COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

Thirtieth Session
Rome, Italy, 9-13 July 2012

Information on the Recommendations relating to Fisheries management and Conservation and Sustainable Use of Aquatic Living Resources: Recently adopted by The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

At the 29th session of COFI (2010), the Committee agreed that better coordination between UN organizations and agencies was required and encouraged FAO to improve interagency coordination and look for stronger synergies (paragraph 41 of the report). Furthermore, to increase sustainable use and conservation of aquatic resources, the Committee recommended FAO to collaborate with relevant international organizations including the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to build and share information, create synergies and provide coherent guidance (paragraph 46 of the report).

On 20 September 2011, in New York, twenty-eight international agencies, organizations and conventions developed and signed the "Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) between International Agencies, Organizations and Conventions and the Secretariat of the CBD on the Implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Achievement of the 2020 Aichi Biodiversity Targets." The Director General of FAO signed it, and hence FAO has been recognized as one of the parties to pursue the objectives of MOC.

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) is an open-ended intergovernmental scientific advisory body established under the Article 25 of CBD. The main role of SBSTTA is to provide the Conference of the Parties (COP) of CBD with timely advice relating to the implementation of the Convention. As a subsidiary body of the COP, SBSTTA is to report regularly to the COP on all aspects of its work. Its functions include: providing assessments of the status of biological diversity; providing assessments of the types of measures taken in accordance with the provisions of the Convention; and responding to questions that the COP may put to the body. SBSTTA has met 16 times to date and produced a total of 176 recommendations to the COP, some of which have been endorsed in full by the latter. Such endorsement makes these recommendations de facto decisions of the COP.

Recent recommendations by SBSTTA and subsequent decisions by COP have widely covered conservation and sustainable use of aquatic living resources, and extended to issues relating to fisheries management including examining the impacts of fisheries on marine and coastal biodiversity and the use of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). It has been observed that presence and participation of representatives from competent Ministries and/or Departments responsible for fisheries in both SBSTTA and COP are scarce. COFI members are highly recommended to follow the discussions and results of SBSTTA, COP and other CBD related meetings and send their representatives responsible for fisheries management to those meetings to engage in discussions on issues that affect fisheries management.

After the last COP (10th session of COP in 2010), two SBSTTA meetings were organized, i.e. the 15th and 16th sessions of SBSTTA, both of which were held in Montreal, from 7 to 11 November 2011 and from

30 April to 5 May 2012 respectively. At the last two sessions of SBSTTA, various items were discussed, including issues relating to fisheries and sustainable use and conservation of aquatic living resources, and 23 recommendations were produced. Based on those recommendations, final decisions will be concluded at the coming COP (11th session in Hyderabad, India, 8-19 October 2012). Among others, the following agenda items and recommendations discussed at the last two sessions may be of interest to COFI members, and future collaboration on such issues between FAO and CBD may need to be further strengthened. All the recommendations adopted under the each agenda item are attached in the Annex 1 & 2 of this document. Below are extracts from the recommendations relevant to FAO.

15TH SESSION

1. Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020: updated technical rationales and suggested indicators (Recommendation XV/1: Page 7 of this document);

This includes an indicative list of indicators available to assess progress towards the goals of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the "***Aichi Biodiversity Targets***" (contained in Annex I of this recommendation). Aichi Biodiversity Targets include, among others, Target 6 on fisheries management, Target 7 on sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, Target 9 on invasive alien species, Target 10 on climate change and Target 11 on MPAs.

This recommends the 11th session of COP to adopt a decision including the following paragraph (paragraph 10 (h));

> *(h) Requests the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, the Group on Earth Observation Biodiversity Observation Network (GEO-BON), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and other partners including the Indicators Working Group of the International Indigenous Forum for Biodiversity, as appropriate and subject to the availability of resources, to:*
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> *(i) Develop practical information on the indicators, including the rationale behind the indicators, their development status, the scale at which they are applied and information on data sources and methodologies, to assist in the application of each of the indicators;*
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> *(ii) Further develop global indicators identified in annex I below with a view to ensuring that each Aichi Biodiversity Target can be monitored by at least one global indicator by 2014, taking into account indicators that are already in use by, or relevant to, other conventions, regional agreements and processes;*
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> *(iii) Propose a limited number of simple, easily applicable and cost-effective indicators that can potentially be implemented by all Parties;*
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> *(iv) Explore options for the further harmonization of global indicators and their use between the Convention on Biological Diversity and other conventions, regional agreements and processes, and promote further collaboration including through the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions and the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions;*
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> *(v) Promote the further collaboration on biodiversity monitoring and indicators with the forestry, agriculture, fisheries and other sectors on the global, regional and national levels;*
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> *(vi) Further develop and maintain the online database on indicators for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020; and*
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> *(vii) Develop an explanatory practical toolkit on each of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, including possible steps for measuring progress towards these targets;*
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> *and to report to a meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice prior to the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;*

2. Invasive alien species: proposals on ways and means to address gaps in international standards regarding invasive alien species introduced as pets, aquarium and terrarium species, as live bait and live food (Recommendation XV/4: Page 17 of this document);

This recommends the 11th session of COP to adopt a decision including the following paragraph referring to FAO's involvement (paragraph 4);

> *4. Encourages Parties and other Governments to ensure, at the national level, effective collaboration among national authorities and focal points that deal with the Convention on Biological Diversity and International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the World Trade Organization Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (WTO-SPS Agreement), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), to address threats from invasive alien species, and, as appropriate, when addressing the risks associated with the introduction of alien animal species as pets, aquarium and terrarium species, and as live bait and live food to make full use of existing standards;*

3. Inland water biodiversity: implication of changes in the water cycle, and freshwater resources in the implementation of the programmes of work (Recommendation XV/5: Page 22 of this document);

Many of the issues discussed here relate to fisheries management, although this recommendation does not specifically refer to FAO.

16TH SESSION

4. Island biodiversity: in-depth review of the implementation of the programme of work (Recommendation XVI/3: Page 26 of this document);

Many of the issues discussed here relate to fisheries management, although this recommendation does not specifically refer to FAO.

5. Ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (Recommendation XVI/4: Page 30 of this document);

This recommends the 11th session of COP to adopt a decision including the following paragraphs referring to FAO's involvement (paragraphs 9 and 12);

> *9. Requests the Executive Secretary to further collaborate with Parties, other Governments and competent organizations and global and regional initiatives, such as the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the MarineEnvironment, including Socio-Economic Aspects, the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), regional seas conventions and action plans, and, where appropriate, regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs), with regard to fisheries management, to facilitate the description of areas that meet the criteria for EBSAs, and the further description of the areas already described, through the organization of additional regional or subregional workshops for the remaining regions or regions where new information becomes available, as appropriate, subject to availability of financial resources, and make the reports available for consideration by future meetings of the Subsidiary Body. The summary reports from the SBSTTA will be made available for future meetings of the Conference of the Parties for endorsement with a view to including the reports endorsed by the Conference of the Parties in the repository in line with the procedures and purpose set out in paragraph 42 of decision X/29;*

> *12. Requests the Executive Secretary to further develop, subject to availability of financial resources, the prototype repository and information-sharing mechanism into a fully functional repository and information-sharing mechanism so that it can fully serve the purpose called for in paragraph 39 of decision X/29, in collaboration with Parties, other Governments, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the*

Law of the Sea (UNDOALOS), the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO-IOC), in particular the Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS), the World Conservation Monitoring Centre of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP-WCMC), Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative, and other competent organizations, noting the need to have a clear distinction between the repository containing the information included on the basis of endorsements by the Conference of the Parties as called for in paragraph 42 of decision X/29 and other information entered in the information sharing mechanism, and report on progress to a meeting of the Subsidiary Body prior to twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;

6. Addressing adverse impacts of human activities on marine and coastal biodiversity (Recommendation XVI/5: Page 56 of this document);

This recommends the 11th session of COP to adopt a decision including the following paragraphs referring to FAO's involvement (paragraphs 3 and 4);

3. Encourages constructive collaboration between biodiversity and fisheries bodies, and invites fisheries management bodies at national and regional levels, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), to ensure that biodiversity considerations are a part of their work;

4. Requests the Executive Secretary to transmit the report of the joint expert meeting, referred to in paragraph 1 above, to Parties, other Governments, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and regional fisheries management bodies, and to collaborate with these bodies with a view to improving how biodiversity concerns are addressed for sustainable fisheries;

7. Marine spatial planning, marine protected areas and voluntary guidelines for the consideration of biodiversity in environmental assessments in marine and coastal areas (Recommendation XVI/6: Page 61 of this document);

This recommendation does not specifically refer to FAO involvement, but refers to collaborations with United Nations specialized agencies (paragraph 8).

8. Requests the Executive Secretary, subject to availability of financial resources, to collaborate with Parties, other Governments, United Nations specialized agencies, regional organizations, and other competent organizations, and indigenous and local communities to:

(a) Develop a web-based information-sharing system linking existing information sources on marine spatial planning on the web;

(b) Continue to compile information on experience and use of marine spatial planning practices and make the compiled information available to Parties, other Governments and competent organizations to evaluate its usefulness and implications;

(c) Convene an expert workshop to provide consolidated practical guidance and a toolkit for applying marine spatial planning, building upon existing guidance, subject to availability of financial resources, in order to complement and further enhance the existing cross-sectoral efforts of Parties and other Governments on the application of the ecosystem approach to the implementation of integrated marine and coastal management; the identification of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs); the design and establishment of conservation and management measures including marine protected areas and other area-based management efforts. The expert workshop should:

(i) Review existing guidance and toolkits on marine spatial planning;
(ii) Identify gaps;
(iii) Develop proposals to fill these gaps; and
(iv) If considered necessary, prepare a consolidated practical guidance and toolkit on marine spatial planning;

(d) Make the guidance and toolkits, as referred to above, available to Parties, other Governments and competent organizations;

(e) Disseminate awareness-raising materials on marine spatial planning to decision makers based on the synthesis document (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/18) and its key messages as contained in document (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/7) with a view to facilitating the application of practical guidance and toolkits as referred to above;

(f) Organize training workshops, subject to availability of financial resources, in close linkage to existing capacity-building efforts on marine protected areas and EBSAs, in order to increase the capacity of Parties, especially developing country Parties, in their application of marine spatial planning as a tool to enhance existing efforts on integrated marine and coastal area management, identification of EBSAs, design and establishment of conservation and management measures including marine protected areas and other area-based management efforts, and other marine biodiversity conservation and sustainable-use practices.

9. Integration of biodiversity considerations into climate change-related activities, including addressing gaps in knowledge and information (Recommendation XVI/8: Page 64 of this document).

This recommendation does not have any specific paragraph referring to FAO's involvement.

