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**AD HOC OPEN-ENDED INTER-SESSIONAL WORKING
GROUP ON ARTICLE 8(j) AND RELATED
PROVISIONS OF THE CONVENTION ON
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

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Item 3.1 of the provisional agenda*

**REPORT ON PROGRESS IN THE INTEGRATION OF RELEVANT TASKS OF THE
PROGRAMME OF WORK ON ARTICLE 8(j) AND RELATED PROVISIONS INTO
THE THEMATIC PROGRAMMES OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL
DIVERSITY**

Note by the Executive Secretary

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In paragraph 8 of its decision V/16, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to facilitate the integration of the relevant tasks of the programme of work in the future elaboration of the thematic programmes of the Convention and provide a report on the progress of the thematic programmes to the Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-Sessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions.

2. In paragraph 3 of the same decision, the Conference of the Parties urged Parties and Governments, in collaboration with relevant organizations, subject to their national legislation, to promote and implement the programme of work on the implementation of Article 8(j) and related provisions, as contained in the annex to the decision, and to integrate the tasks identified into their ongoing programmes, as appropriate to national circumstances, taking into account the identified collaboration opportunities.

3. Section III of the present note contains a report on the progress to date in the integration of the relevant tasks of the programme of work on the implementation of Article 8(j) and related provisions into the thematic programmes of the Convention. In compiling this note, information has been drawn from the second national reports and the progress reports prepared for the sixth and seventh meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), including the report of

* UNEP/CBD/WG8J/2/1.

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the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Forest Biological Diversity. Suggested recommendations are set out in section IV.

II. ASSESSMENT OF THE RELEVANCE OF THE TASKS OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK ON ARTICLE 8(j) FOR THE THEMATIC PROGRAMMES OF WORK

4. The various thematic programmes of work currently being undertaken to further the implementation of the Convention are generally concerned with the practical aspects of *in situ* conservation and sustainable-use of biological diversity, that is, the implementation of the provisions of Article 8, while taking into account other cross-cutting areas of the Convention. An information document on progress in the implementation of relevant tasks of the programme of work on Article 8(j) and related provisions in the cross-cutting areas of the Convention on Biological Diversity (UNEP/CBD/WG8J/2/INF/2) has been prepared to complement the present report. The information document reports on measures taken to implement the programme of work on Article 8(j) and related provisions in relation to: the ecosystem approach; sustainable tourism; access and benefit-sharing; sustainable use; alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species; the Global Taxonomy Initiative; public education and awareness; identification, monitoring and assessment, and indicators; incentive measures; impact assessment, liability and redress; and the global strategy for plant conservation.

5. The tasks of direct relevance to the thematic programmes include:

(a) *Task 1:* Indigenous and local community participation in decision-making relating to the use of their traditional knowledge;

(b) *Task 2:* Indigenous and local community participation in decision-making, policy planning and development and implementation of the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity at international, regional, subregional national and local levels;

(c) *Task 5:* Preparation of an outline of a composite report on the status and trends regarding traditional knowledge, innovations and practices;

(d) *Task 9:* Preparation of guidelines for the conduct of cultural, environmental and social impact assessments for developments proposed to take place within indigenous and local community territories;

(e) *Task 13:* Development of guiding principles and standards, by the Working Group on Article 8(j), to strengthen the use of traditional knowledge for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, particularly within the context of the ecosystem approach, *in situ* conservation, taxonomy, biodiversity monitoring and impact assessment in all biodiversity sectors.

6. With respect to task 5, information gathered as a result of various assessment and monitoring activities undertaken within the thematic programmes, for example, in relation to forest biological diversity, will be useful in compiling the composite report, as it is proposed in the note by the Executive on an outline of the report to assess the status and trends of traditional knowledge in relation to each of the thematic areas dealt with under the Convention.

III. INTEGRATION OF THE RELEVANT TASKS OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK ON ARTICLE 8(j) IN THE THEMATIC PROGRAMMES OF THE CONVENTION

7. In this section the work being carried out in relation to the five thematic areas under the Convention, namely, forest biological diversity, marine and coastal biological diversity, inland water ecosystems, agricultural biological diversity, and the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands, is briefly summarized. Attention is focused on those parts of the decisions of the Conference of the Parties, and the elements of the work programmes adopted in relation to each of the thematic areas that are relevant to the implementation of Article 8(j) and its related provisions (Articles 10(c), 17, paragraph 2, and 18, paragraph 4) and its programme of work. Where information is available, the progress made by Parties in the implementation of the thematic work programmes is also noted.

A. Forest biological diversity

8. In decision IV/7, the Conference of the Parties adopted a programme of work focused on the research, cooperation, and development of technologies necessary for the conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity.^{1/} The work programme's objectives included, *inter alia*, the identification of:

(a) 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;^{2/} and

(b) 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.^{3/}

9. With regard to elements of the work programme, element 1 concerns 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. Activities for element 1 include the development of methodologies to advance the integration of traditional forest-related knowledge into sustainable forest management, in accordance with Article 8(j). It is anticipated that among the outcomes there would be:

(a) 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); and

(b) 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.^{4/}

10. The second element of the programme of work requires a comprehensive analysis of the ways in which human activities, in particular forest-management practices, influence biological diversity and

^{1/} Decision IV/7, annex, para. 1.

^{2/} Ibid, para. 3 (d).

^{3/} Ibid, para. 3 (e).

