken an active part in the third meeting of the Parties but the spirit of cooperation and partnership prevailing there had apparently been abandoned. He called on Parties to clarify the matter.

136. The draft decision, as orally amended, was approved for transmission to the plenary as document UNEP/CBD/COP/4/L.2/Add.5.

137. The representative of Brazil reserved his country's position on the draft decision.

138. At its 10th plenary session, on 15 May 1998, the Conference took up draft decision UNEP/CBD/COP/4/L.2/Add.5, to which the President introduced a number of oral amendments that had been agreed in the course of informal consultations.

139. The representative of Brazil requested that the following statement should be included in the report of the meeting:

"Brazil has participated in the negotiations on this agenda item and has striven for consensus, in the spirit of the Convention.

"Nevertheless, in our view, the text of the draft decision on Article 8(j) contains implications that transcend the mandate of our delegation to this meeting and of the Convention itself.

"In order to ensure that this text was consistent with national legislation and policy on this issue, we have sought clearance from government authorities in our capital. Unfortunately, due to the time difference, we have not yet received a reply, and for this reason it is difficult for Brazil to join consensus at this stage.

"Brazil will not be an obstacle to the adoption of this decision, but would like to request that this statement be included in the report of this meeting.

"At this point I would like to clarify that Brazil never intended to exclude representatives of indigenous and local communities from our discussions. As shall be recalled, Brazil had the honour to chair the contact group on traditional knowledge at the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties, which decided on the realization of the Madrid workshop. Those were indeed very difficult negotiations, a task that Brazil tackled with enthusiasm, determination and genuine effort to listen to and

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accommodate each Party's concerns until a consensus was reached on a decision that was acceptable to all and that met the expectations of the representatives of indigenous and local communities present at Buenos Aires.

"Yes, Brazil believes that Parties to this Convention should seek information, advice and wisdom, to the widest extent, from all possible sources.

"Nevertheless, Brazil also firmly believes that, since this is an intergovernmental convention, and aware of the fact that ultimate responsibility for implementing our decisions relies on our Governments, as a matter of principle and according to the general practices of the United Nations, decision-making – which includes the negotiation process – should be reserved to Parties or potential Parties.

"Brazil deeply regrets the misinterpretation concerning our position, which is shared by a large number of delegations."

140. The representative of the United Kingdom, speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States, said that those Parties attached the utmost importance to the implementation of Article 8(j) and related provisions of the Convention. They would like to congratulate the Chairman of the contact group that had negotiated the draft decision for his patience and fairness and fellow delegates for achieving consensus on a complex and sensitive issue. They recognized that the outcome represented a carefully balanced text, which the European Community and its member States fully supported. The European Community and its member States were strong advocates of the greatest possible transparency in the deliberations of the Conference of the Parties. Consequently, they deeply regretted that, during the later stages of the negotiations on the draft decision, representatives of the indigenous and local communities and other observers were excluded from the proceedings. The European Community and its member States unanimously wished to reiterate their wholehearted support for the view expressed by the Chairman of the contact group that such a decision should not be seen as a precedent, neither in further work on that important issue nor in the negotiations on other subject areas. All must do their best to ensure the full transparency and participation of the representatives of indigenous and local communities in the deliberations of the ad hoc working group on Article 8(j). That was a sine qua non condition for the success of the group and for the future work of the Conference of the Parties on the agenda item.

141. Draft decision UNEP/CBD/COP/4/L.2/Add.5, as orally amended, was then adopted by the Conference as decision IV/9. The text of the decision may be found in the annex to the present report.

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AGENDA ITEM 11. SYNTHESIS OF INFORMATION CONTAINED IN NATIONAL REPORTS ON
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

142. At its 1st session, on 6 May 1998, Working Group 2 took up the item. Introducing the item, a representative of the Secretariat drew attention to document UNEP/CBD/COP/4/11/Rev.1, the note by the Executive Secretary, containing a synthesis of information contained in national reports on the implementation of the Convention, submitted in accordance with decision II/17 of the Conference of the Parties. The note had been prepared on the basis of the reports received by the Secretariat up to the end of March, which were listed in Annex 1 of the document. That annex was updated by a list of national reports received by the beginning of the present meeting, contained in document UNEP/CBD/COP/4/Inf.32. A further three reports - those of Belgium, Bulgaria and Portugal - were to be included in that list, bringing the total submitted to 103. He summarized the main points of the Secretariat note and listed the issues requiring consideration and decision by the Conference of the Parties.

143. Statements under the item were made by the representatives of Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Bahamas, Belgium, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Burundi, Canada, China, Colombia, Comoros, the Czech Republic (on its own behalf and on behalf of the Central and Eastern European Group), the Democratic Republic of the Congo, European Community, Finland, France, Germany, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Mali (on behalf of the African Group), New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Russian Federation, Senegal, Slovenia, South Africa, Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, the United Kingdom (on behalf of the European Union), the United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, and Zambia.

144. A representative of the Indian Institute of Public Administration also made a statement, speaking on behalf of 22 NGOs from different regions.

145. The Working Group decided to submit the issue to the contact group on review of operations/institutional and other issues (see paragraph 53 above) for further detailed consideration.

146. At its 7th session on 14 May 1998 the Working Group considered an informal paper prepared by the contact group, containing a draft decision on information contained in national reports on the implementation of the Convention. The draft decision was approved for transmission to the plenary as document UNEP/CBD/COP/4/L.3/Add.3.

147. At its 10th plenary session, on 15 May 1998, the Conference of the Parties took up draft decision UNEP/CBD/COP/4/L.3/Add.3.

148. The representative of Samoa, speaking on behalf of the Pacific Island States party to the Convention, said that national reports were crucial to the workings and vitality of the Convention. Like other Parties, those States would work hard to give practical value to the reporting process and to establish optimum effectiveness. In that respect, those States believed very strongly that the efforts of the Conference of the Parties must be directed at ensuring that national reports were useful not only for Convention purposes but also, and more especially, that the reports had utility for the reporting countries themselves. In the Pacific situation,

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the country reports and the reporting process could then be put to good and practical use in, for example, matters of public education and awareness-raising and information dissemination. The Pacific Island States looked to the Global Environment Facility for funding to tackle the problems identified in the national reports, particularly with regard to the implementation of national biological diversity action plans.

149. Draft decision UNEP/CBD/COP/4/L.3/Add.3 was then adopted by the Conference of the Parties as decision IV/14. The text of the decision may be found in the annex to the present report.

AGENDA ITEM 12. THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE CONVENTION WITH THE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND BIODIVERSITY-RELATED CONVENTIONS, OTHER INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS, INSTITUTIONS AND PROCESSES OF RELEVANCE

12.1 Results of the special session of the General Assembly for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21

150. At its 2nd session, on 7 May 1998, Working Group 2 took up the item. The item was introduced by the representative of the Secretariat, who drew attention to document UNEP/CBD/COP/4/12, explaining that it covered those points arising from the special session of the United Nations General Assembly which did not fall under other specific items of the agenda of the current meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

151. The specific conclusions on biological diversity had largely focused on the work of the Convention, and had called on Governments to implement the Convention and the decisions of its institutions; the conclusions on trade and the environment had mainly emphasized the need to make trade and environment mutually supportive, and had called upon the World Trade Organization, UNEP and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to work together to achieve that aim, thus reinforcing the decisions of the Conference of the Parties and the Executive Secretary's work on trade issues and cooperation with the World Trade Organization; while the conclusions on tourism had called for the Commission on Sustainable Development to develop a programme on sustainable tourism, to be defined in cooperation with the World Tourism Organization, UNEP, UNCTAD, the Conference of the Parties and other relevant bodies.

152. Concerning the institutional arrangements for implementing Agenda 21 and the follow-up to the results of the special session of the General Assembly, the main recommendations of relevance to the Convention were: the multi-year programme of work for the Commission on Sustainable Development, for 1998 to 2002; a call to the Conference of the Parties to consider developing synergies with the other Rio conventions; and a call for a strengthened UNEP, and in particular for UNEP to ensure better scientific assessment of ecological linkages between the conventions, identification of programmes that had multiple benefits, and enhanced public awareness-raising with respect to the conventions.

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153. Also introducing the item, the Chair noted that the final document of the special session had incorporated a "Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21," which, in its paragraph 66, addressed the issue of biological diversity and called for the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, while subsequent paragraphs dealt with sustainable tourism and the need to make trade and the environment mutually sustainable. In its paragraph 113, the document called for UNEP to carry out its activities related to the Rio conventions in a manner consistent with maintaining the authority of the Conference of the Parties over the Convention on Biological Diversity.

154. Statements under the item were made by the representatives of Australia, Bahamas, Chile, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Germany, India, Indonesia, Ireland, the Marshall Islands (on behalf of the 11 Pacific Island States Parties to the Convention), the Russian Federation, South Africa, the United Kingdom (on behalf of the European Union), and Zimbabwe.

155. A statement was also made by a representative of the World Tourism Organization.

156. The Working Group decided to submit the item to the informal subgroup, under the aegis of the Chair of Working Group 2, Ms. Bernarditas Muller, (see paragraph 53 above) for further detailed consideration. (For the approval of the draft decision on the item, see paragraph 166 below.)

12.2 Cooperation with other agreements, institutions and processes relevant to in situ conservation (Article 8)

157. At its 2nd session, on 7 May 1998, Working Group 2 took up the item.

158. Statements under the item were made by the representatives of Australia, Bolivia, Canada, Chad, Colombia, the Czech Republic (on behalf of the Central and Eastern European Group), Ecuador, Hungary, India, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kenya, Malawi, Marshall Islands (on behalf of the 11 Pacific Island States Parties), Monaco, Norway, Slovenia (on behalf of the Central and Eastern European Group), South Africa, Switzerland, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia and the United Kingdom (on behalf of the European Union).

159. Statements were also made by the representatives of the Convention on Migratory Species, the UNEP Regional Coordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan, and the UNESCO World Heritage Convention.

160. Statements were also made by the representatives of the Research Foundation for Science and Ecology (on behalf of a group of 65 non-governmental organizations), the International Support Group for Sustainable Tourism, The Nature Conservancy, the Council of Europe, and the World Conservation Union (IUCN).

161. The Working Group decided to submit the issue to a subgroup, under the aegis of the contact group on review of operations/institutional and other issues (see paragraph 53 above), for further detailed consideration. (For the approval of the draft decision on the item, see paragraph 166 below.)

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12.3 Relationship with other international conventions

162. At its 3rd session, on 7 May 1998, Working Group 2 took up the item.

163. Statements under the item were made by the representatives of Australia, Botswana, Ethiopia, the European Community, India, Indonesia, Mali, the Marshall Islands (on behalf of the 11 Pacific Island States Parties), the Philippines, Romania, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Switzerland, Togo (on its own behalf and on behalf of the African Group), Uganda, and the United Republic of Tanzania.

164. Statements were also made by the representatives of the Centre for International Environmental Law, ASSINSEL (also on behalf of the International Seed Trade Federation (FIS)), and the Gaia Foundation (on behalf of a number of non-governmental organizations from the North and the South).

165. The Working Group decided to submit the issue to a sub-group, under the aegis of the contact group on review of operations/institutional and other issues (see paragraph 53 above), for further detailed consideration.

166. At its 8th session on 14 May 1998 the Working Group considered an informal paper, submitted by the Chair of the sub-group, Mr. Espen Romneberg (Marshall Islands), containing a draft decision on the relationship of the Convention with the Commission on Sustainable Development and biodiversity-related conventions, other international agreements, institutions and process of relevance. The draft decision, as orally amended, was approved for transmission to the plenary as document UNEP/CBD/COP/4/L.3/Add.5.

167. At its 10th plenary session, on 15 May 1998, the Conference of the Parties took up draft decision UNEP/CBD/COP/4/L.3/Add.5.

168. The representative of Samoa, speaking on behalf of the Pacific Island States party to the Convention, said that those States wished to make some observations on the subject of sustainable tourism. He said that tourism was a matter of very great importance to those countries and the region. The Pacific Island States considered that the Commission on Sustainable Development was the primary forum for addressing the subject. The Convention, of course, did have an important input to make. Any discussion on the issue must deal with the need for a country-specific approach to the issue and the importance of focusing on a specific audience. The Pacific Island States could not accept a top-down approach, which, as they understood it, was being proposed at the current meeting. They would therefore be looking forward to, and watching closely, the discussions at the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice in the coming months.

169. Draft decision UNEP/CBD/COP/4/L.3/Add.5 was then adopted by the Conference of the Parties as decision IV/15. The text of the decision is contained in the annex to the present report.

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AGENDA ITEM 13. REVIEW OF THE OPERATIONS OF THE CONVENTION

170. At its 4th session, on 8 May 1998, Working Group 2 took up the item. The item was introduced by the representative of the Secretariat, who drew attention to document UNEP/CBD/COP/4/14, recalling that, at its first meeting, in 1994, the Conference of the Parties had adopted a medium-term programme of work for 1995 to 1997, as part of which it had decided to undertake an overall review of the operations of the Convention, with a view to improving the effectiveness of the Convention and developing the next programme of work.

171. Decision III/19 of the Conference of the Parties, he said, had set out a procedure for preparing for the review, based essentially on soliciting the views of Parties and other relevant institutions. Over the course of the preceding 18 months the Secretariat had received a wide range of views on the matter, as well as organizing and participating in a number of informal consultations on the subject. Document UNEP/CBD/COP/4/14 contained a synthesis of those views, set out within the context of the existing structure of the Convention (the Conference of the Parties, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and other subsidiary bodies, the financial mechanism, etc.).

172. The document went on to set out the preliminary basis for developing a longer-term programme of work, and its annexes contained a suggested 10-year rolling programme of work, which was based on the assumptions listed in its paragraphs 88-91 and on the cycle of work which had emerged from the experience of the first programme of work. He explained that the suggestions in the document were intended only as a starting point for the consideration by the Conference of the Parties of a longer-term programme of work which would set out measurable goals and targets, indicators, geographical implications and timetables.

173. Statements under the item were made by the representatives of Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, India, Indonesia (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kenya, the Marshall Islands (on behalf of the 11 Pacific Island States Parties), Mauritania, Namibia, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Poland, Slovenia (on behalf of the Central and Eastern European Group), South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom (on behalf of the European Union), Uruguay and Zimbabwe.

174. The Working Group decided to submit the issue to the contact group on review of operations/institutional and other issues (see paragraph 53 above) for further detailed consideration.

175. At its 8th session on 14 May 1998 the Working Group considered an informal paper prepared by the contact group, containing a draft decision on institutional matters and the programme of work. The draft decision, as orally amended, was approved for transmission to the plenary as document UNEP/CBD/COP/4/L.3/Add.4.

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176. At its 10th plenary session, on 15 May 1998, the Conference of the Parties took up draft decision UNEP/CBD/COP/4/L.3/Add.4, which was orally amended by the Chair of Working Group 2 in the light of informal consultations.

177. Additional amendments were introduced by the representatives of the United Kingdom, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Kenya.

178. The Conference agreed, on the proposal of the representative of Peru, that, in order to ensure a smooth transition from the former terms of reference, the current Chairman of the Subsidiary Body would be invited to remain in office until the end of the fourth session of the Body, and the Chairman-elect would be invited to participate ex officio in the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice immediately upon his election. It also confirmed by acclamation the appointment of Mr. Christian Samper as Chairman-elect of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.

179. Draft decision UNEP/CBD/COP/4/L.3/Add.4, as orally amended, was then adopted by the Conference of the Parties as decision IV/16. The text of the decision is contained in the annex to the present report.

AGENDA ITEM 14. FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND MECHANISM

- 14.1 Memorandum of Understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the Council of the Global Environment Facility
- 14.2 Activities of the Global Environment Facility
- 14.3 Review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism
- 14.4 Additional financial resources
- 14.5 Further guidance to the financial mechanism

180. At its 5th session, on 8 May 1998, Working Group 2 took up item 14. Introducing the item, comprising five sub-items, the representative of the Secretariat drew attention to documents UNEP/CBD/COP/4/15, UNEP/CBD/COP/4/16, UNEP/CBD/COP/4/17 and UNEP/CBD/COP/4/Inf.23. With regard to sub-items 14.1 and 14.2, he recalled that the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties had adopted the Memorandum of Understanding (contained in the Annex to decision III/8) between the Conference of the Parties and the Council of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), which had approved it in May 1997, thereby bringing it into effect. In accordance with paragraph 3.1 of the Memorandum of Understanding, the GEF Council had submitted the report contained in document UNEP/CBD/COP/4/15 for consideration by the Conference of the Parties.

181. Concerning sub-item 14.3, the Conference of the Parties had adopted, in its decision III/7, the objectives, criteria and procedures for the first review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism to be conducted in

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time for its fourth meeting. Accordingly, the Executive Secretary had prepared the synthesis report referred to in paragraph 8 of the Annex to that decision. Subsequently further information had been submitted.

182. With regard to sub-item 14.4, the Conference of the Parties, in its decision III/6, had requested the Executive Secretary to pursue efforts to identify and monitor financial resources. Document UNEP/CBD/COP/4/17 outlined the steps taken in response to decision III/6, reviewed flows of financial resources and national reporting on financial resources by developed country Parties, and explored ways of promoting the use of private financial resources.

183. With regard to sub-item 14.5, the Memorandum of Understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the GEF Council stipulated that, in accordance with Article 21 of the Convention, the Conference of the Parties would determine the policy, strategy, programme priorities and eligibility criteria for access to and utilization of financial resources available through the financial mechanism, including monitoring and evaluation on a regular basis of such utilization.

184. The representative of GEF also made an introductory statement on the report of the GEF Council, as contained in document UNEP/CBD/COP/4/15.

185. Statements under item 14 were made by the representatives of Australia, Bahamas, Brazil, Canada, Chad, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, India, Indonesia (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and on its own behalf), Latvia, Malawi, Mali, Nepal (on behalf of the least developed countries), Norway, Poland, the Russian Federation, South Africa, Uganda and the United Kingdom (on behalf of the European Union).

186. A statement was also made by a representative of The Nature Conservancy.

187. The Working Group decided to submit the issue to the contact group on financial resources and the financial mechanism (see paragraph 53 above) for further detailed consideration.

188. At its 7th session, on 14 May 1998, the Working Group considered an informal paper prepared by the contact group containing a draft decision on review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism. The draft decision, as orally amended, was approved for transmission to the plenary as document UNEP/CBD/COP/4/L.3/Add.1.

189. Also at its 7th session, on 14 May 1998, the Working Group considered an informal paper prepared by the contact group containing a draft decision on additional financial resources. The draft decision, as orally amended, was approved for transmission to the plenary as document UNEP/CBD/COP/4/L.3/Add.2.

190. Also at its 7th session, on 14 May 1998, the Working Group considered an informal paper prepared by the contact group containing a draft decision on further guidance to the financial mechanism. After an exchange of views, the Chair of Working Group 2 proposed that the amended draft decision be transmitted to the plenary as document UNEP/CBD/COP/4/L.5.

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191. At its 10th plenary session, on 15 May 1998, the Conference of the Parties took up draft decision UNEP/CBD/COP/4/L.5.

192. A compromise text for paragraph 4 of the draft decision was introduced by the Chair of Working Group 2 in the light of informal consultations.

193. An additional amendment was introduced by the representative of Samoa.

194. Draft decision UNEP/CBD/COP/4/L.5, as orally revised and amended, was then adopted by the Conference of the Parties as decision IV/13. The text of the decision is contained in the annex to the present report.

AGENDA ITEM 15. MEASURES FOR IMPLEMENTING THE CONVENTION

15.1 Incentive measures: consideration of measures for the implementation of Article 11

195. At its 6th session, on 11 May 1998, Working Group 2 took up the item. The item was introduced by the representative of the Secretariat, who recalled that in its decision III/18, the Conference had invited Parties to share their experiences, and had requested the Executive Secretary to prepare a background document providing guidance, in the design and implementation of incentive measures. In response to a call from the Secretariat, a small number of case-studies had been received, which the note by the Executive Secretary on the subject (UNEP/CBD/COP/4/18) attempted to synthesize, pointing out their key common factors: the importance of carrying out an assessment of the status of biological diversity and the causes of threats to it before formulating incentive measures; the finding that incentives were normally a combination of different measures, in the economic, social and institutional spheres; the universal finding that one of the reasons for success was the economic benefit; the importance of assessing the requirements during the designing of incentive measures; the importance of institutional coordination; and the indispensability of a participatory process of implementation. He also said that since so few case-studies had been received, the conclusions drawn from them should be regarded as provisional. Future consideration of incentive measures would take a thematic focus.

196. Statements under the item were made by the representatives of Australia, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, India, Malawi, Morocco, New Zealand, Uganda, the United Kingdom (on behalf of the European Union), the United States, Zambia and Zimbabwe (on behalf of the African Group).

197. A statement was also made by the representative of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

198. The Working Group decided to submit the issue to an informal subgroup, under the aegis of the Chair of Working Group 2, Ms. Bernarditas Muller, for further detailed consideration.

199. At its 7th session, on 14 May 1998, the Working Group considered an informal paper prepared by the subgroup on item 15, chaired by Mr. Manfred Schneider (Austria), containing a draft decision on consideration of

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incentive measures for the implementation of Article 11. The draft decision, as orally amended, was approved for transmission to the plenary as document UNEP/CBD/COP/4/L.3, draft decision A.

200. At its 10th plenary session, on 10 May 1998, the Conference of the Parties adopted draft decision A in document UNEP/CBD/COP/4/L.3, as orally revised by the Chair of Working Group 2, as decision IV/10 A. The text of the draft decision is contained in the annex to the present report.

15.2 Public education and awareness: consideration of measures for the implementation of Article 13

201. At its 6th session, on 11 May 1998, Working Group 2 took up the item. The item was introduced by the representative of the Secretariat, who recalled that decision III/22 had provided for the Conference of the Parties to consider at its fourth meeting measures to provide information and share experiences on the implementation of Article 13 of the Convention, "Public education and awareness." The note by the Executive Director submitted under the item (UNEP/CBD/COP/4/19), he said, gave an introduction to the subject; illustrated the importance of promoting the understanding of the biological diversity through both formal education and informal education and awareness-raising; and mentioned cooperative efforts at the international level in the development of educational and public awareness programmes.

202. The conclusions and recommendations of the document comprised three main points: public education and awareness should be integrated into the sectoral and thematic items under the programme of work of the Conference of the Parties; UNESCO should be invited to consider launching a global joint initiative on biological diversity in education, training and public awareness; UNEP, in cooperation with other United Nations bodies, should be invited to develop its information dissemination activities further in support of the work of the Convention.

203. Statements under the item were made by the representatives of Australia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Malawi, Morocco, Mozambique, Slovakia, the United Kingdom (on behalf of the European Union), Zambia and Zimbabwe (on behalf of the African Group).

204. A statement was also made by the representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

205. A statement was also made by the representative of the Humane Society of the United States.

206. The Working Group decided to submit the issue to the informal sub-group, under the aegis of the Chair of Working Group 2, Ms. Bernarditas Muller (see paragraph 53 above), for further detailed consideration.

207. At its 7th session, on 14 May 1998, the Working Group considered an informal paper prepared by the sub-group on item 15, chaired by Mr. Manfred Schneider (Austria), containing a draft decision on public education and awareness: consideration of measures for the implementation of Article 13. The draft decision, as orally amended, was approved for transmission to the plenary as document UNEP/CBD/COP/4/L.3, draft decision B.

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208. At its 10th plenary session, on 15 May 1998, the Conference of the Parties adopted draft decision B in document UNEP/CBD/COP/4/L.3 as decision IV/10 B. The text of the decision is contained in the annex to the present report.

15.3 Impact assessment and minimizing adverse effects: consideration of measures for the implementation of Article 14

209. At its 6th session, on 11 May 1998, Working Group 2 took up the item. The item was introduced by the representative of the Secretariat, who drew attention to the note by the Executive Secretary submitted under the item (UNEP/CBD/COP/4/20). He recalled that decision III/22 had provided for the Conference of the Parties to consider at its fourth meeting measures to provide information and share experiences on the implementation of Article 14 ("Impact assessment and minimizing adverse effects"). He pointed out that the note by the Executive Secretary focused on two main areas: environmental impact assessment and liability and redress.