ACRONYMS

ABS	Access and Benefit Sharing (CBD)
AHTEG	Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group established (CBD)
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CMS	Convention on Migratory Species
COFI	Committee on Fisheries
COP	Conference of the Parties
EBSA	Ecologically Biologically Significant Area
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organizations of the United Nations
GEO-BON	Group on Earth Observation Biodiversity Observation Network
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of the Nature
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MOC	Memorandum of Cooperation
MPA	Marine Protected Area
NEAFC	North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission
OIE	World Organization for Animal Health
OSPAR	Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic
SBSTTA	Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

ANNEX 1

Recommendations relating to Fisheries and Sustainable Use and Conservation of Aquatic Living Resources

adopted by the 15th session of SBSTTA

(8-19 October 2011)

XV/1. Indicator framework for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

1. *Takes note* of the updated provisional technical rationales for the Strategic Goals of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets contained in documents UNEP/CBD/COP/10/27/Add.1 and UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/15/3;

2. *Welcomes* the report of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/15/INF/6);

3. *Also welcomes* the contribution made by the Group on Earth Observation Biodiversity Observation Network, in collaboration with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre on the Adequacy of Biodiversity Observation Systems to Support the CBD 2020 Targets (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/15/INF/8);

4. *Further welcomes* the review of National Indicators, Monitoring and Reporting for Global Biodiversity Targets commissioned by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs of the United Kingdom and carried out by the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/15/INF/9);

5. *Takes note* of the indicative list of indicators identified by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group organized according to the Goals of the Strategic Plan and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets as contained in annex I to the present recommendation which includes the following:

(a) A set of headline indicators to present policy relevant information on biodiversity to cover the ambitions set out in the Aichi Biodiversity Targets; and

(b) Three categories of operational indicators as follows: Category A indicators are ready for use at the global level. Category B indicators could be used at the global level but require further development to be ready for use. Category C indicators are for consideration for use at the national or other sub-global level. The set of (A) and (B) indicators are those which should be used to assess progress at the global level while the (C) indicators are illustrative of some of the additional indicators available to Parties to use at the national level according to their national priorities and circumstances.

(c) Initial baselines should be established for operational indicators to provide a reference point against which performance (trends) can be assessed.

(d) The Aichi Biodiversity Targets and proposed indicator framework provide a flexible framework for Parties which can be adapted, taking into account national priorities and circumstances. Parties are likely to use different metrics and methodologies for their indicators depending on national targets and available data and methods.

(e) Countries with limited capacities and resources for developing and applying indicators based on national data will require financial resources and technical support to develop and apply such indicators as well as to design and carry out priority monitoring activities required at the national level.

Members of the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, among others, could have a role in providing technical assistance as appropriate.

6. *Also takes note* of the other conclusions of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group concerning the indicator framework for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 as contained in annex II to the present recommendation, which supports communication of biodiversity information around the following overarching policy questions: How is the status of biodiversity changing? (*State of biodiversity*); Why are we losing biodiversity? (*Pressures on biodiversity and their underlying causes*); What are the implications? (*Benefits from biodiversity*); and What do we do about it? (*Responses to address biodiversity loss at all levels*);

7. *Welcomes* the development of the online database of indicators for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity containing the outcomes of the work of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group and *requests* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership and other relevant partners to further develop, maintain, and periodically update it with a view to maximizing its usefulness to Parties and other stakeholders;

8. *Further takes note* of recommendation 7/7 of the seventh meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions on the development of indicators relevant for traditional knowledge and customary sustainable use (UNEP/CBD/COP/11/7, annex I);

9. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to initiate work on the tasks listed in paragraphs 10 (g) and 10 (h) below;

10. *Recommends* that the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting adopts a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties,

(a) *Expresses its gratitude* to the European Union for its financial support to the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and to the Government of Canada, the European Environment Agency, Norway, Switzerland and the United Kingdom for their support to the International Expert Workshop held from 20 to 22 June 2011 in High Wycombe, United Kingdom, in support of the AHTEG on Indicators for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020;

(b) *Takes note* of the indicative list of indicators available to assess progress towards the goals of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets as contained in Annex I to this recommendation, the indicator framework developed by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group[1] as well as the work of the Ad hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions on the development of indicators relevant for traditional knowledge and customary sustainable use and *recognizes* that these provide a starting point to assess progress in the achievement of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 at various scales;

(c) *Recognizes* that the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and proposed indicator framework provide a flexible basis for Parties which can be adapted, taking into account different national circumstances and capabilities and *urges* Parties to prioritize the application at the national level of those indicators that are ready for use at the global level where feasible and appropriate, and also *urges* Parties to consider using the flexible framework and the indicative list of indicators, *inter alia* in their updated national biodiversity

[1] See UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/15/INF/6.

strategies and action plans and in reporting, including through the fifth national report as far as possible, and subsequent national reports;

(d) *Encourages* Parties and other Governments to contribute to, update, verify and maintain relevant national data in regional and global data sets as a contribution to optimize and coordinate the production of indicators for monitoring and reporting at various scales and to promote the public availability of the data;

(e) *Decides* that the indicator framework for the Strategic Plan should be kept under review with a view to enabling the future incorporation of relevant indicators developed by Parties and other Conventions and processes that are relevant for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020;

(f) *Recognizes* the need to strengthen technical and institutional capacities and to mobilize adequate financial resources for the development and application of indicators, especially for developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries, small island developing States as well as countries with economies in transition;

(g) *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, regional centres of excellence and other relevant organizations, as appropriate and subject to the availability of resources, to:

(i) Compile technical guidance materials for capacity-building and provide support to Parties for the further development of indicators and monitoring and reporting systems, including the information contained in the annexes to document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/15/INF/6, and to make it accessible in the form of a toolkit, building on the material already available on the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership web pages;

(ii) Assist Parties, especially those with limited resources and capacities and/or not yet using systematically produced indicators in their official reports and at their request, to initially establish and apply a few simple, cost-effective and easily applicable indicators for priority issues; and

(iii) Include capacity-building on the indicators framework in regional workshops, as appropriate, to support implementation of the indicators framework by allowing Parties to update on progress, the sharing of information and lessons learned as well as areas of synergy and collaboration;

(iv) Support review of the use of the indicator framework in order to identify gaps and priorities in national and regional institutions for future capacity-building, technical support and financial support by donors and partner organizations;

(h) *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, the Group on Earth Observation Biodiversity Observation Network (GEO-BON), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and other partners including the Indicators Working Group of the International Indigenous Forum for Biodiversity, as appropriate and subject to the availability of resources, to:

(i) Develop practical information on the indicators, including the rationale behind the indicators, their development status, the scale at which they are applied and information on data sources and methodologies, to assist in the application of each of the indicators;

(ii) Further develop global indicators identified in annex I below with a view to ensuring that each Aichi Biodiversity Target can be monitored by at least one

global indicator by 2014, taking into account indicators that are already in use by, or relevant to, other conventions, regional agreements and processes;

(iii) Propose a limited number of simple, easily applicable and cost-effective indicators that can potentially be implemented by all Parties;

(iv) Explore options for the further harmonization of global indicators and their use between the Convention on Biological Diversity and other conventions, regional agreements and processes, and promote further collaboration including through the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions and the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions;

(v) Promote the further collaboration on biodiversity monitoring and indicators with the forestry, agriculture, fisheries and other sectors on the global, regional and national levels;

(vi) Further develop and maintain the online database on indicators for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020; and

(vii) Develop an explanatory practical toolkit on each of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, including possible steps for measuring progress towards these targets;

and to report to a meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice prior to the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

(i) *Invites* GEO-BON to continue its work on the identification of essential biodiversity variables and the development of associated data sets as presented in document CBD/SBSTTA/15/INF/8 and report to a meeting of SBSTTA prior to the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

(j) *Invites* relevant organizations, including funding bodies, to encourage and support further development of indicators and reporting progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020;

11. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to provide regular progress reports on the development and use of indicators to a meeting of SBSTTA prior to each meeting of the Conference of the Parties until 2020. This should include the mid-term evaluation of the Strategic Plan, as well as the experience in using the indicators in the fifth national reports and in the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook. This will provide opportunities to review progress in developing and using indicators and to assess the adequacy and effectiveness of the indicator framework for monitoring progress, at national and global levels, towards the achievement of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.

ANNEX I

INDICATIVE LIST OF INDICATORS PROPOSED BY THE AD HOC TECHNICAL EXPERT GROUP ON INDICATORS FOR THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR BIODIVERSITY 2011-2020

The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 identified three categories of operational indicators. Indicators which are ready for use at the global level are denoted by the letter (A). Indicators which could be used at the global level but which require further development to be ready for use are denoted by the letter (B). Additional indicators for consideration for use at the national or other sub-global level are denoted by the letter (C) and formatted in italics. The set of (A) and (B) indicators are those which should be used to assess progress at the global level while the (C) indicators are illustrative of some of the additional indicators available to Parties to use at the national level according to their national priorities and circumstances.

Aichi Target	Headline indicators (in bold) and most relevant operational indicators
Strategic Goal A: Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society	
Target 1 - By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.	**Trends in awareness, attitudes and public engagement in support of biological diversity and ecosystem services** • *Trends in awareness and attitudes to biodiversity (C)* • *Trends in public engagement with biodiversity (C)* • *Trends in communication programmes and actions promoting social corporate responsibility (C)*
Target 2 - By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.	**Trends in integration of biodiversity, ecosystem services and benefits sharing into planning, policy formulation and implementation and incentives** • Trends in number of countries incorporating natural resource, biodiversity, and ecosystem service values into national accounting systems (B) • *Trends in number of countries that have assessed values of biodiversity, in accordance with the Convention (C)* • *Trends in guidelines and applications of economic appraisal tools (C)* • *Trends in integration of biodiversity and ecosystem service values into sectoral and development policies (C)* • *Trends in policies considering biodiversity and ecosystem service in environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment (C)*
Target 3 - By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio economic conditions.	**Trends in integration of biodiversity, ecosystem services and benefits sharing into planning, policy formulation and implementation and incentives** • Trends in the number and value of incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity, removed, reformed or phased out (B) • *Trends in identification, assessment and establishment and strengthening of incentives that reward positive contribution to biodiversity and ecosystem services penalize adverse impacts (C)*
Target 4 - By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well	**Trends in pressures from unsustainable agriculture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture** • Trends in Ecological Footprint and/or related concepts (A) (decisions VII/30 and VIII/15) • Trends in population and extinction risk of utilized species, including species in trade (A) (also used by CITES)

