Eleventh Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, Montreal, 28 November - 2 December 2005

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Dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity
(Agenda Item 4.1)

IUCN welcomes the outcomes of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Desertification Synthesis which provides the state of the art of the interlinkages between ecosystem functioning, land degradation and human well-being in drylands. Importantly, it highlights the critical contributions of dryland ecosystem goods and services to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and especially MDG 1 on poverty eradication. Specific issues related to dry and sub-humid lands that would require further attention include:

- The potential impact of climate change on dryland ecosystems and the role of natural resource management, including practices of indigenous and local communities, in adaptation strategies;
• The role of hyper-arid ecosystems in providing services and in supporting human populations as well as the importance of these ecosystems in terms of their high rates of endemism. There is a need to enhance the global recognition of the value of hyper-arid biological diversity for achieving the 2010 biodiversity target and to promote them in the context of the 2006 United Nations International Year of Deserts and Desertification; and

• The need for increased integration of land and water management to address loss and restoration of ecosystem services in drylands in and outside protected areas.

IUCN acknowledges the findings of the Review of Implementation of the Programme of Work on the Biological Diversity of Dry and Sub-Humid Lands (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/4) and welcomes the efforts to build synergies with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) through the joint programme of work as well as with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) through the proposed incorporation of climate change considerations into the programme of work on the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands. However, IUCN is concerned by the limited implementation reported by Parties in key areas such as management of invasive alien species (7c), cooperation for integrated catchment management and endangered species (7l), and fair and equitable sharing of benefits (9e). IUCN is also concerned by the limited number of reports submitted, which highlights the need to develop more synergistic approaches to reporting and the provision of necessary support to ensure that all parties can contribute to this effort. Data availability is still very limited to analyse implementation of this programme of work with respect to the 2010 biodiversity target.

IUCN welcomes the findings of the Status and Trends of, and Threats to, Dry and Sub-humid Lands Biological Diversity (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/4/Add.1) and encourages the implementation of the suggestions contained in the Draft Outcome-oriented Targets for the Implementation of the Programme of Work on the Biological Diversity of Dry and Sub-Humid Lands (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/4/ADD2). IUCN encourages the further development of the indicator framework giving special consideration to indicators of sustainable use as mentioned in the section on this issue included in this paper. The proposed targeted action for the analysis of status and trends of biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands should duly consider the need to enhance capacities for data collection and analysis.

More specifically, IUCN calls on SBSTTA to recommend that COP 8:

√ Acknowledge the findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, and encourage the further promotion of the application of the ecosystem approach within the CBD programme of work on the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands and in the joint work programme of the CBD and the UNCCD;

√ Encourage Parties to mainstream environmental sustainability in drylands into the national planning frameworks for combating poverty and implementing the MDGs agreed in the Outcome Document of the 2005 World Summit held in New York last September;

√ Urge the Parties to the CBD to strengthen action for coordinated design and implementation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans under the CBD, National Action Programmes under the UNCCD and National Adaptation Plans of Action under the UNFCCC;

√ Urge Parties to improve integration of land and water management to reduce the loss of ecosystem services in drylands in and outside protected areas as highlighted by the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. The ecosystem approach as endorsed by the CBD provides a holistic framework for addressing,
planning and managing dryland ecosystems and the services they provide in an integrated way;

√ Incorporate climate change considerations into the programme of work on the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands;

√ Recognize explicitly the role of biological diversity of hyper-arid ecosystems in the programme of work on the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands; and

√ Enhance the contributions of indigenous and local communities in the implementation of the programme of work.

Global Taxonomy Initiative
(Agenda Item 4.2)

The Global Taxonomy Initiative adopted by COP 5 is key to supporting the implementation of the Convention’s programmes of work on thematic areas and cross-cutting issues especially by reinforcing taxonomic capacities of country Parties. Reasonable progress has been made especially through its links to other institutions such as the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF). A preparatory meeting held in Stockholm on 14-15 October helped to review some of the key issues and will provide useful input into the in-depth review.