^{4/} Ibid, paras. 10, 14, 21 and 25.

assessment of ways to minimize or mitigate negative influences. The research element includes the promotion of 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. Activities include improving dissemination of research results and synthesis of reports of the best available scientific and traditional knowledge on key forest biological diversity issues. The anticipated outcomes are:

(a) Analysis of human impacts on forest ecosystems, as well as an enhanced ability to prioritize 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; and

(b) 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. ^{5/}

11. In decision V/4, the Conference of the Parties decided upon a number of actions that are also of relevance to the implementation of tasks of the programme of work on Article 8(j). These include:

(a) The establishment of an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Forest Biological Diversity to assist the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), on the basis of the terms of reference specified in the annex to the decision, in its work on forest biological diversity, the expert group to include expertise in policy matters and traditional knowledge (decision V/4, paras. 4 and 5);

(b) An invitation to Parties, countries, international organizations, institutions and processes and other relevant bodies, as well as indigenous and local communities and non-governmental organizations to provide relevant information on the implementation of the work programme through, *inter alia*, case-studies, entries in national reports and other means, as appropriate (decision V/4, para. 7);

(c) Further encouragement to Parties and Governments to ensure participation by the forest sector, the private sector, indigenous and local communities and non-governmental organizations in the implementation of the programme of work (decision V/4, para. 9);

(d) Recognition of past efforts by different organizations and encouragement to Parties and other Governments to strengthen national capacities, including local capacities, to enhance the effectiveness and functions of forest protected area networks, as well as national and local capacities for implementation of sustainable forest management, when needed (decision V/4, para. 10);

(e) A request to the Executive Secretary to invite relevant organizations and forest-related bodies, institutions and processes, including criteria and indicator processes, as well as indigenous and local communities, non-governmental organizations, and other relevant stakeholders to contribute to the assessment of status and trends, including gaps and priority actions needed to address threats to forest biological diversity (decision V/4, para. 15); and

(f) Consideration to expanding the focus of the work programme on forest biological diversity from research to practical action at the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (decision V/4, para. 2).

^{5/} Ibid, paras. 30, 34 and 38-39.

12. With regard to the terms of reference for the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Forest Biological Diversity, the Expert Group is to take into account, *inter alia*, the ecosystem approach and sustainable forest management, and decisions of the Conference of the Parties on thematic and cross-cutting issues, in particular Article 8(j). The Expert Group was to, among other things, identify options and suggest priority actions, timeframes and relevant actors for the conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity for their implementation through such actions as identifying strategies for enhancement of collaborative management with local and indigenous communities. 6/

13. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group held two meetings, the first in Montreal in November 2000, and the second in Edinburgh in April 2001. The Expert Group drew a number of key conclusions in its review of information regarding status and trends of forest biological diversity and major gaps in information in relation to the following five areas:

- (a) Status and trends of forest biological diversity;
- (b) Ecosystem functioning and services;
- (c) Valuation of forest products and ecosystem services;
- (d) Causes of loss of forest biological diversity; and
- (e) Policy developments. 7/

14. Among the conclusions relevant to Article 8(j) and its programme of work, the Expert Group found that:

(a) Adequate attention needs to be given to the principles, methods and ways and means for the potential use of traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities as a valuable tool for forest biodiversity management; 8/

(b) Sustainable forest management is generally less profitable in monetary terms than ecologically non-sustainable forest practices. Local and indigenous communities and, ultimately nations are likely to be the major losers from the conversion of forested land to other uses and non-sustainable forest practices; 9/

(c) There is a need for more effective participation of the inhabitants of forests, indigenous peoples and local communities in all processes related to forest use and management. A stakeholder analysis at all levels, from local to global, would be a valuable basis for discussions and decisions on forest biological diversity use and its management; 10/

(d) The underlying causes of loss of forest biological diversity are very fundamental and complex and they derive from broader macro-economic, political and social causes, such as poverty, rapid population growth, globalization of trade, unsustainable production and consumption patterns, political unrest, lack of governance, land rights disputes and lack of institutional technical and scientific capacity. Loss of forest biological diversity cannot be stopped and reversed without addressing these and

6/ Decision V/4, annex, para. 2 (b) (v).

7/ See the report of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Forest Biological Diversity (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/7/6).

8/ Ibid, para. 44 (j).

9/ Ibid, para. 44 (r).

10/ Ibid, para. 44 (s)

other fundamental problems; as well as improving our knowledge of biological diversity and developing more sustainable forms of forest management; ^{11/}

(e) Present knowledge concerning the use and valuation of non-timber forest products, the cultural and spiritual values of forests, or concerning the development of rights and participatory possibilities by indigenous people is sparse and needs more adequate attention. ^{12/}

15. As a result of the review, the Expert Group proposed a number of key actions and priorities to improve conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity. With regard to assessment and monitoring, the Expert Group noted that biological diversity is a scaled consideration, ranging from genes of individual organisms, to large forest landscapes to global biological diversity. Therefore, classification, monitoring and reporting must occur on all scales and must involve all stakeholders (in particular the indigenous and local forest communities and not only the scientific community) to place forest biological diversity in proper contexts. ^{13/}

16. The creation of an enabling legal, policy, economic, and institutional environment to address the causes of forest biological diversity was also considered by the Expert Group to be a fundamental prerequisite for the conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity. Among the key actions prescribed to create such an environment were the need to "ensure adequate involvement at all stages of indigenous peoples and local communities in forest management", and to "secure a permanent forest estate and an adequate land tenure and forest use system". ^{14/} The Expert Group stressed that activities relevant to a socio-economic and institutional enabling environment "are a fundamental and urgent prerequisite for the conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity". ^{15/}

17. The Expert Group proposed a number of options and priority actions with respect to a framework based on the following elements: (a) assessment and monitoring; (b) conservation and sustainable use; and (c) institutional and socio-economic enabling environment. The interests of forest-dwelling indigenous and local communities are incorporated into the goals, objectives and activities identified with respect to the options and priority actions, for example, in regard to such activities as stakeholder identification; participation in assessment, monitoring, management, and conservation and sustainable use; protection of traditional cultures through the development of adaptive community-management systems based on traditional forest use systems; and public awareness raising of the potential contribution of traditional forest-related knowledge to conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity. ^{16/}

18. As requested by the Conference of the Parties, the Executive Secretary drafted an expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity for the consideration of the SBSTTA at its seventh meeting (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/7/6, section III), taking into account, *inter alia*, the options and priority actions for conservation and sustainable use identified in the report of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Forest Biological Diversity.

