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## OPERATIONAL RESPONSE TO THE GUIDANCE OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

**GEF OPERATIONAL RESPONSE TO THE  
GUIDANCE OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE  
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ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

The Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) held its third meeting in Buenos Aires, Argentina from November 4 to 16, 1996. The following is a summary of the Parties' decisions relevant to operational aspects of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in its capacity as the institutional structure operating the financial mechanism of the Convention on an interim basis. In accordance with Article 21 of the Convention, the Conference of the Parties determines the policy, strategy, program priorities and eligibility criteria for access to and utilization of financial resources available through the financial mechanism, including monitoring and evaluation on a regular basis of such utilization. GEF, in operating the financial mechanism under the Convention, finances activities that are in full conformity with the guidance provided to it by the Conference of the Parties.

This note describes the operational response of the GEF to the guidance approved by the Conference of the Parties at its third meeting. Other aspects of the relationship between the GEF and the Conference of the Parties are addressed in the Memorandum of Understanding between the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Council of the Global Environment Facility, (e.g., reporting requirements, reciprocal representation, determination of funding requirements, review of effectiveness, and collaboration).

The Conference of the Parties has held three meetings. Guidance from the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties<sup>1</sup> was incorporated in the GEF Operational Strategy approved by the GEF Council in October 1995. Guidance from the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties<sup>2</sup> concerned national programs and reports, the need for expedited procedures, public involvement, modalities of support for the clearing-house mechanism, support for general measures for conservation and sustainable use and for in-situ conservation, and sustainable use of components of biological diversity. GEF continues to apply that guidance in its project activities, especially in its enabling activities.<sup>3</sup> Guidance from the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties,<sup>4</sup> which is reproduced in Annex 1, is being integrated in GEF activities as described in this note.

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<sup>1</sup> UNEP/CBD/COP/1/17, annex I, pages 33-34.

<sup>2</sup> UNEP/CBD/COP/2/ 6; also 3 para 9.

<sup>3</sup> UNEP/CBD/COP/3/5.

<sup>4</sup> The Biodiversity Agenda: Decisions from the Third Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Decision III/5 and Decision III/9 para 4.

In order to respond to the additional guidance as early and fully as possible,<sup>5</sup> the guidance is being integrated with existing operational modalities and strategies to the greatest extent possible. This includes modifications to the Operational Criteria for Enabling Activities and to the Operational Programs concerning biodiversity, and inclusion of specific items in the operational policy work program of the GEF. Where necessary, preparatory work needed to define longer term approaches is being undertaken, including broad-based consultation within and outside the GEF.

Annex 2 presents a summary of the steps being taken to integrate the guidance of the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties in GEF operational activities. The actions being taken to respond to the additional guidance have been developed in collaboration with the GEF Implementing Agencies and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

## **II. ENABLING ACTIVITIES**

In accordance with the guidance from the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties,<sup>6</sup> financial support is available through the GEF enabling activities to assist developing country parties in planning and/or implementing their national strategies and action plans. This assistance, while based on the guidance recommended by the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties, can encompass many of the priorities identified in the additional guidance provided by the third Conference of the Parties.

The GEF Operational Strategy defines enabling activities in biodiversity as:<sup>7</sup>

‘[Activities] that prepare the foundation to design and implement effective response measures to achieve Convention objectives. They will assist recipient countries to develop national strategies, plans or programs referred to in Article 6 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and to identify components of biodiversity together with processes and activities likely to have significant adverse impacts on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity pursuant to Article 7 of the Convention on Biological Diversity. They will normally involve the review and assessment of information and will assist a recipient country to gain a better understanding of the nature and scope of its biodiversity assets and issues as well as a clearer sense of the options for the sustainable management and conservation of biodiversity. Enabling activities include supporting country-driven activities for taking stock of or inventorying biodiversity based

<sup>5</sup> GEF Operational Strategy, Operational Principles, Principle #5, Box 1.1, page 2.

<sup>6</sup> UNEP/CBD/COP/2, Decision II/7, para 5. which encourages Parties to take into consideration existing guidelines such as WRI/UNEP/IUCN: “National Biodiversity Planning” when preparing and implementing their national strategies and action plans.