within safe ecological limits.	• *Ecological limits assessed in terms of sustainable production and consumption (C)*
	Trends in pressures from habitat conversion, pollution, invasive species, climate change, overexploitation and underlying drivers • *Trends in biodiversity of cities (C) (decision X/22)*
	Trends in integration of biodiversity, ecosystem services and benefits sharing into planning, policy formulation and implementation and incentives • Trends in extent to which biodiversity and ecosystem service values are incorporated into organizational accounting and reporting (B)
Strategic Goal B: Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use	
Target 5 - By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.	**Trends in extent, condition and vulnerability of ecosystems, biomes and habitats** • Extinction risk trends of habitat dependent species in each major habitat type (A) • Trends in extent of selected biomes, ecosystems and habitats (A) (decision VII/30 and VIII/15) • Trends in proportion of degraded/threatened habitats (B) • Trends in fragmentation of natural habitats (B) (decision VII/30 and VIII/15) • *Trends in condition and vulnerability of ecosystems (C)* • *Trends in the proportion of natural habitats converted (C)*
	Trends in pressures from unsustainable agriculture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture • *Trends in primary productivity (C)* • *Trends in proportion of land affected by desertification (C) (also used by UNCCD)*
	Trends in pressures from habitat conversion, pollution, invasive species, climate change, overexploitation and underlying drivers • Population trends of habitat dependent species in each major habitat type (A)
Target 6 - By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.	**Trends in pressures from unsustainable agriculture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture** • Trends in extinction risk of target and bycatch aquatic species (A) • Trends in population of target and bycatch aquatic species (A) • Trends in proportion of utilized stocks outside safe biological limits (A) (MDG indicator 7.4) • *Trends in catch per unit effort (C)* • *Trends in fishing effort capacity (C)* • *Trends in area, frequency, and/or intensity of destructive fishing practices (C)*
	Trends in integration of biodiversity, ecosystem services and benefits sharing into planning, policy formulation and implementation and incentives • Trends in proportion of depleted target and bycatch species with recovery plans (B)
Target 7 - By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of	**Trends in pressures from unsustainable agriculture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture** • Trends in population of forest and agriculture dependent species

biodiversity.	in production systems (B) • Trends in production per input (B) • *Trends in proportion of products derived from sustainable sources (C) (decision VII/30 and VIII/15)*
	Trends in integration of biodiversity, ecosystem services and benefits sharing into planning, policy formulation and implementation and incentives • Trends in area of forest, agricultural and aquaculture ecosystems under sustainable management (B) (decision VII/30 and VIII/15)
Target 8 - By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity.	**Trends in pressures from habitat conversion, pollution, invasive species, climate change, overexploitation and underlying drivers** • Trends in incidence of hypoxic zones and algal blooms (A) • Trends in water quality in aquatic ecosystems (A) (decision VII/30 and VIII/15) • Impact of pollution on extinction risk trends (B) • Trends in pollution deposition rate (B) (decision VII/30 and VIII/15) • Trends in sediment transfer rates (B) • *Trend in emission to the environment of pollutants relevant for biodiversity (C)* • *Trend in levels of contaminants in wildlife (C)* • *Trends in nitrogen footprint of consumption activities (C)* • *Trends in ozone levels in natural ecosystems (C)* • *Trends in proportion of wastewater discharged after treatment (C)* • *Trends in UV-radiation levels (C)*
Target 9 - By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.	**Trends in pressures from habitat conversion, pollution, invasive species, climate change, overexploitation and underlying drivers** • Trends in the impact of invasive alien species on extinction risk trends (A) • Trends in the economic impacts of selected invasive alien species (B) • Trends in number of invasive alien species (B) (decision VII/30 and VIII/15) • *Trends in incidence of wildlife diseases caused by invasive alien species (C)*
	Trends in integration of biodiversity, ecosystem services and benefits sharing into planning, policy formulation and implementation and incentives • Trends in policy responses, legislation and management plans to control and prevent spread of invasive alien species (B) • *Trends in invasive alien species pathways management (C)*
Target 10 - By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning.	**Trends in pressures from habitat conversion, pollution, invasive species, climate change, overexploitation and underlying drivers** • Extinction risk trends of coral and reef fish (A) • Trends in climate change impacts on extinction risk (B) • Trends in coral reef condition (B) • Trends in extent, and rate of shifts of boundaries, of vulnerable ecosystems (B) • *Trends in climatic impacts on community composition (C)* • *Trends in climatic impacts on population trends (C)*

Strategic Goal C: To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity	
Target 11 - By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.	**Trends in coverage, condition, representativeness and effectiveness of protected areas and other area-based approaches** • Trends in extent of marine protected areas, coverage of key biodiversity areas and management effectiveness (A) • Trends in protected area condition and/or management effectiveness including more equitable management (A) (decision X/31) • Trends in representative coverage of protected areas and other area based approaches, including sites of particular importance for biodiversity, and of terrestrial, marine and inland water systems (A) (decision VII/30 and VIII/15) • Trends in the connectivity of protected areas and other area based approaches integrated into landscapes and seascapes (B) (decision VII/30 and VIII/15) • *Trends in the delivery of ecosystem services and equitable benefits from protected areas (C)*
Target 12 - By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.	**Trends in abundance, distribution and extinction risk of species** • Trends in abundance of selected species (A) (decision VII/30 and VIII/15) (UNCCD indicator) • Trends in extinction risk of species (A) (decision VII/30 and VIII/15) (MDG indicator 7.7) (also used by CMS) • Trends in distribution of selected species (B) (decision VII/30 and VIII/15) (also used by UNCCD)
Target 13 - By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.	**Trends in genetic diversity of species** • Trends in genetic diversity of cultivated plants, and farmed and domesticated animals and their wild relatives (B) (decision VII/30 and VIII/15) • *Trends in genetic diversity of selected species (C)*
	Trends in integration of biodiversity, ecosystem services and benefits sharing into planning, policy formulation and implementation and incentives • Trends in number of effective policy mechanisms implemented to reduce genetic erosion and safeguard genetic diversity related to plant and animal genetic resources (B)
Strategic Goal D: Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services	
Target 14 - By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.	**Trends in distribution, condition and sustainability of ecosystem services for equitable human well-being** • Trends in proportion of total freshwater resources used (A) (MDG indicator 7.5) • Trends in proportion of the population using improved water services (A) (MDG indicator 7.8 and 7.9) • Trends in benefits that humans derive from selected ecosystem services (A) • Population trends and extinction risk trends of species that provide ecosystem services (A) • Trends in delivery of multiple ecosystem services (B) • Trends in economic and non-economic values of selected ecosystem services (B)

	• Trends in health and wellbeing of communities who depend directly on local ecosystem goods and services (B) (decision VII/30 and VIII/15) • Trends in human and economic losses due to water or natural resource related disasters (B) • Trends in nutritional contribution of biodiversity: Food composition (B) (decision VII/30 and VIII/15) • *Trends in incidence of emerging zoonotic diseases (C)* • *Trends in inclusive wealth (C)* • *Trends in nutritional contribution of biodiversity: Food consumption (C) (decision VII/30 and VIII/15)* • *Trends in prevalence of underweight children under-five years of age (C) (MDG indicator 1.8)* • *Trends in natural resource conflicts (C)* • *Trends in the condition of selected ecosystem services (C)* • *Trends in biocapacity (C)*
	Trends in coverage, condition, representativeness and effectiveness of protected areas and other area-based approaches • Trends in area of degraded ecosystems restored or being restored (B)
Target 15 - By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.	**Trends in distribution, condition and sustainability of ecosystem services for equitable human well-being** • Status and trends in extent and condition of habitats that provide carbon storage (A)
	Trends in coverage, condition, representativeness and effectiveness of protected areas and other area-based approaches • *Population trends of forest-dependent species in forests under restoration (C)*
Target 16 - By 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.	**Trends in access and equity of benefit-sharing of genetic resources** • ABS indicator to be specified through the ABS process (B)
Strategic Goal E: Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building	
Target 17 - By 2015 each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan.	**Trends in integration of biodiversity, ecosystem services and benefit-sharing into planning, policy formulation and implementation and incentives** • Trends in implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, including development, comprehensiveness, adoption and implementation (B)
Target 18 - By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the	**Trends in integration of biodiversity, ecosystem services and benefit-sharing into planning, policy formulation and implementation and incentives** • Trends in land-use change and land tenure in the traditional territories of indigenous and local communities (B) (decision X/43) • Trends in the practice of traditional occupations (B) (decision X/43)
	Trends in accessibility of scientific/technical/traditional knowledge and its application

implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.	• Trends in which traditional knowledge and practices are respected through their full integration, safeguards and the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities in the national implementation of the Strategic Plan (B)
	Trends in accessibility of scientific/technical/traditional knowledge and its application • Trends of linguistic diversity and numbers of speakers of indigenous languages (B) (decision VII/30 and VIII/15)
Target 19 - By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.	**Trends in accessibility of scientific/technical/traditional knowledge and its application** • Trends in coverage of comprehensive policy-relevant sub-global assessments including related capacity-building and knowledge transfer, plus trends in uptake into policy (B) • *Number of maintained species inventories being used to implement the Convention (C)*
Target 20 - By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.	**Trends in mobilization of financial resources** • Indicators agreed in decision X/3 (B)

XV/4. Invasive alien species

I. RECOMMENDATION TO THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

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

The Conference of the Parties

Ways and means to address gaps in international standards regarding invasive alien species introduced as pets, aquarium and terrarium species, as live bait and live food

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) meeting on addressing the risks associated with the introduction of alien species as pets, aquarium and terrarium species, and as live bait and live food (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/15/INF/1);

2. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Co-Chairs and members of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) for their work and to the Governments of Spain and Japan for their financial support;

3. *Recognizing* the multi-sectoral nature of issues associated with invasive alien species, *reiterates* that the Guiding Principles adopted in decision VI/23[2] continue to provide relevant guidance for addressing the risks associated with the introduction of alien species as pets, aquarium and terrarium species, and as live bait and live food;

4. *Encourages* Parties and other Governments to ensure, at the national level, effective collaboration among national authorities and focal points that deal with the Convention on Biological Diversity and International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the World Trade Organization Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (WTO-SPS Agreement), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), to address threats from invasive alien species, and, as appropriate, when addressing the risks associated with the introduction of alien animal species as pets, aquarium and terrarium species, and as live bait and live food to make full use of existing standards;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, with further inputs from Parties as well as members of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) and other experts as required, in collaboration with the members of the inter-agency liaison group, with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, and drawing upon the collaborative work of national authorities and industry groups, to prepare proposals for more detailed guidance for Parties on the drafting and implementation of national measures associated with the introduction of alien animal species as pets, aquarium and terrarium species, and as live bait and live food, in order to complete the tasks set out in the annex to decision X/38, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice before the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

[2] One representative entered a formal objection during the process leading to the adoption of this decision and underlined that he did not believe that the Conference of the Parties could legitimately adopt a motion or a text with a formal objection in place. A few representatives expressed reservations regarding the procedure leading to the adoption of this decision (see UNEP/CBD/COP/6/20, paras. 294-324).