19. At its seventh meeting, SBSTTA, in its recommendation VII/6, recommended that the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting adopt an expanded programme of work on forest biological

^{11/} Ibid, para. 44 (u).

^{12/} Ibid, para. 44 (w).

^{13/} Ibid, para. 47.

^{14/} Ibid, para. 53.

^{15/} Ibid, para. 55.

^{16/} Ibid, paras. 59-72, and paras. 60, 62, 63, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72.

diversity, which identifies priority setting actors, timeframe and ways and means for implementation of the activities proposed, as well as indicators of progress supplemented by targets, using the elements contained in annexed to the recommendation. This annex contains the following elements of relevance to the Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions:

(a) *Programme element 1 (Conservation, sustainable use and benefit-sharing)*: objective 3 under goal 4 (To promote the sustainable use of forest biological diversity) is to enable indigenous and local communities to develop and implement adaptive community-management systems to conserve and sustainably use forest biological diversity. Six activities are listed under that objective, all of which need to take into account the outcome of the Working Group on Article 8(j);

(b) *Programme element 2 (Institutional and socio-economic enabling environment)*:

(i) Objective 3 under goal 1 (Enhance the institutional enabling environment) is for Parties and Governments to develop good governance practice, review and revise and implement forest and forest-related laws, tenure and planning systems, to provide a sound basis for conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity. Activities listed under that objective include, *inter alia*, seeking to resolve land tenure and resource rights and responsibility, in consultation with all relevant stakeholders including indigenous and local communities, in order to promote the conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity; implementing effective measures to protect traditional knowledge and values in forest laws and planning tools; and

(ii) Objective 1 under goal 3 (Increase public education, participation and awareness) is to increase public support and understanding of the value of forest biological diversity and its goods and services at all levels. Activities include, *inter alia*, increasing awareness amongst all stakeholders of the potential contribution of traditional forest related knowledge to conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity; and the implementation of effective measures to recognize, respect, protect and maintain traditional forest-related knowledge and values in forest-related laws and forest planning tools, in accordance with Article 8(j) and related provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

(c) *Programme element 3 (Knowledge, assessment and monitoring)*: objective 1 under goal 2 (Improve knowledge on and methods for the assessment of the status and trends of forest biological diversity, based on available information) includes an activity to develop and select international, regional and national criteria and where appropriate quantifiable, indicators for forest biological diversity, taking into account, as appropriate, existing work and processes on criteria and indicators on sustainable forest management, as well as the knowledge held by indigenous and local communities. Such criteria and indicators should be used for assessment reporting at least 10 year intervals.

20. With regard to national implementation of the programme of work on forest biological diversity, as of 31 August 2001, 29 Parties had submitted their thematic reports on forest ecosystems. In the guidelines for the thematic report on forest ecosystems provided by the Executive Secretary, Parties were asked to respond to the following questions relevant to Article 8(j):

(a) Has your country developed methodologies to advance the integration of traditional forest-related knowledge into sustainable forest management, in accordance with Article 8(j)? 17/

(b) Has your country promoted 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 tool that lead to improved forest practices with regard to forest biological diversity? 18/

(c) Does your country hold research results and syntheses of reports of relevant scientific and traditional knowledge on key forest biological diversity issues and, if so, have these been disseminated as widely as possible. 19/

21. With regard to the first question, six Parties (all European countries) considered the question not relevant to their national circumstances. Three Parties gave negative responses, while about half had engaged in limited development of methodologies to advance the integration of traditional forest-related knowledge into sustainable forest management. Only four Parties noted significant development of such methodologies.

22. Nearly two thirds of the Party responses indicated that they had only promoted activities to assemble management experiences and scientific, indigenous and local information at the national and local levels to a limited extent, while the remaining third had done so to a significant extent. In relation to the third question, just over half of Parties had significant numbers of reports, however, only two Parties felt that this information had been widely disseminated. The remainder reported that they had only some reports, and that these had not been widely distributed.

B. Marine and coastal biological diversity

23. Decision IV/5 of the Conference of the Parties, on conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity, includes a programme of work. As one of the basic principles, 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-based approaches; and in the execution of the programme of work, the involvement of relevant stakeholders including indigenous and local people should be promoted. 20/ In order to assist the implementation of the programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity, a roster of experts was established to "contribute to the further development of the scientific, technical, technological and socio-economic issues". 21/

24. With regard to the elements of the work programme, in programme element 1 (Implementation of integrated marine and coastal area management - IMCAM), operational objective 1.2 is concerned with promoting the development and implementation of IMCAM at the local, national and regional level. Among the activities included to promote the objective is the provision of guidance on maintenance and

17/ Refers to programme element 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 (decision IV/7, annex, para. 14).

18/ Refers to programme element 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 (decision IV/7, annex, para. 30).

19 Ibid, para. 34.

20/ Decision IV/5, annex, para. 9.

21/ Ibid, para. 8.

wider application of local and traditional knowledge. The activities are to be carried out by the Executive Secretary in collaboration with relevant organizations.

25. Under programme element 2 (Marine and coastal living resources), operational objective 2.1 is concerned with promoting 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: (i) components of biological diversity; (ii) the sustainable use of such components; and (iii) ecosystem effects. Activities are to include the promotion of capacity-building at local, national and regional levels, including local and traditional knowledge.