<sup>7</sup> GEF Operational Strategy, 1996, Chapter 2.

on national programs and relying on studies, without new primary research; identifying options and establishing priorities to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity; preparing and developing biodiversity planning exercises, such as national strategies, action plans and sectoral plans; and disseminating of information through national strategies, action plans and sectoral plans; and disseminating of information through national communications to the Convention on Biological Diversity’.

In approving the GEF Operational Strategy at its October 1995 meeting, the GEF Council stressed that in preparing project proposals for enabling activities the guidance of the Conference of the Parties to the relevant conventions should be followed<sup>8</sup>. It was also stressed that operational criteria, including an analysis of what specific actions should be addressed under enabling activities, should be prepared in order to facilitate review and approval of enabling activities projects.

In 1996 “Operational Criteria for Enabling Activities”<sup>9</sup> were developed on the basis of the guidance approved by the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The criteria have now been revised to reflect the guidance approved by the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties.<sup>10</sup> Revisions address the definition of the general scope of enabling activities activity norms and matrix and the cost benchmarks. The revised text has been distributed separately.

More specifically, the following activities are included in the general scope of the criteria:

- capacity building to assist Parties in the implementation of Articles 6 and 8;
- identification of priority issues specifically related to those components of biological diversity under threat;
- capacity building in biosafety;
- capacity building for initial assessment and monitoring programs, including taxonomy;
- supporting efforts for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity important to agriculture;
- supporting the implementation of the clearing-house mechanism;

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<sup>8</sup> Relevant guidance from the COP of the CBD set forth in Annex D.

<sup>9</sup> GEF Operational Criteria on Enabling Activities, June 1996.

<sup>10</sup> UNEP/CBD/COP/3/38, Decision III 5, para 2, and Decision III/9, para 2.

- supporting incentive measures;
- capacity building to implement measures on access to genetic resources; and
- an examination of support for capacity building projects for indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles.

The activity norms and matrix have been adjusted to accommodate the new guidance for the activities listed above. In some cases the additional guidance required greater specificity concerning general categories of activities, and in other cases it was necessary to include new activities.

Costs benchmarks have been developed and agreed with the Biodiversity Task Force to cover the costs of the activities described with revised Operational Criteria including those which arise from the guidance approved at the third meeting of the Parties.

In recognition of the fact that additional guidance has been received, countries that have already received financing for an enabling activity project may be eligible to receive supplementary resources for additional activities. The first such “supplementary” enabling activity financing request will be submitted to the Council with an explanatory note so as to seek Council agreement for the approach described in the Operational Criteria. The Implementing Agencies are making every effort to group enabling activities for any given country into a single project, or single supplementary project, phasing individual components as necessary.

In some cases, the costs of additional activities may lead to projects exceeding the ceiling agreed to for application of expedited procedures, including the procedure delegating approval authority to the CEO of the GEF. Project proposals that exceed the ceiling will be submitted to the Council for approval in accordance with the regular GEF project cycle.

### **III. OPERATIONAL PROGRAMS**

The biodiversity operational programs on arid and semi-arid zone ecosystems; coastal, marine, and fresh water ecosystems; forest ecosystems; and mountain ecosystems have been revised to include relevant guidance approved by the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties. New provisions have been added to each relevant operational program to incorporate the policies and priorities approved by the Conference of the Parties. Specifically, country driven projects consistent with national priorities and objectives and incorporating the following will be promoted:

for capacity building for **biosafety**,<sup>11</sup> specific projects or project components will be formulated on a case-by-case in the context of any of the four biodiversity operational programs;<sup>12</sup>

for addressing issues in **assessment and monitoring**,<sup>13</sup> **including taxonomy**,<sup>14</sup> activities will develop and carry out an initial assessment for designing, implementing and monitoring programs in accordance with Article 7. Special efforts will be made to identify appropriate projects in small island states;

for **agrobiodiversity**,<sup>15</sup> activities will be promoted that demonstrate and apply techniques to conserve biodiversity important to agriculture, for example, wild relatives of domesticated species;<sup>16</sup>