Considering the above, the document presenting the In-depth Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Work for the Global Taxonomy Initiative (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/5) and the Elements of Planned Activities for the New Programmes of Work (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/5/ADD1), IUCN calls on SBSTTA to recommend that COP 8:

√ Recognize the importance of taxonomic capacities for the taxonomic work needed to implement the programmes of work under the Convention;

√ Facilitate collaboration with existing initiatives including those mentioned in the draft recommendation in UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/5 in order to enhance Parties’ access to information. IUCN is currently developing a Species Information Service that could provide Parties with useful taxonomic information. It is also facilitating the Conservation Commons initiative which brings together organizations such as BirdLife International, Conservation International, the United Nations Development Programme, NASA, WWF International, Chevron-Texaco and many others. The goal is to render accessible the data and information required for effective conservation, to more effectively connect users of conservation data to the information they need and to adopt new standards for integrating knowledge and experience; and

√ Ensure linkages and consistency between the proposed taxonomic work under GTI and the COP decisions and Parties’ work related to articles 15 and 8 (j) of the Convention.

Second Global Biodiversity Outlook: review of draft
(Agenda Item 5.1)

IUCN welcomes the draft of the second Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO) (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/6) and is pleased to be able to provide information for this document including the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and the IUCN Red List Index. The GBO provides a useful review of the importance of biodiversity for human livelihoods and well-being, the status of biodiversity, as well as the tools and approaches available.

Considering the above, IUCN calls on SBSTTA to consider the need to:
Emphasize the importance of invasive alien species as one of the main drivers of biodiversity loss resulting from the augmented levels of transportation, tourism and trade associated with globalization;

Identify gaps and limitations in the information needed for the GBO to fulfil its objectives, and to address these gaps through strengthened reporting, SBSTTA’s work and linkages with other inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations engaged in biodiversity assessment;

More clearly outline some of the limitations and constraints of the indicators chosen, such as those mentioned in the section of this paper on sustainable use. IUCN has been working intensively on the issue of indicators for sustainable use and has provided a separate information paper on this issue;

Encourage stronger connections between the indicators mentioned in the GBO report and indicators of human well-being such as those relating to the MDGs, since GBO notes that “ecosystems directly or indirectly provide the basic materials necessary for life”. In particular, it would be important to build on the important work of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment in providing a comprehensive overview of ecosystem goods and services as the link between biodiversity and human well-being. One example would be indicators of the status and trends of biodiversity used in food and medicine. IUCN is already working towards refining the Red List Index to address some of these aspects; and

Enhance awareness using the information compiled in the GBO to foster further actions towards the achievement of the 2010 target. IUCN is a key supporter of the Countdown 2010 initiative which is an alliance of actors from all sectors that are working to meet the 2010 biodiversity challenge through a clear set of goals and objectives. Initially a pan European initiative, it is now being launched in several other regions. It is an ideal mechanism to communicate and mobilise action around the 2010 biodiversity commitment.

Millennium Ecosystem Assessment
(Agenda Item 4.2)

The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment was an unprecedented effort by over 1300 scientists from 68 countries, and provides a state of the art overview of the current status of the world’s ecosystems. Perhaps most relevant for the CBD, it demonstrates a direct link between biodiversity and ecosystem services, with the latter linked to human well-being.

While the relationship between biodiversity and ecosystem services is still to be comprehensively determined, considerable research effort is being devoted to this topic, and it is apparent that different aspects of biodiversity have different relationships with different ecosystem services. It is worth recalling that the link between the ecosystem diversity and the ecosystem service of protection against storms and extreme events has been dramatically demonstrated in the case of the Indian Ocean tsunami and Hurricane Katrina. In both cases, intact ecosystems, with their full components of biodiversity, have provided at least some respite from the extreme events; where these ecosystems had been destroyed, the damage was multiplied to disastrous levels.

IUCN welcomes the findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment for the Future Work of the Convention as presented in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/7 and the Summary for Decision Makers of the Biodiversity Synthesis Report (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/7/ADD1). IUCN calls on SBSTTA to recommend that COP 8:

Recognize the findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment that highlight the
contribution of biodiversity to development and poverty alleviation through ecosystem services and the need to further this link;

✓ Recognize the need to improve awareness and understanding of this link by relevant decision makers at global, national and local levels and the need to incorporate biodiversity concerns into their development-related activities;

✓ Consider the increasing threat of the introduction of invasive alien species, as found in the Millennium Assessment, and ensure that this is further addressed in the future development of the programmes of work of the Convention;

✓ Urge Parties to pursue, in an integrated way, the MDGs and the 2010 target of reducing the rate of biodiversity loss and consider the need for further targets to be set beyond 2010 as part of the process of revising the Strategic Plan; and

✓ Give further attention to addressing the direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity loss.