26. At its fifth meeting, in paragraph 11 of decision V/3, in relation to element 2 of the programme of work, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary, *inter alia*, to gather information on approaches to the management of marine and coastal living resources in relation to those used by local and indigenous communities and to make the information available through the clearing-house mechanism. Currently, the Executive Secretary has information available from Parties regarding: the uses of marine biodiversity by the Maori of New Zealand; traditional systems of community-based coastal resource management in Indonesia; traditional ecological knowledge of Inuit and Cree in the Hudson Bay region of Canada; and traditional ecological knowledge about Beluga whales in the Chukchi and Northern Bering seas. 22/

27. It should be noted that the national reports required under Article 26 of the Convention are also a potential mechanism to gather such information. Although a review of the reports submitted to date has revealed no additional information, most recognize the need to identify and document indigenous knowledge. Information on approaches to the management of marine and coastal living resources in relation to those used by local and indigenous communities may, therefore, be available in future national reports. 23/

28. Due to the current paucity of available information, the Executive Secretary has sent a specific request for information to existing indigenous organizations regarding approaches to the management of marine and coastal living resources in relation to those used by local and indigenous communities. 24/

C. Inland water ecosystems

29. In the preamble to the programme of work adopted under paragraph 1 of decision IV/4, the Conference of the Parties recognizes 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.

30. In part A of the programme of work (Assessment of the status and trends of the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems and identification of options for conservation and sustainable use) of the programme of work, the Conference of the Parties recommended in paragraph 9 (I) that Parties:

(a) Involve, as far as possible and as appropriate, local and indigenous communities in the development of management plans and in projects that may affect inland water biological diversity;

(b) Implement Article 8(j) as related to inland water biological diversity;

22/ UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/INF/1, para. 9.

23/ Ibid, para. 10.

24/ Ibid, para. 11.

(c) Encourage the involvement and participation of affected parties including end-users and communities in policy-making, planning and implementation.

31. In part C (Review of methodologies for assessment of biological diversity of inland water ecosystems), 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. 25/

32. In accordance with paragraph 1 of decision V/2, the programme of work on inland waters will be reviewed and elaborated by SBSTTA at its eighth meeting. All the cross-cutting issues and articles of the Convention will be considered in the review and refinement of the work programme. In this regard, appropriate reference will be made to Article 10(c) and paragraph (f) on sustainable use. 26/

33. In paragraph 8 of the same decision, the Conference of the Parties urged the implementation of capacity-building measures for developing and implementing national and sectoral plans for the conservation and sustainable use of inland water ecosystems, including comprehensive assessments of biological diversity of inland water ecosystems, and capacity-building programmes for monitoring the implementation of the programme of work and the trends in inland water biological diversity, and for information-gathering and dissemination among the riparian communities.

34. In paragraph 2 of the same decision V/2, the Conference of the Parties endorsed the proposed joint work plan for the period 2000-2001 of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/INF/12). In relation to the joint work plan, it is noted that, at its seventh meeting, the Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention adopted, through resolution VII.8, guidelines for establishing and strengthening local communities' and indigenous peoples' participation in the management of wetlands. While these comprehensive guidelines are drawn from case-studies and experiences relating to wetland management, they contain much of direct interest and relevance to all of thematic areas of work and are recommended to bodies under the Convention on Biological Diversity for appropriate consideration and promotion. Under section 7 (Traditional knowledge of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles) of the joint work plan, the Working Group on Article 8(j) has also been invited to, *inter alia*, "consult with other environment conventions about developing a multi-convention approach to examining this cross-cutting area." And, under activity 7.1, the Working Group on Article 8(j) is to take note of the Ramsar Guidelines within the context of programme element 1 (Participatory mechanisms for indigenous and local communities) of the programme of work on Article 8(j). 27/

35. It is also noted that at the end of 2000, the roster of experts under the Convention on Biological Diversity includes 237 experts on inland water biological diversity nominated by a total of 44 countries and organizations. 28/

25/ Decision IV/4, annex I, para. 14.

26/ Ibid, para. 9(f).

27/ See the note by the Executive Secretary on participatory mechanisms for indigenous and local communities (element 1: tasks 1, 2 and 4), paras. 43, 44 and 59.

28/ UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/5, para. 10.

D. Agricultural biological diversity

36. The Conference of the Parties considered agricultural biological diversity at its third meeting, held in 1996, and through decision III/11, established a multi-year work programme on agricultural biodiversity. It encouraged Parties to develop national strategies, programmes and plans related to agricultural biodiversity, and provided policy guidance on their purpose. At its fourth meeting, the Conference of the Parties provided additional guidance, through decision IV/6. At its fifth meeting, the Conference of the Parties, in paragraph 5 of decision V/5, recognized the contribution of farmers, indigenous and local communities to the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity and the importance of agricultural biodiversity to their livelihoods, emphasizing the importance of their participation in the implementation of the programme of work. The Conference of the Parties also recognized the need for incentives, in accordance with Article 11 of the Convention and consistent with Article 22, and support for capacity-building and information exchange to benefit farmers, indigenous and local communities.

37. The Conference of the Parties, through decision V/5, also reviewed the implementation of decisions III/11 and IV/6 and further elaborated the programme of work, taking into account the assessment of ongoing activities and instruments. ^{29/} The Conference of the Parties also established an International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators (the International Pollinators Initiative), and decided to continue work on genetic use restriction technologies (GURTs) under the umbrella of the programme of work.