in addition to support for the **clearing-house mechanism** available through enabling activities,<sup>17</sup> the Implementing Agencies will work with interested parties to identify and support activities, in the context of the operational programs, for country-driven pilot projects based on the priority areas identified by the Conference of the Parties to enable developing countries to implement the main features of the clearing-house mechanism;

on **access to genetic resources**,<sup>18</sup> project opportunities will be sought to promote capacity building activities in the context of each of the four operational programs;

on examining support for capacity building for **indigenous and local communities**,<sup>19</sup> embodying traditional lifestyles, opportunities will be sought to include project components in biodiversity projects to address this;

on **targeted research**,<sup>20</sup> opportunities will be sought to include project components, when relevant to the project's objectives and consistent with

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<sup>11</sup> Ibid., Decision III/5, para 2(a).

<sup>12</sup> COP-2 established a negotiating process for a protocol in biosafety which should be completed by the end of 1998 and may lead to more specific guidance to GEF. The protocol will address capacity building as one of the various component, and should be completed by the end of 1998.

<sup>13</sup> GEF will use, for operational purposes, accepted standard definitions of key terms such as inventorying, assessment, and monitoring.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid., Decision III/5, para 2(b).

<sup>15</sup> Ibid., Decision III/5, para 2(c).

<sup>16</sup> GEF Operational Strategy, Chapter 2, Forest Ecosystems OP, page 16.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid., Decision III/5, para 2(d) and Decision III/4, paras 2 and 3.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid., Decision III/5, para 4.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid., Decision III/5, para 5.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid., para 6(a).

country-driven national priorities, that deepen our understanding of the nature and processes affecting biodiversity conservation and sustainable use;

on **awareness and understanding**,<sup>21</sup> activities to do this will be built into projects where appropriate;

on **in-situ and ex-situ conservation**,<sup>22</sup> projects will be promoted which incorporate and implement elements of Article 8. For ex-situ activities, GEF will support country-driven priorities identified in national strategies and action plans that are complementary to in-situ activities. Regarding submission of national reports for the next Conference of the Parties<sup>23</sup>, the GEF Council has approved expedited procedures for enabling activities, which include the preparation of the first national report. GEF resources are available to assist in preparing timely submissions.

#### **IV. FURTHER OPERATIONAL POLICY DEVELOPMENT**

To respond to the guidance approved by the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the GEF Secretariat, in collaboration with the Implementing Agencies, will prepare a number of studies or reviews to strengthen its operational policies for activities in the areas of assessment and monitoring, including taxonomy; agrobiodiversity; support for incentive measures; capacity building to implement measures on access to genetic resources; support for capacity building projects for indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles; and benefit sharing. More specifically:

for **assessment and monitoring**,<sup>24</sup> **including taxonomy**:

GEF will conduct annual portfolio reviews to define lessons learnt and best practice for activities under implementation;

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<sup>21</sup> Ibid., Decision III/5, para 6(b).

<sup>22</sup> Ibid., Decision III/9, para 2(a).

<sup>23</sup> Ibid., Decision III/9, para 3.

<sup>24</sup> GEF will use, for operational purposes, accepted standard definitions of key terms such as inventorying, assessment, and monitoring.

GEF will develop a long-term strategy for these issues, involving rapid assessment and other methodologies and potential indicators for biodiversity;

GEF will seek to identify those activities addressing these issues that may best be undertaken on a regional basis.<sup>25</sup>

for **agrobiodiversity**, the GEF will draft an operational policy note describing its overall response to this priority area identified by the Conference of the Parties. Technical issues in the policy note may include:

- levels of action (genetic, species, and ecosystem/landscape levels);
- type of biodiversity to be considered, such as in-field agrobiodiversity (mainly useful crops); land races and wild relatives of domesticated species; biodiversity in dominant agricultural landscapes; and synergies between agriculture and conservation ecology (e.g., watershed management and biodiversity protection); and
- types of activities to be financed (e.g., integrated conservation and development projects) and potential location (e.g., in buffer zones of conservation units such as World Heritage Sites and biosphere reserves).

for **incentive measures**,<sup>26</sup> the GEF will work with the Convention Secretariat to identify innovative measures, including economic and social measures, addressing country specific needs to:

develop and apply the concept of removing barriers to practices that support biodiversity conservation and sustainable use;

identify social, legal, policy, and institutional incentives which can support the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and to undertake demonstration projects, and;

identify within the operational programs the type of projects that would promote the use of incentive measures, such as barrier removal

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<sup>25</sup> Regional approaches to capacity building, particularly training, may be supported when economies of scale make it possible and/or desirable.