6. *Recognizing* trade and the changes of present-day trade patterns as one of the increasing pathways of invasive alien species and especially the rapid growth of international market places over the Internet, including for the sale and purchase of live animal species, *requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To compile and disseminate methodologies and instruments in use by law enforcement, customs and inspection agencies to monitor and control related trade and cross-border movements of alien species introduced as pets, aquarium and terrarium species, and as live bait and live food; and

(b) To collect information on best practices to raise public awareness and disseminate guidance to Internet traders;

7. *Recognizing* the potential risks of introduction and spread of invasive alien animal species from commercial zoos and safari parks, and breeding and trade centres, resulting from escapes of the animals, and the release and escape of animals used as live food, *requests* the Executive Secretary to compile information and work with experts to avoid and/or minimize the risks particular to these separate pathways;

8. *Concerned* about the potential risks associated with intentional and unintentional release and escapes of individuals of captive-bred alien populations and genotypes of pets, aquarium and terrarium species, species used as live bait and live food, impacting on native genetic diversity, and *noting* the need to document and develop guidance on how to deal with these risks, *requests* the Executive Secretary to collect case-studies and explore measures in collaboration with relevant international organizations on how to deal with such risks;

Ways and means to address gaps in international standards regarding invasive alien species

Recalling paragraphs 2-6 of its decision IX/4 A,

9. *Encourages* members of the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures of the World Trade Organization, and members of its recognized standard-setting organizations to further address, including by developing and improving international standards, the risks posed by introductions of invasive alien species that are a threat to biodiversity but not considered pests of plants, pathogens or parasites that affect domestic animals, or harmful to human health, and taking note that the risks associated with the introduction of alien species may include impacts on ecosystem functioning and biodiversity at the ecosystem, species and gene levels. The Convention on Biological Diversity could offer to collaborate with the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures on this matter;

10. *Encourages* the International Plant Protection Convention to:

(a) *Invite* its members to broaden their sanitary and phytosanitary measures for the protection of plants in marine environments in particular, as well as terrestrial and freshwater environments;

(b) Broaden the application of the International Plant Protection Convention to include the health of bryophytes and algae species; and

(c) Clarify whether its mandate also applies to the health and protection of fungi, with a view to identifying and, if necessary, addressing possible gaps;

11. *Recognizes* the important contributions of the World Organisation for Animal Health and *encourages* the Organization to pursue its efforts in considering the impacts of invasive alien species

on ecosystems and animal health, and to update the OIE Aquatic Code and the OIE Terrestrial Code, and provide advice and guidance on the assessment of the risk of invasion of alien species on ecosystems;

12. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to continue to pursue the tasks set out in paragraphs 11, 12 and 13 of decision IX/4 A and paragraph 13 of decision X/38, especially regarding progress in the relationship with standard-setting bodies of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and other relevant organizations;

13. *Recognizing* the relevance, importance and applicability of existing international standards, guidelines and recommendations to address the risks associated with the introduction of alien species, and to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and spread in order to achieve target 9 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, *requests* the Executive Secretary in line with paragraph 3 (c) of decision X/38, in collaboration with the relevant international organizations that set international standards, guidelines and recommendations to develop a practical non-prescriptive toolkit for Parties regarding the application of existing international standards, guidelines and recommendations, and disseminate, *inter alia*, through the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention, no later than the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The toolkit should include:

(a) Practical non-prescriptive advice on how the components of the international regulatory framework can be used by Parties in addressing the threats from invasive alien species;

(b) Tools and information on relevant risk-analysis;

(c) Information on how Parties have developed, integrated, and strengthened national invasive alien species strategies into their national policies;

(d) Lessons learned from countries' use of lists and management of alien species for all stakeholders, including border-control officials, traders and consumers, regulating whether or not a particular species may be imported, kept, bred, applied for trade; as well as information on the relative strengths and limitations of listing systems;

(e) Examples of voluntary measures that address specific circumstances;

(f) Information on capacity development for the identification of potentially invasive alien species and assessment of relevant pathways;

(g) Information on how national authorities and industry can develop close collaboration to ensure compliance with national regulations on the import of alien species; and

(h) Information on how regional cooperation could harmonize policy on the introduction of alien species as pets, aquarium and terrarium species, and as live bait and live food;

[14. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to renew the application of the Convention on Biological Diversity for observer status in the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures of the World Trade Organization with a view to enhancing the exchange of information on deliberations and recent developments in bodies relevant to invasive alien species, in light of the increasing importance of the ecosystem level when establishing adequate standards;]

Other matters

15. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to explore methodologies for fostering awareness, promoting education and generating information on invasive alien species for a broad audience including Indigenous and local communities, the public and other stakeholders;

16. *Encourages* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations, including local taxonomic institutions to develop capacity, *inter alia*, in line with the Capacity-Building Strategy for the Global Taxonomy Initiative, for Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to meet target 9 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. Emphasis should be placed on developing tools to strengthen the capacity of border control and other competent authorities to identify invasive alien species or potentially invasive alien species, to assess risks and take steps to manage or minimize the risks;

17. *Recalling* paragraph 7 of decision X/38, *welcomes* the work of the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) to improve the interoperability of online databases and networks and facilitate the use of information necessary to conduct risk and/or impact assessments and encourages Parties, Governments and relevant institutions and organizations to participate in developing interoperable information systems that can be used in developing early-detection and rapid-response systems;

18. *Recognizing* the vital importance of access to accurate information on invasive alien species in developing indicators to monitor the progress of achieving target 9 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the need to maximize synergies among existing information services, welcomes the proposed the joint work programme to strengthen information services on invasive alien species as a contribution towards Aichi Biodiversity Target 9 (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/15/INF/14), and *requests* the Executive Secretary to facilitate its implementation, and invites Parties, information services and other organizations to contribute to this work;

Considerations for future work

19. *Recognizing* invasive alien species as one of the main drivers of biodiversity loss, their increasing impact on biodiversity and on economic sectors, negatively affecting human well-being, *emphasizes* the need to continue to work on this issue, in order to achieve target 9 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020;

20. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with relevant partners, to:

(a) Assess progress in implementing decisions of the Conference of the Parties on invasive alien species, including decisions that address gaps and inconsistencies in the international regulatory framework identified in decision VIII/27;

(b) Prepare a preliminary list of the most common pathways for invasive alien species, propose criteria or other ways by which they may be prioritized, and identify a range of tools that may be used to manage or minimize the risks associated with the pathways;

and to report thereon to a meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice before the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in order to inform consideration of the need for future work.

II. REQUEST TO THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA)

1. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the members of the inter-agency liaison group on invasive alien species, to prepare an information document on how the standards, guidance and relevant activities of the organizations referred to in paragraph 4 above could support Parties in addressing the threats from invasive alien species introduced as pets, aquarium and terrarium species, as live bait and live food, and to make it available before the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

2. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare a report to be submitted to the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the status of the application of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity for observer status to the World Trade Organization.

XV/5. Biological diversity of inland water ecosystems

I. CONCLUSIONS OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice:

1. *Emphasizes* that the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets provide the overall framework of the Convention towards 2020 and should guide the future work of all of the Convention's cross-cutting issues and thematic areas;

2. *Notes with appreciation* the reports prepared by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/15/8; UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/15/9; UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/15/10; UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/15/11; and UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/INF/15) and after considering them *concludes* that:

(a) The implications of the water cycle and freshwater resources in the implementation of all of the thematic and cross-cutting programmes of work of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets are far-reaching including, *inter alia*, that:

(i) The water cycle is a bio-physical process underpinned by ecosystems and that changes in water availability and quality, including *inter alia* humidity, soil moisture and evapo-transpiration of plants, affect biodiversity, ecosystem functions and the delivery of ecosystem services;

(ii) There are many and varied implications of the way in which the water cycle functions, making it necessary to consider water a "cross-cutting" subject under the framework of the ecosystem approach;

(iii) The water cycle forges strong links between the various Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and it remains important to adequately capture the relevant aspects of the water cycle through the monitoring framework for the Strategic Plan under further development (decision X/7);

(iv) Biodiversity is essential to guarantee ecosystems are self-supporting and meet human needs for water-related ecosystem services in a cost-effective manner;

(v) Biodiversity plays an important role in sustaining water for human activities such as agriculture, forestry and fisheries, among others;

(vi) Taking into consideration that water issues and solutions can be very much case and locality specific, and it is not possible to be prescriptive or exhaustive regarding priorities, some key areas for additional attention can be identified, such as: the role of vegetation in sustaining local and regional precipitation and humidity; the importance of soil biodiversity with regards to soil moisture and water balances and therefore in sustaining land functionality; the importance of the water cycle in sustaining desirable levels of sediment transfer and deposition and the substantial ecosystem services this underpins (particularly in coastal areas); the role of biodiversity and ecosystems in regulating the extremes of water availability (including both drought and flooding); and the importance of the water cycle in the exchange of organic matter, nutrients and

energy between forests, soils and water, which, for example, occurs seasonally in particular ecosystems such as the Amazon; and

(vii) Groundwater and aquifers are important components of the water cycle and require more attention as they are suffering severe depletion in many regions. Groundwater and surface-water resources are inter-linked, including through wetlands and the functionality of land cover, including by facilitating soil-water infiltration;

(b) Water use for different purposes may affect downstream ecosystems and groundwater supplies, with consequent impacts on terrestrial ecosystems;

(c) Regional initiatives that establish frameworks by legal and other effective means for integrated water management can serve as models for other regions to strengthen effective trans-national catchment management systems;

(d) The findings, tools and methods that are already available should be applied at local, national or regional levels in order to address threats faced by inland water ecosystems, their functions and services;

(e) The work within the framework of the study on The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) and the application of economic-appraisal techniques to ecological resources present new opportunities to influence policies and decision-making at the national level. Economic assessments provide only a preliminary and limited approximation of the fiscal value of inland water ecosystems; they should not be taken as the definitive valuation of a given resource but serve only as a guide in the context of decision-making for developmental planning;

(f) Inland water ecosystems, including their watersheds, provide ecosystem services which are important for sustaining biodiversity and human well being. Therefore, it is necessary to enhance technical, financial and other capacity in developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, in order to promote sustainable water management;

(g) Women are key stakeholders in sustaining family well-being, and using the biodiversity components of water-related ecosystem services and their knowledge related to water is a key factor in the implementation of the programme of work on inland waters biodiversity;

(h) Indigenous and local communities that maintain a very close, holistic, cultural and spiritual relationship with essential elements of biodiversity associated with the water cycle, as demonstrated in many cultural activities, including through indigenous languages, can help to promote sustainable water management based on their traditional knowledge;

(i) Nutrient loading, including from unsustainable agricultural production and other sectoral activities, is among the main threats to inland water and coastal biodiversity and is directly relevant to achieving targets 7, 8, 11 and 14, among others, of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. More attention should be paid to eutrophication in freshwater as well as in coastal ecosystems worldwide;

(j) In view of the increasing pressures on inland waters due to global changes, there is a need to better understand the impacts of these changes on inland waters biodiversity and how this affects ecosystem functions;

(k) The ongoing scientific work on this topic (as described in the progress report on the work in addressing paragraphs 39-41 of decision X/28 on review of information, and the provision of key policy-relevant messages, on maintaining the ability of biodiversity to continue to support the water cycle, (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/15/11 and UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/INF/15) will be a useful resource for the Subsidiary Body on Scientific and Technological Advice to consider this topic further in its future work in many subject areas, including in the implementation and the future review of the programmes of work of the Convention;

(l) The 6th World Water Forum, to be held in Marseille, France, in March 2012, represents an opportunity to raise awareness on biodiversity and water issues.