38. The overall aim of the programme of work is to promote the objectives of the Convention in the area of agricultural biodiversity, in line with relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties, notably decisions II/15, III/11 and IV/6. More specifically, the objectives are:

(a) To promote the positive effects and mitigate the negative impacts of agricultural systems and practices on biological diversity in agro-ecosystems and their interface with other ecosystems;

(b) To promote the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources of actual and potential value for food and agriculture;

(c) To promote the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources. ^{30/}

39. The programme of work, as endorsed by the Conference of the Parties contains four programme elements: (i) assessments; (ii) adaptive management; (iii) capacity-building; and (iv) mainstreaming.

40. The operational objective of programme element 1 (Assessments) is to provide a comprehensive analysis of status and trends of the world's agricultural biodiversity and of their underlying causes (including a focus on the goods and services agricultural biodiversity provides), as well as of local knowledge of its management. The activities include, *inter alia*: an assessment of the relevant knowledge, innovations and practices of farmers and indigenous and local communities in sustaining agricultural biodiversity and agro-ecosystem services for and in support of food production and food security. ^{31/}

^{29/} See UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/INF/10.

^{30/} Decision V/5, annex, para. 2.

^{31/} Decision V/5, annex.

41. The operational objective of programme element 2 (Adaptive management) is to identify management practices, technologies and policies that promote the positive and mitigate the negative impacts of agriculture on biodiversity, and enhance productivity and the capacity to sustain livelihoods, by expanding knowledge, understanding and awareness of the multiple goods and services provided by the different levels and functions of agricultural biodiversity. Activities include, *inter alia*: promotion of methods of sustainable agriculture that employs management practices, technologies and policies that promote the positive and mitigate the negative impacts of agriculture on biodiversity, with particular focus on the needs of farmers and indigenous and local communities. According to the second national reports, nearly all reporting countries claim to be promoting farming practices that not only increase productivity but also arrest degradation as well as reclaim, rehabilitate, restore and enhance biological diversity, and to be transforming unsustainable agricultural practices to sustainable ones, to some extent. 32/

42. The operational objective of programme element 3 (Capacity-building) is to strengthen the capacities of farmers, indigenous and local communities, and their organizations and other stakeholders, to manage agricultural biodiversity sustainably so as to increase their benefits, and to promote awareness and responsible action. The activities include, *inter alia*: promoting partnerships and local-level forums; enhancing the capacity of indigenous and local communities; providing opportunities for the participation of farmers, indigenous and local communities in the development and implementation of national strategies, plans and programmes for agricultural biodiversity; and promoting networks of farmers and farmers' organizations. In their second national reports, nearly all reporting countries report that they are promoting the mobilization of farming communities for the development, maintenance and use of their knowledge and practices in the conservation of biological diversity to some extent. However, given the emphasis provided in decision V/5 on support for capacity-building and information exchange to benefit farmers, indigenous and local communities, more emphasis is required on this programme element. 33/

43. The operational objective of the programme element 4 (Mainstreaming) is to support the development of national plans or strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity and to promote their mainstreaming and integration in sectoral and cross-sectoral plans and programmes. The activities include, *inter alia*: support the institutional framework and policy and planning mechanisms for the mainstreaming of agricultural biodiversity in agricultural strategies and action plans; support the development or adaptation of relevant systems of information, early warning and communication to enable effective assessment of the state of agricultural biodiversity and threats; promote public awareness of the goods and services provided by agricultural biodiversity; and promote ongoing and planned activities for the conservation of agricultural biodiversity on farm, *in situ* and *ex situ*. Most countries report in their national reports that they have, or are developing, national strategies, programmes and plans for the sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity, though only about a quarter have mechanisms in place. Some 70 countries have completed their national biodiversity strategies and action plans. Most countries report that they are in the process of identifying issues and priorities on agricultural biodiversity that need to be addressed at national level. 34/

44. According to the second national reports received to date, about 60 per cent of countries have reviewed the programme of work and identified how to collaborate in its implementation, and most of these are promoting thematic and regional cooperation within this framework. About half are providing financial support, though very few are providing significant additional funds. About two thirds of

32/ UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/7/9, para. 25

33/ Ibid, paras. 27 and 30.

34/ Ibid, para. 32.

developed country Parties are providing financial support to developing countries or countries with economies in transition. However, this is mostly within existing cooperative programmes and with limited additional funds. ^{35/}

45. In reviewing progress made so far in implementing the four elements of the programme of work, it can be seen that most progress is related to programme elements 1 and 2. Studies have been prepared on many dimensions of agricultural biodiversity, and work is under way to develop indicators and guidelines on mainstreaming agricultural biodiversity. Priority now needs to be given to synthesizing and analysing case-studies in order to elucidate lessons learnt for policy and capacity-building. There is a need to apply such lessons in the promotion of methods of sustainable agriculture that employ management practices, technologies and policies that promote the positive and mitigate the negative impacts of agriculture on biodiversity, with particular focus on the needs of farmers and indigenous and local communities. In particular, more emphasis needs to be given to promoting local capacity-building as called for in programme element 3, using successful examples such as farmer field schools used for integrated pest management, and in mainstreaming the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity in sectoral and cross-sectoral policies. ^{36/}

46. Proposed steps for the further implementation of the programme of work by the Executive Secretary and partner organizations are indicated in table 1 of his progress report on the implementation of the programme of work, including development of the International Pollinators Initiative (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/7/9), prepared for the seventh meeting of SBSTTA. For each activity of the programme of work, this table provides information on expected outputs and their timing, the actors and partners, the status of the activity, and milestones. Progress on these activities will be reported to SBSTTA each biennium. The proposed steps, as outlined in table 1, were recommended by SBSTTA at its seventh meeting for adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting. ^{37/}

47. In table 1, noted above, with regard to element 1 (Assessments) concerning the knowledge, innovations and practices of farmers and indigenous and local communities, reference is made to the state of the world's traditional knowledge on biodiversity, and the preparation of the outline of the report of the status and trends in relation to Article 8(j) and related provisions - that is task 5, under element 2 of the programme of work on the implementation of Article 8(j). With regard to programme element 3 (Capacity-building), in relation to the participation of farmers and indigenous and local communities in national strategies, it is proposed that in-country multi-stakeholder workshops should take place (using the farmer field school for integrated pest management as a possible model).