<sup>26</sup> UNEP/CBD/COP/1/17, annex 1, para 4(i) which reads: "Innovative measures, including in the field of economic incentives, aiming at conservation of biological diversity and/or sustainable use of its components, including those which assist developing countries to address situations where opportunity costs are incurred by local communities and to identify ways and means by which these can be compensated, in accordance with Article 11 of the Convention.", and Ibid., Decision III/5, para 3.



(labeling, certification), appropriate pricing, alternative livelihood, commercially viable projects based on traditional knowledge (eco-tourism, special crops, eco-farming) and appropriate benefit sharing.

for **genetic resources**,<sup>27</sup> the paper on benefit sharing to be developed by the Convention Secretariat and the GEF Secretariat will assist the Conference of the Parties to provide guidance as to how the GEF may provide assistance concerning the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of genetic resources;

for examining support for capacity building for **indigenous and local communities**<sup>28</sup> embodying traditional lifestyles<sup>29</sup>, the GEF proposes to:

review current support for capacity building in projects that effect indigenous and local communities; review outcomes of GEF-funded projects affecting indigenous communities; and develop best practices in conjunction with indigenous and local communities, to be used in future project preparation and implementation;

expedite, through the implementation of its policy on public involvement in project development,<sup>30</sup> assessments of needs and scope of capacity building efforts that might be included in projects;

work with indigenous, local community, and other interested parties to define and explore possibilities for a more proactive approach to developing projects

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<sup>27</sup> Ibid., Decision III/5, para 4.

<sup>28</sup> In terms of nomenclature, GEF will adopt international standards and criteria for the term indigenous communities. Indigenous communities are deemed to be those that have the following five characteristics: (i) historic existence of preexistence; (ii) minority group differentiated from dominant population; (iii) culturally distinct in terms of language, practice, religion, etc.; (iv) defined self-determination, ethnically distinct; vulnerability (in terms of historic discrimination, exclusion from mainstream law and culture; and (v) threatened culture, livelihood and habitat; and lack of opportunities). In addition, it is important to differentiate two subsets of indigenous communities for purposes of project design and implementation: (i) isolated communities located in remote areas where threats of assimilation, encroachment and commercialization are marginal or non-existent; and (ii) marginal communities located in semi-remote areas or accessible through trails or roads and where threats from outside forces are large and imminent.

<sup>29</sup> Ibid., Decision III/5, para 5.

<sup>30</sup> GEF, Public Involvement in GEF-financed Projects, June 1996, Washington, DC. Operational guidelines call upon the Implementing Agencies to ensure that all GEF funded projects, especially those with significant beneficiary populations, develop a Stakeholder Participation Plan (SPP). Specifically for indigenous communities, the SPP will focus on empowerment and capacity building.

- for critical pockets of indigenous communities in biologically important threatened sites;
- for indigenous communities under serious threats; and
- networking and best practice;

for **benefit sharing**,<sup>31</sup> the Secretariat will collaborate with the Convention Secretariat in preparing a proposal on means to address the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of genetic resources, including assistance to developing country parties for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting in May 1998.

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<sup>31</sup> Documentation produced will also help responding to guidance from Decision, III/9 para 2(c).