210. Concerning impact assessment, the document described the range of approaches which had been taken to date in addressing the issue in existing international and regional agreements; analysed the five subparagraphs of Article 14.1 of the Convention; and underscored the recommendations of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the decisions of the Conference of the Parties which addressed impact assessment within the framework of thematic areas such as marine and coastal, forests and agricultural biological diversity.

211. Concerning liability and redress, the document highlighted the various functions of liability in international environmental law; presented related discussions in other international forums; and elaborated, in relation to the Convention, common elements of liability and redress in international environmental law.

212. Statements under the item were made by the representatives of Australia, Ethiopia, India, Mali, Morocco, New Zealand, Switzerland, the United Kingdom (on behalf of the European Union) and the United States.

213. A statement was also made by the representative of BirdLife International.

214. The Working Group decided to refer the issue to an informal subgroup, under the aegis of the Chair of Working Group 2, Ms. Bernarditas Muller, for further detailed consideration.

215. At its 7th session, on 14 May 1998, the Working Group considered an informal paper prepared by the sub-group on item 15, chaired by Mr. Manfred Schneider (Austria), containing a draft decision on impact assessment and minimizing adverse effects: consideration of measures for the implementation of Article 14. The draft decision, as orally amended, was approved for transmission to the plenary as document UNEP/CBD/COP/4/L.3, Draft Decision C.

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216. At its 10th plenary session, on 15 May 1998, the Conference of the Parties adopted draft decision C in document UNEP/CBD/COP/4/L.3 as decision IV/10 C. The text of the decision is contained in the annex to the present report.

AGENDA ITEM 16. MATTERS RELATED TO BENEFIT-SHARING

- 16.1 Measures to promote and advance the distribution of benefits from biotechnology in accordance with Article 19 ("Handling of Biotechnology and Distribution of Benefits")
- 16.2 Means to address the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of genetic resources
- 16.3 Compilation of views of the Parties on possible options for developing national legislative, administrative or policy measures, as appropriate, to implement Article 15 ("Access to Genetic Resources")

217. At its 7th session, on 11 May 1998, Working Group 1 took up the three sub-items concurrently. Ms. Elaine Fisher (Jamaica) presided as an alternate Chair during the Working Group's discussions on agenda item 16. The sub-items were introduced by a representative of the Secretariat, who noted that the issue of benefit-sharing constituted for the first time a separate item on the agenda of the Conference. She summarized the main points of the documents prepared by the Secretariat to assist the discussions, namely, the notes by the Executive Secretary on measures to promote and advance the distribution of benefits from biotechnology in accordance with Article 19 (UNEP/CBD/COP/4/21), on addressing the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of genetic resources: options for assistance to developing country Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (UNEP/CBD/COP/4/22), and on the review of national, regional and sectoral measures and guidelines for the implementation of Article 15 (UNEP/CBD/COP/4/23 and Corr.1 and 2). The second corrigendum corrected information in the original document concerning access and benefit-sharing legislation in Brazil, which had not yet approved legislation on the issue. In addition, she announced that, in the fifth line of paragraph 27 (namely, "and India (Bill on Access to Genetic Resources)") and in the first line of paragraph 46 of the document, the text in parentheses (namely, "the Indian Bill") should be deleted. She suggested that the Conference might wish to request the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to develop guidelines to assist Parties on the issue of access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing, drawing upon emerging practices and case-studies. A synthesis of the case-studies on benefit-sharing received in response to the Executive Secretary's call was contained in document UNEP/CBD/COP/4/Inf.7, and the case-studies themselves would be put on the Internet.

218. Statements under the item were made by the representatives of Argentina, Australia, Benin, Bolivia, Canada, China, Colombia, Cuba, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Ecuador, Ethiopia, the European Community, France, Germany, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Namibia, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Russian

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Federation, Samoa (on behalf of the 11 Pacific Island Parties to the Convention), Senegal, Spain, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Uganda, the United Kingdom (on behalf of the European Union), the United States of America, Venezuela and Zimbabwe (on behalf of the African group).

219. Statements were also made by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, and Greenpeace International (on behalf also of Genetic Resources Action International and Third World Network).

220. At its 8th session, on 12 May 1998, the Working Group decided that Friends of the Chair would work on a preliminary text being prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of statements made. The group comprised Argentina, Canada, the European Community, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Norway, the Philippines, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

221. At its 11th session, on 14 May 1998, the Working Group considered an informal paper submitted by the Chairman of the Working Group containing a draft decision on access and benefit-sharing. The draft decision was approved for transmission to the plenary as document UNEP/CBD/COP/4/L.2/Add.4, on the understanding that informal consultations would be held to resolve outstanding difficulties before the text was taken up in plenary.

222. At its 10th plenary session, on 15 May 1998, the Conference of the Parties decided not to take up draft decision UNEP/CBD/COP/L.2/Add.4 but to consider instead a conference room paper containing an informal proposal on the agenda item submitted by an informal contact group.

223. The representative of Australia said that his delegation did not wish to stand in the way of consensus but requested that the following statement be included in the report of the meeting:

"Australia recognizes the hard and difficult work of the contact group to provide the text we have before us.

"Australia notes that the text we are considering has been available to the Conference of the Parties for a very short time.

"I wish to advise you that Australia has a difficulty in relation to paragraph 2 of the informal proposal on agenda item 16, relating to access and benefit-sharing.

"Australia recognizes that the status of ex situ collections acquired prior to the entry into force of the Convention on Biological Diversity which are not addressed with the FAO Global System for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Sustainable Agriculture is a matter of concern for many Parties to the Convention.

"However, in negotiating the Convention on Biological Diversity, it was decided to exclude from its ambit resources acquired prior to the Convention's entry into force.

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"Australia is not in favour of revisiting an issue which was considered to be outside the scope of the Convention as recently as 1992, when the text of the Convention was adopted. I believe that this reflects the principle that international agreements usually do not apply to past actions."

224. Following a lengthy discussion and further informal consultations, the Conference agreed to adopt the informal proposal, with the addition of the words "with due regard to the provisions of the Convention" at the end of paragraph 2, as decision IV/8. The text of the decision may be found in the annex to the present report.

AGENDA ITEM 17. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS

17.1 Administration of the Convention and

17.2 Budget of the Trust Fund for the Convention on Biological Diversity

225. At its 5th plenary session, on 6 May 1998, the Conference of the Parties took up this item. The item was introduced by the Executive Secretary, who drew attention to his report on the administration of the Convention on Biological Diversity (UNEP/CBD/COP/4/24), the proposed programme budget of the Convention for the biennium 1999-2000 (UNEP/CBD/COP/4/25 and Add.1), and his note on the budget of the Trust Fund for the Convention on Biological Diversity for the biennium 1999-2000: programmes of work (UNEP/CBD/COP/4/Inf.12), all of which had been drawn up in close cooperation with the Bureau and took into account the desire expressed by the Conference of the Parties at its third meeting that the Conference's agenda should be focused and streamlined. The report on the administration of the Convention gave an account of the progress made by the Secretariat in the implementation of the decisions adopted at the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and its annex III described the outcome of decision III/23, which had called on the Executive Secretary and the Executive Director of UNEP to hold consultations in order to clarify and make more effective their respective roles.

226. Recalling that the budget for the Trust Fund had been prepared pursuant to decision III/24, he noted that the present budget was different from previous ones, not only in scale but also in structure. In particular, the travel costs of developing country Parties to meetings held under the auspices of the Convention had now been included within the assessed contributions, whereas formerly it had been anticipated that they would be met by voluntary contributions. He drew attention to the main elements of the proposed programme structure: scientific, technical and technological matters; implementation and communication; and biosafety; together with the executive direction and management of the Secretariat and the support services supplied by UNEP to the Secretariat. The addendum to the programme budget document (UNEP/CBD/COP/4/25/Add.1) dealt with the financial implications of completing negotiations on the biosafety protocol as proposed by the last meeting of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Biosafety.

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227. Statements on the item were made by the representatives of Australia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, France, Haiti, Indonesia, Kenya, the Marshall Islands (on behalf of the 11 Pacific Island Parties to the Convention), Monaco, Morocco, Peru, Sudan, Switzerland, Tunisia and the United Kingdom (on behalf of the European Union).

228. At its 7th plenary session, on 8 May 1998, the Conference decided that Mr. Mohamed Mahmoud Ould el Ghaouth (Mauritania) should serve as Chairman of the contact group on the item.

229. At its 10th plenary session, on 15 May 1998, the Conference took up draft decision UNEP/CBD/COP/4/L.4/Add.3/Rev.1, which had been submitted under the items by the President following the discussions in the contact group.

230. Following an introductory statement by the Chairman of the contact group, the draft decision was adopted by the Conference as decision IV/17. The text of the decision is contained in the annex to the present report.

231. The representative of Japan said that there had been insufficient time to study the important budget documents. In consequence, Japan could not simply endorse the figures, but wished to reserve its position on the budget, pending in-depth consideration of its assessed contribution.

232. In Response, the Chair of the contact group stated that all had been actively involved in the work of the group and had expressed no reservations at that time. If he had done, the Chair would have brought it to the attention of the Conference of the Parties.

233. The representatives of Mexico endorsed the statement made by the representative of Japan and asked the Conference to take note of the fact that her delegation, too, had some difficulties with the budget.

AGENDA ITEM 18. REPORT ON THE CREDENTIALS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

234. At the 10th plenary session, on 15 May 1998, the President reported that, in accordance with rule 19 of the rules of procedure for meetings of the Conference of the Parties, the Bureau had examined the credentials of the representatives of the 144 Parties attending the meeting. The credentials of 101 representatives had been found to be in full compliance with the provisions of rule 18 of the rules of procedure, while those of 33 representatives only partly complied with those provisions and were therefore not in good order. The representatives of a further 10 Parties attending the meeting had as yet not submitted credentials. All the Parties concerned – a total of 43 – had agreed to provide the Executive Secretary with their credentials in good order.

235. The Conference approved the report of the President.

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AGENDA ITEM 19. VENUE AND DATE OF THE FIFTH MEETING OF
THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

236. At its 10th plenary session, on 15 May 1998, the Conference of the Parties gratefully accepted the offer of Kenya to host its fifth meeting, in Nairobi at a date to be specified by the Bureau in accordance with its earlier decision* that the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties would take place in the second quarter of 2000 for a period of two weeks. The Conference adopted decision IV/18 to that effect, on the basis of an oral proposal by the President. The text of that decision is contained in the annex to the present report.

AGENDA ITEM 20. OTHER MATTERS

Joint statement by the delegates of the French-speaking countries

237. At the 10th plenary session of meeting, the representative of Benin delivered the following statement, which he asked to be included in extenso in the report of the meeting:

"On behalf of the group of French-speaking countries, I wish to inform you of our serious concern over the use of languages in general and of French in particular in the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

"The countries on whose behalf I am speaking have the task of implementing the Convention which they have ratified. However, the late availability of documents in French, some of which have not yet been translated even though the Conference of the Parties is drawing to an end, will not allow most of the French-speaking countries, for the most part developing countries, to make appropriate preparations for the Conference of the Parties. All documentation in French must also be available in the clearing-house.

"Further, the lack of simultaneous interpretation in informal working groups and contact groups, in which decisions are prepared, is preventing the French-speaking countries from stating their views and from participating in the formulation of decisions. In this connection I would cite the example of the contact group on forests, in which some African countries, deeply involved in this issue, have not been able to state their views.

"Such a situation is very harmful in that it excludes from the discussions part of the international community and creates an imbalance depriving the Conference of the Parties of the contribution which French-speaking countries could make if better working conditions obtained.

* See decision IV/16, paragraph 1, in the annex to the present report.

"Mr. President, such working conditions undermine the principle of equality of languages and even, in a way, the principle of the universality of the United Nations system.

"Accordingly, Mr. President, the group of French-speaking countries issues a formal appeal for preparatory documents to be available henceforth in French and in the other working languages sufficiently far in advance, and for the contact groups at subsequent meetings of the Conference of the Parties to be provided with interpretation services in French, failing which the effectiveness of the Convention and of its implementation will be seriously affected.

"Without wishing to overlook the efforts of the secretariat or its difficulties, it is essential for this problem to be resolved at the next meetings held under the Convention."

Tribute to the Government and people of the Slovak Republic

238. Also at its 10th plenary session, the Conference adopted as decision IV/19 a tribute to the Government and people of the Slovak Republic on the basis of a proposal by the representative of Indonesia, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. The text of the decision is contained in the annex to the present report.

AGENDA ITEM 21. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

239. The present report was adopted at the 10th plenary session of the meeting, on 15 May 1998, on the basis of the draft report, as contained in document UNEP/CBD/COP/4/L.1 and Add.1 and the reports of the Working Group 1 and 2, contained in documents UNEP/CBD/COP/4/L.6 and L.7, respectively. The report was adopted on the understanding that the Rapporteur would be entrusted with its finalization in the light of the discussion at the 9th and 10th plenary sessions.

AGENDA ITEM 22. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

240. At its 9th plenary session, on 15 May 1998, the Conference heard a closing address by Mr. Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director of UNEP.

241. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the President declared the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties closed at 11.25 p.m. on Friday, 15 May 1998.

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Annex

DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO
THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
AT ITS FOURTH MEETING

Contents

<u>Decision number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Page</u>
IV/1	Report and recommendations of the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, and instructions by the Conference of the Parties to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice	55
	A. Report and recommendations of the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical Technological Advice	55
	B. Ecosystem approach	56
	C. Alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species	56
	D. Global Taxonomy Initiative	58
IV/2	Review of the operations of the clearing-house mechanism	61
IV/3	Issues related to biosafety	65
IV/4	Status and trends of the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems and options for conservation sustainable use	66
IV/5	Conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal ecosystems, including a programme of work	84
IV/6	Agricultural biological diversity	96
IV/7	Forest biological diversity	98
IV/8	Access and benefit-sharing	109
IV/9	Implementation of Article 8(j) and related provisions	111
IV/10	Measures for implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity	115

/...

	A. Incentive measures: consideration of measures for the implementation of Article 11	115
	B. Public education and awareness: consideration of measures for the implementation of Article 13	117
	C. Impact assessment and minimizing adverse risks: consideration of measures for the implementation of Article 14	119
IV/11	Review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism	121
IV/12	Additional financial resources	124
IV/13	Additional guidance to the financial mechanism	125
IV/14	National reports by Parties	127
IV/15	The relationship of the Convention on Biological Diversity with the Commission on Sustainable Development and biodiversity-related conventions, other international agreements, institutions and processes of relevance	127
IV/16	Institutional matters and the programme of work	131
IV/17	Programme budget for the biennium 1999-2000	138
IV/18	Date and venue of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties	150
IV/19	Tribute to the Government and people of the Slovak Republic .	151

IV/1. Report and recommendations of the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, and instructions by the Conference of the Parties to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

A. Report and recommendations of the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision III/2, which, inter alia, noted recommendation II/11 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and decided to consider the recommendation further at its fourth meeting as part of the longer term review of the programme of work and the operations of the Conference of the Parties and subsidiary organs,

Also recalling its decision III/10 on identification, monitoring and assessment,

Further recalling past practice of noting the reports of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice,

1. Takes note of the report of the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, held in Montreal from 1 to 5 September 1997, contained in document UNEP/CBD/COP/4/2, bearing in mind that five of the seven recommendations – III/1 (inland water ecosystems); III/2 (marine and coastal biological diversity); III/3 (forest biological diversity); III/4 (agricultural biological diversity); and III/6 (clearing-house mechanism) – contain advice on matters that have been considered under other items on the agenda of the present meeting;

2. Takes note that the recommendations made at the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice constitute major inputs into the thematic work under the Convention;

Indicators

3. Endorses recommendation III/5 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, and requests the Executive Secretary to undertake the work outlined in its annex, in accordance with the guidance contained in the same recommendation, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its fourth meeting;

4. Proposes that further work on indicators by the Parties and by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice should take account of, inter alia, further work by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice on the development of the ecosystem approach;

/...

Identification monitoring and assessment

5. Welcomes the contributions provided by the DIVERSITAS working group of experts to the Executive Secretary, in its recommendations on scientific research that should be undertaken for the effective implementation of Articles 7, 8, 9, 10 and 14 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, as contained in document UNEP/CBD/COP/4/Inf.18;

6. Decides to transmit those recommendations to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice for further consideration and use and encourages the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to further cooperate with DIVERSITAS and with other relevant international, regional and national organizations and institutions on such issues.

B. Ecosystem approach

The Conference of the Parties,

Recognizing that in several decisions adopted at the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties the ecosystem approach has been addressed as a guiding principle, although the terminology used has varied, including: "ecosystem approach", "ecosystem process-oriented approach", "ecosystem management approach" and "ecosystem-based approach",

Acknowledging that, by paragraph 1 of its decision II/8, the ecosystem approach has been adopted as a framework for the analysis and implementation of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and in the elaboration and implementation of the various thematic and cross-cutting work programmes under the Convention, as appropriate,

Acknowledging the need for a workable description and further elaboration of the ecosystem approach,

1. Takes note of the report of the workshop on the ecosystem approach, held in Lilongwe, Malawi, from 26 to 28 January 1998, as contained in document UNEP/CBD/COP/4/Inf.9;

2. Requests the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to develop principles and other guidance on the ecosystem approach, taking into consideration, inter alia, the results of the Malawi workshop, and to report thereon to the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting.

C. Alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species

The Conference of the Parties,

Noting the significant adverse ecological and economic effects of certain alien species on biological diversity and human health,

/...

Recalling that the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, at its second meeting, considered the development of an indicative framework of processes and categories of activities that are likely to have significant adverse impacts on biological diversity to be a priority,

Recalling paragraphs 9 and 10 of its decision III/9, on the implementation of Articles 6 and 8 of the Convention, which address alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species,

Recalling recommendations III/1, III/2 and III/3 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, related to alien species as they affect inland water, marine and coastal, forest and agricultural biological diversity respectively in accordance with decisions II/10, III/11, III/12 and III/13 of the Conference of the Parties,

Recognizing the particular endemic biological diversity of geographically and/or evolutionarily isolated ecosystems, such as small islands, and the particularly damaging impacts, in terms of biological-diversity loss, that species introduction can have on such ecosystems,

Noting the importance of taking a precautionary and ecosystem approach when dealing with issues related to alien species,

Noting the need to address the issue of alien species as an integrated component of the various sectoral and thematic items under the programme of work of the Conference of the Parties,

Recognizing that there is also a need for complementary and consolidated action on alien species,

1. Decides that alien species is a cross-cutting issue for implementation of many of the themes of the Convention;
2. Requests the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to develop guiding principles for the prevention, introduction and mitigation of impacts of alien species and to report on those principles and any related work programme to the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting;
3. Invites Parties to develop country-driven projects at national, regional, subregional and international levels to address the issue of alien species and requests the financial mechanism to provide adequate and timely support for those projects;
4. Invites the Parties to address the issue of alien species for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and to incorporate such activities into their national strategies, programmes and action plans;
5. Requests the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to identify the priority work pertinent to the issue of alien species in geographically and evolutionarily isolated ecosystems and to report thereon to the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting;

/...

6. Requests the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, at its next meeting, to examine the Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP), with a view to considering concerted action and developing proposals for further action under the Convention on this issue.

D. Global Taxonomy Initiative

The Conference of the Parties,

Noting decision III/10, supporting a Global Taxonomy Initiative, and the activities being supported by the financial mechanism on taxonomy,

Recognizing the need for taxonomic input in many activities aimed at the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and the lack of taxonomic capacity in a majority of countries,

Recalling that paragraph 3 of decision III/10, in which the Conference of the Parties endorsed the recommendation II/2 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice concerning capacity-building for taxonomy through a Global Taxonomy Initiative,

Taking into account the urgency for the availability of taxonomic information to countries of origin, and the need of developing countries to develop national collections and human and institutional capacities in taxonomy,

1. Acknowledges the work already under way by the financial mechanism in response to decision III/10 of the Conference of the Parties, and requests the Global Environment Facility to report on these experiences at the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

2. Stresses the urgent need for the further implementation of recommendation II/2 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice concerning capacity-building in all fields of taxonomy to assist in the implementation of the Convention, through the incorporation of targeted actions in its workplan, including promoting regional activities to set regional agendas;

3. Endorses, as initial advice, the Suggestions for Action in the annex to the present decision to develop and implement a Global Taxonomy Initiative, and requests the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to examine and provide advice on the further advancement of a Global Taxonomy Initiative;

4. Recognizes that the implementation of a Global Taxonomy Initiative should occur on the basis of country-driven projects at the national, regional and subregional levels;

5. Invites the United Nations Environment Programme to assist in the global implementation of a Global Taxonomy Initiative, as offered by the Executive Director in his address to the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting;

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6. Encourages Governments to make available appropriate resources to enhance the availability of taxonomic information;

7. Encourages Governments to develop bilateral and multilateral training and employment opportunities for taxonomists, particularly for those dealing with poorly known organisms;

8. Stresses the need to consider indigenous and traditional knowledge as an important existing information source that should be taken into account, and made available through appropriate mechanisms;

9. Stresses the urgent need for adequate financial resources to implement a Global Taxonomy Initiative and requests the institutional structure of the financial mechanism of the Convention to provide financial resources, particularly to assist in implementing, through country-driven activities within the context of the operational programmes of the Global Environment Facility, the Suggestions for Action annexed to the present decision.

Annex

SUGGESTIONS FOR ACTION

1. The Executive Secretary should, as a matter of urgency, seek means outside of core funding of the Convention, to appoint a Programme Officer with appropriate operational resources to have responsibility for the further development of a Global Taxonomy Initiative, through the network of existing global, regional and national relevant institutions and organizations. The officer should especially coordinate actions to meet the need, recognized by the meeting, for each country to conduct a national taxonomic needs assessment, and to link to national reporting under the Convention on Biological Diversity and immediately coordinate a global directory of taxonomic expertise and biological collections. This information resource should be made available in both electronic and paper form.

2. Parties and authorities responsible for museums and herbaria should invest, on a long-term basis, in the development of appropriate infrastructure for their national collections. As part of that investment, donors, both bilateral and multilateral, in their commitment to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in countries where they provide investment support, should support infrastructural needs of collection-holding institutions.

3. Parties and international donors should encourage partnerships between institutions in developed and developing countries so as to promote scientific collaboration and infrastructure rationalization. Such collaboration should include the development of national, subregional, regional and global training initiatives. Taxonomic institutions in each nation, both individually and regionally, should develop national priorities in taxonomic training, infrastructure, new technology, capacity-building and market needs.

/...

4. Parties and authorities should adopt internationally agreed levels of collection housing (climate control, fire protection systems, pest control, acceptable levels of workplace health and safety) that ensure protection of collections and the well-being of all people working on and accessing collections.

5. Parties and international donors should provide training programmes at different educational levels, relevant to the needs of individual countries, including vocational, technical and academic training. Parties should also recognize that ongoing employment for trainees is part of an effective training scheme.

6. Parties and authorities should utilize information systems to maximum effect in taxonomic institutions. In developing priority-setting criteria for information products, taxonomic institutions should consider the needs of the wide range of users of that information, including biological diversity managers. In particular, taxonomic information, literature and checklists should be put into electronic form.

7. Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity should report on measures adopted to strengthen national capacity in taxonomy, to designate national reference centres, and to make information housed in collections available to countries of origin.

8. Institutions, supported by Parties and international donors, should coordinate their efforts to establish and maintain effective mechanisms for the stable naming of biological taxa.

9. Governments members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) should endorse and support the recommendations from the OECD Megascience Forum's Biodiversity Informatics Subgroup, regarding the development of a Global Biodiversity Informatics Facility (GBIF) to allow people in all countries to share biological diversity information and to provide access to critical authority files.