48. Further implementation of the programme of work is largely contingent on the progress that will be achieved in countries, especially with regard to programme elements 3 (Capacity-building) and 4 (Mainstreaming), and activity 2.3. ^{38/} Development of the formats for the third national reports will provide an opportunity to gather pertinent information in this respect, and of developing more precise targets for implementation by Parties. This exercise should draw upon the lessons learned from the experience of the second national reports. ^{39/}

^{35/} Ibid, para. 9.

^{36/} Ibid, para. 56.

^{37/} SBSTTA recommendation VII/7, para. 3 (b).

^{38/} This activity concerns the promotion of methods of sustainable agriculture that employ management practices, technologies and policies that promote the positive and mitigate the negative impacts of agriculture on biodiversity, with particular focus on the needs of farmers and indigenous and local communities (decision V/5, annex).

^{39/} UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/7/9, para. 58.

49. At its seventh meeting, SBSTTA recommended that the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting note the progress made in the implementation of the programme of work and the need for emphasis and further action, within the context of the programme of work, on, *inter alia*, the promotion of methods of sustainable agriculture that employ management practices, technologies and policies that promote the positive and prevent or mitigate the negative impacts of agriculture on biodiversity, focusing on the needs of farmers and indigenous and local communities, to participate efficiently in the process of meeting those particular goals. ^{40/}

50. SBSTTA also recommended that the Conference of the Parties notes with satisfaction the adoption, by the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on 3 November 2001, of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, as a legally binding instrument. ^{41/} Article 9 of the International Treaty addresses Farmers' Rights, whereby, under paragraph 2, each contracting party should, as appropriate, and subject to its national legislation, take measures to protect and promote Farmers' Rights, including:

(a) Protection of traditional knowledge relevant to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture;

(b) The right to equitably participate in sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture; and

(c) The right to participate in making decisions, at the national level, on matters related to the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

51. Furthermore, paragraph 3 of the same article states that, "Nothing in this Article shall be interpreted to limit any rights that farmers have to save, use, exchange and sell farm-saved seed/propagating material, subject to national law and as appropriate."

52. A large number of case-studies have also been made available through international organizations and programmes, and as submissions to a symposium on managing biodiversity in agricultural ecosystems co-sponsored by the United Nations University, the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, which was held in Montreal from 8 to 10 November 2001, immediately prior to the seventh meeting of SBSTTA. Issues relevant to indigenous and local communities were important aspects presented and discussed.

53. With regard to the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators, SBSTTA at its seventh meeting recommended that the Conference of the Parties, at its sixth meeting, decide to adopt and periodically review, as appropriate, the plan of action for the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators on the basis of the plan of action contained in annex II to the recommendation. ^{42/} The plan has four elements, namely; assessment; adaptive management; capacity-building; and mainstreaming. With regard to element 1 (Assessment), one of the activities is concerned to assess the state of scientific and indigenous knowledge on pollinator conservation, in order to identify gaps in knowledge and opportunities for application of knowledge, including, *inter alia*, the knowledge, innovations and practices of farmers and indigenous and local communities is sustaining pollinator diversity and agro-ecosystem services for and in support of food

^{40/} SBSTTA recommendation VII/7, para. 3 (a) (ii).

^{41/} Ibid, para. 6.

^{42/} Ibid, para. 4 (a).

production and food security. ^{43/} Element 3 (Capacity-building) has as its operational objective: "To strengthen the capacities of farmers, indigenous and local communities, and their organizations and other stakeholders, to manage pollinator diversity so as to increase its benefits, and to promote awareness and responsible action." Activities focus on supporting local management of pollinators, promoting partnerships between farmers, researchers, extension workers and the food processing industry, and networking and exchanging information. ^{44/}

54. There is also concern about genetic use restriction technologies (GURTs) and their implications for intellectual property rights. In paragraph 22 of decision V/5, the Conference of the Parties invited relevant organizations to study the impact and appropriateness of such technologies on the protection of intellectual property in the agricultural sector.

55. This concern also extends to the implications that such technologies may have for the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities. In paragraph 29 of decision V/5, the Conference of the Parties recognized the importance of indigenous and local communities in the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources according to Article 8(j), and taking into account the revision of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and requested the Executive Secretary to discuss with those organizations with the relevant expertise, and representatives of indigenous and local communities, the potential impacts of the applications of genetic use restriction technologies on those communities and on Farmers' Rights in keeping with the revision of the International Undertaking to keep, use, exchange and sell seed or propagating material and to prepare a report to be considered by the Conference of the Parties.

56. A study on genetic use restriction technologies had been reviewed by SBSTTA in 1999. ^{45/} The Conference of the Parties invited the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in close collaboration with member organizations of the Ecosystem Conservation Group, and other competent organizations and research bodies, to further study the potential implications of GURTs for the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biological diversity and the range of agricultural production systems in different countries, and identify relevant policy questions and socio-economic issues that may need to be addressed; and invited FAO and its Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and other competent organizations to inform the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting of their initiatives in this area. ^{46/}

57. A document was prepared by FAO and presented to the Commission's Intergovernmental Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources at its first session in July 2001. ^{47/} The document addresses various technical aspects of GURTs, the potential impacts of these technologies on agricultural biodiversity, biosecurity implications, impacts at farming system level (especially seed systems) as well as economic implications, and identifies policy issues which governments may wish to consider. ^{48/}

^{43/} Ibid, annex II, element 1, activity 1.3.