Annex 1      Decisions of the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties

**UNEP/CBD/COP/3/38/ annex II, Decision III/5: *Additional guidance to the Financial Mechanism*** (November 1996)

The Conference of the Parties,

Bearing in mind Articles 20 and 21 of the convention,

Underlining the importance of paragraphs 1 and 4 of Article 20 of the Convention,

Taking into account, in particular, paragraph 6 of decision II/6,

Recalling paragraph 6 of decision II/7, which emphasizes the importance of capacity/building and requests the interim financial mechanism under the convention to facilitate the urgent implementation of Articles 6 and 8 of the Convention by making available to developing country Parties financial resources for projects in a flexible and expeditious manner,

Recognizing that the Global Environment Facility, as stated in its Operational Principles for Development and Implementation of its Work Programme will maintain sufficient flexibility to respond to changing circumstances, including evolving guidance of the Conference of the Parties and experience gained from monitoring and evaluation activities,

Recognizing further that the Global Environment Facility, in its operational criteria for enabling activities for biodiversity, anticipates that these criteria will need to be reviewed and revised on the basis of early implementation experience, as necessary,

Recognizing progress made by the Global Environment Facility, in particular, concerning the Global Environment Facility decisions on medium-sized projects and enabling activities,

Recognizing also difficulties encountered with the application of the Operational Strategy of the Global Environment Facility, the project appraisal process, the application of the criteria for determining incremental costs and the procedures applied by the Implementing Agencies,

Recognizing further the need for a balanced implementation of the provisions of the Convention,

Taking note of the report of the Global Environment Facility to the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in which information was provided on the efforts to

ensure that funding of its activities is in conformity with the policy, strategy, eligibility criteria and programme priorities of the Conference of the Parties, and in particular, the expedited procedures adopted for enabling activities in the biodiversity focal area,

1. Urges the Implementing Agencies of the Global Environment Facility to enhance cooperation to increase efforts to improve the processing and delivery systems of the Global Environment Facility;

2. Decides to provide the following additional guidance to the Global Environment Facility in the provision of financial resources in conformity with decisions I/2 and II/6 of the first and second meetings of the Conference of the Parties. In this regard, the Global Environment Facility shall provide financial resources to developing countries for country-driven activities and programmes, consistent with national priorities and objectives, recognizing that economic and social development and poverty eradication are the first and overriding priorities of developing countries:

- (a) For capacity-building in biosafety, including for the implementation by developing countries of the UNEP International Technical Guidelines on Safety in Biotechnology;
- (b) For capacity-building, including taxonomy, to enable developing countries to develop and carry out an initial assessment for designing, implementing and monitoring programmes in accordance with Article 7, taking into account the special need of small island States (Note: The Conference of the Parties endorsed recommendation II/2 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, concerning capacity-building for taxonomy);
- (c) For supporting, as a priority, efforts for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity important to agriculture, in accordance with decision 3/11;
- (d) For supporting the following activities as critical components in the implementation of the clearing-house mechanism at the national, subregional and regional levels, including in the pilot phase, to which critical components the Global Environment Facility shall give effect by implementing its revised operational criteria for enabling activities in relation to the clearing-house mechanism as quickly as possible:
  - (i) capacity-building for the purpose of the clearing-house mechanism, including training in information systems technologies that will allow developing countries to take advantage of the recent developments in electronic communication, including the Internet;

- (ii) country-driven pilot projects, focused on priority areas identified by the Conference of the Parties which would enable developing countries to begin to implement the main features of the pilot-phase of the clearing-house mechanism;

3. Reconfirms the importance of the Global Environment Facility's support for incentive measures, guidance for which was contained in Annex I to decision I/2, paragraph 4 (i), taking note of decision III/18;

4. Urges the Global Environment Facility, along with Governments, regional economic integration organizations, and competent international, regional and national organizations, to support human and institutional capacity-building programmes for Governments, non-governmental organizations and local and indigenous communities, as appropriate, to promote the successful development and implementation of legislative, administrative and policy measures and guidances on access to genetic resources, including scientific, technical, business, legal and management skills and capacities;

5. Requests the Global Environment Facility to examine the support of capacity-building projects for indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles related to the preservation and maintenance of their knowledge, innovations and practices relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity with their prior informed consent and their participation;

6. Requests the Global Environment Facility, in preparing projects in conformity with the Conference of the Parties guidance on policy, strategy, programme priorities and eligibility criteria, to include in such projects, when relevant to the project's objectives and consistent with national priorities, project components addressing:

- (a) Targeted research which contributes to conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components including research for reversing current trends of biodiversity loss and species extinction;
- (b) Promotion of the understanding of the importance of, and measures required for, the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity;

7. Requests the Secretariat of the Convention and the Global Environment Facility to collaborate in preparing, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting, a proposal on the means to address the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of genetic resources including assistance to developing country Parties.