Implementing the actions

10. The Executive Secretary should ensure that the clearing-house mechanism (in collaboration with the OECD Megascience Forum's Biodiversity Informatics Subgroup Initiative) develop protocols and strategies for coordinating access to and distribution of taxonomic information contained in collections. In addition, the clearing-house mechanism, through its national focal points, should establish and update directories of taxonomists and their research and identification expertise.

11. In addition, Parties should:

(a) Ensure that institutions responsible for biological diversity inventories and taxonomic activities are financially and administratively stable, so as to have potential for continued and growing training and employment opportunities;

(b) Assist institutions to establish consortia to conduct regional projects;

/...

- (c) Select or use centres of expertise at different geographical levels, capable of offering training programmes individually or in combination, where such centres include universities, museums, herbaria, botanical and zoological gardens, research institutes and international or regional organizations;
- (d) Give special attention to international funding of fellowships for specialist training abroad or for attracting international experts to national or regional courses. Appropriate areas for funding should include conventional academic courses, expeditions, collaborative research projects, secondments, institutional partnerships, regional flora and fauna, internships and tutorial guidance;
- (e) Provide programmes for re-training of qualified professionals moving into taxonomy-related fields;
- (f) Adapt training methods to the particular technical or academic backgrounds and experience of candidates. Content of courses should respond to external user demands and modern needs, taking into account cost-effectiveness in their delivery;
- (g) Ensure training programmes address gaps in knowledge and the need for specialists in given taxonomic groups, and offer a comprehensive view of biological-diversity issues, including new scientific/technological approaches to taxonomy (e.g. molecular biology/informatics);
- (h) Provide business management training, of the nature commonly offered to private-sector executives, for managers of biological-diversity institutions, as part of other efforts to strengthen those organizations;
- (i) Develop and maintain a register of practising taxonomists, areas of expertise and description of collections through electronic and other means, which should be available on the Internet;
- (j) Hold workshops to determine national taxonomic priorities, in the context of national biological-diversity studies and action plans. Once national priorities have been identified, support development of regional taxonomic priorities, including plans to database collections using mutually agreed software, quality control and core-data requirements.

IV/2. Review of the operations of the clearing-house mechanism

The Conference of the Parties,

Noting that decisions I/3, II/3, II/4, II/7, II/8, II/10, II/11, II/14, II/16, II/17, III/4, III/5, III/9, III/10, III/11, III/15, III/17, III/18 and III/19 of the Conference of the Parties have clearly stressed and broadened the roles of the clearing-house mechanism as a key instrument to promote and facilitate the implementation of the objectives of the Convention,

Recalling that four clearing-house regional workshops were held prior to the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and drawing upon those experiences,

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Recognizing the urgent need for the private sector to be involved in clearing-house mechanism activities to ensure that the facilitation and promotion of the transfer of technology meet the needs of Contracting Parties,

Acknowledging the need to establish a reliable network of existing and evolving biodiversity institutions and initiatives which can serve the needs and demands of Parties, not only during the pilot phase but also in the long term,

1. Requests all Governments and bilateral and multilateral funding institutions to provide funding for the development and implementation of the clearing-house mechanism, including support for national as well as regional and subregional clearing-house mechanism activities;

2. Recommends that Parties include in their national reports the lessons learned through activities undertaken to implement their national clearing-house mechanisms, as appropriate;

3. Recommends that each Party organize an appropriate national clearing-house mechanism steering committee or working group composed of multisectoral and interdisciplinary representatives, to achieve broad participation of different stakeholders in the implementation process of the clearing-house mechanism;

4. Invites the Parties and other partners to use the clearing-house mechanism logo as a unifying element creating a clearing-house mechanism identity;

5. Recommends that, in building up the content of information in the clearing-house mechanism either at the secretariat or other level, the following major content elements, among others, be used:

(a) National, subregional and regional levels: country profiles, biodiversity strategy and action plans, appropriate legislation, scientific and technological information, financial sources;

(b) Secretariat level: Convention on Biological Diversity and its implementation, national focal points, international themes, financial sources;

6. Requests those Parties with access to the Internet to link their national clearing-house mechanism home page to the Secretariat's clearing-house mechanism home page, where possible;

7. Recommends that the development of a common format be investigated, under which the orderly sequence of the articles of the Convention should be followed; alternatively, the sequence of the three objectives of the Convention could be considered as the organizing format for information in the clearing-house mechanism;

8. Agrees that the clearing-house mechanism should act as the clearing-house mechanism for future programmes and activities under the Convention on Biological Diversity, subject to budgetary considerations;

/...

9. Requests the Global Environmental Facility:

(a) To be a catalyst in the development and implementation of the clearing-house mechanism, so as to assist it to fulfil its role in promoting and facilitating the implementation of the Convention, in a participatory manner and fully incorporating available modern information and communication tools;

(b) To support capacity-building activities and country-driven pilot projects focused on priority areas, as critical components in the implementation of the clearing-house mechanism at the national, subregional, biogeographic, and regional levels, both during and after the pilot phase;

(c) To provide by all possible means, as appropriate, increased support for country-driven projects to establish and strengthen biodiversity information systems such as, inter alia, training, technology and processes related to the collection, organization, maintenance and updating of data and information and its communication to users through the clearing-house mechanism;

(d) To evaluate at the end of the clearing-house mechanism pilot phase the experience of the Global Environment Facility's support for developing countries' activities, to consider additional efforts to meet the increasing interest in taking part in and having access to the clearing-house mechanism, including in regional networking, and to report to the Executive Secretary prior to the next meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice;

10. Instructs the Executive Secretary:

(a) To put in place a list server with all officially designated clearing-house mechanism national focal points and other partners for the purpose of disseminating information on new and recent developments regarding the clearing-house mechanism, at either the national, regional or international level;

(b) To act as a focal point, during and after the pilot phase, to encourage the development of a network of partners, including indigenous and local communities, and to facilitate these in developing specific training for the effective participation of users in the clearing-house network;

(c) To ensure that the clearing-house mechanism should be continuously assisted in its functioning by the Informal Advisory Committee which is to provide guidance to the Executive Secretary during and after the pilot phase, and to play a full role in the further development of the clearing-house mechanism;

(d) To provide encouragement for and facilitate the coordination of biodiversity-related networks, activities and focal points that may constitute the clearing-house mechanism, to encourage their linkages within the clearing-house mechanism network and to make available information arising from the Secretariat's own functions as outlined in Article 24 of the Convention;

/...

(e) To assist in ensuring that the implementation of Articles 16 (Transfer of and Access to Technology), 17 (Information Exchange) and 18 (Scientific and Technical Cooperation) of the Convention on Biological Diversity is facilitated by the clearing-house mechanism;

(f) To produce an informative and widely disseminated clearing-house mechanism brochure and newsletter to increase awareness of the activities of the clearing-house mechanism;

(g) To improve synergy in regard to information exchange with other biodiversity-related conventions and ongoing international or supranational information initiatives, and to contribute to the harmonization of the information management of other biodiversity-related treaties and to continue to discuss the possibilities of joint and harmonized approaches with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification;

(h) To facilitate support to those Parties without adequate Internet access, preparing and disseminating to them updated information arising from the Secretariat's own functions as outlined in Article 24 of the Convention on, inter alia, CD-ROM or diskettes, either periodically or as required, and facilitating the dissemination of appropriate information to those Parties;

(i) To collaborate, with partners, on the provision of advice to Parties and others on, inter alia, the necessary layout and system specifications of the clearing-house mechanism;

(j) To produce a tool-kit prototype containing necessary information for national focal points to build their national clearing-house mechanisms, drawing upon the recommendations of the regional workshops and following an informal assessment of national practices in collaboration with the Informal Advisory Committee on the clearing-house mechanism;

(k) To undertake an independent review of the pilot phase of the clearing-house mechanism, starting at the end of 1998, to be presented to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice for its consideration together with a longer-term programme of work for the clearing-house mechanism. The following elements for evaluation of the pilot phase, among others, are recommended to be used:

(i) Number of national focal points fully and effectively connected;

(ii) Number and relevance of thematic networks and activities connected;

(iii) Amount of information transferred from participating nodes;

(iv) Number and effectiveness of training events;

(v) Effectiveness of guidelines in achieving their aims;

(vi) Whether the clearing-house mechanism is being effectively used by Parties to further the aims of the Convention;

/...

- (vii) Number of nodes supplying relevant information such as national reports, legislation and policies;
- (viii) Use made of list servers;
- (ix) Financial support, other resources, and time allocated for the implementation of the clearing-house mechanism, in particular by the Secretariat and the clearing-house mechanism national focal points.

IV/3. Issues related to biosafety

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decisions II/5 and III/20 on issues related to biosafety,

Recalling also part A of the annex to its decision III/24, and table 1 of its decision IV/17, which contain the budgets of the Trust Fund for the Convention on Biological Diversity for the bienniums 1997-1998 and 1999-2000, respectively,

Having considered the report of the fourth meeting of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group on Biosafety, which met in Montreal, from 5 to 13 February 1998,

Recalling the recommendations of the fourth meeting of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group on Biosafety that:

(a) In order to complete its work, the Open-ended Working Group on Biosafety should hold two further meetings, with a duration of two weeks and one week, respectively;

(b) The first of those two meetings should be held in Montreal, from 17 to 28 August 1998; and

(c) In the event of it not being possible to hold in 1998 the final meeting of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group on Biosafety, followed by a meeting of the Conference of the Parties to adopt the Protocol, these meetings should be convened early in 1999 but, in any event, no later than February 1999,

1. Accepts the recommendations of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group on Biosafety;

2. Decides:

(a) That the bureau of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group on Biosafety shall be composed of representatives of Argentina, Bahamas, Denmark, Ethiopia, Hungary, India, Mauritania, New Zealand, Russian Federation and Sri Lanka;

/...

(b) That the members of the bureau shall remain in office, under the chairmanship of Mr. Veit Koester (Denmark) until the adoption of the Protocol on Biosafety;

3. Decides that the final meeting of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group on Biosafety and an extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties will be held in February 1999. These meetings shall be held at the seat of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Montreal, Canada, unless an offer to host these meetings is received by the Executive Secretary no later than 1 August 1998;

4. Decides, in accordance with rule 13 of the rules of procedure, that the agenda of the extraordinary meeting will address all matters relating to:

(a) Adoption of the Protocol on Biosafety; and

(b) Preparations for the first Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol with regard to, inter alia, interim arrangements, taking into account the budgetary provision made for this purpose in accordance with decision IV/17 on the budget of the Trust Fund for the Convention;

5. Decides that written submissions by Governments of provisions to be included in the Protocol must be received by the Executive Secretary by 1 July 1998, in accordance with the six-month rule for consideration of the draft Protocol under Article 28, paragraph 3, of the Convention, thereby enabling the Open-ended Ad hoc Working Group on Biosafety to consider those proposals during its meeting in August 1998;

6. Decides that the Protocol shall be opened for signature at the Headquarters of the United Nations in New York no later than three months from the date of its adoption by the Conference of the Parties;

7. Calls on Parties to consider providing voluntary contributions to facilitate participation in the above meetings by developing country Parties, in particular least developed States and small island developing countries, and Parties with economies in transition.

IV/4. Status and trends of the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems and options for conservation and sustainable use

The Conference of the Parties

1. Adopts, on the basis of modified recommendation III/1 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice as contained in document UNEP/CBD/COP/4/2, annex I to the present decision as a work programme under the Convention on Biological Diversity, on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems and the associated matters of identification and monitoring, assessment methodology and taxonomy;

2. Welcomes the recommendations on strategic approaches to freshwater management of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its sixth session and urges Parties and Governments to:

/...

(a) Include information on the biological diversity of inland waters when providing voluntary national communications and reports on actions further to the recommendations of the Commission on Sustainable Development; and

(b) Consider inland water biological diversity in the agenda of subsequent meetings held to further the recommendations of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

3. Urges Parties and Governments to include inland water biological diversity considerations in their participation and collaboration with organisations, institutions and conventions affecting or working with inland water resources, consistent with the guidance provided to the Conference of the Parties and the Executive Secretary in part A "General", paragraphs 1-3 of annex I to the present decision;

4. Encourages the implementation of the Joint Work Plan with the Convention on Wetlands in document UNEP/CBD/COP/4/Inf.8, as recommended by the Conference of the Parties in its decision III/21 and by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice in recommendation III/1, part A, section I, paragraph (b) and endorsed by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting as a framework for enhanced cooperation between the Conventions through decision IV/15;

5. Urges Parties and Governments to integrate those elements highlighted by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice as important for Parties, contained in annex I, sections A, B, C and D, to the present decision (respectively concerning inland water ecosystems, identification and monitoring, methodologies for assessment and taxonomy), as appropriate, into their national and sectoral plans and to implement these as soon as possible;

6. Recognizing that Global Environment Facility projects are country-driven, requests the Financial Mechanism, within the context of implementing national biological diversity strategies and action plans, to provide adequate and timely support to eligible projects which help Parties to develop and implement national, sectoral and cross-sectoral plans for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity of inland water ecosystems.

7. Urges Parties when requesting support, for projects related to inland water ecosystems, from the Financial Mechanism that priority be given to:

(a) Identifying inland water ecosystems in accordance with Article 7 and Annex I to the Convention, taking into account the criteria for Wetlands of International Importance as adopted under the Convention on Wetlands;

(b) Preparing and implementing integrated watershed, catchment and river basin management plans based on an ecosystem approach including transboundary watersheds, catchments and river basins, and those which include ecosystems identified under subparagraph (a) above;

/...

(c) Investigating where appropriate, the processes contributing to the loss of biological diversity of inland water ecosystems, through targeted research, such as: investigations into the impacts of harmful substances, alien invasive species and saltwater intrusions; and the identification of measures needed to address these issues where they constitute threats to inland water ecosystem biological diversity;

8. Requests the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to:

(a) Implement the programme of work respecting the relevant tasks described in annexes I and II to the present decision, taking into account the decisions adopted at the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the schedule as contained in annex II to the present decision, subject to amending the time schedule so as to immediately commence development of regional guidelines for rapid assessment for small island States, and to report on progress to the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting;

(b) Incorporate, as appropriate, the outcome of the sixth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development on strategic approaches to freshwater management into its work plan and report back thereon to the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting;

(c) Continue to take note of the approved work programme and results, and pursue opportunities for cooperation with, the Scientific and Technical Review Panel of the Convention on Wetlands.

9. Invites all relevant organizations to support efforts by Parties and Governments to implement their national and sectoral plans for the conservation and sustainable use of the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems;

10. Requests the Executive Secretary to facilitate the programme of work outlined in the present decision, including in its annexes I and II; including implementation of the tasks outlined for the Executive Secretary in paragraphs 1, 2 and 4 of annex I to the present decision, and additionally, in particular, to begin compiling information and case studies for use by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice in addressing paragraphs 8 (a) and (c) of annex I to the present decision.

11. Notes that, while the implementation of the programme of work is subject to the availability of financial resources, particular attention should be given to early progress in the development of rapid assessment methodologies especially related to small island States.

Annex I

BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY OF INLAND WATER ECOSYSTEMS

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling that decision III/13 of the Conference of the Parties requested the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to provide the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties with

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scientific, technical and technological advice on the status and trends of biological diversity in inland water ecosystems and the identification of options for conservation and sustainable use,

Having examined the Notes prepared by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/COP/4/2, UNEP/CBD/COP/4/4 and UNEP/CBD/COP/4/Inf.8); and the other information provided to the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties,

Recognizing the importance of inland water ecosystems for global biological diversity and human welfare, and also their vulnerability to human actions,

Recognizing the importance of adopting an ecosystem approach that integrates the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits of inland waters,

Recognizing the link between human communities, inland waters and biological diversity of inland waters and the importance of local community participation and awareness in achieving conservation and sustainable use of inland water biological diversity, and

Recognizing the crucial part played by technical and scientific cooperation in all aspects of biological diversity, including the transfer of technology, and recognizing also the necessity of capacity-building to enable Parties to carry out identification, monitoring and assessment of biological diversity as required by Article 7 of the Convention,

Adopts the following programme of work:

A. Assessment of the status and trends of the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems and identification of options for conservation and sustainable use

1. General

1. The Executive Secretary should continue and further develop the collaboration with organizations, institutions, and conventions working with research, management and conservation of inland water biological diversity. These include (but are not limited to) the Convention on Wetlands, FAO, the International Center for Living Aquatic Resources Management (ICLARM), Global Water Partnership, World Water Council, UNDP, UNEP, DIVERSITAS, Wetlands International, IUCN, World Bank, Bonn Convention, et al.

2. The Executive Secretary of this Convention and the Secretary-General of the Convention on Wetlands are encouraged to elaborate a work plan that ensures cooperation, and avoids overlap between the two conventions, noting the Memorandum of Cooperation with the Convention on Wetlands, and decision III/21 of the Conference of the Parties, whereby the Convention on Wetlands would be a lead partner in inland water ecosystems.

3. The Conference of the Parties wishes to continue the close cooperation with the Commission on Sustainable Development in its development of the Strategic Approach to Freshwater Management to ensure that biological diversity issues are considered in this process.

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4. The Conference of the Parties requests the Executive Secretary to develop a roster of experts on the conservation and sustainable use of the biological diversity of inland waters, and urge Governments to nominate experts to the roster, noting also that the Ramsar Bureau is establishing a similar list of experts.

5. The clearing-house mechanism should be used to promote and facilitate the exchange of information and the transfer of technology relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of inland water biological diversity.

6. Recognizing the immediate threats to the inland water ecosystems and associated biological diversity of small island States, the Conference of the Parties requests the Executive Secretary and the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to pay special attention to early cooperation with the small island States in the development of rapid-assessment methodologies.

7. Recognizing that in the territories of certain States there are inland water ecosystems suffering from ecological disaster, the Conference of the Parties requests the Executive Secretary and the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to pay special attention to early cooperation in assessing such disasters and mitigating activities and in developing rapid assessment methodologies within these States.

2. Work plan of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

8. A work plan for the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice should be developed in cooperation with relevant organizations, Governments and Parties that should build upon the ongoing efforts in inland water ecosystem conservation. The work plan should include:

Status and trends:

(a) Using existing information and drawing upon relevant organizations and experts, develop an improved picture of inland water biological diversity, its uses and its threats, around the world. The output should identify areas where the lack of information severely limits the quality of assessments. This will help to focus attention on these areas;

(b) Developing and disseminating regional guidelines for rapid assessment of inland water biological diversity for different types of inland water ecosystems;

Conservation and sustainable use:

(c) Compiling case studies of watershed, catchment and river basin management experiences and best practices, to synthesize the lessons that emerge from these studies, and to disseminate information through the clearing-house and other appropriate mechanisms. Areas where the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice should concentrate its efforts include:

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- (i) Examples of watershed management that incorporate inland water biological diversity with special reference to examples that use the ecosystem-based approach to meet water management goals;
 - (ii) Examples of water resource development projects (water supply and sanitation, irrigation, hydropower, flood control, navigation, groundwater extraction) that incorporate biological diversity considerations;
 - (iii) Impact assessment and other methodologies that address inland water biological diversity issues in an adaptive management framework;
 - (iv) Case studies of successful remedial action, including restoration and rehabilitation of degraded inland water ecosystems;
 - (v) Examples of equitable sharing of benefits derived from use of inland water biological diversity;
 - (vi) Examples of the impacts of invasive alien species and of programmes used to control their introduction and mitigate negative consequences on inland water ecosystems especially at the watershed, catchment and river basin level;
 - (vii) Use of protected areas and their management strategies for conservation and sustainable use of inland water ecosystems;
- (d) Developing methods and techniques for the valuation of goods and services of inland water ecosystems, incentives and policy reform, and the understanding of ecosystem function.

3. Recommendations to Parties

9. The Conference of the Parties recommends that Parties:

- (a) Watershed management:
 - (i) Encourage the adoption of integrated land and watershed management approaches based on watersheds, catchments and river basins for the protection, use, planning and management of inland water ecosystems;
 - (ii) Encourage the adoption of integrated watershed, catchment and river basin management strategies to maintain, restore or improve the quality and supply of inland water resources and the economic, social, hydrological, biological diversity and other functions and values of inland water ecosystems;
- (b) Appropriate technologies:
 - (i) Encourage the use of low-cost (appropriate) technology, non-structural and innovative approaches to meet watershed management goals, such as using wetlands to improve water quality, using forests and wetlands to recharge groundwater and maintain the

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hydrological cycle, to protect water supplies and using natural floodplains to prevent flood damage, and to use indigenous species for aquaculture;

- (ii) Encourage the development of preventative strategies such as cleaner production, continual environmental improvement, corporate environmental reporting, product stewardship and environmentally sound technologies to avoid degradation and promote restoration of inland water ecosystems;

(c) Technology transfer: Emphasize more effective conservation and efficiency in water use, together with non-engineering solutions. Environmentally appropriate technologies should be identified, such as low-cost sewage treatment and recycling of industrial water to assist in the conservation and sustainable use of inland waters;

(d) Research: Encourage research on the application of the ecosystem approach;

(e) Monitoring and assessment:

- (i) Identify the most cost-effective approaches and methods to describe the status, trends and threats of inland waters and indicate their condition in functional as well as species terms;
- (ii) Promote the development of criteria and indicators for the evaluation of impact on inland water ecosystems from both physical infrastructure projects and watershed activities, including, inter alia, agriculture, forestry, mining and physical alteration, taking into consideration the natural variability of water conditions;
- (iii) Initiate studies on ecological functions and services to improve understanding of effects of exploitation on non-target species;
- (iv) Undertake assessments in such inland water ecosystems which may be regarded as important in accordance with the terms of Annex I of the Convention. Furthermore Parties should undertake assessments of threatened species and conduct inventories and impact assessments of alien species within their inland water ecosystems;

(f) Sustainable use:

- (i) Encourage valuation of inland water biological diversity;
- (ii) Produce and promote guidance on the sustainable use of inland waters to maintain biological diversity;
- (iii) Support the conservation and sustainable use of inland water biological diversity through the establishment and implementation of appropriate legal, administrative and incentive measures;

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- (iv) Consider the use and/or establishment of gene banks for fish and other species;
- (g) Environmental impact assessments:
 - (i) Encourage environmental impact assessments (EIAs) of water development projects, aquaculture, and watershed activities including agriculture, forestry, and mining. EIAs need to gather adequate biological data to document effects on biological diversity, provide predictions on the effects of alternative project scenarios on ecosystems and consider the valuation of the goods and services of potentially affected ecosystems, and test predictions with well-designed sampling schemes that can adequately distinguish the effects of anthropogenic activities from natural processes;
 - (ii) Encourage EIAs which assess the impacts, not only of individual proposed projects, but also the cumulative effects of existing and proposed developments on the watershed, catchment or river basin;
- (h) Alien species, genotypes and genetically modified organisms. Raise awareness of the possible problems and costs associated with the deliberate or accidental introduction of alien species, genotypes and genetically modified organisms which adversely affect aquatic biological diversity, bearing in mind the activities relating to the development of a Protocol on Biosafety under the Convention. Policies and guidelines should be developed to prevent and control such introductions, and to rehabilitate sites where possible. This work should be coordinated with the cross-cutting work being addressed in the decision regarding the work of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice on alien species (decision IV/1 C);
- (i) Education and public awareness. Strengthen education and awareness programmes, recognizing that responsible environmental stewardship requires an informed public. Participatory-based management approaches are most effective when people are well informed of both the economic and environmental consequences of management. Inland waters provide both a challenge and an opportunity to educate the public and policy makers about the need to take an ecosystem-based approach to management. Environmental education should be built into school curricula and should emphasize integration using inland waters as a model subject to teach problem-solving;
- (j) Collaboration with broader water resource community. Promote effective collaboration among ecologists, planners, engineers, and economists (both within countries and among countries) in the planning and implementation of development projects to better integrate inland water biological diversity with water resource development when considering projects likely to have an adverse impact on inland water ecosystems;
- (k) Transboundary cooperation: Develop and maintain effective cooperation for sustainable management of transboundary watersheds, catchments, river basins and migratory species through appropriate mechanisms such as bilateral and multilateral agreements;

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- (l) Involvement of local and indigenous communities:
 - (i) Involve, as far as possible and appropriate, local and indigenous communities in the development of management plans and in projects that may affect inland water biological diversity;
 - (ii) Implement Article 8(j) as related to inland water biological diversity;
 - (iii) Encourage the involvement and participation of affected parties including end-users and communities in policy-making, planning and implementation;
- (m) Economic and legal instruments:
 - (i) Review the range and effectiveness of national incentives, subsidies, regulations, and other relevant financial mechanisms which have the ability to affect inland water ecosystems, whether adversely or beneficially;
 - (ii) Redirect financial support measures which run counter to the objectives of the Convention regarding the biological diversity of inland waters;
 - (iii) Implement targeted incentive and regulatory measures that have positive impacts on the biological diversity of inland waters;
 - (iv) Develop the policy research capacity needed to inform the decision-making process in a multidisciplinary and sectorally integrated manner;
 - (v) At appropriate levels (regional, national, subnational and local), encourage the identification of stressed rivers, the allocation and reservation of water for ecosystem maintenance, and the maintenance of environmental flows as an integral component of appropriate legal, administrative and economic mechanisms;

4. Financing

10. Guidance should be provided to the Global Environment Facility regarding the importance of projects concerning inland water biological diversity. The GEF should be encouraged to consider the importance of inland water biological diversity in its other focal areas and should provide necessary funding for inland water biological diversity projects.