II. REQUESTS TO THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice *requests* the Executive Secretary, and *invites* the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands to:

(a) Based on discussion with potential partners and stakeholders, include under the Joint Work Plan with the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands an assessment of opportunities for enhanced collaboration on solutions to water problems and to report on the options to the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;

(b) Make the report of the expert group on maintaining the ability of biodiversity to continue to support the water cycle (as established in decision X/28, paragraph 39) available for the information of, and a summary report of its findings for the consideration of, the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

(c) Further streamline their activities in order to make best use of available resources and to further explore the scope for greater integration of the work of the two Conventions across all relevant programmes of work of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in order to achieve the greatest synergy, including the potential for joint meetings, and to report on options to the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice *recommends* that the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting:

1. *Recognizes* the importance of the water cycle to most areas of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and to achieving most of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and *considers* raising awareness of this, and thereby strengthening implementation of the Strategic Plan, through, *inter alia*, making biodiversity and water a cross-cutting issue under the Convention on Biological Diversity;

2. *Considers* the outcomes of the expert group on maintaining the ability of biodiversity to continue to support the water cycle (as established in decision X/28, paragraph 39);

3. *Notes* that the term "wetland", as defined by the Ramsar Convention, offers flexible scope for national interpretation for addressing biodiversity challenges related to ecological inter-linkages between inland, coastal and marine areas, and *invites* Parties and other Governments to consider wider adoption of the term in implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, particularly for achieving target 11 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020; and

4. *Takes note* that the year 2013 will be the United Nations Year of Water Cooperation and that this provides, together with the current “International Decade for Action 'Water for Life' 2005-2015”, opportunities to bring water and biodiversity issues to broad public attention.

ANNEX 2

Recommendations relating to Fisheries and Sustainable Use and Conservation of Aquatic Living Resources

adopted by the 16th session of SBSTTA

(30 April to 5 May 2012)

XVI/3. ISLAND BIODIVERSITY: IN-DEPTH REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice)

1. *Welcomes* the proposed initiative of island States and those Parties managing islands for research and conservation to organize an island summit on the margins of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to highlight island leadership, progress and new commitments in implementing the programme of work on island biodiversity and achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets;

2. *Recommends* that the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting adopts a decision along the following lines:

"The Conference of the Parties

Alarmed by the continued and ongoing loss of island biodiversity and the irreversible impacts of this loss for island peoples and the world, and *acknowledging* that 80 per cent of known species extinctions have occurred on islands and that more than 40 per cent of vertebrates currently threatened with extinction are island species,[3]

Acknowledging progress made in the development and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans by small island developing States and least developed countries with islands and the support for this process provided by the United Nations Environment Programme/Global Environment Facility enabling activity project,

Noting that additional efforts and support are needed in order to fully engage relevant sectors of government and society, in particular indigenous and local communities and nongovernmental organizations, for implementing and mainstreaming the programme of work on island biodiversity across all these sectors with a view to achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020,

Aware that invasive alien species, climate change, and unsustainable development including unsustainable tourism are among the major drivers of biodiversity loss on islands with complex linkages that are best addressed by collaborative and integrated action with other sectors, *Also aware* that biodiversity loss is not restricted to islands with human populations, but is also of major concern in many uninhabited or seasonally inhabited islands,

Also aware that sustainable management of marine, freshwater and terrestrial resources in islands is important to food security, adaptation to climate change, public health and livelihoods,

[3] http://www.issg.org/pdf/publications/Island_Invasives/pdfHQprint/1Keitt.pdf.

Respecting the traditional/cultural knowledge, skills and management measures that have helped island populations use and manage their environment and resources over many centuries, and, in that context, *recognizing* that the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization provides an important instrument to ensure that islands benefit from the use of their genetic resources,

Appreciating the continued strong commitment and progress achieved by Parties and their partners committed to voluntary island "challenges", especially the Micronesia Challenge, the Caribbean Challenge initiative, the Coral Triangle Initiative and the Phoenix Island Protected Area, which in turn inspired the development of the Western Indian Ocean Coastal Challenge and the Far West Africa Challenge, and the development of the Charter on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity on European Islands[4] under the Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats and *recognizing* the value of high-level events and summits under these initiatives to galvanize political will and new funding arrangements and partnerships,

Recognizing the significant progress on sustainable financing mechanisms developed in island regions for climate change and biodiversity, including: the Micronesia Conservation Trust; the Mama Graun Conservation Trust Fund in Papua New Guinea; the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund; the European Parliament's Preparatory Action for a Voluntary Scheme for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Territories of European Overseas (BEST); and emerging "debt-for-adaptation-to-climate-change" swaps in islands,

Taking note with appreciation the activities of the Global Island Partnership (GLISPA) as a echanism for implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and a partnership under the United Nations Commission for Sustainable Development,

Reaffirming the importance of adopting and implementing adequate legislation to address conservation issues on islands as well as measures to enforce it,

Reiterating the need for increased international and national support for islands, in particular small island developing States, to implement the programme of work and strengthen local capacity by providing new and additional financial resources, in accordance with Article 20 of the Convention, and incentives,

1. *Urges* Parties, and invites other Governments, financial institutions and other relevant organizations to strengthen the implementation of the programme of work on island biodiversity and to build on successful island approaches by:

(a) Promoting and supporting high-level regional commitments, such as the island challenges referred to above and other large-scale efforts that have demonstrated success in rapidly increasing protected areas and other Aichi Biodiversity Targets relevant to the programme of work on island biodiversity;

(b) Adapting and expanding proven, cost-effective mechanisms to strengthen local capacity, particularly peer-learning networks, learning exchanges, transfer of technologies, sharing of lessons learned and best practices, communication and information exchange tools, targeted technical assistance, formal training and education;

(c) Consider developing innovative financial arrangements supplementary to Article 21 of the Convention to support long-term implementation of the programme of work on island

[4] T-PVS/Inf (2011) 8 revised, Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

biodiversity, including trust funds, debt for adaptation to climate change swaps, payments for ecosystem services, and fees on tourism or natural resource use dedicated to effective conservation;

(d) Maintaining and supporting key databases and information portals such as the Global Islands Database, the Threatened Island Biodiversity Database, the Database of Island Invasive Species Eradications, the Global Invasive Species Database, the Island Biodiversity and Invasive Species database, and SIDSNet to enable effective invasive species monitoring and eradication prioritization on islands, as valuable tools in support of the implementation of the programme of work;

2. *Calls on* Parties to continue to focus international attention and action on the six priorities included in decision IX/21 as they affect livelihood and island economies: the management and eradication of invasive alien species, climate-change adaptation and mitigation activities, establishment and management of marine protected areas, capacity-building, access to, and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, and poverty alleviation, with particular attention to:

(a) Developing and strengthening regional and local collaboration to manage invasive alien species within and across jurisdictions, including the diversity of successful approaches to prevention, control and eradication where feasible, and to adopt a biosecurity approach that addresses the full range of invasive threats; and

(b) Mainstreaming ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change, ecosystem restoration and invasive species management for human health and well-being into all island development and conservation plans and projects and build capacity in their application;

3. *Also calls on* Parties to:

(a) Accord priority to the management of terrestrial protected areas, including inland waters;

(b) Enhance regional and international cooperation with a view to addressing transboundary pollution that has significant impacts on island ecosystems, including through mitigating discharges from land-based sources, particularly areas with excess nutrient inputs;

(c) Support subnational implementation of the Convention in islands, by engaging subnational and local authorities through the Plan of Action for Subnational Governments, Cities and other Local Authorities for Biodiversity, adopted in decision X/22, and as informed by the assessment of the links and opportunities between urbanization and biodiversity (the "Cities and Biodiversity Outlook");

4. *Encourages* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to enter into partnerships across sectors to:

(a) Develop, disseminate and integrate appropriate tools and processes to apply findings of the study of The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) and other valuation tools to support decision-making at the island level;

(b) Use the opportunity of revising national biodiversity strategies and action plans to further mainstream biodiversity conservation with other key sectors (e.g., mining, agriculture, fisheries, health, energy, tourism, integrated marine/coastal management, education and

development) and to determine specific, measurable, ambitious, realistic and time-bound national targets, and related indicators, in line with the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, at the island level and within the context of domestic priorities;

(c) Coordinate these efforts with the process led by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN/DESA) to assess implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and its associated Mauritius Strategy for Implementation;

5. Explore possibilities of engaging national and local leadership in public-private partnerships and encourage participatory approaches for the sustainable management of natural resources;

6. *Invites* Parties to recognize and engage with the Global Island Partnership (GLISPA) as an effective partner to support implementation of the programme of work;

7. *Takes note of* the "Small Islands, Big Difference" campaign coordinated by Island Conservation on invasive alien species launched at the sixteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body and *invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to engage with the campaign;

8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to cooperate with international and regional organizations as well as relevant convention secretariats with a view to promoting coherent and harmonized national information systems related to the reporting needs of the biodiversity-related conventions, and for joint reporting as appropriate for small island developing States and least developed countries with islands;

9. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of funding, to enable regional and global technical support networks to help the ongoing review, updating and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans in small island developing States and least developed countries with islands, in particular for developing national targets and for mainstreaming national biodiversity strategies and action plans into broader national plans, programmes and policies to implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.