IUCN recognizes the value of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment’s synthesized information, and supports the recommendation to ensure that the CBD contributes to its evaluation, focusing in particular on the impact of the Millennium Assessment on the implementation of the Convention at global and national levels.

Incentive measures (Agenda Item 5.3)

Proposals on the Application of Positive Incentive Measures and Their Integration into Relevant Programmes, Policies or Strategies

IUCN supports efforts to reform economic policies and market institutions, in order to reverse biodiversity loss and create the conditions for more sustainable, equitable and efficient use of biological resources. IUCN welcomes the information document prepared by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/INF/11), which provides a useful introduction to a range of positive incentive measures and highlights several important considerations regarding their implementation. IUCN likewise welcomes the Proposals on the Application of Positive Incentive Measures and their Integration into Relevant Programmes, Policies or Strategies, presented in an annex to a separate note by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/8).

IUCN fully supports the priority accorded, in both of the documents listed above, to the elimination or reform of policies that contribute to biodiversity loss, notably so-called environmentally-harmful or ‘perverse’ subsidies. Efforts to create positive incentives for biodiversity conservation will be seriously handicapped so long as existing disincentives remain in place. IUCN encourages further research, experimentation and sharing of information on how existing, environmentally-harmful subsidies can be redirected to achieve environmental and equity goals.

IUCN likewise supports efforts to synthesize, disseminate and build on the lessons learned from recent attempts to create positive incentives for biodiversity conservation around the world. In this regard, IUCN notes the progress being made in articulating the business case for biodiversity, together with efforts to develop and promote the use of voluntary measures by the business community. Recent developments in biodiversity impact assessment, mitigation and reporting systems for business – in many cases supported by governments and NGOs – can provide significant positive incentives for improved biodiversity management across a range of sectors, including industries with relatively indirect links to biodiversity (e.g. banking and insurance).

IUCN welcomes the emphasis given by the Executive Secretary to the potential impact of positive incentive measures on poor countries and households, and on local and indigenous
communities. There are good reasons to believe that positive incentive measures for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity can contribute to poverty reduction, but only if they are designed and implemented with this in mind.

New positive incentive measures for biodiversity need to be designed and implemented carefully, not only to ensure coherence with existing voluntary agreements and policies, but also to avoid harm to vulnerable groups and optimize the contribution of biodiversity incentive measures to poverty reduction. This will require additional investment to build public awareness of the potential of positive incentives for environmental management and community development, and to strengthen capacity for their use, especially in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Further efforts are also required, as noted in the documents prepared by the Executive Secretary, to enhance coherence between positive incentive measures for biodiversity and multilateral trade and investment agreements.

IUCN supports the suggested proposals and draft recommendation of the Executive Secretary with regard to the application of positive incentive measures by Parties and other Governments, including the need for capacity strengthening, improved information systems and research. In addition, **IUCN calls on SBSTTA to recommend that COP 8:**

- Encourage Parties and other Governments to develop, pilot and promote approaches to payments and markets for ecosystem services that contribute to poverty reduction;

- Request the Executive Secretary to identify, in collaboration with relevant organizations:
  - Criteria for selecting appropriate positive incentive measures in various institutional and ecological settings; and
  - High-potential opportunities to mobilize private demand for biodiversity, in order to ensure the long-term sustainability of incentive measures.

**Proposals on the Application of Tools for Valuation of Biodiversity and Biodiversity Resources and Functions**

IUCN supports the use of economic valuation methods to inform environmental decision-making and welcomes the consideration by SBSTTA of biodiversity valuation tools and priorities. IUCN commends the Executive Secretary for providing an excellent overview of this complex topic in its information document (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/INF/8). The document provides a clear and succinct explanation of the values of biodiversity and the methods used to estimate them, as well as the relation between economic valuation and other decision-making methods (e.g. cost-effectiveness analysis, multi-criteria analysis, citizen juries). As noted in the document, however, although reliable valuation methods are available, they are not applied routinely or systematically as part of formal decision-making processes. To-date there has been only limited application of valuation by most governments and there is, for the most part, no routine reporting of non-market values in official economic statistics. Moreover, notwithstanding the sound arguments advanced in the information document, valuation studies are very rarely combined with participatory processes, to ensure broad ‘ownership’ of the results by affected stakeholders.