11. Ways should be considered for mobilizing financial resources from other sources.

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B. Provision of scientific advice and further guidance to assist in the national elaboration of Annex I of the Convention (as pertaining to inland water ecosystems)

12. The Conference of the Parties advises Parties to prepare indicative lists of inland water ecosystems, using the criteria set out in Annex I of the Convention. The Conference of the Parties requests the Executive Secretary to work closely with the Ramsar Bureau and further direct the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to work jointly with the Scientific and Technical Review Panel of the Convention on Wetlands to achieve desirable convergence between approaches on criteria and classification of inland water ecosystems between the two Conventions.

13. Parties should take note of the work of the IUCN as well as its recommendations in the ongoing review and application of criteria for the assessment of threatened species and populations, including the further development of such criteria for application at the regional and national levels.

C. Review of methodologies for assessment of biological diversity (as pertaining to inland water ecosystems)

14. Parties are urged to adopt an integrated approach in their assessment, management and where possible remedial action of inland water ecosystems, including associated terrestrial and inshore marine ecosystems. Assessments should involve all stakeholders, should be cross-sectoral and should make full use of indigenous knowledge.

15. Suitable organisms should be identified as being particularly important in the assessment of inland water ecosystems. Ideally, such groups should meet the following criteria:

(a) The group should contain a reasonable number of species with varied ecological requirements;

(b) The taxonomy of the group should be reasonably well understood;

(c) The species should be easy to identify;

(d) The group should be easy to sample or observe so that density - absolute or as indices - can be assessed, used objectively and treated statistically;

(e) The group should serve as indicators of overall ecosystem health or indicators of development of a key threat to ecosystem health;

16. In view of the great economic importance of some groups (e.g. inland water fish species), and of the large gaps in taxonomic knowledge for many species, the Conference of the Parties considers this as a specific focus of the capacity-building in taxonomy recommended by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice in its recommendation II/2 and endorsed by the Conference of the Parties in decision III/10.

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17. The Conference of the Parties advises Parties and relevant international organizations that issues of biological diversity and subsistence use of fisheries should be more fully addressed in fisheries reporting as regards biological diversity and in fisheries management. In particular, species composition of total catch should be reported and the contribution that indigenous species make to capture fisheries should be reported separately.

18. The transboundary nature of many inland water ecosystems should be fully taken into account in assessments, and it may be appropriate for relevant regional and international bodies to contribute to such assessments.

19. In accordance with recommendation II/1 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, endorsed by the Conference of the Parties in decision III/10, assessments should be simple, inexpensive, rapid and easy to use. Such rapid assessment programmes will never replace thorough inventories. The Conference of the Parties takes note of the need to evaluate specific rapid assessment programmes for inland water ecosystems currently under development.

20. Assessments should be carried out with a view to implementing other articles of the Convention and, in particular, to addressing the threats to inland water ecosystems within an appropriate framework such as that included in paragraphs 39-41 of document UNEP/CBD/COP/3/12. Of particular importance is the undertaking of environmental impact assessments on biological diversity of development projects involving inland water ecosystems.

D. The urgency of needed action on taxonomy

21. The Executive Secretary is requested to take decisive action to advance the Global Taxonomy Initiative as detailed in decisions III/10 and IV/1 D, which should be implemented as soon as possible.

Annex II

POSSIBLE TIME-FRAME OF A WORK PROGRAMME PERTAINING TO THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC,
TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

Implication of the outcome of the sixth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)				
Activities	Year	COP*	SBSTTA**	Secretariat
Integration of the outcome of the sixth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-6)	1998	Consideration of the outcome of the CSD-6	Consideration of the follow-up of the CSD-6 and make recommendation to the COP	
	1999	Consideration of the recommendation of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice	Possible follow-up activities	Possible follow-up activities
				Other

* COP - Conference of the Parties.

** SBSTTA - Subsidiary Body of Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.

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Status and trends					
Activities	Year	COP	SBSTTA	Secretariat	Other
Using existing information and drawing upon relevant organizations and experts, develop an improved picture of inland water biological diversity, its uses and the threats to it, around the world. Identification of gap.	1998		Consideration of ways and means for the activity	Preparation of proposal for the ways and means of the assessment	Establishing network of experts
	1998-2002		Carrying out the activity	Assist the SBSTTA in carrying out the activity	Possible regional workshops
	2002		Consideration of the outcome and make recommendation to the COP		
	2003	Consideration of the recommendation of the SBSTTA			

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Activities	Year	COP	SBSTTA	Secretariat	Other
Develop regional guidelines for rapid assessment	2002		Consideration of ways and means for the activity	Preparation of proposal for the ways and means for the development of regional guidelines	
	2002-2004		Development of regional guidelines	Assist the SBSTTA in the development of regional guidelines	Possible regional workshops
	2004		Consideration of the regional guidelines and recommendation to the COP		
	2005	Consideration of the SBSTTA recommendation			

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Conservation and sustainable use					
Activities	Year	COP	SBSTTA	Secretariat	Other
Compilation of case studies on conservation and sustainable use	1998-2002				
	2002		Consideration of case studies and make recommendation	Compilation of case studies and make synthesis	Disseminate through the clearing-house mechanism
	2003	Consideration of the SBSTTA recommendation			
	2003 -		Activities may be continued		

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Activities	Year	COP	SBSTTA	Secretariat	Other
Development of methods and techniques for the valuation of goods and services of inland water ecosystems, incentives and policy reforms and understanding of ecosystem function	2002		Consideration of ways and means for the activity	Preparation of proposal for the development of methods and techniques for the proposed topics	Expert meetings / Liaison group meetings
	2002-2005		Development of methods and techniques for the proposed topics	Assist the SBSTTA in the activity	
	2005		Consideration of the methods and techniques for the proposed topics and make recommendation to the COP		
	2006	Consideration of the SBSTTA recommendation			

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The national elaboration of Annex I of the Convention on Biological Diversity					
Activities	Year	Conference of the Parties	SBSTTA	Secretariat	Other
Work closely with the Convention on Wetlands to achieve desirable convergence between approaches on criteria and classification of inland water ecosystems between the two Conventions	1998-2001		Work closely with the Scientific and Technical Review Panel of the Convention on Wetlands	Work closely with the Bureau of the Convention on Wetlands	
	2001		Consideration of the outcome and make report to the Conference of the Parties		
	2002	Consideration of the report of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice			

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Urgency of needed action on taxonomy				
Global Taxonomy Initiative	1998-2001			Regional workshops

Budget implication:

Studies for assessments: US\$ 300,000-500,000 per study
Scientific/technical meetings: US\$ 100,000-300,000 per meeting

The Secretariat will require a Programme Officer at P-4 level, specialized in the biological diversity of inland waters. The Secretariat will benefit from the services of a Junior Professional Officer (P-2) for this programme of work. However, as Junior Professional Officers are seconded by Governments, there will be no budget implications in this regard.

IV/5. Conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity, including a programme of work

The Conference of the Parties,

I. PROGRAMME OF WORK ARISING FROM DECISION II/10 (JAKARTA MANDATE ON MARINE AND COASTAL BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY)

Reaffirming its decision II/10 on the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity,

Having considered recommendation III/2 of its Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice,

1. Adopts the programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity, as contained in the annex to the present decision;

2. Urges Parties, countries, relevant organizations and donor agencies to contribute to the implementation of specific elements of the programme of work;

3. Urges Parties, when requesting for assistance through the financial mechanism of the Convention, to propose projects which, while being fully consistent with previous guidance of the Conferences of the Parties, promote the implementation of the programme of work;

4. Urges the Executive Secretary to cooperate with the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat, where appropriate, in relation to the implementation of the joint work plan having regard to linkages with the programme of work on inland water biological diversity adopted by decision IV/4;

II. CORAL REEFS

Being deeply concerned at the recent extensive and severe coral bleaching, such as that reported by the African countries, caused by abnormally high water temperatures experienced since January 1998,

Recognizing the potentially severe loss of biological diversity and consequent socio-economic impacts, and

Noting this occurrence as a possible consequence of global warming and in light of the precautionary approach,

1. Requests the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to make an analysis of this phenomenon and provide relevant information to the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties for its consideration;

2. Instructs the Executive Secretary to express its concern to the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Secretary-General of the Convention on Wetlands and convey it to the conferences of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Wetlands at their next meetings;

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3. Invites the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to urgently address this issue in its deliberations; and

4. Urges Parties, with reference to programme element 1.3 (c) of the programme of work, to take appropriate actions to mitigate impacts upon marine and coastal biological diversity and consequent socio-economic effects;

III. SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

Recognizing the uniqueness and extreme fragility of marine and coastal biological diversity of small island developing States (SIDS), the disproportionate responsibility facing small island developing States in the conservation of these biological resources, and the limited capacity of small island developing States to implement the Jakarta Mandate on Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity,

Strongly recommends to Parties, countries, relevant organizations and donor agencies that the special needs and considerations of small island developing States be a focus for implementing each of the elements of the programme of work, as appropriate.

Annex

PROGRAMME OF WORK ON MARINE AND COASTAL BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

A. Introduction

1. The aim of this programme of work is to assist the implementation of the Jakarta Mandate on Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity at the national, regional and global levels. It identifies key operational objectives and priority activities within the five key programme elements: integrated marine and coastal area management, marine and coastal living resources, marine and coastal protected areas, mariculture and alien species and genotypes. It also provides a general programme element to encompass the coordination role of the Secretariat, the collaborative linkages required and the effective use of experts.

B. Basic principles

1. Ecosystem approach

2. The ecosystem approach should be promoted at global, regional, national and local levels taking into account the report of the Malawi workshop (document UNEP/CBD/COP/4/Inf.9) and in accordance with decision IV/1 B.

3. Protected areas should be integrated into wider strategies for preventing adverse effects to marine and coastal ecosystems from external activities and take into consideration, inter alia, the provisions of Article 8 of the Convention.

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2. Precautionary approach

4. The precautionary approach, as set out in decision II/10, annex II, paragraph 3 (a), should be used as a guidance for all activities affecting marine and coastal biological diversity, being also relevant to many other international agreements, inter alia, the United Nations Agreement on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks and the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Washington Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities and regional agreements such as OSPAR.

3. The importance of science

5. Science should, inter alia, provide knowledge on key processes and influences in the marine and coastal ecosystems which are critical for structure, function and productivity of biological diversity. Research should focus on understanding the natural factors outside human influence, including intrinsic factors influencing ecosystems themselves, as well as on human interference with ecosystems.

6. Special efforts should be undertaken to support the Global Taxonomy Initiative in the marine and coastal environment in view of the importance of basic taxonomic work for the implementation of the objectives of the work programme, in accordance with decision IV/1 D.

7. It is important to draw upon regional scientific organizations, such as the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES). The creation and strengthening of regional scientific centres of excellence on the marine and coastal ecosystems, that provide guidance to regional and national managers, should be given priority.

4. Roster of experts

8. The Executive Secretary should make full use of the roster of experts on marine and coastal biological diversity. The use and administration of the roster by the Executive Secretary should be efficient, effective and transparent. Upon request of the Executive Secretary, Parties or other countries and relevant bodies, the experts on the roster are invited to make available their specific expertise in order to contribute to the further development of the scientific, technical, technological and socio-economic issues. Such requests could entail, inter alia, peer reviews, questionnaires, clarifications or examinations of scientific, technical, technological and socio-economic issues, specific contributions to the compilation of documents, participation in the global and regional workshops, and assisting in connecting the Jakarta Mandate and the present programme of work to international, regional, national and local scientific, technical and technological processes.

5. Local and indigenous communities

9. The programme of work will use and draw upon scientific, technical and technological knowledge of local and indigenous communities in keeping with the contents of Article 8(j) of the Convention as well as community and user-

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based approaches; in the execution of the programme of work, the involvement of relevant stakeholders including indigenous and local people should be promoted.

6. Levels of implementation

10. National and local. The primary basis for this programme of work is action at national and local levels. The Parties should, in accordance with Article 6 of the Convention, develop national strategies, plans and programmes in order to promote the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity.

11. Regional. At the regional level, organizations, arrangements and bodies should be invited to coordinate activities of and/or relevant to the programme of work. These organizations should as appropriate and according to their own rules of procedure report to the Convention on their activities. Where regional organizations have not been established, the Parties and other institutions should examine the need for new regional organizations or other mechanisms for regional integration. Cooperation and information flow between the economic sectors involved should be promoted. Regional scientific and technical centres of excellence should be promoted.

12. Global. At the global level, UNEP (including the Global International Water Assessment), FAO, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Maritime Organization, the United Nations and other relevant bodies should be encouraged to implement the programme of work. These organizations should be invited to inform the Convention on their efforts to implement the Convention.

13. Implementation modalities. This programme of work is the programme of work of the Parties and of the Secretariat. The main function of the Secretariat is to promote the implementation of specific activities and to perform an overall coordination role.

14. Activities associated with the programme of work should be cost-effective and efficient. Duplication of efforts will be avoided, and harmonization of respective programmes of work will be pursued through strong coordination between the Convention and other relevant bodies, with a particular view to the list of partner organizations mentioned in decision II/10, paragraph 13, and the Convention on Wetlands.

C. Programme elements

Programme element 1. Implementation of integrated marine and coastal area management (IMCAM)

Operational objective 1.1: To review the existing instruments relevant to IMCAM and their implication for the implementation of the Convention.

Activities:

(a) To identify existing mechanisms and instruments relevant to IMCAM;

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(b) To identify focal points for the implementation of IMCAM at different levels (national, regional and global);

(c) Secretariat to gather, compare and analyse information provided by the focal points;

(d) To convene meetings involving representatives of stakeholders at different levels.

Time schedule: 1998-2000 (minimum three-year period)

Ways and means: The activities will be carried out by the Executive Secretary, with the collaboration of an informal inter-agency task force.

Budgetary implications: Costs related to communications and staff travel to inter-agency meetings and to service meetings. Costs related to convening of meeting of stakeholders on the integration of marine and coastal biological diversity into sectoral policies.

Operational objective 1.2: To promote the development and implementation of IMCAM at the local, national and regional level.

Activities:

(a) To promote, within the framework of IMCAM, the integration of biological diversity concerns in all socio-economic sectors adversely impacting the marine and coastal environment;

(b) To promote the identification or establishment of subregional, regional or global processes for developing advice on the application of IMCAM and issues identified under the operational objective;

(c) To promote adequate protection of areas important for reproduction such as spawning and nursery areas and restoration of such areas and other important habitats for marine living resources;

(d) To promote action to reduce and control sea-based sources of pollution;

(e) To assist the development of national and regional capacity-building;

(f) To provide information on relevant legal and institutional issues, having regard to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and other related international and regional agreements;

(g) To assist the development of appropriate education and public awareness programmes at all levels;

(h) To provide guidance on maintenance and wider application of local and traditional knowledge.

Time schedule: 1998-2000 (minimum three-year period)

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Ways and means: The activities should be carried out by the Executive Secretary in collaboration with relevant organizations.

Budgetary implications: No significant budgetary implications.

Operational objective 1.3: To develop guidelines for ecosystem evaluation and assessment, paying attention to the need to identify and select indicators, including social and abiotic indicators, that distinguish between natural and human-induced effects.

Activities:

(a) To promote the development of sets of indicators on which to base decision-making; and convene regional workshops to help select key indicators;

(b) To identify existing organizations and initiatives;

(c) To promote the identification of key habitats for marine living resources on a regional basis, with a view to further develop policies for action to prevent physical alteration and destruction of these habitats, and pursue restoration of degraded habitats, including, inter alia, coral reef systems;

(d) To promote the establishment or strengthening of mechanisms for research, monitoring and assessment of marine and coastal ecosystems and their living resources;

(e) To promote exchange of information and experience using the clearing-house mechanism and other appropriate mechanisms;

(f) To collaborate with relevant organizations in the preparation of guidelines;

Time schedule: 1998-2000 (minimum three-year programme)

Ways and means: The activities should be carried out by the Executive Secretary and the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, as part of the work programme on indicators, monitoring and assessment and in collaboration with relevant organizations.

Budgetary implications: Budgetary implications will be covered under the programmes of work on indicators, monitoring and assessment and public education, training and awareness. Voluntary contributions for regional workshops on indicators and public education, training and awareness activities are needed.

Programme element 2. Marine and coastal living resources

Operational objective 2.1: To promote ecosystem approaches to the sustainable use of marine and coastal living resources, including the identification of key variables or interactions, for the purpose of assessing and monitoring, first, components of biological diversity; second, the sustainable use of such components; and, third, ecosystem effects.

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Activities:

(a) To develop collaborative links with relevant organizations and institutions;

(b) To promote the exchange of information and experience using appropriate mechanisms;

(c) To promote the identification and development of ecosystem approaches compatible with the sustainable use of marine and coastal living resources;

(d) To promote the identification both of components of the ecosystems which are critical to the functioning of the ecosystem and of key threats;

(e) To promote capacity-building at local, national and regional levels, including local and traditional knowledge;

(f) To carry out a study on the effects of stock enhancement on marine and coastal biological diversity at the species and genetic levels.

Time schedule: 1998-2000 (minimum three-year period)

Ways and means: The Executive Secretary shall promote the undertaking of the activities by relevant organizations and institutions. The information dissemination aspects should be included in the work plan of the clearing-house mechanism unit. The Executive Secretary shall attempt to establish an informal inter-agency task force for this work.

Budgetary implications: Costs related to communications and travel to inter-agency meetings. Relevant organizations are invited to conduct the study, within the framework of existing cooperative arrangements. Additional contributions from Parties, countries and organizations in the organization of capacity building activities are expected.

Operational objective 2.2: To make available to the Parties information on marine and coastal genetic resources, including bioprospecting.

Activity

To explore ways to expand the knowledge base on which to make informed and appropriate decisions about how this area might be managed in accordance with the objectives of the Convention.

Time schedule: 1998/ongoing

Ways and means: The activity should be implemented by the Executive Secretary, making full use of the roster of experts.

Budgetary implications: No significant budgetary implications.

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Programme element 3. Marine and coastal protected areas

Operational objective 3.1: To facilitate research and monitoring activities related to the value and the effects of marine and coastal protected areas or similarly restricted management areas on sustainable use of marine and coastal living resources.

Activities:

- (a) To collaborate with relevant organizations in the preparation of project proposals;
- (b) To work with relevant organizations to identify pilot projects;
- (c) To conduct a desk study to gather and assimilate information;
- (d) To identify the linkages between conservation and sustainable use;
- (e) To facilitate Parties, countries or international/regional organizations in conducting research on the effects of marine and coastal protected or closed areas on population size and dynamics, subject to national legislation.

Time schedule: 1998-onwards (three to five-year period)

Ways and means: The Executive Secretary, in collaboration with relevant organizations and agencies, involving also funding agencies or donor countries, will facilitate and assist in the preparation of project documents and identify pilot projects for research and monitoring, as well as conduct the desk study. The projects should be undertaken by Parties and countries or competent organizations. The Executive Secretary, starting from the roster of experts, will select the names of an ad hoc technical expert group and elaborate the terms of reference for it, both to be endorsed by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice. The expert group will carry out its activities under the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and will work through electronic correspondence and teleconferences.

Budgetary implications: Costs related to communications. Additional voluntary contributions are needed from Parties or donor countries or funding agencies to fund the projects, the amount depending on the number, nature and scale of the projects.

Operational objective 3.2: To develop criteria for the establishment of, and for management aspects of, marine and coastal protected areas.

Activities:

- (a) To compile research findings on aspects of marine and coastal protected areas relevant to their selection, design, establishment and management;

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(b) To assist in developing criteria for selection of marine and coastal protected areas, where critical habitats for marine living resources should be one important criterion;

(c) Using the clearing-house mechanism, to assist the exchange of information on research, management issues and problems (including incentive measures) between marine protected area managers, to facilitate continuous improvement in management effectiveness across the global network of marine protected areas;

(d) To implement activities as in subparagraphs (e) to (h) under operational objective 1.2.

Time schedule: 1998-2000 (minimum three-year programme)

Ways and means: The basis for undertaking these activities should be collaboration between the Executive Secretary, under the guidance of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, and relevant international, national and non-governmental organizations. The creation of an informal task force may be an appropriate mechanism, conducting its work through regular communication and through periodic meetings as required.

Budgetary implications: Costs related to communications and to staff travel to inter-agency meetings and to service meetings.

Programme element 4. Mariculture

Operational objectives: To assess the consequences of mariculture for marine and coastal biological diversity and promote techniques which minimize adverse impact.

Activities:

(a) To provide guidance on criteria, methods and techniques which avoid the adverse effects of mariculture and also subsequent stock enhancement on marine and coastal biological diversity and enhance the positive effects of mariculture on marine and coastal productivity;

(b) To collect and disseminate information, data, literature and bibliography relevant to the operational objective and best practice of successful sustainable mariculture, including the use of local species where appropriate;

(c) To evaluate the current state of scientific and technological knowledge on the effects of mariculture on marine and coastal biological diversity.

Time schedule: 1999-onwards (minimum three-year period)

Ways and means: Coordination of this programme of activities within the Secretariat creates the need for a professional with specific high-level expertise. This need could probably best be met through the secondment by a Party or specialized institution of an appropriate professional. To be

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successful and cost-effective, the work would need to draw upon specialist scientific knowledge world-wide. It would thus need to be supported by the establishment of an ad hoc technical expert group under the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, taking into consideration the roster of experts. Operational aspects thus suggest that this work be undertaken from 1999 onwards.

Budgetary implications: Voluntary contribution by a Party or institution to cover the costs of the secondee. Costs for communications and travel to service meetings. Costs related to the convening of expert meeting(s).

Programme element 5. Alien species and genotypes

Operational objective 5.1: To achieve better understanding of the causes of the introduction of alien species and genotypes and the impact of such introductions on biological diversity.

Activities:

(a) To analyse and disseminate information, data and case-studies on the subject;

(b) To develop collaboration with relevant organizations;

(c) To ensure exchange of information and experience, using appropriate mechanisms.

Time schedule: 1998-2000 (minimum three-year period)

Ways and means: The Executive Secretary, under the guidance of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, will seek the assistance of relevant organizations through an informal inter-agency task force. In particular, the options will be investigated for collaboration with UNEP, the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE), the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) and the World Conservation Union (IUCN) Invasive Species Specialist Group and the Global Invasive Species Programme in the development of a global strategy and action plan. In carrying out this work, it is expected that Parties or specialized institutions will second a specialist.

Budgetary implications: Voluntary contribution by a Party or institution to cover the costs of the secondee. Costs for communications.