XVI/4. MARINE AND COASTAL BIODIVERSITY: ECOLOGICALLY OR BIOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT MARINE AREAS

A. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice recommends that the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting adopts a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties,

Description of areas meeting the scientific criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs)

Recalling paragraphs 165 and 167 of General Assembly resolution 66/231 of 24 December 2011, including its annex, on oceans and the law of the sea,

Recalling paragraphs 21 to 26 of decision X/29, in which the Conference of the Parties recognized that the Convention on Biological Diversity has a key role in supporting the work of the General Assembly with regard to marine protected areas beyond national jurisdiction, by focusing on provision of scientific and, as appropriate, technical information and advice relating to marine biological diversity, the application of the ecosystem approach and the precautionary approach,

1. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Government of Japan for funding, to the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) for hosting and co-organizing, and to the Government of Australia for providing technical support through the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) to the Western South Pacific Regional Workshop to Facilitate the Description of EBSAs, held in Nadi, Fiji, from 22 to 25 November 2011; to the European Commission for funding, the Government of Brazil for hosting, and the UNEP/Caribbean Environment Programme for co-organizing the Wider Caribbean and Western Mid-Atlantic Regional Workshop, held in Recife, Brazil, from 28 February to 2 March 2012; and to the French Government for hosting, OSPAR and NEAFC for convening, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Joint OSPAR/NEAFC/CBD Scientific Workshop on the Identification of EBSAs in the North-East Atlantic, held in Hyeres, France, on 8-9 September 2011;

2. *Welcomes* the scientific and technical evaluation of information contained in the reports of the regional workshops referred to in paragraph 1 above (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/5, UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/6 and UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/7), which provide scientific and technical evaluation of information on the application of scientific criteria (decision IX/20, annex I), as well as other relevant compatible and complementary nationally and intergovernmentally agreed scientific criteria, noting that additional regional workshops are to be convened in other regions in time to be considered by a meeting of the Subsidiary Body prior to the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

3. *Notes with appreciation* the participatory manner by which these regional workshops were convened, and the use of the best available scientific and technical information, which has provided a basis for the reports on the description of areas that meet the criteria for EBSAs, prepared by the Subsidiary Body at its sixteenth meeting, as contained in the summary report in the annex to the present decision and supplemented by the annexes to UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/5 [5], UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/6 and UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/7, as well as UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/8;

[5] UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/5 is to be revised, and reflected in summary form in the annex to this recommendation, in accordance with paragraph 3 of Part B of this recommendation.

4. *Noting* that during their 17th Ordinary Meeting held in Paris, from 8 to 10 February 2012, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols adopted decision IG.20/7 regarding the conservation of sites of particular interest in the Mediterranean and requested the Secretariat of the Barcelona Convention to contact the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in order to present the work carried out regarding the identification of areas that meet the criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas in the Mediterranean, *takes note of* the Synthesis Report, as contained in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/8;

5. *Noting* that the application of the scientific criteria for EBSAs is a scientific and technical exercise and *emphasizing* that the identification of ecologically or biologically significant areas and the selection of conservation and management measures is a matter for States and competent intergovernmental organizations, in accordance with international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, as stated in paragraph 26 of decision X/29, *[endorses]*, as a reference for States and competent intergovernmental organizations, the summary reports as contained in the annex to the present decision, prepared by the Subsidiary Body at its sixteenth meeting, based on scientific and technical evaluation of information from the workshops, setting out details of the areas that meet the criteria for EBSAs (decision IX/20, annex I), and *requests* the Executive Secretary to include the summary reports [endorsed by the Conference of the Parties] on the description of areas that meet the criteria for EBSAs in the repository, as referred to in paragraph 39 of decision X/29, and, in line with the procedures and purpose set out in paragraph 42 of decision X/29, to submit them to the United Nations General Assembly and particularly its Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction, as well as to submit them to Parties, other Governments and relevant international organizations, and *further requests* the Executive Secretary to submit them to the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socio-economic Aspects, as well as to provide them as a source of information to United Nations specialized agencies;[6]

6. *Takes note* of the need to promote additional research and monitoring in accordance with national and international laws, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, to improve the ecological or biological information in each region with a view to facilitating the further description of the areas already described, the future description of other areas meeting the scientific criteria for EBSAs as well as other relevant compatible and complementary nationally and intergovernmentally agreed scientific criteria;

7. *Reaffirms* the need to facilitate the participation of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, in targeted research schemes called for in paragraphs 10, 20 (b) and 48 of decision X/29, including in oceanographic cruises as well as in those research schemes promoted by the International Seabed Authority;

8. *Affirms* that scientific description of areas meeting scientific criteria for EBSAs and other relevant criteria is an open process that should be continued to allow ongoing improvement and updating as improved scientific and technical information becomes available in each region;

[6] Noting that any measures taken with respect to the areas that meet the criteria for EBSAs described in reports referred to in this paragraph, including any selection of conservation and management measures, must be in conformity with international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

9. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to further collaborate with Parties, other Governments and competent organizations and global and regional initiatives, such as the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the MarineEnvironment, including Socio-Economic Aspects, the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), regional seas conventions and action plans, and, where appropriate, regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs), with regard to fisheries management, to facilitate the description of areas that meet the criteria for EBSAs, and the further description of the areas already described, through the organization of additional regional or subregional workshops for the remaining regions or regions where new information becomes available, as appropriate, subject to availability of financial resources, and make the reports available for consideration by future meetings of the Subsidiary Body. The summary reports from the SBSTTA will be made available for future meetings of the Conference of the Parties for endorsement with a view to including the reports endorsed by the Conference of the Parties in the repository in line with the procedures and purpose set out in paragraph 42 of decision X/29;

10. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to further collaborate with Parties, other Governments and competent organizations to build capacity within countries to address regional priorities of developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, including those countries with globally significant upwelling systemsthrough the organization of regional or subregional capacity-building workshops, as called for in paragraph 37 of decision X/29, and other means;

EBSA repository and information-sharing mechanism

11. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Government of Germany for funding and *welcomes* the EBSA prototype repository and information sharing mechanism for scientific and technical information and experience related to the application of the scientific criteria (annex I to decision IX/20) as well as other relevant compatible and complementary nationally and intergovernmentally agreed scientific criteria. This mechanism serves as a web-based input tool and database to assist Parties, other Governments and competent organizations in sharing scientific and technical information and experience related to the application of the scientific criteria for EBSAs in annex I of decision IX/20, as well as other relevant compatible and complementary nationally and intergovernmentally agreed scientific criteria, and provides scientific information and data to the regional workshops convened by the Executive Secretary, as called for in paragraph 36 of decision X/29 and paragraph 9 above, to describe areas meeting the scientific criteria for EBSAs and other relevant criteria;

12. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to further develop, subject to availability of financial resources, the prototype repository and information-sharing mechanism into a fully functional repository and information-sharing mechanism so that it can fully serve the purpose called for in paragraph 39 of decision X/29, in collaboration with Parties, other Governments, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (UNDOALOS), the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO-IOC), in particular the Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS), the World Conservation Monitoring Centre of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP-WCMC), Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative, and other competent organizations, *noting* the need to have a clear distinction between the repository containing the information included on the basis of endorsements by the Conference of the Parties as called for in paragraph 42 of decision X/29 and other information entered in the information sharing mechanism, and report on progress to a meeting of the Subsidiary Body prior to twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;

13. *Encourages* Parties, other Governments and intergovernmental organizations to develop regional data inventories with metadata, taking into consideration their confidentiality, where applicable,

which are linked to the information-sharing mechanism (paragraph 39 of decision X/29) and other relevant data sources, in order to track the location of datasets used in the description of areas that meet the criteria for EBSAs by the regional workshops, to be undertaken in the remaining regions,, as referred to in paragraph 36 of decision X/29 and paragraph 9 above, and, *recalling* paragraph 41 of decision X/29, *requests* the Executive Secretary to make the scientific information and data sets compiled by the regional workshops available to Parties, other Governments and intergovernmental organizations for their use according to their competencies, and report on progress of such collaboration to a meeting of the Subsidiary Body prior to twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;

14. *Recalling* paragraph 18 of decision IX/20 and paragraph 43 of decision X/29, *requests* Parties, and other Governments to further provide for inclusion in the repository or information-sharing mechanism, as determined by submitting Parties or Governments, scientific and technical information and experience relating to the application of the criteria in annex I to decision IX/20 or other relevant compatible and complementary nationally and intergovernmentally agreed scientific criteria to areas within national jurisdiction before the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

EBSAs capacity-building

15. *Welcomes* the work of the Executive Secretary, generously funded by the Government of Germany, to develop the EBSA training manual and modules, as contained in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/9, and *requests* the Executive Secretary to further refine the training manual and modules, as necessary, including further consultation with Parties and the development of training materials on the use of traditional knowledge. When suitably revised, *requests* the Executive Secretary to translate the EBSA training manual and modules into the official United Nations languages, and *invites* Parties, other Governments and United Nations specialized agencies to use these training materials and other means, as appropriate, and, as far as possible, make necessary resources available for this purpose, in order to enhance the scientific and technical capacity within respective countries and regions with regard to describing areas that meet the criteria for EBSAs;

16. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to collaborate with Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to strengthen the capacities of countries in scientific staff training and report the progress for consideration at a meeting of the Subsidiary Body prior to the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

17. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to facilitate, subject to availability of financial resources, the organization of training workshops using these training materials in support of future scientific description of areas that meet the criteria for EBSAs at national and regional levels as well as identification of EBSAs by States and competent intergovernmental organizations;

Social and cultural criteria for the description of EBSAs

18. *Welcomes* the report *Identifying specific elements for integrating the traditional, scientific, technical and technological knowledge of indigenous and local communities, and social and cultural criteria and other aspects for the application of scientific criteria for identification of EBSAs as well as the establishment and management of marine protected areas* (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/10), noting that the best available scientific and technical knowledge, including relevant traditional knowledge, should be the basis for the description of areas that meet the criteria for EBSAs, that additional social and cultural information may be relevant in any subsequent step of selecting conservation and management measures, and that indigenous and local communities should be included in this process, as appropriate;

19. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and competent intergovernmental organizations, and relevant indigenous and local communities, to make use of the guidance on integration of traditional

knowledge in the report mentioned in paragraph 18 above, with the approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge, where applicable, in any future description of areas that meet the EBSA criteria and for the development of conservation and management measures, and report on progress in this regard to the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;

20. *Notes* that socially and culturally significant areas may require enhanced conservation and management measures, and that criteria for the identification of areas relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in need of such enhanced measures due to their social, cultural and other significance may need to be developed, with appropriate scientific and technical rationales;

21. *Urges* Parties and *invites* other Governments, the financial mechanism, and funding organizations to provide adequate, timely, and sustainable support to the implementation of training and capacity-building and other activities related to EBSAs, especially for developing countries, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as Parties with economies in transition.