IUCN supports the suggested recommendation of the Executive Secretary with regard to the wider application of valuation methods by Parties and other Governments, as well as the need for capacity strengthening, improved information systems and further research on biodiversity valuation. In addition to the suggested recommendation provided by the Executive
Secretary, IUCN calls on SBSTTA to recommend that COP 8:

√ Encourage research on the value of biological diversity per se (i.e. the diversity of genes, species, ecosystems) and its relation to the supply of ecosystem services;

√ Encourage work on economic valuation in the context of the programme of work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Protected Areas, particularly with respect to improving estimates of protected area benefits, costs and financing needs;

√ Encourage work on valuation in the context of emerging markets and payments for ecosystem services, to ensure that the latter are soundly based on accurate assessments of willingness-to-pay;

√ Encourage Parties and other Governments to account for distributional issues in valuation, especially the contribution of biodiversity to poverty reduction; and

√ Request the Executive Secretary to cooperate with others to analyze and improve understanding of the policy and institutional conditions required to ensure that valuation results optimally influence decision-making.

Mountain biological diversity: development of goals and subtargets for the programme of work in the framework of the 2010 target (Agenda Item 5.4)

IUCN acknowledges the progress reflected in the draft outcome-oriented targets for the programme of work on mountain biological diversity (UNEP/CBD/ SBSTTA/11/10) and welcomes the recognition in this document of the relationship between these targets and those of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the MDGs and therefore calls SBSTTA to recommend that COP 8:

√ Enhance the importance of watershed management and the need to develop indicators for this especially with regard to goal 5; and

√ Consider the IUCN Red List Index as an indicator of status of threatened species (Overall target 2.2) in line with COP decision VII/30 and SBSTTA recommendation X/5 defining a framework of indicators for assessing progress towards the 2010 target at the global level.

Marine and coastal biodiversity: Status and trends of, and threats to, deep seabed genetic resources beyond national jurisdiction, and identification of technical options for their conservation and sustainable use (Agenda Item 6.1)

IUCN supports the conservation and sustainable and equitable use of the genetic resources of the deep seabed beyond national jurisdiction. Potentially beneficial products will continue to be developed from these resources, and scientific research leading to biotechnology contributes to our growing understanding of deepsea environments and biodiversity. IUCN's concerns are to ensure that:

- Significant existing threats to deepsea biodiversity and genetic resources like destructive fishing practices are adequately regulated, based on ecosystem and precautionary approaches;
- The collection of large amounts of biological material from deepsea areas in order to study potential biotechnology uses is subject to prior impact assessment, so that collection activities are sustainable and do not adversely affect wider ecosystems;
• Activities related to deep seabed genetic resources are transparent; and

• Marine scientific research supports the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity and strengthens the ability of all nations to join in collaborative research and its benefits.

In relation to the draft recommendation of the secretariat documents on Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity: Status and trends of, and threats to, deep seabed genetic resources beyond national jurisdiction, and identification of technical options for their conservation and sustainable use (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/11), IUCN endorses wholeheartedly the urgent need to provide for the conservation and sustainable use of deep seabed genetic resources beyond national jurisdiction and calls on SBSTTA to recommend that COP 8:

- Request that Parties report on the measures they have taken to identify and manage activities and processes under their jurisdiction and control that adversely impact these resources through the competent bodies;

- Encourage States to report on proposed research activities related to deep seabed genetic resources and their results, in keeping with obligations under the Law of the Sea and in order to enhance transparency and collaboration in these costly deepsea research undertakings; and

- Recognize the need for further efforts to identify, assess and monitor deep seabed genetic resources. In this and other international bodies IUCN continues to urge an expedited scientific assessment of deepsea biodiversity, based on the best available information, to provide a baseline for further research and assessment and a sound scientific basis for policy development. This could help identify priority sites for special protection as genetic reservoirs, and threats to them, and advance the application of area-based management measures as a technical option to conserve deep seabed genetic resources. In this respect we look forward to the results of the workshop of international marine ecological experts hosted by Canada to consider science-based ecological criteria and biogeographic classification systems for use in identifying areas beyond national jurisdiction that may require special protection and/or management.

IUCN is planning to contribute further recommendations on the principles applicable to these resources and the means to put them into effect as United Nations bodies take up the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction early next year.