**UNEP/CBD/COP/3/38, Annex II, Decision III/9, *Implementation of Articles 6 and 8 of the Convention*** (November 1996)

The Conference of the Parties,

Reaffirming the great importance of the development and implementation by all Parties of national strategies, plans and programs in accordance with Article 6 of the Convention,

Welcoming the work already undertaken by the Parties in implementing Article 6,

Recalling paragraph 5 of decision II/6, in which the Conference of the Parties requested the interim institutional structure operating the financial mechanism to facilitate urgent implementation of Article 6 of the Convention by making available to developing country Parties financial resources for projects in a flexible and expeditious manner,

Recalling also that in decision II/17 the Conference of the Parties decided that the first national reports by Parties would focus in so far as possible on measures taken for the implementation of Article 6,

Reaffirming that Article 8 of the Convention sets out a clear framework of the necessary elements for in situ conservation, which should be addressed in a coherent manner,

Noting that the reduction in the number of species and the fragmentation and degradation of ecosystems and habitats call not only for conservation but also for inter alia sustainable use and restoration of habitats, including their biological diversity components, together with other measures provided for by Article 8 of the Convention,

Noting the conclusions and recommendations of the United Nations-Norway Conference on Alien Species, Trondheim, Norway, 1-5 July 1996, and suggesting that Parties may wish to use these results in their implementation of Article 8 (h) of the Convention,

Believing that a central role of the clearing-house mechanism should be the sharing of experiences and dissemination of information relevant to Articles 6 and 8,

Emphasizing that the compilation and dissemination under the Convention of information relevant to the implementation of Articles 6 and 8 should complement and enhance existing efforts, rather than duplicate them,

1. Stresses the need for Parties to ensure the cross-border coordination of their respective strategies, on a bilateral as well as on a regional basis;
2. Urges Parties to include in their national plans or strategies and legislation measures for:
  - (a) The conservation of biological diversity both in situ and ex situ;
  - (b) The integration of biological diversity objectives in relevant sectoral policies in order to achieve conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity;
  - (c) The equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources;
3. Further urges Parties to submit their first national reports on time;
4. Requests the interim financial mechanism under the Convention to make available to developing country Parties resources to enable them to facilitate urgent implementation of paragraphs 2 and 3 above;
5. Encourages all Parties to set measurable targets in order to achieve biological diversity conservation and sustainable use objectives;
6. Requests Parties to take action to achieve the restoration of habitats, including their biological diversity components;
7. Requests the Executive Secretary to explore ways of enhancing the collection and dissemination to Parties of information on the implementation of Articles 6 and 8 by involving in a more regular and systematic fashion organizations already concerned with the collection and dissemination of such information;
8. Requests the Executive Secretary to prepare a paper for consideration by the next meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, identifying existing conventions and other international agreements relevant to the implementation of the various paragraphs of Article 8;
9. Recommends the development of a thematic approach in the further compilation and dissemination of information on the implementation of Articles 6 and 8 and commends the inclusion of the following work areas within this approach:
  - (a) Methodologies to evaluate and mitigate threats to biological diversity;

- (b) Ways to suppress or mitigate perverse or negative incentives having a deleterious effect on biological diversity;
- (c) Alien species; and
- (d) Protected areas;

10. Encourages the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment and the Invasive Species Specialist Group of the World Conservation Union to continue their efforts to develop a global strategy and action plan to deal with the problem of alien invasive species;

11. Decides that the first national reports referred to in Decision II/7 should be submitted no later than 1 January 1998, taking into account decision III/25 of the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the date and venue of its next meeting.