B. *The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice*

1. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to include the results of regional workshops on describing areas that meet the criteria for EBSAs to be convened by the Executive Secretary and, where appropriate, in conjunction with regional seas conventions and regional fisheries management organizations, with regard to fisheries management, in accordance with paragraph 36 of decision X/29 and paragraph 9 above, in the information-sharing mechanism referred to in paragraph 11 above, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body at a future meeting, with a view to subsequent submission to a meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in accordance with the procedures set out in paragraph 42 of decision X/29 and paragraph 5 above;

2. *Noting* that workshops have not yet been held in some regions, and emphasizing that all regions should have the opportunity to participate in the process for describing areas that meet the EBSA criteria, *requests* the Executive Secretary to accord high priority to the organization of additional workshops, with a view to covering all regions where Parties wish workshops to be held, *further requests* the Executive Secretary to make available to Parties as soon as possible, before the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, a schedule of regional workshops to be convened, and *invites* Parties, other Governments and donors to support these workshops;

3. *Recognizing* that there is an ongoing scientific and technical process with respect to the areas in the North-East Atlantic described in UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/5 and UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/5/Add.1, *requests* the Executive Secretary to include the revised results of the regional workshop for the North-East Atlantic, in accordance with paragraph 36 of decision X/29, and accompanying process, to the extent that these revised results describe areas that are geographically included in those set out in UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/5, before the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in the summary report, in the same format and details, prepared by the Subsidiary Body at its sixteenth meeting, pursuant to paragraph 42 of decision X/29.

Annex

Summary report on the description of areas meeting the scientific criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas[7]

1. In paragraph 36 of decision X/29, the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity requested the Executive Secretary to work with Parties and other Governments as well as competent organizations and regional initiatives, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), regional seas conventions and action plans, and, where appropriate, regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs), with regards to fisheries management, to organize, including the setting of terms of references, subject to the availability of financial resources, a series of regional workshops, before a future meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) prior to the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, with a primary objective to facilitate the description of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas through application of scientific criteria in annex I to decision IX/20 and other relevant compatible and complementary nationally and intergovernmentally agreed scientific criteria, as well as the scientific guidance on the identification of marine areas beyond national jurisdiction, which meet the scientific criteria in annex I to decision IX/20;

2. In paragraph 42 of the same decision, the Conference of Parties to the Convention requested the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) to prepare reports based on scientific and technical evaluation of information from the workshops, setting out details of areas that meet the criteria in annex I to decision IX/20 for consideration and endorsement in a transparent manner by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, with a view to include the endorsed reports in the repository referred to in paragraph 39 of decision X/29 and to submit them to the United Nations General Assembly and particularly its Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group, as well as relevant international organizations, Parties and other Governments;

3. Pursuant to the above request, a series of regional workshops were convened either by the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity or by competent intergovernmental regional organizations in consultation with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, including: (i) CBD Western South Pacific Regional Workshop to Facilitate the Description of EBSAs held in Nadi, Fiji, from 22 -25 November 2011; and (ii) CBD Wider Caribbean and Western Mid-Atlantic Regional Workshop to Facilitate the Description of EBSAs held in Recife, Brazil, from 28 February to 2 March 2011;

4. The summary of the results of these regional workshops are provided in tables 1 and 2 below, respectively, while full application of the criteria are provided in the annexes to the respective reports of the workshops (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/6 and UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/7);

5. Table 3 presents the outcome of the work carried out within the framework of the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean. The synthesis report on this work is being made available as an information document (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/8);

6. In paragraph 26 of decision X/29, the Conference of Parties noted that the application of the ecologically or biologically significant areas (EBSAs) criteria is a scientific and technical exercise, that areas found to meet the criteria may require enhanced conservation and management measures, and that this can be achieved through a variety of means, including

[7] The designations employed and the presentation of material in this annex do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

marine protected areas and impact assessments, and emphasized that the identification of ecologically or biologically significant areas and the selection of conservation and management measures is a matter for States and competent intergovernmental organizations, in accordance with international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea;

7. The description of marine areas meeting the scientific criteria for ecologically or biologically significant areas (EBSAs) does not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Nor does it have economic or legal implications, and is strictly a scientific and technical exercise.

Key to the tables

RANKING OF EBSA CRITERIA	**CRITERIA**
Relevance **H: High** **M: Medium;** **L:Low;** **-:No information**	• **C1**: Uniqueness or rarity • **C2**: Special importance for life-history stages of species • **C3**: Importance for threatened, endangered or declining species and/or habitats • **C4**: Vulnerability, fragility, sensitivity, or slow recovery • **C5**: Biological productivity • **C6**: Biological diversity • **C7**: Naturalness

Table 1. Description of areas meeting EBSAs Criteria in Western South Pacific region

(Details are described in Appendix to Annex 5 of Report of the Western South Pacific Regional Workshop on EBSAs, in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/6)

Location and brief description of areas	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
	For key to criteria, see page 36 above						
1. Phoenix Islands • Location: The Phoenix EBSA includes all of the Kiribati islands of the Phoenix archipelago and the surrounding sea mounts. • The Phoenix Islands have a diverse bathymetry, a number of Bioregions and several shallow seamounts. There are 6 seamounts within this area, strong eddy fields in the surface water and upwelling occurs which heightens the concentration of rich (minerals) nutrients for phytoplankton and zooplanktons. This nutrient rich area leads to high levels of biodiversity and species of economic importance including sharks, billfish, tuna and other by-catch species. There are 5 Important Bird Areas which makes the Phoenix Islands important for a specific life stages for endangered species. There are numerous kinds of sea crabs and turtles and other highly migratory species are common. There was a high catch of Sperm whales in the Phoenix during the early 1900s. There are several IUCN Red List Species documented and the OBIS dataset shows a high number of species.	M	H	H	H	H	H	H
2. Ua Puakaoa seamounts • Location: Approximately 164°W and 21°S. • A seamount system characterized by a seamount located within 300m of the sea surface, another approximately 1000m below the surface, with strong current eddies at the surface, most likely caused by significant upwellings. It is likely to have high benthic biodiversity, and possibly a high degree of endemism, which can be associated with isolated seamount systems.	M	-	-	H	L	M	H
3. Seamounts of West Norfolk ridge • Location: North boundary: South of New Caledonia; South boundary: species dependent, around 30°S (south of Norfolk Island) if based on fish communities. (Clive and Roberts 2008; Zintzen 2010). • An ecoregional analysis of New Caledonia held in 2005 has indentified Seamounts of Norfolk ridge within New Caledonia EEZ as of international relevance based on 8 national criteria.	H	H	M	H	H	H	H

Location and brief description of areas	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
	For key to criteria, see page 36 above						
4. Remetau group: South-west Caroline Islands and northern New Guinea • Location: Bounded by 6.9°N, 137.7°E and 2.8°S, 146.6°E at its north-west and south-eastern most limits. • The oceanic islands of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), also known as the Caroline Islands, are home to some of the most biologically diverse coral reefs in the world. Many individuals, communities, agencies and organizations are acting to conserve the irreplaceable natural resources of the FSM. The EBSA encompasses this priority area and the north-west extent of the Papua New Guinea EEZ. The area supports high seamount diversity, a marine Important Bird Area defined by a key non-breeding foraging concentration of Streaked Shearwater *Calonectris leucomelas*, an area of high tuna catch rates and historically high Sperm Whale harvest.	H	H	M	-	M	M	M
5. Kadavu and the Southern Lau Region • Location: between 18-23° S, and 173-179° E. • Kadavu is the fourth largest island in the Fiji Group, of volcanic origin and is biogeographically connected to the Southern Lau group. Kadavu islands are surrounded by a very productive barrier reef system and have the second largest barrier reef system in Fiji, the Great Astrolobe Reef. It supports two endemic bird species. The Southern Lau islands contain some volcanic islands and several isolated limestone oceanic atoll islands with a range of habitats including seagrass beds, oceanic patch reefs, extensive barrier reef systems, seamounts, submarine canyons and the Lau Ridge. The isolated oceanic conditions provide a distinct range of habitats and species diversity and provide important breeding and nesting areas for seabirds, Green and Hawksbill turtles. The marine area also supports an important migration corridor for a number of great whale species including Humpback, Minke, Sei and Sperm whales, and a number of smaller whales and dolphin species. The area has been identified by OBIS as a very rich and productive fishing ground for all species within the inner reefs, offshore pelagic and deepwater benthic fisheries, and also have typical seamount associated fisheries, corals and invertebrates.	H	H	H	H	H	H	H
6. Kermadec-Tonga-Louisville Junction • Location: The site is centred on about 25°S, 175°W. • There is a triple junction area at about 25°S, 175°W where the Louisville Seamount Chain subducts into the Kermadec and Tonga Trench region. It features seamount and trench habitat, with specialized fauna in each environment. The Kermadec and Tonga Trenches have endemic species of fish, scavenging amphipod species are prominent in both trenches, and there is a bathyal deep-sea seamount fauna on the Louisville Seamounts.	H	-	M	M	M	H	H
7. Monowai Seamount • Location: Boundaries are latitudes -25.7 to -25.94, longitudes 182.5 to 183.0. • Monowai seamount comprises an active volcanic cone, with a caldera that has extensive hydrothermal venting at	H	-	M	M	H	H	H

Location and brief description of areas	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
	For key to criteria, see page 36 above						
depths of about 1200 m. Vent communities comprise tubeworms, dense beds of bathymodiolid mussels, lithodid crabs, and zoarcid fishes. The seamount is at the northern end of a series of vent communities along the Kermadec back arc which has broadly similar fauna.							
8. New Britain Trench Region • Location: The New Britain Trench and hydrothermal vents clusters is located in the North-east of Papua New Guinea including the passage between New Ireland and New Britain. • The southern waters of New Britain lie over the New Britain Trench. The area poses high species productivity and richness. This region extends to include clusters of fishable seamounts and hydrothermal vents aggregation in the western, northern to eastern sides of New Ireland, indicating spots of ecological and biological importance.	M	L	M	M	M	M	H
9. New Hebrides Trench Region • Location: Between New Caledonia and Vanuatu, from a northern extent of 17.921°S, 166.975°W to a southern extent of 21.378°S, 170.961°W. • The New Hebrides Trench is a large oceanic trench between New Caledonia and Vanuatu. The EBSA extends from the south extent of Papua New Guinea, wrapping around the southern extent of Vanuatu. The New Hebrides Trench region includes both Abyssal and Lower Bathyal features and seamounts within the national jurisdiction of Vanuatu but straddles portion of the New Caledonia waters. The site surrounds three major islands – Efate, Tanna and Erromango. The EBSA covers a range of habitats including seamounts, deep trenches (up to 7600m deep).	H	H	-	M	L	H	H
10. Rarotonga Outer Reef Slopes • Location: located at latitude 21°12′S and longitude 158°46′W. • From the currently available data, it shows that the outer reef of Rarotonga contains 12 endemic fish species occurring at depths to 300m but possibly deeper. The available OBIS data indicates that the area contains several IUCN vulnerable and threatened species including corals but other IUCN species such as whales and sharks also inhabit the area. The area also has a high value for shallow water species as reflected in the OBIS data sets.	H	-	H	-	-	H	-
11. Samoan Archipelago • Location: Approximately 15 °S and between 166 °W and 174 °W. • The Samoan Archipelago consists of 6 islands and 1 atoll in American Samoa, and 2 large islands and 4 islets in Independent Samoa. The islands of the archipelago comprise a biodiversity hotspot within the western South Pacific and they show considerable connectivity, from the micro-faunal (e.g. coral larvae) to the mega-fauna (whales and turtles).	H	H	H	H	H	H	H