For information: a recent resolution on bioprospecting under the Antarctic Treaty (June 2005) indicates that this activity, like others in the Treaty area, which includes the marine area south of 60 degrees South latitude, is subject to prior environmental assessment as provided in the Treaty’s Madrid Protocol. It also reaffirms that with regard to scientific activities relating to bioprospecting, in order to promote international cooperation in scientific research as provided in the Treaty, the Parties must exchange information on plans for research programmes to maximize economy and efficiency of operations, exchange scientific personnel, and exchange and make freely available their scientific observations and results. It recommends that governments draw the attention of their national research programmes and other research institutes engaged in bioprospecting activities in the region to these provisions on scientific research.

**Invasive alien species: further consideration of gaps and inconsistencies in the international regulatory frameworks**

*(Agenda Item 6.4)*
An Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) to address gaps and inconsistencies in the international regulatory frameworks at global and regional levels was set by SBSTTA on the request of the COP 7. The AHTEG met in Auckland, New Zealand in May 2005. The report from this meeting (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/INF/4 and the short note by the Executive Secretary UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/16) suggest that SBSTTA "may wish to welcome the report of the AHTEG on Gaps and Inconsistencies in the International Regulatory Frameworks on Invasive Alien Species, and, on the basis of the work of the Expert Group, make recommendations for its consideration at a meeting prior to the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties for the full and effective implementation of Article 8(h) of the Convention, and further be considered by the Conference of the Parties."

Considering the above, IUCN supports the AHTEG recommendations and thus calls on SBSTTA to recommend that the COP at its 9th meeting:

- Encourage the maximized use of national implementation to deal with invasive alien species (IAS) and acknowledge the need for capacity building with funding and support particularly focused on developing countries;
- Encourage regional approaches;
- Address identified gaps in pathways, including aid, aquaculture and military activities; and
- Recognize the need to enhance cooperation between the "agricultural" and "environmental" sectors following examples such as the new collaboration at international level between the International Plant Protection Convention and the CBD. Cooperation between national and regional agencies would also result in considerable gains to be made.

In addition, IUCN supports the project to develop a joint work programme on marine invasive alien species as highlighted in a workshop organized by GISPCBD/UNEP that will be addressed under Agenda Item 3 on the Progress report on the implementation of the programme of work of the Convention. The IUCN Global Marine Programme has produced an information paper for the workshop (Gaps and priorities in addressing marine invasive species) that can be found at: http://www.iucn.org/themes/marine/pdf/Marine%20AIS_GAPS-PRIORITIES.pdf) and may be useful for SBSTTA’s deliberations.

**Sustainable use: further consolidation of the work gaps and inconsistencies in the international regulatory frameworks**
(Agenda Item 6.5)

Sustainable use of biological diversity is a central goal of the CBD (Article 10). It is being addressed as a cross-cutting issue under the work programme. The Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity were adopted at COP 7 (CBD Decision VII/12; Kuala Lumpur; 2004). These principles provide a framework for governments to develop and implement policies that will foster sustainable use of biological diversity while providing guidance to resource managers on how to enhance the sustainability of their uses of biological diversity.

Considering the above, the Secretariat report on Further Consolidation of the Work on the Use of Terms and on Associated Instruments (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/) and the information paper being circulated by IUCN on the role and value of indicators of sustainable use of biological diversity, **IUCN urges SBSTTA to:**

- Recognize that sustainable use of species or populations can only be determined by the biological characteristics of the species;
- Recognize that indicators to monitor the status of species subject to use must be based on sound scientific and technical information;
Foster greater collaboration among UN Agencies (e.g. FAO, UNDP, UNEP, GEF, World Bank) Expert Group 6 on Sustainable Use Indicators of the Streamlining European 2010 Biodiversity Indicators initiative, TRAFFIC, Diversitas, and several key international NGOs (e.g., Wildlife Conservation Society, Flora and Fauna International, Birdlife International, Botanical Gardens Conservation International) engaged in preparing sustainable use indicators to avoid conflicts and duplication of effort; and

Strengthen linkages between the 2010 targets and the 2015 MDGs. Specifically, many nations are having difficulty meeting the 2010 targets. Failure to meet these targets would undermine the achievement of the 2015 MDGs. Bridging the 2010 targets to the MDGs would provide more coherent and long term approaches to achieving sustainability.