Operational objective 5.2: To identify gaps in existing or proposed legal instruments, guidelines and procedures to counteract the introduction of and the adverse effects exerted by alien species and genotypes which threaten ecosystems, habitats or species, paying particular attention to transboundary effects; and to collect information on national and international actions to address these problems, with a view to prepare for the development of a scientifically-based global strategy for dealing with the prevention, control and eradication of those alien species which threaten marine and coastal ecosystems, habitats and species.

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Activities:

(a) To request views and information from Parties, countries and other bodies;

(b) To analyse the information for the purpose of identifying gaps in legal instruments, guidelines and procedures;

(c) To evaluate the information on the effectiveness of efforts to prevent the introduction of, and to control or eradicate, those alien species which may threaten ecosystems, habitats or species;

(d) To identify means to support capacity-building in developing countries to strengthen their ability to conduct work related to alien species.

Time schedule: 1998-2000 (minimum three-year period)

Ways and means: The activities will be carried out by the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with Parties, countries and other relevant bodies and in cooperation with UNEP, IOC and IMO. It is proposed that a conference with global participation be held and that a Party or specialized institution will be able to host the conference. It is anticipated that the peer review process will be followed for the output of this programme activity.

Budgetary implications: Costs related to communications and staff travel servicing the conference. Voluntary contributions for holding the conference are needed.

Operational objective 5.3: To establish an "incident list" on introductions of alien species and genotypes through the national reporting process or any other appropriate means.

Activities:

(a) To distil references of incidents from the national reports and other appropriate sources;

(b) To make the information available through the clearing-house mechanism or other appropriate mechanisms.

Time schedule: Such information gathering can begin immediately and be informed by national reports as they are provided.

Ways and means: Secretariat

Budgetary implications: Costs related to additional staff time within the national reports unit and the clearing-house mechanism unit.

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Programme element 6. General

Operational objective 6.1: To assemble a database of initiatives on programme elements through a cooperative approach with relevant organizations and bodies, with special emphasis on integrated marine and coastal areas management.

Activities:

(a) To identify sources of relevant information and to make this readily available;

(b) To request inputs from Parties, countries and relevant organizations and bodies;

(c) To carry out desk evaluations with the assistance of the roster of experts of available information and to disseminate the findings through the clearing-house mechanism.

Time schedule: 1998-2000 (minimum three-year programme)

Ways and means: Secretariat.

Budgetary implications: Costs related to additional staff time within the clearing-house mechanism unit associated with the design of appropriate databases and posting information.

Operational objective 6.2: To develop a database of experts from the roster and other sources, to be available for the development and implementation of specific elements of national policies on marine and coastal biological diversity, giving full recognition to the importance of taxonomy and following closely the development of the Global Taxonomy Initiative and in accordance with decision IV/1 D. Special consideration should be given to regional perspectives and the setting up of regional centres of taxonomic expertise, as well as to the taxonomy efforts of other intergovernmental programmes, agencies and relevant institutions.

Activities:

(a) To maintain and update regularly a database of experts on marine and coastal biological diversity;

(b) To make the information available through the clearing-house mechanism;

(c) To promote the strengthening of taxonomic expertise at regional and national levels.

Time schedule: Ongoing

Ways and means: Secretariat, also through relevant organizations, in particular those that deal with taxonomic issues.

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Budgetary implications: Costs related to additional staff time within the clearing-house mechanism unit associated with the design of the database and of the Jakarta Mandate on Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity home page.

IV/6. Agricultural biological diversity

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision III/11, on the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biological diversity, and reiterating the importance of agricultural biological diversity as containing the most vital elements of biological diversity essential for food and livelihood security,

Emphasizing the need for a worldwide reorientation towards sustainable agriculture which balances production and conservation objectives in such a way as to meet the needs of expanding populations while maintaining an ecological balance,

Welcoming the statement presented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations at the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, regarding its offer to provide further technical assistance to Parties in the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention, in particular, in response to decision III/11,

Further welcoming the establishment by the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, of an intergovernmental Technical Working Group for Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, the first meeting of which is scheduled for September 1998,

1. Endorses recommendation III/4 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and, noting the progress made so far in initiating the development of the multi-year work programme on agricultural biological diversity called for in decision III/11, highlights the importance of speeding up implementation and requests full support of the Convention's instruments in such efforts;

2. Reiterates its wish, in accordance with paragraph 2 of decision III/11, that FAO maintain its coordinating role in the assessment of ongoing activities and instruments at regional and international levels and requests the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with FAO, to further consult with Parties, Governments and relevant organizations and bodies in the finalization of this review with a view to making available a clear and well structured report, well in advance of the fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, that will facilitate the work of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary to reiterate the invitation to Parties and Governments for further national submissions, if possible in electronic form, on ongoing activities, existing instruments and lessons learned in the area of agricultural biological diversity, in the light of paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 and annex 2 of decision III/11;

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4. Suggests that Governments, funding agencies, the private sector and non-governmental organizations should join efforts to identify and promote sustainable agricultural practices, integrated landscape management of mosaics of agriculture and natural areas, as well as appropriate farming systems that will reduce possible negative impacts of agricultural practices on biological diversity and enhance the ecological functions provided by biological diversity to agriculture. In this regard, invites Parties, Governments and organizations to begin the process of conducting case-studies based on socio-economic and ecological analyses of different land-use management options and to provide such case-studies to the Executive Secretary.

5. Decides to expand the focus placed on soil micro-organisms in annex 3 of decision III/11 to address all soil biota, as outlined in paragraph 8 of recommendation III/4 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, and invites Parties, Governments and international organizations to conduct case-studies on soil biota in agriculture and to provide them to the Executive Secretary for compilation in the form of a synthesis report for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice;

6. Requests Parties, Governments and international organizations, in particular FAO, in the light of paragraphs 9, 15 (a) and 15 (m) of decision III/11 and paragraphs 3 and 4 of decision IV/1 A, to begin to provide inputs on the development and application of methodologies for assessments of agricultural biological diversity and tools for identification and monitoring, including: criteria and indicators for agricultural biological diversity, including those addressing farming systems and agricultural ecosystems; rapid assessment techniques; the identification of underlying causes behind the loss of biological diversity; and the identification of incentives to overcome constraints and enhance the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biological diversity and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits;

7. Requests the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its fourth meeting, in accordance with paragraph 7 of decision III/11 and decision IV/16, to develop and provide to the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting, advice and recommendations for the development of the first phase, and subsequent phases, of the multi-year work programme on agricultural biological diversity;

8. Welcomes the close cooperation established between the Executive Secretary and FAO and, with reference to decision II/15 and decision III/11, paragraph 19, of the Conference of the Parties, urges that the momentum in the intergovernmental negotiations of the revision of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources in harmony with the Convention should be maintained with a view to its timely conclusion before the end of 1999;

9. Requests the Executive Secretary, as a complement to decision III/17, paragraph 6, to apply for observer status in the Committee on Agriculture of the World Trade Organization for the purpose of representing the Convention in meetings whose agendas may influence implementation of decision III/11 and related decisions of the Conference of the Parties;

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10. Requests the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties on the impact of trade liberalization on the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biological diversity in consultation with relevant bodies, such as the World Trade Organization;

11. Reiterating the precautionary approach, requests the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, to consider and assess, in light of contributions to be provided by Parties, Governments and organizations, whether there are any consequences for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity from the development and use of new technology for the control of plant gene expression, such as that described in United States patent 5723765, and to elaborate scientifically based advice to the Conference of the Parties. Moreover, urges Parties, Governments as well as civil society and public and private institutions to consider the precautionary approach in its application;

12. With reference to paragraphs 21 and 22 of decision III/11, draws the attention of international funding agencies, including the financial mechanism, of the need to support capacity-building in the development and implementation of this work programme;

13. Welcomes the efforts being made by the financial mechanism in the development of its operational policy framework on agricultural biological diversity and urges the early completion of this framework, fully in line with decision III/11, so as to provide effective implementation support to Parties and Governments in all agricultural ecosystems.

IV/7. Forest biological diversity

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision III/12 of the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and recommendations II/1, II/8 and III/3 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice,

Having considered the report of the Executive Secretary on the draft programme of work for forest biological diversity (UNEP/CBD/COP/4/7),

Taking note of views expressed by the Parties and countries on the development of the work programme, as contained in document UNEP/CBD/COP/4/Inf.11,

Noting that the development and implementation of national measures that enhance the integration of the conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity into national forest and land-use programmes and forest-management systems is an important task for both developed and developing countries,

Looking forward to the outcomes of forthcoming work under the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF), including the global workshop on underlying causes of deforestation, to be hosted by the Government of Costa Rica in January 1999,

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Reaffirming that the proposals for action contained in the final report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF), in particular those related to national forest and land-use programmes, and the objectives of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests, provide a good basis for the implementation of key provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity at the national level,

Noting that decision IV/13 gives further guidance to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) with regard to forest biological diversity,

1. Decides to endorse the work programme for forest biological diversity as contained in the annex to the present decision;

2. Urges Parties, countries, international and regional organizations, major groups and other relevant bodies to collaborate in carrying out the tasks identified in the work programme;

3. Calls upon Parties and countries to integrate forest biological diversity considerations in their participation and collaboration with organizations, institutions and conventions affecting or working with forest biological diversity;

4. Invites the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to further integrate forest biological diversity into ongoing work with the Global Forest Resources Assessment;

5. Urges Parties and countries and international financial institutions, including the Global Environment Facility, to give high priority to the allocation of resources to activities that advance the objectives of the Convention in respect of forest biological diversity;

6. Calls upon the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to provide financial support, in accordance with Article 7 of the Convention, for activities and capacity-building for the implementation of the work programme for forest biological diversity and the use of the clearing-house mechanism, particularly for activities to halt and mitigate deforestation effects, basic assessments and monitoring of forest biological diversity, including taxonomic studies and inventories, focusing on forest species, other important components of forest biological diversity and ecosystems under threat;

7. Invites Parties, when requesting assistance through the financial mechanism, to propose projects that are being fully consistent with previous guidance of the Conference of the Parties and promote the implementation of the focused work programme on forest biological diversity;

8. Requests the financial mechanism of the Convention to consider the operational objectives of the programme of work as a guidance for funding in the field of forest biological diversity and strongly encourages the Global Environment Facility to assist in the implementation of the programme of work at the national, regional and subregional level;

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9. Notes the potential impact of afforestation, reforestation, forest degradation and deforestation on forest biological diversity and on other ecosystems, and, accordingly, requests the Executive Secretary to liaise and cooperate with the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa to achieve the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

10. Requests the Executive Secretary to compile a synthesized report on the information on forest biological diversity made available to the Conference of the Parties, particularly national reports;

11. Requests the Executive Secretary, in implementing the work programme on forest biological diversity to actively continue collaborating and cooperating with the secretariat of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests and relevant institutions and to inform the Conference of the Parties thereon;

12. Requests the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, in accordance with its mandate, to provide advice on the status and trends of forest biological diversity and the identification of options for the conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity to the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting;

13. Requests the Executive Secretary to transmit this decision to the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests at its second meeting, to the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at its fourth meeting and to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Desertification at its second meeting.

Annex

WORK PROGRAMME FOR FOREST BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY UNDER THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In accordance with decision III/12 of the Conference of the Parties, this work programme on forest biological diversity focuses on the research, co-operation and development of technologies necessary for the conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity of all types of forests in the programme elements and priority areas already identified.

2. The work programme is based on recommendation III/3 of Subsidiary Body on Scientific Technical and Technological Advice and incorporates the views and interests expressed by Parties and countries. The work programme is action-oriented, demand-driven, needs-driven and flexible enough to reflect and respond to changing conditions, including but not limited to, the outcome of and the priorities to be identified by the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF). The work programme also reflects the varied needs and circumstances of Parties, indicating that inclusion of an activity in the work programme does not necessarily imply full participation in that activity by all Parties. In carrying out work under the identified programme

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elements, Parties should recall the further research priorities listed in recommendation II/8 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.

A. Objectives

3. The objectives of the programme of work are:

(a) To enhance Parties' abilities to realize the objectives of the Convention through improved implementation, by encouraging and assisting Parties to develop measures for enhancing the integration of conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into their national forest and land-use programmes and forest-management systems;

(b) To facilitate the implementation of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity based on the ecosystem approach;

(c) To provide an effective and complementary tool to national forest and land-use programmes for the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity at the national level;

(d) To identify traditional forest systems of conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity and to promote the wider application, use and role of traditional forest-related knowledge in sustainable forest management and the equitable sharing of benefits, in accordance with Article 8(j) and other related provisions of the Convention;

(e) To identify mechanisms that facilitate the financing of activities for the conservation, incorporation of traditional knowledge and sustainable use of forest biological diversity, taking into account that activities should be complementary to, and should not duplicate, existing efforts;

(f) To contribute to ongoing work in other international and regional organizations and processes, in particular to the implementation of the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests and to provide input to IFF;

(g) To contribute to the access to and transfer of technology in accordance to Article 16 of the Convention; and

(h) To identify the contribution of networks of protected areas to the conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity.

B. Time-frame

4. The programme of work reflects a rolling three-year planning horizon in three phases, on the assumption that, in its consideration, the Conference of the Parties will identify a rolling longer-term programme of work.

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C. Review and planning process

5. Each phase of the work programme should be subject to periodic review and the development of the work programme, including work in its future phases, should take into consideration recommendations made by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice. The phases and outputs should take into account the time-frames and work of IFF.

6. Interim reports after each three-year phase to provide the Conference of the Parties with information on progress made in the implementation of the work programme.

D. Ways and means

7. In its recommendation III/3, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice identified the following ways and means for carrying out the work programme: workshops, regional meetings, the clearing-house mechanism, scientific meetings and case-studies. Other feasible ways and means include:

(a) National mechanisms and pilot projects;

(b) Peer-review mechanisms, including networks of experts or liaison groups and inter-agency task force groups, relying to the extent possible on existing electronic communication systems;

(c) Use of national and international data and meta-databases, especially in the national and regional monitoring of forest biological diversity;

(d) Bearing in mind Articles 16 and 17 of the Convention, use of remote-sensing technologies to assist Parties to assess changes in their forest biological diversity, as well as to enhance their ability to report on certain aspects of criteria and indicators frameworks.

E. Collaborative efforts

8. The work programme should support and enhance cooperation on the conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity at all levels, ranging from community to inter-organization level, nationally and internationally. At all levels the work programme should be developed and implemented with relevant stakeholders, recognizing that the most important part of work is action at the national level.

9. In the context of this work programme, collaboration should be strengthened in particular with the Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa and with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in order to advance the effective implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

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II. WORK PROGRAMME

Elements of the proposed work programme

10. The work programme elaborates, as follows, the elements for inclusion therein.

1. Holistic and inter-sectoral ecosystem approaches that integrate the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking account of social and cultural and economic considerations

11. The IPF proposal for action 17 encourages countries to develop, implement, monitor and evaluate national forest programmes, which include a wide range of approaches for sustainable forest management, including ecosystem approaches that integrate the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of biological diversity.

ResearchApproach

12. Synthesize existing knowledge of holistic and inter-sectoral approaches that enhance the integration of forest biological diversity conservation into sustainable forest management, examine how such integration can be better achieved, and assist in identifying priority research areas in relation to these approaches.

Activities

13. Examination of methodologies for enhancing the integration of forest biological diversity conservation and sustainable use into an holistic approach to sustainable forest management.

14. Development of methodologies to advance the integration of traditional forest-related knowledge into sustainable forest management, in accordance with Article 8(j).

15. Cooperation on the conservation and sustainable use of forest biological resources at all levels, ranging from community to inter-organization level, at the national and international levels in accordance with Articles 5 and 16 on the Convention.

16. Case-studies from countries in which the ecosystem approach has been applied in sustainable forest management practices, including arid and semi-arid areas. This could assist other countries in developing their own national actions and approaches under this work programme.

17. Sharing of relevant technical and scientific information on networks at all levels of protected forest areas and networking modalities, taking into account existing national, regional and international networks and structures, in all types of forest ecosystems.

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Ways and means

18. Clearing-house mechanism, national pilot projects, the Convention on Biological Diversity participating in Inter-Agency Task Force on Forests (ITFF) and in the meetings of IFF to actively encourage countries to implement national forest programmes that encompass an ecosystem approach which ensures the maintenance of forest biological diversity values, while also taking into account social, cultural and economic considerations.

19. Consideration of the UNEP guidelines and the FAO document entitled "Basic principles and operational guidelines for the formulation, execution and revision of national forestry programmes" for the preparation of country studies of biological diversity.

20. The integration of social, cultural and economic considerations into the conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity will bring the concept close to sustainable forest management. The issue should also be dealt with thoroughly in other forums, mainly within the work under IFF.

Outcomes

21. A better understanding of the ecosystem approach as it relates to forest biological diversity, and an elaboration of the linkages to other work under the Convention, including the incorporation of Article 8(j).

22. Guidance of the Convention on Biological Diversity to IFF and other relevant forums and conventions.

23. Cooperation among Parties and with organizations and conventions.

24. A better understanding of the complexity and interdependencies of biological communities and their dependencies on the abiotic site-specific factors.

25. Methodologies to help ensure that forest plans and practices reflect the social, cultural and economic values of forests as well as the views of forest stakeholders.

26. Identification of general guidelines or methodologies to help ensure that forest plans and practices reflect biological diversity conservation considerations, as well as social, cultural and economic factors.

27. Clarification of the links between the ecosystem approach and sustainable forest management.

Development of technologies

Approach

28. Promote activities to support the development of techniques and means for the effective conservation and sustainable use of biological resources, in particular, full support for technology transfer from developed to developing countries, in accordance with Article 16 of the Convention.

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2. Comprehensive analysis of the ways in which human activities, in particular forest-management practices, influence biological diversity and assessment of ways to minimize or mitigate negative influences

Research

Approach

29. Promote activities for an enhanced understanding of positive and negative human influences on forest ecosystems by land-use managers, policy makers, scientists and all other relevant stakeholders.
30. Promote activities to assemble management experiences and scientific, indigenous and local information at the national and local levels to provide for the sharing of approaches and tools that lead to improved forest practices with regard to forest biological diversity.
31. Promote activities with the aim of providing options to minimize or mitigate negative and to promote positive human influences on forest biological diversity.
32. Promote activities to minimize the impact of harmful alien species on forest biological diversity, particularly in small island developing States.

Activities

33. Identification of means and mechanisms to improve the identification and prioritization of research activities related to the influences of human activities, in particular forest management practices, on forest biological diversity.
34. Improve dissemination of research results and synthesis of reports of the best available scientific and traditional knowledge on key forest biological diversity issues.
35. Case-studies on assessing impacts of fires and alien species on forest biological diversity and their influences on the management of forest ecosystems and savannahs.

Ways and means

36. Regional workshops and/or liaison meetings that bring together experts in sustainable forest management, sustainable use and science from the forest sector and, if necessary, representatives from other relevant sectors, with experts on biological diversity, bearing in mind the IPF proposal for action contained in paragraph 94 of the report on its fourth session.
37. The sharing of forest and land-use guidelines, for example, through the clearing-house mechanism, to ensure the fuller integration of genetic, species and habitat diversity into sustainable forest management systems.

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Outcomes

38. Analysis of human impacts on forest ecosystems, as well as an enhanced ability to prioritise research needs and apply results and an enhanced understanding of the role of traditional knowledge in ecosystem management to minimize or mitigate negative influences, and to promote the positive effects.

39. Expansion of research capacity to develop and assess options incorporating the applications of traditional knowledge to minimize or mitigate negative influences, and to promote the positive effects.

3. Methodologies necessary to advance the elaboration and implementation of criteria and indicators for forest biological diversity

Research

Approach

40. Foster activities to determine and advance the methodology for elaborating and implementing the criteria and indicators of forest biological diversity. These activities could supplement work that has already been developed. In this regard, coordination with IFF, and drawing upon existing and ongoing work at the national, regional and international levels, is recognized as an important approach.

41. Foster activities to determine criteria and indicators for the conservation and sustainable use and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of utilization of resources of forest biological diversity and to advance methodology for integrating these criteria and indicators into existing criteria and indicators processes.

42. The work related to indicators of forest biological diversity could also imply the need for an inventory to assess current status and trends in forest biological diversity, at the local and national level based on repeated measures of the selected indicators. The work under this programme element could also include, inter alia, capacity-building on taxonomy and inventories, taking note of the work under the Global Taxonomy Initiative.

Activities

43. Assessment of experiences gained in the national and regional processes, identifying common elements and gaps in the existing initiatives and improving the indicators for forest biological diversity.

44. Taxonomic studies and inventories at the national level which provide for a basic assessment of forest biological diversity.

Ways and means

45. Collaboration with national institutions and relevant bodies and in coordination with the work on the general development of methods for implementing Article 7 under the Convention. Collaboration with ITFF member

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agencies; cooperating with and complementing existing criteria and indicators initiatives for sustainable forest management, including regional initiatives to develop appropriate criteria and indicators, such as the Helsinki process for boreal, temperate and Mediterranean-type forests in Europe; the Montreal process for temperate and boreal forests outside Europe; the Tarapoto proposal for the Amazon forest; the UNEP/FAO-initiated processes for dry-zone Africa and the Near East in arid and semi-arid areas; and the "Lepaterique" process for Central America initiated by FAO and the Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD). 1/

46. Review of specific indicators of forest biological diversity that have been derived by the major ongoing international processes related to sustainable forest management. The prioritization of related activities should consider the development of indicators that are capable of providing the most useful information on national or regional status and trends of forest biological diversity.

Outcomes

47. Methodologies to advance the elaboration and implementation of criteria and indicator frameworks and the improved capacity of countries to implement these frameworks.

48. Contribution to the national and regional initiatives in the development of indicators under the criteria for forest biological diversity.

4. Further research and technological priorities identified in the recommendation II/8 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice as well as issues identified in the review and planning process under the work programme

49. Included under this element is a series of specific research and technological priorities initially identified under recommendation II/8 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice. These represent important issues brought forward into the Convention from the IPF proposals for action. These priorities are among the issues to be discussed by IFF at its scheduled meetings in 1998 and 1999 and within the inter-sessional meetings of the IFF, 2/ as part of its attempt to identify and define global and regional research priorities for forests, taking into account national priorities. It is essential that the Convention on Biological Diversity coordinates with IFF in order to enhance synergy on these issues as they intersect with the programme of work for forests under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

1/ See background document for the Intergovernmental Seminar on Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management, Helsinki, June 1996.

2/ For example, the international seminar on research and information needs in international forest processes, to be held in Vienna in September 1998.

50. Following input from IFF on these priorities, the Conference of the Parties may wish to consider incorporating them in phases 2 and 3 of this work programme. When additional scientific and technological priorities are identified, they can similarly be incorporated in the periodic planning activities and reviews of the work programme.

Research

Analysing measures for minimizing or mitigating the underlying causes of forest biological diversity loss

51. Besides unsustainable forest-management practices, there are other causes for the loss of forest biological diversity in forest ecosystems, such as habitat transformation, harmful alien species, pollution, erosion, uncontrolled forest fires and poverty. There is a need for a better understanding of the underlying social, cultural and economic causes of forest biological diversity loss and the improvement of measures for mitigating those causes.

Assessing ecological landscape models, the integration of protected areas in the ecosystem approach to sustainable forest management and the representativeness and adequacy of protected areas networks

52. Conserving the biological diversity of forests should be carried out both by establishing protected areas and by taking into account biological diversity conservation in all types of forests outside the protected areas, taking into account plantation forests. The outcome of this programme element would include the further development of methods to integrate protected areas into sustainable forest management and analysis of the representativeness and adequacy of the protected areas networks.

53. Reducing gaps in knowledge in the areas of fragmentation of habitats and population viability, to include mitigation options such as ecological corridors and buffer zones.

54. The work should also contribute to the preparation of the discussions of the Conference of the Parties on in situ conservation.