^{44/} Ibid, element 3.

^{45/} Jefferson RA, Byth D, Correa C, Otero G and Qualset C, *Genetic Use Restriction Technologies, Technical Assessment of the Set of Technologies which Sterilize or Reduce the Agronomic Value of Second Generation Seed, as Exemplified by US Patent No. 5,723,765*. In UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/4/9/Rev.1.

^{46/} UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/7/9, para. 41.

^{47/} *Potential impacts of genetic use restriction technologies (GURTs) on agricultural biodiversity and agricultural production systems (CGRFA/WG-PGR-1/01/7)*, March 2001.

^{48/} Ibid, para. 7.

58. In the FAO document, two types of GURTs are distinguished: variety use restriction (V-GURTs), rendering the subsequent generation sterile (the so-called "terminator" technologies); and use restriction of a specific trait (T-GURTs), requiring the external application of inducers to activate the trait's expression. ^{49/} V-GURTs, in particular, are perceived as restricting access to genetic material without themselves necessarily adding commercial value to the product, and as raising concerns through potential impacts on biodiversity, agricultural practices, seed security and rural economies. ^{50/}

59. The impacts of GURTs are most likely to be felt by low-input farming systems (LIFS), in which farmers continuously breed and improve local seed, and depend on the contribution of new genes to this dynamic process to maintain local adaptive fitness and productivity. ^{51/} The document notes that agricultural production systems are very diverse, and detailed analysis would require consideration of hundreds of crop and livestock production patterns, and seed and germplasm market linkages. Low-intensity systems tend towards low seed replacement levels and a higher reliance on informal seed supply. Many LIFS are in remote areas, without the option of seasonal seed or fertilizer purchase, and it seems unlikely that GURTs will be adopted by such farmers: the poorest farmers in these farming systems, however, who often sow grain channelled for consumption instead of seed, risk significant yield drops if V-GURT grain enters local markets through trade or relief channels. ^{52/} Other possible impacts associated with the introduction of GURTs include:

- (a) A loss of the agricultural biodiversity; ^{53/}
- (b) A reduction of incentives for farm-level breeding, widening the technological and income gap between resource-poor and better off farmers; ^{54/}
- (c) A misuse of monopoly power, rendering farmers fully dependent on formal sector seed supply systems; ^{55/}
- (d) A reduction of farmers' choices by not only reducing the number of suppliers, but also by narrowing the diversity and characteristics of the seed supplied. ^{56/}

60. While the document examines intellectual property rights considerations in relation to patents and plant breeders' rights, and in relation to article 27.2 of the Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) of the World Trade Organization (WTO), ^{57/} it did not take into consideration the possible impacts that GURTs may have on intellectual property aspects of the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of farmers and indigenous and local communities.

^{49/} Ibid, para. 9.
^{50/} Ibid, para. 11.
^{51/} Ibid, para. 26.
^{52/} Ibid, para. 33.
^{53/} Ibid, para. 58 (iii).
^{54/} Ibid, para. 58 (v)
^{55/} Ibid, para. 58 (vi)
^{56/} Ibid, para. 49.
^{57/} Ibid, paras. 50-54.

61. In considering the report, members of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources made many detailed comments, stressing both potential advantages and disadvantages of GURTs. Discussions were held, *inter alia*, on the flow of material in further breeding and of seed-saving practices used by farmers in traditional low-seed replacement systems and the consequences of this for the diffusion of improved varieties by farmers. ^{58/} The document will be revised by FAO in light of the comments of the Working Group and will be submitted to the Commission at its ninth regular session. It will be subsequently presented to the Conference of the Parties as requested. ^{59/}

62. A number of questions pertaining to GURTs were included in the standard format for the second national reports. Information from such reports indicates that very few countries have carried out major programmes of scientific assessments on the ecological, social and economic effects of GURTs.

63. Consultations with representatives of farmers, indigenous and local communities on issues related to GURTs are planned for the margins of the second meeting of the Working Group on Article 8(j). ^{60/}

E. Dryland and sub-humid ecosystems

64. In paragraph 1 of decision V/23, concerning consideration of options for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in dryland, mediterranean, arid, semi-arid, grassland and savannah ecosystems ("dry and sub-humid lands"), the Conference of the Parties established a programme of work, and in paragraph 2, endorsed the programme of work contained in annex I of that decision.

65. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties, *inter alia*:

(a) Requested SBSTTA to review and assess periodically the status and trends of the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands on the basis of the outputs of the activities of the programme of work (para. 5);

(b) Requested the Executive Secretary to review the programme of work and identify expected outcomes, further activities to achieve these outcomes, those who should implement these activities, and timetables for action and follow-up, taking into account the suggestions of the technical group of experts, and to present these to SBSTTA (para. 6);

(c) Requested SBSTTA to establish an ad hoc technical group of experts with a number of specific tasks related to dry and sub-humid lands (para. 7);

(d) Requested the Executive Secretary to collaborate with the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), including through the development of a joint work programme, drawing on elements contained in the note by the Executive Secretary on coordination between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention to Combat Desertification (para. 8); ^{61/}

^{58/} UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/7/9, para. 43.

^{59/} Ibid, para. 44.

^{60/} Ibid, para. 46.

^{61/} See the information note prepared by the Executive Secretary for the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties on possible elements for a joint work programme between the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification on the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands (UNEP/CBD/COP/5/INF/15).

(e) Requested the Executive Secretary to establish a roster of experts on the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands, to be carried out in close collaboration with the Executive Secretary of the Convention to Combat Desertification and other relevant bodies (para. 9).