Guidance for promoting synergy among activities addressing climate change
(Agenda Item 6.6)

The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Biodiversity and Adaptation to Climate Change was established to assist SBSTTA in its further work on the interlinkages between biodiversity and climate change (decision VII/15).¹ The Executive Secretary convened a meeting in Helsinki in September 2005 and some of the key messages (presented in the Annex of the AHTEG report UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/INF/5) that could be highlighted are:

- Climate change is already affecting many ecosystems (par. 10). Resilient ecosystems maintain biodiversity and continue to deliver ecosystem goods and services under climate change (par. 11);
- Even if all anthropogenic additions of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere were to be stopped immediately, global warming and associated impacts such as sea level rise would be expected to continue for centuries (par. 9). In addition, adaptation strategies have limits. Action thus needs to be taken to limit the rate and extent of climate change (pars. 15, 34);
- Directed adaptation activities, which are necessary across all sectors including water management, forestry, agriculture and infrastructure development, are urgently needed to slow the rate of biodiversity loss (par. 12). A number of adaptation related activities have been identified in several multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs). Greater synergy in these adaptation efforts is needed for moving the adaptation agenda forward while contributing in effective implementation of the objectives of different MEAs (par. 44). Many opportunities to further develop synergies between Conventions or the sharing of best practice from on-going work warrant further consideration by national governments and the CBD (par. 46). Effective collaboration and networking between biodiversity and climate change communities at all levels is essential for the successful implementation of adaptation activities for biodiversity; and
- Adverse consequences to biodiversity can be minimized, and positive benefits enhanced, if biodiversity considerations are incorporated formally and routinely into adaptation planning (par. 18, 35, 37).

IUCN supports the findings of the AHTEG highlighted in the report and the guidance provided,

¹ Its terms of reference can be found in SBSTTA recommendation X/13, Climate change: terms of reference of an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group, UNEP/CBD/8/2, pp. 92 and 93.
reiterates that the application of the ecosystem approach could facilitate the formulation of climate change mitigation and adaptation projects that also contribute to biodiversity conservation and sustainable use at national level (CBD decision VII/15, para. 8), and notes that the COP to the UNCCD has recently committed to promote synergy between the Rio Conventions, and consequently, in line with the Note of the CBD Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/18), IUCN calls on SBSTTA to recommend that COP 8:

- Welcome the report of the AHTEG on Biodiversity and Adaptation to Climate Change;
- Take note of the need to devote further attention to the question of adaptation to climate change for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity;
- Request the Executive Secretary to further develop the integration of biodiversity considerations and land degradation in the implementation of adaptation activities to climate change in collaboration with the AHTEG on Biodiversity and Adaptation to Climate Change, drawing on more case studies relevant to the thematic areas of the Convention and including additional information derived from the work of the UNCCD and the UNFCCC, with the view of producing an in-depth assessment;
- Invite Parties to the UNFCCC and the UNCCD to further collaborate with the CBD on promoting synergy at national and international levels (e.g., through information exchange, cooperation including between expert groups such as the UNFCCC’s Least Developed Countries Expert Group) and at the level of their respective secretariats and to encourage Parties to advance the integration of the objectives of the three Rio Conventions into their national plans and other relevant planning schemes at local level;

- Urge Parties to include biodiversity consideration into national policies, programmes and plans for adaptation and to consider maintaining biodiversity as part of all national policies, programmes and plans for adaptation to climate change to allow ecosystems to continue providing goods and services. In particular, programmes and plans for adaptation to climate change should take into account the maintenance and restoration of resilience, which is an essential element to sustain the delivery of ecosystem goods and services; and

- Request SBSTTA to explore how it can contribute to addressing the knowledge gaps outlined in the AHTEG report in order to facilitate the integration of biodiversity into the design, implementation and monitoring of activities aimed at adapting to climate change, and express its support for any further work to be undertaken in relation to this issue.

IUCN also draws the attention of Parties to the UNEP project, “issue based modules for coherent implementation of biodiversity Conventions” www.svs-unepibmdb.net being developed in cooperation with IUCN and UNEP-WCMC and its potential to promote synergy and complementarity among Parties to different multilateral environmental agreements in fulfilling their commitments while concurrently addressing climate change mitigation and adaptation.

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Created in 1948, IUCN - The World Conservation Union brings together 82 States, 111 Government agencies, 800 plus NGO’s, and some 10,000 scientists and experts from 181 countries in a unique worldwide partnership. IUCN’s mission is to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable.

IUCN is the world’s largest environmental knowledge network and has helped over 75 countries to prepare and implement national conservation and biodiversity strategies. IUCN is a multicultural, multilingual organization with 1000 staff located in 62 countries. Its headquarters are in Gland, Switzerland.