Advancing scientific and technical approaches

Activities

55. Promoting the development of scientific and technical local approaches to:

- (a) Conserve and sustainably manage biological diversity in production forests;
- (b) Rehabilitate degraded and deforested ecosystems as appropriate;
- (c) Enrich indigenous biological diversity in forest plantations.

56. Developing assessment and valuation methodologies for the multiple benefits derived from forest biological diversity.

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IV/8. Access and benefit-sharingThe Conference of the Parties

1. Requests the inter-sessional open-ended meeting referred to in decision IV/16, paragraph 2, to explore options for access and benefit-sharing mechanisms and to start work on paragraph 10 of decision IV/15 and to make recommendations for future work;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary to invite information from Parties and relevant organizations in time for the inter-sessional meeting in respect of those ex situ collections which were acquired prior to the entry into force of the Convention on Biological Diversity and which are not addressed by the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture of the Food and Agriculture Organization, to help the inter-sessional meeting to make recommendations to the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties for future work on resolving the issue of such ex situ collections, with due regard to the provisions of the Convention;

3. Decides to establish a regionally balanced panel of experts appointed by Governments, composed of representatives from the private and the public sectors as well as representatives of indigenous and local communities, operating in accordance with decisions II/15, III/11 and III/15, under the Conference of the Parties and reporting to its next meeting. The mandate of this panel would be to draw upon all relevant sources, including legislative, policy and administrative measures, best practices and case-studies on access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing arising from the use of those genetic resources, including the whole range of biotechnology, in the development of a common understanding of basic concepts and to explore all options for access and benefit-sharing on mutually agreed terms including guiding principles, guidelines, and codes of best practice for access and benefit-sharing arrangements. These options might address, inter alia, the elements set out in the annex to the present decision;

4. Requests the financial mechanism to give special emphasis to the following programme priorities to fund initiatives by eligible Parties:

(a) Stock-taking activities, such as, for example, assessments of current legislative, administrative, and policy measures on access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing, evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of a country's institutional and human capacity, and promotion of consensus-building among its different stakeholders; and, for those developing country Parties that have identified arrangements for benefit-sharing as a national priority;

(b) Formulation of access and benefit-sharing mechanisms at the national, subregional and regional level including monitoring and incentive measures;

(c) Capacity-building for measures on access to genetic resources and sharing of benefits, including capacity-building for economic valuation of genetic resources;

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(d) Within biodiversity projects, other specific benefit-sharing initiatives, such as support for entrepreneurial developments by local and indigenous communities, facilitation of financial sustainability of projects promoting the sustainable use of genetic resources, and appropriate targeted research components;

5. Invites all relevant organizations and the private sector to support efforts by Parties and Governments to develop and promote legislative or administrative measures, policies and programmes which facilitate the distribution of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources on mutually agreed terms and to update the Executive Secretary on a regular basis regarding their activities and experiences;

6. Requests the Executive Secretary:

(a) To explore the possibility of linking the clearing-house mechanism with relevant international and other organizations to access publicly available information on intellectual property rights which are based on biological resources and to report on the progress made on this matter to the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting;

(b) To compile information on access and benefit-sharing arrangements and to disseminate such information in a standardized format through the clearing-house mechanism;

(c) To facilitate the exchange of information related to access and benefit-sharing through appropriate means such as the clearing-house mechanism;

(d) To prepare a background document on the review of implementation of measures to promote and advance benefit-sharing arrangements, based on the experiences submitted by Parties, Governments and relevant organizations.

Annex

1. Prior informed consent in provider countries for access to genetic resources and research and development.

2. Clear, established mechanisms to provide such consent, including, inter alia, legislative, administrative and policy measures, as appropriate.

3. Reference to the country of origin, where available, in relevant publications and patent applications.

4. Mutually agreed terms including on benefit-sharing and intellectual property rights and technology transfer, where appropriate.

5. Efficient permitting and regulatory procedures that avoid burdensome procedures involving high transaction costs.

6. Incentive measures to encourage the conclusion of contractual partnerships.

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IV/9. Implementation of Article 8(j) and related provisions

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision III/14,

Realizing the importance for biological diversity of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity,

Emphasizing the need for dialogue with representatives of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity within the framework of the Convention,

Welcoming the report of the inter-sessional workshop on Article 8(j), held in Madrid from 24 to 28 November 1997,

Expressing its sincere appreciation to the Government of Spain for hosting the inter-sessional workshop,

Reaffirming the dynamic nature of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices,

Recognizing that traditional knowledge should be given the same respect as any other form of knowledge in the implementation of the Convention,

Recognizing also that intellectual property rights may have implications for the implementation of the Convention and achievement of its objectives under Article 8(j),

Further recognizing the importance of making intellectual-property-related provisions of Article 8(j) and related provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity and provisions of international agreements relating to intellectual property mutually supportive, and the desirability of undertaking further cooperation and consultation with the World Intellectual Property Organization,

Welcoming the decision of the World Intellectual Property Organization to incorporate biodiversity-related issues under its 1998-1999 main programme item 11 ("Global intellectual property issues"),

Acknowledging the importance of starting work as soon as possible on priority work programme elements,

Expressing its sincere appreciation for the valuable contribution made by the participating representatives of the indigenous and local communities at the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties,

1. Decides that an ad hoc open-ended inter-sessional working group be established to address the implementation of Article 8(j) and related provisions of the Convention. The mandate of this working group shall be:

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(a) To provide advice as a priority on the application and development of legal and other appropriate forms of protection for the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity;

(b) To provide the Conference of the Parties with advice relating to the implementation of Article 8(j) and related provisions, in particular on the development and implementation of a programme of work at national and international levels;

(c) To develop a programme of work, based on the structure of the elements in the Madrid report (UNEP/CBD/COP/4/10/Add.1) as set out in the annex to the present decision;

(d) To identify those objectives and activities falling within the scope of the Convention; to recommend priorities taking into account the programme of work of the Conference of the Parties, such as the equitable sharing of benefits; to identify for which work-plan objectives and activities advice should be directed to the Conference of the Parties and which should be directed to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice; to recommend which of the work-plan objectives and activities should be referred to other international bodies or processes; to identify opportunities for collaboration and coordination with other international bodies or processes with the aim of fostering synergy and avoiding duplication of work;

(e) To provide advice to the Conference of the Parties on measures to strengthen cooperation at the international level among indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and make proposals for the strengthening of mechanisms that support such cooperation;

2. Decides that the working group shall be composed of Parties and observers, including, in particular, representation from indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity with participation to the widest possible extent in its deliberations in accordance with the rules of procedure;

3. Encourages Parties to include representatives of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in their delegations;

4. Encourages Parties to promote consultations among indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity concerning the issues to be dealt with in the working group;

5. Encourages indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity to participate and to identify the process to select their

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participants in the working group, taking into account the funds available, the need for geographical balance and the need for the working group to be effective and efficient;

6. Decides that the working group should meet in conjunction with Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, unless a Party offers to host the meeting of the working group;

7. Decides that the working group shall report directly to the Conference of the Parties and that the working group may provide advice to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice on issues relevant to its agenda;

8. Decides that the costs of servicing the meetings of the working group shall be funded in accordance with the relevant provisions of decision IV/17, as related to the budget;

9. Decides that there shall be both short- and medium-term activities in the programme of work to facilitate the work of the Parties in the implementation of Article 8(j) and related provisions.

10. As part of the short-term activities, invites Governments, international agencies, research institutions, representatives of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and non-governmental organizations to submit case-studies and other relevant information to the Executive Secretary, on the following, as background information for the working group without being a prior condition to or pre-empting the deliberations of the working group in discharging its mandate as set out in paragraph 1 (c) of the present decision:

(a) Interactions between traditional and other forms of knowledge relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity;

(b) The influence of international instruments, intellectual property rights, current laws and policies on knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity;

(c) The extent to which traditional knowledge of indigenous and local communities has been incorporated into development and resource-management decision-making processes;

(d) Documented examples and related information on ethical guidance for the conduct of research in indigenous and local communities about the knowledge they hold; and

(e) Matters of prior informed consent, fair and equitable sharing of benefits and in situ conservation in lands and territories used by indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity;

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11. Requests the Executive Secretary to prepare a suitable format for the presentation of the information requested in paragraph 10 of the present decision, in order to assist in the preparation of its synthesis in support of the programme of work;

12. Requests Parties according to their capabilities to facilitate the representation, and financially and logistically support the active participation in the working group of the indigenous and local communities from their territories;

13. Encourages Parties, when making applications to the interim financial mechanism for funding in respect of activities under Article 8(j) and related provisions, to consider: (a) priorities as set out in paragraph 10 and (b) projects in support of the development of national legislation and corresponding strategies on the implementation of Article 8(j), as well as (c) projects in support of preparations by indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity for their active participation in and contribution to the working group;

14. Requests the Executive Secretary to transmit to the secretariat of the World Intellectual Property Organization, decisions and documents of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and to apply for observer status in the World Intellectual Property Organization, for the purpose of representing the Convention on Biological Diversity in meetings related to main programme 11.1 and 11.2 of the Organization;

15. Encourages Governments, relevant international and regional organizations and representatives of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity to conduct and communicate to the Executive Secretary, case studies for dissemination through means such as the clearing-house mechanism and requests the Executive Secretary to compile case-studies submitted under decisions of the Conference of the Parties at its third and fourth meetings relating to Article 8(j) and intellectual property rights, including existing sui generis systems and/or adapted forms of protection to the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity for transmittal to the World Intellectual Property Organization and for use in initiatives on legislating on the implementation of Article 8(j) and related provisions;

16. Invites the World Intellectual Property Organization to take into account the lifestyles and the traditional systems of access and use of the knowledge, technologies and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in its work and the relevant recommendations of the Conference of the Parties;

17. Requests the Executive Secretary to seek ways, including the possibility of negotiating a memorandum of understanding with the World Intellectual Property Organisation, to enhance cooperation between the

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Convention on Biological Diversity and the World Intellectual Property Organization on issues arising from Article 8(j) and related provisions and encourages Parties to forward information to the Executive Secretary to support such cooperation.

Annex

STRUCTURE OF WORK PROGRAMME OPTIONS FROM THE MADRID REPORT (UNEP/CBD/COP/4/10/Add.1)

- A. Participatory mechanisms for indigenous and local communities
- B. Status and trends in relation to Article 8(j) and related provisions
- C. Traditional cultural practices for conservation and sustainable use
- D. Equitable sharing of benefits
- E. Exchange and dissemination of information
- F. Monitoring elements
- G. Legal elements

IV/10. Measures for implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity

A. Incentive measures: consideration of measures for the implementation of Article 11

The Conference of the Parties,

Reaffirming the importance for the implementation of the Convention of the design and implementation by Parties and Governments of economically and socially sound measures that act as incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity,

Recalling decision III/18 on incentive measures,

Recognizing that incentive measures should be designed using an ecosystem approach and with the targeted resource management audience in mind,

Recognizing that economic valuation of biodiversity and biological resources is an important tool for well-targeted and calibrated economic incentive measures,

1. Encourages Parties, Governments and relevant organizations:

(a) To promote the design and implementation of appropriate incentive measures, taking fully into account the ecosystem approach and the various conditions of the Parties and employing the precautionary approach of Principle 15 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, in order

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to facilitate achieving the implementation of the objectives of the Convention and to integrate biological diversity concerns in sectoral policies, instruments and projects;

(b) As a first step towards formulating incentive measures, to identify threats to biological diversity and underlying causes of reduction or loss of biological diversity and relevant actors;

(c) To take into account economic, social, cultural and ethical valuation in the development of relevant incentive measures;

(d) To develop supportive legal and policy frameworks for the design and implementation of incentive measures;

(e) To carry out participatory consultative processes at the relevant level to define the clear and target-oriented incentive measures to address the identified underlying causes of biodiversity reduction or loss and unsustainable use;

(f) To identify perverse incentives and consider the removal or mitigation of their negative effects on biological diversity in order to encourage positive, rather than negative, effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity;

(g) To prepare case-studies on incentive measures in the thematic focus of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, utilizing the indicative outline prepared by the Executive Secretary as far as possible, and to make them available to the Executive Secretary.

(h) To undertake value addition and enhancement of naturally occurring genetic resources, based on the participatory approach, where appropriate, to work as incentives for their conservation and sustainable use;

2. Requests Parties to include information on the design and implementation of incentive measures in their second national reports;

3. Requests the financial mechanism to provide to eligible Parties adequate and timely support for the design and approaches relevant to the implementation of incentive measures including, where necessary, assessment of biological diversity of the relevant ecosystems, capacity-building necessary for the design and implementation of incentive measures and the development of appropriate legal and policy frameworks, and projects with components that provide for these incentives;

4. Invites all relevant organizations:

(a) To support efforts by Parties to design and implement appropriate incentive measures;

(b) To assist Parties and Governments to identify gaps in national capacity for policy research and analysis relevant to the design of incentive measures and to develop the necessary capacity to conduct such research and analysis;

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5. Requests the Executive Secretary:

(a) To compile the information received from Parties, Governments and relevant organizations and to facilitate the exchange of information through appropriate means, such as the clearing-house mechanism, taking full advantage of existing and ongoing work of Parties and relevant organizations in this area;

(b) To prepare in collaboration with the Organisation for Economic Development and Cooperation (OECD), the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and other relevant organizations, a background paper containing further analysis of the design and implementation of incentive measures for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, as it is related to the incentive measures in the thematic focus of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, with the aim of developing guidance to Parties;

(c) To describe, in this document, ways and means to identify perverse incentives and possibilities to remove or mitigate their negative effects on biological diversity.

B. Public education and awareness: consideration of measures for the implementation of Article 13

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling Article 13 of the Convention, on public education and awareness,

Recognizing the importance of public education and awareness as central instruments to achieve the Convention's goals and to ensure effective implementation of the Convention at the national level, and also recognizing the need for capacity-building in this area,

Having taken note of the decision of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its sixth session on transfer of environmentally sound technology, capacity-building, education and public awareness, and science for sustainable development,

Recognizing that the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity includes social issues which require cultural understanding and sensitivity, and that efforts to promote the goals of Article 13 entail recognition of the diverse needs of people and their differing perceptions, knowledge, attitudes, interests, values and understanding in respect of the goals of the Convention, and that public education and awareness on biological diversity is most effective when it occurs in a social context that is meaningful to a specific audience,

Noting the opportunities for synergy on this particular issue within the Convention, the activities of the Commission on Sustainable Development, the mandate and activities of the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and relevant activities of other bodies on public education, training and awareness on matters related to biological diversity,

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Stressing that modern technologies and expanding access to electronic communication means bring new possibilities for promoting and encouraging understanding of the importance of, and measures required for, the conservation of biological diversity; but also recognizing the importance of traditional communication systems among local communities, with emphasis on maintaining their integrity and dynamism,

Further recognizing the role of the public media and non-traditional means of communication in information dissemination and awareness-raising,

Recognizing that non-governmental organizations have an important role in developing and disseminating information on biological diversity, especially in reaching out to marginalized groups who have a significant role to play in the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity,

1. Urges Parties:

(a) To place special emphasis on the requirements of Article 13 of the Convention in the development of their national strategies and action plans;

(b) To promote education on biological diversity through relevant institutions, including non-governmental organizations;

(c) To allocate appropriate resources for the strategic use of education and communication instruments at each phase of policy formulation, planning, implementation and evaluation, including the identification of relevant target groups seeking to provide these with relevant, timely, reliable and understandable information;

(d) To integrate biological diversity concerns into education strategies, recognizing the particular needs of indigenous and local communities; and

(e) To support initiatives by major groups that foster stakeholder participation in biological diversity conservation and sustainable use and that integrate biological diversity conservation matters into their practices and educational programmes;

2. Also urges Parties to share experiences on initiatives on public education and awareness and public participation relevant to the Convention, particularly on a sectoral and thematic basis, and to make relevant case studies as well as lessons learned in the preparation of national biological diversity policies, strategies and plans available to the Executive Secretary and for the exchange of information among Parties through the clearing-house mechanism and to consider how to organize assistance for Parties who may be keen to develop public awareness and education strategies, but lack the ability to do so;

3. Encourages Parties to make use of the media, including print and electronic media, to promote public education and awareness about the importance and appropriate methods for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity;

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4. Calls upon Parties, where necessary, to illustrate and translate the provisions of the Convention into the respective local languages to promote public education and awareness-raising of relevant sectors, including local communities;

5. Decides that public education and awareness issues shall be integrated into and become an integral component of all sectoral and thematic items under the programme of work of the Conference of the Parties;

6. Invites the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to consider launching a global initiative on biological diversity education, training and public awareness and requests the Executive Secretary to explore the feasibility of such an initiative and to report to the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the progress of such an initiative;

7. Invites the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in cooperation with other United Nations bodies and other relevant international and regional organizations, agreements, processes and institutions, to continue and make use of existing initiatives and to further develop its information dissemination and public-awareness activities in support of the work of the Convention;

8. Urges Parties, relevant organizations and donor agencies to support local, national, subregional and regional public education and awareness initiatives;

9. Urges Parties, when requesting for assistance through the financial mechanism of the Convention, to propose projects which promote measures for implementing the provisions of the Convention on public education and awareness;

10. Decides to review progress in the implementation of the above activities, at the latest at its seventh meeting.

C. Impact assessment and minimizing adverse effects:
consideration of measures for the implementation
of Article 14

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling Article 14 of the Convention, on impact assessment and minimizing adverse impacts, including its provision on liability and redress for damage to biological diversity,

Recalling also its decision II/18, on measures to provide information and share experiences on the implementation of Article 14,

Taking note of the note by the Executive Secretary on impact assessment and minimizing adverse impacts; implementation of Article 14 (UNEP/CBD/COP/4/20),

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Noting the initiatives in this field, such as the statement submitted to the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties on behalf of the International Association for Impact Assessment, following its 18th annual meeting in Christchurch, New Zealand, in April 1998,

Noting the entry into force of the Economic Commission for Europe Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (the "Espoo Convention"), as an example of regional cooperation,

Concerning impact assessment

1. Invites Parties, Governments, national and international organizations, and indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles, to transmit to the Executive Secretary for the purpose of exchanging information and sharing experiences on:

(a) Impact assessments that consider environmental effects and interrelated socio-economic aspects relevant to biological diversity;

(b) Strategic environmental assessments;

(c) Ways and means of fully incorporating biodiversity considerations into environmental impact assessment procedures;

(d) Reports and case studies relating to environmental impact assessment in the thematic areas specifically referred to in its decisions, particularly with respect to biological diversity, including in respect of activities with transboundary implications and for environmental impacts having cumulative effects on biological diversity;

(e) Reports relating to existing legislation, experience with environmental impact assessment procedures and guidelines for environmental impact assessment, particularly with regard to the incorporation of biological diversity considerations into environmental impact assessment;

(f) Reports concerning the implementation of mitigating measures and incentive schemes to enhance compliance with existing national environmental impact assessment systems;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary to prepare a synthesis report based on the information contained in such submissions and other relevant information, for the consideration of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice;

3. Instructs the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to identify further actions that would promote implementation of the impact assessment procedures requested by Article 14 of the Convention, including consideration of whether there is a need for additional work to develop guidelines on the incorporation of biological diversity considerations into environmental impact assessment and to report to the Conference of the Parties;

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4. Recommends that appropriate issues related to environmental impact assessment should be integrated into and become an integral component of relevant sectoral and thematic items under the programme of work of the Conference of the Parties;

5. Requests the Executive Secretary to make this information available through the clearing-house mechanism and other appropriate means;

6. Encourages the Executive Secretary to initiate collaboration between the Convention and other international organizations and bodies with expertise in this field and to seek cooperation, in particular with the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat and the Bonn Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species, with the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and the International Association for Impact Assessment, with a view to drawing on their networks of professional expertise and sources of information and advice;

7. Emphasizes the need to enable active participation by interested and affected stakeholders in the assessment process, including indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles and non-governmental organizations;

Concerning liability and redress

8. Invites Parties, Governments and relevant international organizations to provide the Executive Secretary with information on national, international and regional measures and agreements on liability and redress applicable to damage to biological diversity, including the nature, scope and coverage of such provisions, and information on experiences in their implementation, as well as information regarding access by foreign citizens to national courts potentially applicable to or in cases involving transboundary environmental harm;

9. Invites Parties to include in their national reports information on actions taken with respect to liability and redress for damage to biological diversity;

10. Requests the Executive Secretary to prepare a synthesis report based on the information contained in submissions by Parties and other relevant information, for examination by the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting;

11. Notes that this decision is without prejudice to the consideration of the issue of liability and redress in the negotiation of the protocol on biosafety.

IV/11. Review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decisions II/6 on financial resources and mechanism and III/7 on the review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism,

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Taking note of the synthesis report on the first review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism, contained in document UNEP/CBD/COP/4/16,

Taking note also of the Statement of the First Assembly of the Global Environment Facility, held in New Delhi, India, from 1 to 3 April 1998, and the list of measures identified therein for the Global Environment Facility to improve its operational performance, and welcoming the second replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund in the amount of US\$2.75 billion for its four focal areas,

Taking note of the report on the activities of the Global Environment Facility contained in document UNEP/CBD/COP/4/15,

Recalling the provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the Council of the Global Environment Facility, in particular paragraph 7 therein concerning the significance of inter-secretariat cooperation,

Welcoming the efforts made to date by the Global Environment Facility to address the concerns of Parties on the responsiveness of the financial mechanism to the policy, strategy, programme priorities and eligibility criteria established by the Conference of the Parties,

Taking into account the views and concerns expressed by Parties about the difficulties encountered in carrying out the first review, in particular the inadequacy of the procedures; and the insufficient information provided as compared with that requested in decision III/7,

Recalling decision II/6, paragraph 2, which calls for the effectiveness of the financial mechanism to be reviewed every three years,

Recognizing concerns expressed by several Parties about the need for implementing agencies to improve the processing and delivery systems of the Global Environment Facility, and reaffirming paragraph 1 of decision III/5 in this regard,

Recognizing also that further improvements are needed in the effectiveness of the financial mechanism,

1. Determines to further improve the effectiveness of the financial mechanism;

2. Requests the Council of the Global Environment Facility to take the action identified in the annex to the present decision with a view to improving the effectiveness of the financial mechanism, and further requests the Global Environment Facility to report thereon to the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting;

3. Decides that the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting will determine terms of reference for the second review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism;

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4. Requests the Executive Secretary to advise the Parties on matters relating to recommendations for further guidance to the financial mechanism with respect to:

- (a) The relationship of any draft guidance to previous guidance; and
- (b) Any possible effects of that draft guidance on the implementation of previous guidance from the Conference of the Parties.

Annex

ACTION TO IMPROVE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE FINANCIAL MECHANISM

1. The Council of the Global Environment Facility should improve the effectiveness of the financial mechanism by:

- (a) Further streamlining its project cycle with a view to making project preparation simpler, more transparent and more country-driven;
- (b) Further simplifying and expediting procedures for approval and implementation, including disbursement, for GEF-funded projects;
- (c) Developing policies and procedures that fully comply with the guidance from the Conference of the Parties in a straightforward and timely manner;
- (d) Increasing support to priority actions identified in national plans and strategies of developing countries;
- (e) Applying in a more flexible, pragmatic and transparent manner the incremental cost principle;
- (f) Promoting genuine country ownership through greater involvement of participant countries in GEF-funded activities;
- (g) Increasing its flexibility to respond to the thematic longer-term programme of work of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in accordance with the guidance of the Conference of the Parties;
- (h) Promoting the catalytic role of the Global Environment Facility in mobilizing funding from other sources for GEF-funded activities;
- (i) Including in its monitoring and evaluation activities the assessment of the compliance under its operational programmes with the policy, strategy, program priorities and eligibility criteria established by the Conference of the Parties;
- (j) Promoting efforts to ensure that the implementing agencies fully comply with the policy, strategy, programme priorities and eligibility criteria of the Conference of the Parties in their support for country-driven activities funded by the Global Environment Facility; and

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(k) Undertaking efforts to improve the efficiency, effectiveness and transparency of the process of cooperation and coordination between the implementing agencies with a view to improving the processing and delivery systems of the Global Environment Facility, and to avoid duplication and parallel processes.