66. The overall aim of the programme of work is to promote the three objectives of the Convention in dry and sub-humid lands (excluding polar and tundra regions). The elaboration of the programme of work should, *inter alia*:

(a) Build upon existing knowledge and ongoing activities and management practices and promote a concerted response to fill knowledge gaps; 62/

(b) Ensure harmony with the other relevant thematic programmes of work under the Convention, as well as the work on cross-cutting issues; 63/

(c) Promote effective stakeholder participation, including the identification of priorities, in planning, in research and in monitoring and evaluating research. 64/

67. The elaboration and implementation of the programme of work should also aim at applying the ecosystem approach adopted under the Convention on Biological Diversity. Implementation of the programme of work will also build upon the knowledge, innovations and practices on indigenous and local communities consistent with Article 8(j) of the Convention. 65/

68. The programme of work is divided in two parts, "Assessments" and "Targeted actions in response to identified needs", to be implemented in parallel. Knowledge gained through the assessments will help guide the responses needed, while lessons learned from activities will feed back into the assessments.

69. With regard to part A (Assessments), the operational objective is to assemble and analyse information on the state of the biological diversity of dry and humid lands and the pressures on it, to disseminate existing knowledge and best practices, and to fill knowledge gaps, in order to determine adequate activities. In the rationale, it is pointed out that ecosystems of dry and sub-humid lands tend to be naturally highly dynamic systems, and that assessment of the status and trends of the biological diversity of such lands is particularly challenging. It is noted that lessons learned from practices, including indigenous and local community practices contribute to the knowledge base. Therefore one of the six activities to be undertaken with regard to assessments concerns the identification and dissemination of best management practices, including knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities that can be broadly applied, consistent with the programme of work under the Convention on Article 8(j) and related provisions. 66/

70. With respect to part B (Targeted actions in response to identified needs), the operational objective is to promote the conservation of the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of its genetic resources, and to combat the loss of biological diversity in dry and sub-humid lands and its socio-economic consequences.

62/ Decision V/23, annex I, paragraph 2 (a)

63/ Ibid, para. 2(b).

64/ Ibid, para. 2(d).

65/ Ibid, para. 3.

66/ Ibid, para. 6.

71. Among the activities identified, activity 8 is concerned with the promotion of responsible resource management at appropriate levels, applying the ecosystem approach, through an enabling policy environment, including, *inter alia*:

(a) Strengthening of appropriate local institutional structures for resource management, supporting indigenous and local techniques of resource use that enable conservation and sustainable use in the long term;

(b) Decentralization of management to the lowest level, as appropriate, keeping in mind the need for common resource management and with due consideration to, *inter alia*, involving indigenous and local communities in planning and managing projects.

72. The activities for part B are to be carried out, *inter alia*, through:

(a) Capacity-building, particularly at the national and local levels;

(b) Improved consultation, coordination and information-sharing, including, *inter alia*, documentation on knowledge and practices of indigenous and local communities;

(c) Partnerships between all relevant stakeholders at all levels, including international organizations and programmes, as well as national and local partners, scientists and land users.

73. At its seventh meeting, SBSTTA urged that the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Dry and Sub-humid Lands should be convened before the sixth meeting of Conference of the Parties, in April 2002. The secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention to Combat Desertification, in collaboration with the Global Environment Facility (GEF), organized a liaison group meeting as preparation for the meeting of the Expert Group. The liaison group meeting was held in Bonn, Germany, from 31 April to 2 May 2001. The meeting identified priority areas and related possible projects where the provisions of the two conventions can be implemented in an integrated manner and finalized a joint programme of work between the two secretariats, taking into account the identified priorities. ^{67/} SBSTTA has also requested that the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group should take into consideration the views expressed at its seventh meeting and identified a number of matters of particular importance. ^{68/}

IV. SUGGESTED RECOMMENDATIONS

74. The Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-Sessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity may wish to recommend that the Conference of the Parties, at its sixth meeting:

(a) *Notes* the progress made in the integration of the relevant tasks of the programme of work in the thematic programmes of the Convention and *emphasizes* to Parties the need for further action on:

(i) With regard to forest biological diversity, the development of methodologies to advance the integration of traditional forest-related knowledge into sustainable forest management, promotion of activities to assemble management experiences

^{67/} UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/7/2, para. 22.

^{68/} SBSTTA recommendation VII/3, paras. 2 and 3.

and scientific, indigenous and local information at the national and local levels, and dissemination of research results and syntheses of reports on relevant scientific and traditional knowledge on key forest biological issues;

- (ii) With regard to marine and coastal biological diversity, the provision of information regarding approaches to the management of marine and coastal living resources in relation to those used by indigenous and local communities;
- (iii) With regard to inland water ecosystems, the implementation of the guidelines for establishing and strengthening local communities' and indigenous peoples' participation in the management of wetlands, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention, through its resolution VII.8;
- (iv) With regard to agricultural biological diversity, the need to support local dryland and sub-humid ecosystems, and capacity-building to promote farming practices and information exchange to assist farmers and indigenous and local communities to transform unsustainable agricultural practices to sustainable ones and to increase productivity;

(b) *Urges* Parties, where they have not already done so, to include information in their national reports on each of the thematic programmes dealt with under the Convention on Biological Diversity, on:

- (i) The status and trends in relation to traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities;
- (ii) Measures taken to enhance the participation of indigenous and local communities and particularly that of women and their relevant organizations in the implementation of national work programmes in each of the thematic areas; and
- (iii) Capacity-building measures taken to facilitate the involvement of indigenous and local communities and the application of the knowledge they hold, with their prior informed consent, in the management, conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in each of the thematic areas at national, subnational and local levels;

(c) *Requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare a progress report on the integration of the relevant tasks of the programme of work on Article 8(j) into each of the thematic areas, taking into account the above information, for the consideration of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions at its third meeting.