## Annex 2. Approach to Implementation

Substantive Aspect	Reference	Guidance	Modality
<b>National Planning and in-situ conservation</b>		Capacity Building for implementation	Included in enabling activities
<b>Biological diversity under threat</b>		Identification of Priority Issues	Included in enabling activities and addressed through OPs
<b>Biosafety</b>	5 para 2(a); 20 para 1(c)	Support capacity building, including on UNEP guidelines	Basic awareness activities included in enabling activities  Reference in all four OPs. Biosafety activities should be formulated case-by-case in context of the OPs, for biosafety components in the context of specific country needs
<b>Initial assessment and monitoring, including taxonomy</b>	5 para 2(b); 10 para 10.	Support capacity building, including taxonomy, for identification and monitoring	Basic awareness activities included in enabling activities  Reference included in all OPs
		Special needs of SIDs	Implementing Agencies to identify projects in SIDs  Reference included in GEFSEC WP: to conduct portfolio review, develop a long-term strategy and define regional activities
<b>Agrobiodiversity</b>	5 para 2	Support conservation	Basic awareness activities

	(c) in the context of 11 (Clearing-house Mechanism, FAO, plans)	and sustainable use of biodiversity important to agriculture	included in enabling activities  Reference included in OPs. Implementing Agencies to help with country-driven Short Term Response Measures and to include pilot components and demonstration of techniques  Reference included in GEFSEC WP: to prepare operational policy note to consolidate response to guidance
	<b>Clearing-house Mechanism</b>	5 para 2(d) 4 paras 2 and 3	Support capacity building  Country-driven pilot projects
	<b>Incentive Measures</b>	5 para 4 Annex I, I/2 para 4(I); Note III/18	Measures that promote access; important economic incentives, compensation of local communities; Parties to adopt commercially sound practices, etc.  Basic awareness included in enabling activities  Reference included in GEFSEC WP: to work with CBDSEC to: (i) develop and apply the concept of removing the barriers to commercial practices that support biodiversity conservation and sustainable use; (ii) identify social, legal, policy, and institutional incentives and develop

<b>Genetic resources</b>			pilot demonstration and (iii) identify within the OPs the type of projects that would support use of incentive measures, such as barrier removal (labeling, certification), alternative livelihoods; commercially viable projects based on traditional knowledge (ecotourism, special crops, ecofarming) and appropriate benefit sharing
	5 para 4 15 para 3	Measures that promote access; including capacity building	Basic awareness included in enabling activities  Reference included in OPs. Opportunities for implementation will be sought. Paper on benefit sharing to identify further opportunities
<b>Indigenous and local communities</b>	5 para 5 14 para 5	Capacity building	Basic awareness included in enabling activities  Reference included in OPs. Implementing Agencies to seek opportunities to add project components on projects in pipeline. Engage in relevant targeted research within OPs  Reference included in GEFSEC WP: (i) portfolio review of projects and their impact; assess capacity building needs, draw lessons learned and

			define breadth and scope of efforts needed; (ii) implementation of policy; (iii) explore a more proactive approach
<b>Targeted Research</b>	5 para 6(a)	Include where appropriate	Included in OPs. Implementing Agencies to incorporate when relevant to project objectives and consistent with relevant country-driven national priorities
<b>Promotion of understanding of biodiversity</b>	5 para 6(b)	Promote importance and understanding of measures	Implementing Agencies to build components into projects for public awareness
<b>Benefit sharing</b>	5 para 7	Collaborate with CBD Secretariat on paper for Conference of Parties	Reference included in GEFSEC WP
<b>In-situ and ex-situ conservation measures</b>	9 para 2(a) and (b)	Integrate in sectoral planning	Included on Operational Criteria for enabling activities
		coherent approach for in-situ conservation	Included in OPs based on country-driven national priorities
		ex-situ activities	Reference included on enabling activities
			Implementing Agencies to support actions that are complementary to in-situ activities, including legislative measures

			based on country-driven national priorities
	para (c)	Equitable sharing of benefits	Reference included in GEFSEC WP: to collaborate with CBDSEC
	Para 3	National report submission	Financial resources available and expedited procedures approved that will permit timely response through enabling activities

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