IV/12. Additional financial resources

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling Article 20, paragraphs 2 and 3, and Article 21, paragraph 4, of the Convention,

Recalling also decision III/6, by which it requested the Executive Secretary to explore possible ways of collaborating with funding institutions to facilitate efforts to achieve greater support for the Convention, and to explore further possibilities for encouraging the involvement of the private sector in support of the Convention,

Having examined the note by the Executive Secretary contained in document UNEP/CBD/COP/4/17,

Noting concerns expressed by Parties on the downward trend of development assistance in the past few years,

Noting also the lack of comprehensive information about trends in development assistance with respect to biological diversity,

Reaffirming the need to continue the implementation of decision III/6, paragraph 4, with regard to the provision of standardized information on financial support from developed country Parties for the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Requests the Executive Secretary to prepare, for consideration by the Parties at the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, a report on additional financial resources to include proposals for:

(a) Monitoring financial support for the implementation of the Convention;

(b) Possible collaboration with international organizations, institutions, conventions and agreements of relevance;

(c) Exploring possibilities for additional financial support to elements in the programme of work outlined in decision IV/16, annex II;

(d) Examining the constraints to, opportunities for and implications of private sector support for the implementation of the Convention.

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IV/13. Additional guidance to the financial mechanism

The Conference of the Parties,

Bearing in mind Articles 20 and 21 of the Convention,

Taking into account the guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties at its first, second and third meetings to the Global Environment Facility,

Decides to provide the following additional guidance to the Global Environment Facility in the provision of financial resources, in conformity with decisions I/2, II/6 and III/5 of the Conference of the Parties. In this regard, the Global Environment Facility shall provide financial resources to developing countries for country-driven activities and programmes, consistent with national priorities and objectives, recognizing that economic and social development and poverty eradication are the first and overriding priorities of developing countries:

The Global Environment Facility should:

1. Provide adequate and timely support for country-driven projects at national, regional and subregional levels addressing the issue of alien species in accordance with decision IV/1 C;
2. Provide financial resources for country-driven activities within the context of its operation programmes to participate in the Global Taxonomy Initiative which take into account as appropriate, elements of the Suggestions for Action contained in the annex to decision IV/1 D;
3. Within the context of implementing national biological diversity strategies and action plans, provide adequate and timely support to eligible projects which help Parties to develop and implement national, sectoral and cross-sectoral plans for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity of inland water ecosystems in accordance with decision IV/4;
4. In accordance with decision IV/7 and with Article 7 of the Convention and also within the context of implementing national biological diversity strategies and plans, provide adequate and timely financial support to Parties for projects and capacity-building activities for implementing the programme of work of forest biological diversity at the national, regional and subregional levels and the use of the clearing-house mechanism to include activities that contribute to halting and addressing deforestation, basic assessments and monitoring of forest biological diversity, including taxonomic studies and inventories, focusing on forest species, other important components of forest biological diversity and ecosystems under threat;
5. In accordance with decision IV/2:
 - (a) Support capacity-building activities and country-driven pilot projects focused on priority areas, as critical components in the implementation of the clearing-house mechanism at the national, subregional, biogeographic, and regional levels, both during and after the pilot phase;

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(b) Provide, as appropriate, increased support, in the framework of country-driven projects to promote the objectives of the Convention, to establish and strengthen biodiversity information systems such as, inter alia, training, technology and processes related to the collection, organization, maintenance and updating of data and information and its communication to users through the clearing-house mechanism;

(c) Evaluate at the end of the clearing-house mechanism pilot phase the experience of the Global Environment Facility's support for developing countries' activities, to consider additional efforts to meet the increasing interest in taking part in and having access to the clearing-house mechanism, including in regional networking, and to report to the Conference of the Parties prior to the next meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice;

6. Continue to provide financial assistance for the preparation of national reports, having regard to the constraints and needs identified by Parties in their first national reports, in accordance with decision IV/14;

7. Provide adequate and timely support for the design and approaches relevant to the implementation of incentive measures, including, where necessary, assessment of biological diversity of the relevant ecosystems, capacity-building necessary for the design and implementation of incentive measures and the development of appropriate legal and policy frameworks, and projects with components that provide for these incentives, in accordance with decision IV/10;

8. In accordance with decision IV/8, provide support for:

(a) Stock-taking activities, such as, for example, assessments of current legislative, administrative and policy measures on access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing, evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of a country's institutional and human capacity, and promotion of consensus-building among its different stakeholders;

(b) Formulation of access and benefit-sharing mechanisms at the national, subregional and regional levels, including monitoring, assessment, and incentive measures;

(c) Capacity-building on measures on access to genetic resources and sharing of benefits, including capacity-building on economic valuation of genetic resources;

(d) Within biodiversity projects, other specific benefit-sharing initiatives such as support for entrepreneurial developments by local and indigenous communities, facilitation of financial sustainability of projects promoting the sustainable use of genetic resources, and appropriate targeted research components.

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IV/14. National reports by Parties

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling Article 26 and Article 23, paragraph 4 (a) of the Convention,

Recalling further decision II/17 on the form and intervals of national reports,

Noting the difficulty experienced by Parties in preparing their national reports and that the first national reports varied in length and scope and that further guidelines are needed to simplify and streamline the national reporting process,

Welcoming the number of first national reports received by the Executive Secretary,

1. Encourages those Parties that have submitted interim reports to submit a full report as soon as they are in a position to do so, and urges those that have yet to submit their first national report to do so as soon as they can and, in any event, no later than 31 December 1998;
2. Requests the Executive Secretary to prepare, in time for the fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, a revised version of the report referred to in decision II/17 on the basis of the national reports received and other relevant information;
3. Requests the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, at its fourth meeting, to consider the report of the Executive Secretary and to provide the Conference of the Parties, at its fifth meeting, with advice on the intervals and form of future national reports, taking into account the elements contained in the Annex to the present decision. This advice should cover the nature of the information needed from Parties in order to assess the state of implementation of the Convention; recommendations on improving the reporting process, through guidelines on format, style, length and treatment with a view to ensuring comparability between national reports; and identification of ways and means to further facilitate national implementation of the Convention;
4. Urges developed country Parties to include in their national reports information, in a standardized form, on their financial support for the objectives of the Convention;
5. Requests the Global Environment Facility, as the operating entity of the financial mechanism, to continue to provide financial assistance for the preparation of national reports, having regard to the constraints and needs identified by Parties in their first national reports.

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Annex

ELEMENTS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON
SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE
ON THE PREPARATION OF NATIONAL REPORTS

1. A standard format should be developed which would allow comparability, but provide enough flexibility to give appropriate scope to reflect national conditions and capacities.
2. The focus of subsequent national reports should be consistent with the work programme of the Convention, taking into account decisions of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
3. Information contained in national reports should include, insofar as possible, a report on the progress of the implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans, and on lessons learned, including identification of gaps in national capacity for policy research and analysis, along with technical and financial requirements for meeting needs identified in the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and the possible use of nationally developed indicators.
4. Parties are encouraged to consider the participation of all relevant stakeholders in the preparation and use of national reports.

IV/15. The relationship of the Convention on Biological Diversity with the Commission on Sustainable Development and biodiversity-related conventions, other international agreements, institutions and processes of relevance

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decisions II/13, III/17 and III/21,

Recalling also Article 16, paragraph 5, Article 22, paragraph 1, Article 23, paragraph 4 (h), and Article 24, paragraph 1 (d), of the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Reaffirming the importance of mutually supportive activities under the Convention on Biological Diversity and activities under other conventions, processes and institutions relevant to the achievement of the objectives of the Convention, while avoiding unnecessary duplication of activities and costs on the part of Parties and the organs of the Convention,

Welcoming the progress made in the development of cooperative arrangements with relevant conventions, institutions and processes as reported by the Executive Secretary to its fourth meeting, while recognizing the need to further improve the method of work of the Conference of the Parties in terms of assessing work done in the context of these cooperative arrangements,

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Noting that the Commission on Sustainable Development in its review of the implementation of Agenda 21, at the next comprehensive review of progress achieved in the implementation of Agenda 21 by the General Assembly in the year 2002, will require input on the status of implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity,

1. Expresses its appreciation to those conventions and institutions that provided documentation and information to the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting;

2. Endorses the Joint Work Plan with the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar) contained in UNEP/CBD/COP/4/Inf.8, as recommended by decisions III/21 and IV/4 as a framework for enhanced cooperation between these conventions and encourages its implementation;

3. Also endorses the memoranda of cooperation entered into by the Executive Secretary with: the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, the World Bank, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Conservation Union (IUCN), the Cartagena Convention, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD);

4. Requests that the Executive Secretary, on behalf of the Conference of the Parties, consider matters of liaison, cooperation and collaboration as a key responsibility;

5. Requests the Executive Secretary to continue to coordinate with the secretariats of relevant biodiversity-related conventions, institutions and processes, and to cooperate with related processes at regional and subregional levels, with a view to:

(a) Facilitating the exchange of information and experience;

(b) Exploring the possibility of procedures for promoting efficiencies between the reporting requirements of Parties under those instruments and conventions;

(c) Exploring the possibility of developing joint work programmes, similar to that between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention on Wetlands referred to above, between the Convention on Biological Diversity and other relevant institutions and conventions;

(d) Exploring modalities, where appropriate, for suitable liaison arrangements in relevant centres, in particular Geneva and/or New York, for the purpose of enhancing linkages with relevant processes, which will assist in achieving greater coherence in these intergovernmental organizations and processes;

6. Encourages the Executive Secretary to develop relationships with other processes with a view to fostering good management practices in areas such as: methods and approaches to deal with protected areas; ecosystem and bioregional approaches to protected area management and sustainable use of

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biological diversity; mechanisms to enhance stakeholder involvement; methods for developing systems plans and integrating biological diversity considerations into sectoral strategies and plans; and transboundary protected areas;

7. Takes note of the Executive Secretary's observer status in the Committee on Trade and Environment of the World Trade Organization for the purpose of representing the Convention on Biological Diversity in meetings whose agendas have relevance to the Convention;

8. Also notes that some Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, particularly many developing countries, are not members of the World Trade Organization, and are therefore limited in their abilities to present their concerns regarding biological diversity at the World Trade Organization;

9. Stresses the need to ensure consistency in implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity and the World Trade Organization agreements, including the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights, with a view to promoting increased mutual supportiveness and integration of biological diversity concerns and the protection of intellectual property rights, and invites the World Trade Organization to consider how to achieve these objectives in the light of Article 16, paragraph 5, of the Convention, taking into account the planned review of Article 27, paragraph 3 (b), of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights in 1999;

10. Emphasizes that further work is required to help develop a common appreciation of the relationship between intellectual property rights and the relevant provisions of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights and the Convention on Biological Diversity, in particular on issues relating to technology transfer and conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources, including the protection of knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.

11. Requests the Executive Secretary to enhance cooperation with the World Intellectual Property Organization with respect to the Organization's programme of work;

12. Also requests the Executive Secretary to prepare a report on the implementation of the Convention to assist the Conference of the Parties to contribute to the review of the implementation of Agenda 21 in the year 2002;

13. Further requests the Executive Secretary to strengthen relationships with, in particular, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol, and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, with a view to making implementation activities and institutional arrangements mutually supportive;

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14. Takes note of the Programme for the further implementation of Agenda 21 and requests Parties to submit information to the Executive Secretary on, inter alia:

- (a) Current threats to biological diversity from tourism activities;
- (b) Basic approaches, strategies and instruments that demonstrate where tourism and the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity are mutually supportive;
- (c) The involvement of the private sector, local and indigenous communities in establishing sustainable tourism practices;
- (d) Collaborative efforts at the regional and the subregional levels, including case studies of particular relevance;
- (e) Infrastructure planning and regional and land-use planning for tourism that have incorporated consideration of the Convention on Biological Diversity; or
- (f) Consideration of policies and activities which are supportive of its aims, in order to initiate a process of exchange of experiences, knowledge and best practices, under the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, in particular at the national and regional levels on sustainable tourism and biological diversity within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity, including regarding protected areas;

15. Further invites Parties to provide information to the Executive Secretary on the biodiversity-related activities of the Commission on Sustainable Development, such as:

- (a) Comprehensive review of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;
- (b) Oceans and seas, and freshwater resources;
- (c) Consumption and production patterns;

16. Requests the Executive Secretary to provide inputs based on the above submissions to the discussion at the Commission on Sustainable Development at its seventh session to ensure that any future work of the Commission on Sustainable Development in these areas fully incorporates biological diversity considerations and makes full use of existing materials and national guidelines;

17. Requests the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting on the collaborative efforts with the Commission on Sustainable Development and with the Committee on Trade and Environment of the World Trade Organization, including suggestions for improving this relationship.

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IV/16. Institutional matters and the programme of work

The Conference of the Parties,

Recognizing the urgency of the effective and full implementation of the Convention,

Aware of the difficulties experienced in the operations of the Convention and in achieving its full and effective implementation,

Recalling the primacy of the role of the Conference of the Parties as provided for in Article 23, paragraph 4, of the Convention,

Conscious of the need to achieve the full participation of Parties in the implementation of the Convention and emphasising the need for open and transparent preparations for the Conference of the Parties,

Underscoring the need for the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to focus on scientific, technical and technological aspects of the Convention in accordance with its Article 25,

1. Decides that the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties will take place in the second quarter of 2000 for a period of two weeks;

2. Decides also to hold an open-ended meeting to consider possible arrangements to improve preparations for and conduct of the meetings of the Conference of the Parties, taking into account proposals made at the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, including a preparatory discussion of the item on access to genetic resources on the agenda of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. This meeting will be of three days duration and is to be held in conjunction with one of the meetings planned for 1999;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary to analyse for the meeting described in paragraph 2 of the present decision the development and experience of other conventions and agreements and their potential relevance to the work of the Convention;

4. Decides to consider at its fifth meeting the results of the meeting described in paragraph 2 of the present decision and the experience gained from the changes in the functioning of the Convention included in the present decision, with a view to taking a decision on the need for further measures to improve preparations for and conduct of meetings of the Conference of Parties;

5. Requests the Executive Secretary, subject to necessary voluntary contributions, to organize regional/subregional meetings to consider ways and means of implementing the Convention and the decisions of the Conference of the Parties;

6. Requests the Executive Secretary when preparing the provisional annotated agenda to clearly indicate whether matters are for information or for consideration and when preparing the supporting documentation to include suggestion of elements for draft decisions as appropriate;

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7. Invites Parties to forward any proposed decisions to the Executive Secretary in sufficient time to enable him/her to circulate those draft decisions to all Parties at least three weeks before the commencement of meetings of the Conference of the Parties;

8. Requests the Executive Secretary to distribute the provisional annotated agenda for ordinary meetings of the Conference of the Parties as well as the principal documents for the meeting, in the official languages of the United Nations, as early as possible and in reasonable time for any regional preparatory meetings organized by the Executive Secretary and, in any event, preferably six months before the opening of its ordinary meetings;

9. Invites Parties to notify the Executive Secretary of any additional items they wish to add to the provisional agenda at least six weeks before the opening of the meeting;

10. Requests the Executive Secretary to prepare, in time for the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties, a handbook that relates the decisions of the Conference of the Parties, and other material relevant to the operation of the Convention, as well as to the text of the Convention;

11. Adopts the modus operandi of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice as set out in annex I to the present decision;

12. Decides that the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice shall hold two meetings, each of five days duration, before next ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

13. Decides that, while the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice should consider the financial implications of its proposals, its recommendations will only include advice to the Conference of the Parties regarding financial matters, including guidance to the financial mechanism, when the Conference of the Parties has so requested;

14. Decides also that in future requests to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, the Conference of the Parties will make clear whether it expects to receive information for noting, recommendations for approval, or advice for decisions by the Conference of Parties, and that, likewise, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, when submitting recommendations to the Conference of the Parties, should indicate clearly whether it expects the Conference of the Parties to note, approve or decide on the matter in question;

15. Requests its Bureau to liaise on a regular basis with the bureaux of its subsidiary bodies, in particular the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, and, to this end, requests the Executive Secretary to organize wherever possible back-to-back meetings of the bureaux of the Conference of the Parties and the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice;

16. Adopts the programme of work for the period from the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties until the seventh meeting of the Conference as contained in annex II to the present decision;

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17. Recognizes that it may be necessary for the Executive Secretary, with the guidance of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties, to adjust further the servicing of the programme of work in light of the resources available to the Secretariat;

18. Decides to review the programme of work at each ordinary meeting of the Conference, in the light of developments in the implementation of the Convention;

19. Requests the Executive Secretary to prepare the provisional agenda of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in agreement with the President within the framework of the programme of work contained in annex II to the present decision;

20. Requests the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and other subsidiary bodies to prepare proposals for their programmes of work based on the priorities set out in annex II to the present decision, with a view to streamlining and focusing the agendas of their meetings;

21. Requests the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, taking into account its proposals for the programme of work developed under paragraph 16 of the present decision, to advise the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the terms of reference for the ad hoc technical expert groups on thematic areas. The terms of reference should take into account the need, inter alia, to provide a peer-reviewed scientific and technical assessment of the status and trends of, and impacts on, biological diversity, including the effectiveness of the types of measures for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.

Annex I

MODUS OPERANDI OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

I. Functions

1. The functions of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice are those contained in Article 25 of the Convention. Accordingly, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice will fulfil its mandate under the authority of, and in accordance with, guidance laid down by the Conference of the Parties, and upon its request.

2. Pursuant to Article 25, paragraph 3, of the Convention, the functions, terms of reference, organization and operation of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice may be further elaborated, for approval by the Conference of the Parties.

II. Rules of procedure

3. The rules of procedure for meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity shall apply, in accordance with rule 26, paragraph 5, mutatis mutandis, to the proceedings of the Subsidiary

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Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice. Therefore, rule 18, on credentials, will not apply.

4. In accordance with rule 52, the official and working languages of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice will be those of the United Nations Organization. The proceedings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice will be carried out in the working languages of the Conference of the Parties.

5. In order to facilitate continuity in the work of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and taking into account the technical and scientific character of the input of the Subsidiary Body, the terms of office of members of its Bureau will be two years. At each meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice one of the two regional representatives shall be elected in order to achieve staggered terms of office. The members of the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body will take office at the end of the meeting at which they are elected.

6. The Chairman of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, elected at an ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties, shall take office from the end of the next ordinary meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and remain in office until his/her successor takes office. As a general rule the chairmanship of the Subsidiary Body shall rotate among United Nations regional groups. Candidates for the Chair of the Subsidiary Body should be recognized experts, qualified in the field of biological diversity and experienced in the process of the Convention and the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.

III. Frequency and timing of meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

7. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice shall meet at intervals to be determined by the Conference of the Parties and sufficiently in advance of each regular meeting of the Conference of the Parties, for a duration to be determined by the Conference of the Parties which should not normally exceed five days. The number and length of the meetings and activities of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and its organs should be reflected in the budget adopted by the Conference of the Parties or other sources of extra budgetary funding.

IV. Documentation

8. The documentation prepared for meetings will be distributed three months before the meeting in the working languages of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, will be concrete, focused draft technical reports and will include proposed conclusions and recommendations for consideration of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.

9. To facilitate the preparation of documentation, and in order to avoid duplication of efforts and ensure the use of available scientific, technical and technological competence available within international and regional organizations, including non-governmental organizations and scientific unions

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and societies, qualified in fields relating to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, the Executive Secretary may establish, in consultation with the Chairman and the other members of the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body, liaison groups, as appropriate. Such liaison groups will depend on the resources available.

V. Organization of work during the meetings

10. Each meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice will propose to the Conference of the Parties, in light of the programme of work for the Conference of the Parties and the Subsidiary Body, a particular theme as the focus of work for the following meeting of the Subsidiary Body.

11. Two open-ended sessional working groups of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice could be established and operate simultaneously during meetings of the Subsidiary Body. They shall be established on the basis of well-defined terms of reference, and will be open to all Parties and observers. The financial implications of these arrangements should be reflected in the budget of the Convention.

VI. Ad hoc technical expert group meetings

12. A limited number of ad hoc technical expert groups on specific priority issues on the programme of work of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice may be established, as required, for a limited duration. The establishment of such ad hoc technical expert groups would be guided by the following elements:

(a) The ad hoc technical expert groups should draw on the existing knowledge and competence available within, and liaise with, international, regional and national organizations, including non-governmental organizations and the scientific community in fields relevant to this Convention;

(b) The Executive Secretary will nominate scientific and technical experts drawn from the roster for the ad hoc technical experts groups in consultation with the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice. The ad hoc technical expert groups shall be composed of no more than fifteen experts competent in the relevant field of expertise, with due regard to geographical representation and to the special conditions of least-developed countries and small island developing States;

(c) The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice will recommend the exact duration and specific terms of reference, when establishing such expert groups for the approval of the Conference of the Parties;

(d) Expert groups will be encouraged to use innovative means of communication and to minimize the need for face-to-face meetings;

(e) The ad hoc technical expert groups may also convene meetings parallel to the proceedings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice;

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(f) Reports produced by the ad hoc technical expert groups should, as a general rule be submitted for peer review;

(g) All efforts will be made to provide adequate voluntary financial assistance for the participation of experts in the expert groups from developing countries and countries with economies in transition Parties; and

(h) The number of ad hoc technical expert groups active each year will be limited to the minimum necessary and will depend on the amount of resources designated to the Subsidiary Body by the Conference of the Parties in its budget or on the availability of extra-budgetary resources.

VII. Contribution of non-governmental organizations

13. The scientific and technical contribution of non-governmental organizations to the fulfilment of the mandate of the Subsidiary Body will be strongly encouraged in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention and the rules of procedure for meetings of the Conference of the Parties.

VIII. Cooperation with other relevant bodies

14. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice shall cooperate with other relevant international, regional and national organizations, under the guidance of the Convention of the Parties, thus building upon the vast experience and knowledge available.

15. In this context, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice emphasizes the importance of research to further increase available knowledge and reduce uncertainties, and recommends that the Conference of the Parties consider this issue in relation to the financial resources required for the effective implementation of the Convention.

IX. Regional and subregional preparatory meetings

16. Regional and subregional meetings for the preparation of regular meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice may be organized as appropriate for specific items. The possibility of combining such meetings with other scientific regional meetings, in order to make maximum use of available resources, should be considered. The convening of such regional and subregional meetings will be subject to the availability of voluntary financial contributions.

17. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice should, in the fulfilment of its mandate, draw upon the contributions of the existing regional and subregional intergovernmental organizations or initiatives.

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X. Focal points

18. A list of focal points and focal persons to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice shall be established and regularly updated by the Executive Secretary, on the basis of information provided by Parties and other relevant regional, subregional and intergovernmental organizations.

XI. Roster of experts

19. Rosters of experts in the relevant fields of the Convention will be compiled by the Executive Secretary on the basis of input from Parties and, as appropriate, from other countries and relevant bodies. The rosters will be administered by the Executive Secretary in an efficient, effective and transparent manner. The Executive Secretary together with the national focal points and relevant bodies, will regularly update the rosters of experts, including the information on each expert. The information on the rosters will be made accessible through the clearing-house mechanism, save to the extent that an expert objects to information concerning him/her being released.

20. The Executive Secretary as well as the ad hoc technical expert groups and liaison groups referred to above, should make full use of such rosters of experts, inter alia, through the type of consultations as described in paragraph 21 below. The Executive Secretary will inform Parties, at least one month prior to the convening of a meeting of experts, of the details of the meeting and of the experts invited.

21. The experts on the rosters are invited to make available, upon request of the Executive Secretary, Parties or other countries and relevant bodies, their specific expertise in order to contribute to the further development of the scientific, technical and technological issues of the work programme of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Such requests could entail, inter alia, peer reviews, questionnaires, clarifications or examinations of scientific, technological and technical issues, specific contributions to the compilation of documents, participation in global and regional workshops and assisting in connecting the Convention-process to international, regional and national scientific, technical and technological processes.

Annex II

THE PROGRAMME OF WORK

Meeting of the Conference of the Parties	Items for in-depth consideration
Fifth	Dryland, mediterranean, arid, semi-arid, grassland and savannah ecosystems Sustainable use, including tourism Access to genetic resources
Sixth	Forest ecosystems Alien species Benefit-sharing
Seventh	Mountain ecosystems Protected areas Transfer of technology and technology cooperation

IV/17. Programme budget for the biennium 1999-2000

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling paragraph 7 of the financial rules for the Conference of the Parties,

Recalling also decisions III/23 and III/24, adopted at its third session,

Having considered the proposed budget for the biennium 1999-2000 submitted by the Executive Secretary,

1. Endorses the administrative arrangements between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, contained in annex III of document UNEP/CBD/COP/4/24, which entered into force on 30 June 1997, and requests the Executive Secretary to report regularly to the Conference of the Parties, through its Bureau, on the implementation of its provisions;

2. Approves the programme budget for the biennium 1999-2000, amounting to US\$ 17,301,600 for the purposes specified in table 1 below;

3. Notes the statement of the Trustee that there is an accumulated surplus in the amount of US\$ 3,616,566 and decides to use this amount on an exceptional basis to offset the contributions from Parties during the biennium 1999-2000;

4. Welcomes the annual contribution of US\$ 1,000,000 by the host Government to offset the contributions from Parties for the biennium 1999-2000;

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5. Approves the staffing table for the programme budget as contained in table 2 below and requests that all staff positions be filled expeditiously;

6. Decides that the three Trust Funds (BY, BE, BZ) for the Convention shall be extended for the period of two years, beginning 1 January 2000 and ending 31 December 2001;

7. Authorizes the Executive Secretary to make transfers, between each of the main appropriation lines set out in table 1 below, up to an aggregate limit of 15 per cent of the total estimated for those appropriation lines, provided that a further limitation of up to a maximum 25 per cent of each such appropriation line shall apply;

8. Invites all Parties to the Convention to note that contributions to the core budget are due on 1 January of each year in accordance with paragraph 4 of the financial rules and to pay promptly and in full, for each of the years 1999 and 2000, the contributions required to finance expenditures approved under paragraph 2 above, as offset by surpluses noted in paragraph 3 and contributions noted under paragraph 4 of the present decision and, in this regard, requests the Executive Secretary to notify all Parties of the amount of their contributions by 1 October of the year preceding the year in which their contributions are due;

9. Urges all Parties and States not Parties to the Convention, as well as governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other sources, to contribute to the special trust funds;

10. Approves the supplementary amount of US\$ 542,400 to the 1998 budget for the additional activity related to the Biosafety Protocol, to be drawn from the surpluses in addition to those referred to in paragraph 3 above;

11. Decides that the amount of US\$300,000 for servicing of the Working Group on Article 8(j) shall be financed from the surpluses in addition to those referred to in paragraph 3 above;

12. Takes note of the funding estimates for the Special Voluntary Trust Fund (BE) for Additional Voluntary Contributions in Support of Approved Activities for the Biennium 1999-2000 specified by the Executive Secretary and included in Table 3 below, and invites Parties to make contributions to this fund;

13. Takes note of the funding estimates for the Special Voluntary Trust Fund (BZ) for Facilitating Participation of Parties in the Convention Process for the Biennium 1999-2000 specified by the Executive Secretary and included in table 4 below, and invites Parties to make contributions to this fund;

14. Authorizes the Trustee to transfer the unspent balance of additional special voluntary contributions received prior to 1997 from the Trust Fund for the Convention (BY) to the Special Trust Fund (BE) for

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additional activities approved by the Conference of the Parties and requests the Executive Secretary to consult with the original donor country/countries on the use of these funds for additional activities approved by the Conference of the Parties;

15. Requests the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties at its fifth session on income and budget performance, and to propose any adjustments that might be needed in the Convention budget for the biennium 1999-2000.

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Table 1

BIENNIUM BUDGET OF THE TRUST FUND FOR THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
1999-2000
(thousands of United States dollars)

	1999	2000
Expenditure		
I. Programmes		
Executive direction and management and intergovernmental Affairs	813.5	1 839.1
Scientific, technical and technological matters	1 989.7	2 069.9
Implementation and communication	1 979.8	1 600.2
Biosafety Protocol	1 275.2	1 078.8
Support Service	1 289.6	1 375.4
Subtotal (I)	7 347.8	7 963.4
II. Payments to the United Nations Environment Programme		
Programme support costs	955.2	1 035.2
Subtotal (II)	955.2	1 035.2
III. Contingencies	0.0	0.0
Subtotal (III)	0.0	0.0
Total Expenditure Lines (I + II + III)	8 303.0	8 998.6
Income		
I. Contribution from the host Government	1 000.0	1 000.0
II. Savings from previous years (surplus)	1 603.0	2 013.6
Total Income	2 603.0	3 013.6
Budget to be shared by Parties	5 700.0	5 985.0

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Table 2

STAFFING TABLE

1999-2000

		1998	1999	2000
A.	Professional category and above			
	D-2	1	1	1
	D-1	3	3	3
	P-5	1	1	1
	P-4	7	10	10
	P-3	5	9	9
	P-2	5	3	3
	Total A	22	27	27
B.	General service category	18	20	20
	Total B	18	20	20
	TOTAL (A+B)	40	47	47

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Table 3

SPECIAL VOLUNTARY TRUST FUND (BE) FOR ADDITIONAL VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS
IN SUPPORT OF APPROVED ACTIVITIES FOR THE BIENNIUM 1999-2000
(thousands of United States dollars)

	1999	2000
A. <u>Servicing meetings</u>		
Regional meetings for the Conference of the Parties	186.2	0.0
Expert meetings and workshops	482.6	427.2
B. Travel	1 847.5	1 673.4
C. Consultants	15.0	15.8
D. Printing of materials	60.0	0.0
Subtotal (I)	2 591.3	2 116.4
II. Payments to the United Nations Environment		
Programme support costs	336.9	275.1
Subtotal (II)	336.9	275.1
Total Expenditure Lines (I + II)	2 928.2	2 391.5
Total Proposed Income	0.0	0.0
Budget to be financed from voluntary contributions	2 928.2	2 391.5

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Table 4

SPECIAL VOLUNTARY TRUST FUND (BZ) FOR FACILITATING PARTICIPATION OF
PARTIES IN THE CONVENTION PROCESS FOR THE BIENNIUM 1999-2000(*)
(thousands of United States dollars)

	1999	2000
Conference of the Parties	0	837.4
Regional meetings for the Conference of the Parties	525.6	0.0
Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice	406.0	559.5
Working Group on Article 8(j)	406.0	559.5
Inter-sessional meeting on <u>modus operandi</u> and access/benefit-sharing	319.0	0.0
Biosafety Working Group 6/COP	725.0	0.0
Intergovernmental Committee	0.0	685.1
Subtotal (I)	2 381.6	2 641.5
II. Payments to the United Nations Environment Programme		
Programme support costs	309.6	343.4
Subtotal (II)	309.6	343.4
Total Expenditure Lines (I + II)	2 691.2	2 984.9
Total Income	0.0	0.0
Budget to be financed from voluntary contributions	2 691.2	2 984.9

(*) Developing Country Parties, in particular the least developed and small island developing States, and other Parties with economies in transition.

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Table 5

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE TRUST FUND FOR THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
FOR THE BIENNium 1999-2000

Party	United Nations scale of assessments 1999 (per cent)	Scale with 25% ceiling, no LDC paying more than 0.01% (per cent)	Contributions as per 1 January 1999 (US\$)	United Nations scale of assessments 2000 (per cent)	Scale with 25% ceiling, no LDC paying more than 0.01% (per cent)	Contributions as per 1 January 2000 (US\$)	Total contributions 1999-2000 (US\$)
Albania	0.003	0.004	226	0.003	0.004	240	466
Algeria	0.094	0.124	7,075	0.086	0.115	6,877	13,952
Angola	0.010	0.013	753	0.010	0.013	800	1,552
Antigua and Barbuda	0.002	0.003	151	0.002	0.003	160	310
Argentina	1.024	1.352	77,074	1.103	1.474	88,201	165,275
Armenia	0.011	0.015	828	0.006	0.008	480	1,308
Australia	1.482	1.957	111,547	1.483	1.981	118,588	230,134
Austria	0.941	1.243	70,827	0.942	1.259	75,327	146,154
Bahamas	0.015	0.020	1,129	0.015	0.020	1,199	2,328
Bahrain	0.017	0.022	1,280	0.017	0.023	1,359	2,639
Bangladesh	0.010	0.013	753	0.010	0.013	800	1,552
Barbados	0.008	0.011	602	0.008	0.011	640	1,242
Belarus	0.082	0.108	6,172	0.057	0.076	4,558	10,730
Belgium	1.103	1.456	83,020	1.104	1.475	88,281	171,301
Belize	0.001	0.001	75	0.001	0.001	80	155
Benin	0.002	0.003	151	0.002	0.003	160	310
Bhutan	0.001	0.001	75	0.001	0.001	80	155
Bolivia	0.007	0.009	527	0.007	0.009	560	1,087
Botswana	0.010	0.013	753	0.010	0.013	800	1,552
Brazil	1.470	1.941	110,644	1.471	1.965	117,628	228,272
Bulgaria	0.019	0.025	1,430	0.011	0.015	880	2,310
Burkina Faso	0.002	0.003	151	0.002	0.003	160	310
Burundi	0.001	0.001	75	0.001	0.001	80	155
Cambodia	0.001	0.001	75	0.001	0.001	80	155
Cameroon	0.013	0.017	978	0.013	0.017	1,040	2,018
Canada	2.754	3.637	207,287	2.732	3.650	218,464	425,751
Cape Verde	0.002	0.003	151	0.002	0.003	160	310
Central African Republic	0.001	0.001	75	0.001	0.001	80	155
Chad	0.001	0.001	75	0.001	0.001	80	155
Chile	0.131	0.173	9,860	0.036	0.048	2,879	12,739

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Party	United Nations scale of assessments 1999 (per cent)	Scale with 25% ceiling, no LDC paying more than 0.01% (per cent)	Contributions as per 1 January 1999 (US\$)	United Nations scale of assessments 2000 (per cent)	Scale with 25% ceiling, no LDC paying more than 0.01% (per cent)	Contributions as per 1 January 2000 (US\$)	Total contributions 1999-2000 (US\$)
China	0.973	1.285	73,236	0.995	1.329	79,565	152,800
Colombia	0.109	0.144	8,204	0.109	0.146	8,716	16,920
Comoros	0.001	0.001	75	0.001	0.001	80	155
Congo	0.003	0.004	226	0.003	0.004	240	466
Cook Islands	0.001	0.001	75	0.001	0.001	80	155
Costa Rica	0.016	0.021	1,204	0.016	0.021	1,279	2,484
Cote d'Ivoire	0.009	0.012	677	0.009	0.012	720	1,397
Croatia	0.036	0.048	2,710	0.030	0.040	2,399	5,109
Cuba	0.026	0.034	1,957	0.024	0.032	1,919	3,876
Cyprus	0.034	0.045	2,559	0.034	0.045	2,719	5,278
Czech Republic	0.121	0.160	9,107	0.107	0.143	8,556	17,664
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	0.019	0.025	1,430	0.015	0.020	1,199	2,630
Democratic Republic of the Congo	0.007	0.009	527	0.007	0.009	560	1,087
Denmark	0.691	0.912	52,010	0.692	0.925	55,336	107,346
Djibouti	0.001	0.001	75	0.001	0.001	80	155
Dominica	0.001	0.001	75	0.001	0.001	80	155
Dominican Republic	0.015	0.020	1,129	0.015	0.020	1,199	2,328
Ecuador	0.020	0.026	1,505	0.020	0.027	1,599	3,105
Egypt	0.065	0.086	4,892	0.065	0.087	5,198	10,090
El Salvador	0.012	0.016	903	0.012	0.016	960	1,863
Equatorial Guinea	0.001	0.001	75	0.001	0.001	80	155
Eritrea	0.001	0.001	75	0.001	0.001	80	155
Estonia	0.015	0.020	1,129	0.012	0.016	960	2,089
Ethiopia	0.006	0.008	452	0.006	0.008	480	931
European Community	2.500	2.500	142,500	2.500	2.500	149,625	292,125
Fiji	0.004	0.005	301	0.004	0.005	320	621
Finland	0.542	0.716	40,795	0.543	0.725	43,421	84,216
France	6.540	8.636	492,251	6.545	8.745	523,369	1,015,620
Gabon	0.015	0.020	1,129	0.015	0.020	1,199	2,328
Gambia	0.001	0.001	75	0.001	0.001	80	155
Georgia	0.019	0.025	1,430	0.007	0.009	560	1,990
Germany	9.808	12.951	738,226	9.857	13.170	788,212	1,526,438

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Party	United Nations scale of assessments 1999 (per cent)	Scale with 25% ceiling, no LDC paying more than 0.01% (per cent)	Contributions as per 1 January 1999 (US\$)	United Nations scale of assessments 2000 (per cent)	Scale with 25% ceiling, no LDC paying more than 0.01% (per cent)	Contributions as per 1 January 2000 (US\$)	Total contributions 1999-2000 (US\$)
Ghana	0.007	0.009	527	0.007	0.009	560	1,087
Greece	0.351	0.463	26,419	0.351	0.469	28,068	54,487
Grenada	0.001	0.001	75	0.001	0.001	80	155
Guatemala	0.018	0.024	1,355	0.018	0.024	1,439	2,794
Guinea	0.003	0.004	226	0.003	0.004	240	466
Guinea-Bissau	0.001	0.001	75	0.001	0.001	80	155
Guyana	0.001	0.001	75	0.001	0.001	80	155
Haiti	0.002	0.003	151	0.002	0.003	160	310
Honduras	0.003	0.004	226	0.003	0.004	240	466
Hungary	0.120	0.158	9,032	0.120	0.160	9,596	18,628
Iceland	0.032	0.042	2,409	0.032	0.043	2,559	4,967
India	0.299	0.395	22,505	0.299	0.399	23,909	46,415
Indonesia	0.184	0.243	13,849	0.188	0.251	15,033	28,883
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	0.193	0.255	14,527	0.161	0.215	12,874	27,401
Ireland	0.224	0.296	16,860	0.224	0.299	17,912	34,772
Israel	0.345	0.456	25,967	0.350	0.468	27,988	53,955
Italy	5.432	7.173	408,854	5.437	7.264	434,768	843,622
Jamaica	0.006	0.008	452	0.006	0.008	480	931
Japan	19.984	25.000	1,425,000	20.573	25.000	1,496,250	2,921,250
Jordan	0.006	0.008	452	0.006	0.008	480	931
Kazakstan	0.066	0.087	4,968	0.048	0.064	3,838	8,806
Kenya	0.007	0.009	527	0.007	0.009	560	1,087
Kiribati	0.001	0.001	75	0.001	0.001	80	155
Kyrgyzstan	0.008	0.011	602	0.006	0.008	480	1,082
Lao People's Democratic Republic	0.001	0.001	75	0.001	0.001	80	155
Latvia	0.024	0.032	1,806	0.017	0.023	1,359	3,166
Lebanon	0.016	0.021	1,204	0.016	0.021	1,279	2,484
Lesotho	0.002	0.003	151	0.002	0.003	160	310
Liechtenstein	0.006	0.008	452	0.006	0.008	480	931
Lithuania	0.022	0.029	1,656	0.015	0.020	1,199	2,855
Luxembourg	0.068	0.090	5,118	0.068	0.091	5,438	10,556
Madagascar	0.003	0.004	226	0.003	0.004	240	466

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Party	United Nations scale of assessments 1999 (per cent)	Scale with 25% ceiling, no LDC paying more than 0.01% (per cent)	Contributions as per 1 January 1999 (US\$)	United Nations scale of assessments 2000 (per cent)	Scale with 25% ceiling, no LDC paying more than 0.01% (per cent)	Contributions as per 1 January 2000 (US\$)	Total contributions 1999-2000 (US\$)
Malawi	0.002	0.003	151	0.002	0.003	160	310
Malaysia	0.180	0.238	13,548	0.183	0.245	14,634	28,182
Maldives	0.001	0.001	75	0.001	0.001	80	155
Mali	0.002	0.003	151	0.002	0.003	160	310
Marshall Islands	0.001	0.001	75	0.001	0.001	80	155
Mauritania	0.001	0.001	75	0.001	0.001	80	155
Mauritius	0.009	0.012	677	0.009	0.012	720	1,397
Mexico	0.980	1.294	73,762	0.995	1.329	79,565	153,327
Micronesia (Federated States of)	0.001	0.001	75	0.001	0.001	80	155
Monaco	0.004	0.005	301	0.004	0.005	320	621
Mongolia	0.002	0.003	151	0.002	0.003	160	310
Morocco	0.041	0.054	3,086	0.041	0.055	3,279	6,365
Mozambique	0.001	0.001	75	0.001	0.001	80	155
Myanmar	0.008	0.011	602	0.008	0.011	640	1,242
Namibia	0.007	0.009	527	0.007	0.009	560	1,087
Nauru	0.001	0.001	75	0.001	0.001	80	155
Nepal	0.004	0.005	301	0.004	0.005	320	621
Netherlands	1.631	2.154	122,762	1.632	2.180	130,502	253,264
New Zealand	0.221	0.292	16,634	0.221	0.295	17,672	34,306
Nicaragua	0.001	0.001	75	0.001	0.001	80	155
Niue	0.001	0.001	75	0.001	0.001	80	155
Niger	0.002	0.003	151	0.002	0.003	160	310
Nigeria	0.040	0.053	3,011	0.032	0.043	2,559	5,570
Norway	0.610	0.805	45,913	0.610	0.815	48,778	94,692
Oman	0.051	0.067	3,839	0.051	0.068	4,078	7,917
Pakistan	0.059	0.078	4,441	0.059	0.079	4,718	9,159
Panama	0.013	0.017	978	0.013	0.017	1,040	2,018
Papua New Guinea	0.007	0.009	527	0.007	0.009	560	1,087
Paraguay	0.014	0.018	1,054	0.014	0.019	1,120	2,173
Peru	0.095	0.125	7,150	0.099	0.132	7,917	15,067
Philippines	0.080	0.106	6,021	0.081	0.108	6,477	12,499
Poland	0.207	0.273	15,580	0.196	0.262	15,673	31,254
Portugal	0.417	0.551	31,387	0.431	0.576	34,465	65,851

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Party	United Nations scale of assessments 1999 (per cent)	Scale with 25% ceiling, no LDC paying more than 0.01% (per cent)	Contributions as per 1 January 1999 (US\$)	United Nations scale of assessments 2000 (per cent)	Scale with 25% ceiling, no LDC paying more than 0.01% (per cent)	Contributions as per 1 January 2000 (US\$)	Total contributions 1999-2000 (US\$)
Qatar	0.033	0.044	2,484	0.033	0.044	2,639	5,123
Republic of Korea	0.994	1.313	74,816	1.006	1.344	80,444	155,261
Republic of Moldova	0.018	0.024	1,355	0.010	0.013	800	2,154
Romania	0.067	0.088	5,043	0.056	0.075	4,478	9,521
Russian Federation	1.487	1.964	111,923	1.077	1.439	86,122	198,045
Rwanda	0.001	0.001	75	0.001	0.001	80	155
Saint Kitts and Nevis	0.001	0.001	75	0.001	0.001	80	155
Saint Lucia	0.001	0.001	75	0.001	0.001	80	155
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	0.001	0.001	75	0.001	0.001	80	155
Samoa	0.001	0.001	75	0.001	0.001	80	155
San Marino	0.002	0.003	151	0.002	0.003	160	310
Senegal	0.006	0.008	452	0.006	0.008	480	931
Seychelles	0.002	0.003	151	0.002	0.003	160	310
Sierra Leone	0.001	0.001	75	0.001	0.001	80	155
Singapore	0.176	0.232	13,247	0.179	0.239	14,314	27,561
Slovakia	0.039	0.051	2,935	0.035	0.047	2,799	5,734
Slovenia	0.061	0.081	4,591	0.061	0.082	4,878	9,469
Solomon Islands	0.001	0.001	75	0.001	0.001	80	155
South Africa	0.366	0.483	27,548	0.366	0.489	29,267	56,815
Spain	2.589	3.419	194,868	2.591	3.462	207,189	402,057
Sri Lanka	0.012	0.016	903	0.012	0.016	960	1,863
Sudan	0.007	0.009	527	0.007	0.009	560	1,087
Suriname	0.004	0.005	301	0.004	0.005	320	621
Swaziland	0.002	0.003	151	0.002	0.003	160	310
Sweden	1.084	1.431	81,590	1.079	1.442	86,282	167,872
Switzerland	1.215	1.604	91,450	1.215	1.623	97,157	188,607
Syrian Arab Republic	0.064	0.085	4,817	0.064	0.086	5,118	9,935
Tajikistan	0.005	0.007	376	0.004	0.005	320	696
The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	0.004	0.005	301	0.004	0.005	320	621
Togo	0.001	0.001	75	0.001	0.001	80	155
Tonga	0.001	0.001	75	0.001	0.001	80	

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Party	United Nations scale of assessments 1999 (per cent)	Scale with 25% ceiling, no LDC paying more than 0.01% (per cent)	Contributions as per 1 January 1999 (US\$)	United Nations scale of assessments 2000 (per cent)	Scale with 25% ceiling, no LDC paying more than 0.01% (per cent)	Contributions as per 1 January 2000 (US\$)	Total contributions 1999-2000 (US\$)
Trinidad and Tobago	0.017	0.022	1,280	0.016	0.021	1,279	2,559
Tunisia	0.028	0.037	2,107	0.028	0.037	2,239	4,347
Turkey	0.440	0.581	33,118	0.440	0.588	35,184	68,302
Turkmenistan	0.008	0.011	602	0.006	0.008	480	1,082
Uganda	0.004	0.005	301	0.004	0.005	320	621
Ukraine	0.302	0.399	22,731	0.190	0.254	15,193	37,924
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	5.090	6.721	383,113	5.090	6.801	407,020	790,133
United Republic of Tanzania	0.003	0.004	226	0.003	0.004	240	466
Uruguay	0.048	0.063	3,613	0.048	0.064	3,838	7,451
Uzbekistan	0.037	0.049	2,785	0.025	0.033	1,999	4,784
Vanuatu	0.001	0.001	75	0.001	0.001	80	155
Venezuela	0.176	0.232	13,247	0.160	0.214	12,794	26,041
Viet Nam	0.007	0.009	527	0.007	0.009	560	1,087
Yemen	0.010	0.013	753	0.010	0.013	800	1,552
Zambia	0.002	0.003	151	0.002	0.003	160	310
Zimbabwe	0.009	0.012	677	0.009	0.012	720	1,397
TOTAL	77.388	100.0	5,700,000	77.336	100.0	5,985,000	11,684,845

IV/18. Date and venue of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

The Conference of the Parties

1. Welcomes the kind offer of the Government of the Republic of Kenya to host the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

2. Decides that the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties will take place in Nairobi, Kenya, at a date to be specified by the Bureau, in accordance with paragraph 1 of decision IV/16, and communicated to all Parties.

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IV/19. Tribute to the Government and people of the Slovak Republic

The Conference of the Parties,

Having met in Bratislava from 4 to 15 May 1998, at the gracious invitation of the Government of the Slovak Republic,

Deeply appreciative of the special courtesy and the warm hospitality extended, and the excellent facilities provided, by the Government and people of the Slovak Republic to the Ministers, members of the delegations, observers and members of the Secretariat attending the Conference,

Expresses its sincere gratitude to the Government of the Slovak Republic and to its people for the cordial welcome which they accorded to the Conference and to those associated with its work and for their contribution to the success of the Conference.