Location and brief description of areas	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
	For key to criteria, see page 36 above						
12. Suwarrow National Park • Location: Suwarrow is a remote atoll in the northern Cook Islands (central Pacific Ocean) at latitude 13°14′S and longitude 163°05′W. • Suwarrow is an important seabird breeding and foraging area for several species in the central Pacific Ocean. Suwarrow is a breeding and foraging site for 9% of the global Lesser Frigatebird population and 3% of the global Red-tailed Tropicbird population however these percentages will be revised in the near future and increase to 13% and 4% respectively. The populations on Suwarrow are recognized as being important for maintaining and managing seabird populations on other islands. The importance of Suwarrow is reflected in its status as a Birdlife International Important Bird Area (IBA), being the most significant seabird nesting and foraging site in the Cook Islands.	-	H	M	-	M	-	-
13. South of Tuvalu/Wallis & Fortuna/North of Fiji Plateau • Location: The central point is 180.122°W 12.36°S. • The area has been identified from the high catch activity and high productivity and has multiple large submarine canyons. This pocket of high seas partially sits along the Wallis & Fortuna plateau with a depth ranging from 3000 to 5500+ meters. It has consistent high catches of marlin and tuna, and seamount density. This EBSA contains IUCN red list species; is a turtle migration route; and has a high proportion of potential deep sea coral habitats.	L	-	M	H	H	M	M
14. Vatu-i-Ra/Lomaiviti, Fiji • Location: Deep channel and submarine canyons between Viti Levu and Vanua Levu covering Bligh Waters from the edge of the Yasawa Island group and western edge of the Great Sea Reef, through the Vatu-i-Ra Passage, and covering the deep waters around Namena Marine Reserve and islands of Lomaiviti province to the southeast. • The Vatu-i-Ra/Lomaiviti region is a hotspot for charismatic megafauna (cetaceans, sharks, turtles, seabirds), as well as a diversity center for deep species. Despite the relatively small overall area, there is a diverse benthic geomorphology, including channels, submarine canyons and seamounts. The area is surrounded by shallow coastal areas with globally significant marine value.	M	M	H	M	M	H	M
15. South Tasman Sea • Location: Between 36˚S (NW), 40˚S (NE) and 45˚S (S). • The South Tasman Front is an area of rapid change in physical and chemical oceanography, frontal density, and primary productivity (www.oregonstate.edu/oceanproductivity). The highest bird densities in the SPREP area occur in this region and it contains foraging areas for both breeding and non-breeding seabirds (Global Procellariiform Tracking Database). Two seamounts in the northwest are categorized as high risk (Clark and	M	H	H	H	H	M	M

Location and brief description of areas	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
	For key to criteria, see page 36 above						
Tittensor 2010), indicating the likely presence of cold water coral communities that have not been impacted by deep water trawling.							
16. Equatorial High Productivity Zone • Location: latitudes of approximately 5°N to 5°S of the equator, and longitudes of approximately 120°W (the limit of workshop geographic scope) to approximately 165°E. • The Central Pacific high productivity zone EBSA is a large scale oceanographic feature, comprising the western extent of flow from the Pacific south equatorial current. This westerly flowing cool upwelling tongue of water brings high nutrients to the surface waters of the central Pacific Ocean supporting high primary production over a large area. There is strong benthic-pelagic coupling, with benthic secondary production in the 4000-5000m abyssal plains being strongly related to the surface primary productivity. Historically, high sperm whale abundance was recorded in this area. This large scale oceanographic feature is highly influenced by El Nino events and is potentially susceptible to climate change.	H	L	L	-	H	L	L
17. Central Louisville Seamount Chain • Location: Extends from latitudes 31° S to 40° S and longitudes 172°30' W to 167°00' W. • The Louisville Seamount Chain extends 4000km into the western South Pacific east of New Zealand. It is a unique set of oceanic seamounts in this region, with no other features rising to upper bathyal depths between the New Zealand Plateau and the East Pacific Rise. The seamounts host a variety of deepwater fish species, and are spawning grounds for orange roughy. The area has been extensively fished (mainly for orange roughy), but this site has been chosen to include a range of seamount and guyot features which cover a wide variety of topographic characteristics and depths (and hence different habitats and faunal communities), some or parts of which have not been fished. Species records from bycatch in fisheries include cold-water corals, sponges, and deep-sea echinoderms which are frequently found on seamounts around New Zealand. The seamounts are likely to have productive and diverse benthic invertebrate communities, and be important for orange roughy and other fish populations.	H	H	M	M	M	H	M
18. Western South Pacific high aragonite saturation state zone • Location: Zone from approximately 12 – 16 ° S, from 174 - 156 ° W • An area of the western south Pacific, located in the South Equatorial Current currently has aragonite saturation rates that are the highest in the present day and are projected to be last to drop below the key thresholds of 3 and 3.5. Therefore, this area has special biological and ecological value as an area where the impact from ocean acidification will be slowest and from which recovery may potentially be the quickest.	H	M	-	-	-	-	-

Location and brief description of areas	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
	For key to criteria, see page 36 above						
19. Clipperton Fracture Zone Petrel Foraging Area • Location: Bounded by 12.9°N, 137.9°W and 0.2°N and 130.6°W at its North-Western and South-Eastern limits. • It encompasses key non-breeding foraging areas for Pycroft's Petrel, a threatened seabird that breeds in northern New Zealand. The area is equatorial and lies on and to the north of the Pacific Equatorial Upwelling zone. This is an area of strong equatorial current and parallel countercurrents which cause ocean mixing and high levels of primary productivity.	M	H	H	M	M	L	M
20. Northern Lord Howe Ridge Petrel Foraging Area • Location: Bounded by 22.7°S, 160°W and 31.9°S and 165.9°W at its North-Western and South-Eastern limits. • The site qualifies as an Important Bird Area under BirdLife criteria and has primarily been identified as the core foraging area for the endemic New Caledonian subspecies of Gould's Petrel *Pterodroma leucoptera caledonica* (representing 50-65% of the global population). As well as being important as a foraging area, the site has been shown to be used in transit by birds moving to foraging grounds further to the south.	M	H	M	M	-	L	-
21. Northern New Zealand/South Fiji Basin • Location: Extends from the South Fiji basin to the north of New Zealand and west of the Kermadec Ridge centered on 31°S, 176°E. • It encompasses key foraging areas utilized by breeding Parkinson's Petrel, a threatened seabird that breeds on Great Barrier and Little Barrier islands in northern New Zealand.	M	H	H	H	L	L	-
22. Taveuni and Ringgold Islands • Location: North-east Fiji Islands encompassing Taveuni and the Ringgold Islands centered on 16°S, 179°W. • This site created on the waters surrounding the north-east Fiji Islands supports a diverse array of communities and habitats within a compact area. It supports globally and regionally significant populations of marine turtles, Humpback Whales, seabirds, semi-nomadic reef fish and is projected to hold concentrations of cold-water corals. The area represents key foraging areas surrounding Fiji's most significant nesting sites for Hawksbill and Green Turtles, and the last remaining nesting site in Fiji for the latter. It also encompasses four marine Important Bird Areas (IBAs) that identify foraging areas based upon seaward extensions around nesting colonies.	L	H	H	M	M	M	M
23. Manihiki Plateau • Location: Approximately 155 W, 18 S. • The Manihiki Plateau is an oceanic plateau in the southwest Pacific Ocean. The Manihiki Plateau was formed by volcanic activity 125 to 120 million years ago during the mid-Cretaceous period at a triple junction plate boundary	M	L	-	L	M	L	M

Location and brief description of areas	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
	For key to criteria, see page 36 above						
called the Tongareva triple junction. Surveys over a long period, aimed at identifying important deposits of sea bed minerals, have noted that there are sediment eating organisms present, but these have not been identified.							
24. Niue Island and Beveridge Reef • Location: Around Niue, 19°S, 169.50°W, extending South East for 125 nm to encompass Beveridge Reef • The isolated island of Niue is the world's largest single coral island, and is not part of any archipelago. The waters around Niue have been identified as a part of an important migratory route for endangered humpback whales. A number of other endangered marine mammals have been sighted in Niue's waters. The endemic black banded sea krate is also reported to be found from near shore areas out to approximately 100 km from Niue fringing reef. Beveridge reef is an isolated patch reef rising sharply from the sea floor, and is included in the EBSA as it is likely to contain some endemic species due to this isolation.	H	-	M	-	L	-	M
25. Palau Southwest • Location: Deep ocean area southwest of the main Palauan archipelago. • This area contains a number of notable characteristics with regards to offshore oceanic environments. Within the region, this convergence of clustered sea mounts, high-energy eddies, and various deepwater benthic communities suggest a potential counterpoint for interactions between deep-sea, pelagic marine and oceanic-going avian species.	M	M	M	-	-	M	L
26. Tonga Archipelago • Location: Between 15°S and 23° 30" S, and 173° to 177° W. • The waters surrounding the islands of the Tongan Archipelago contain unique geomorphic features, notably the Tonga Trench. It is the most important breeding location for the endangered Oceania population of humpback whales and supports globally-significant populations of eight seabird species.	H	H	H	H	M	M	M

Table 2. Description of areas meeting EBSAs Criteria in Wider Caribbean and Western Mid-Atlantic region

(Details are described in Appendix to Annex 4 of the report of the Regional Workshop on EBSAs, in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/7)

Location of Areas and Brief Description	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
	For key to criteria, see page 36						
1. Mesoamerican Barrier Reef • Location: The Mesoamerican Reef region is comprised of over 1000 km long of continuous barrier reef considered to be the second largest in the western Hemisphere. It runs parallel to the coast, starting in the northernmost Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico, through Belize and Guatemala all the way up to the Bay Islands in Honduras. • The reef supports the second longest barrier reef in the world, a diverse array of fauna and flora, numerous rich nursery/feeding grounds and oceanic waters important for larval transport and dispersion. The rich resources in the region have important ecological, aesthetic, and cultural value to its inhabitants. Productive fishing grounds support valuable commercial and artisanal fisheries. Millions of tourists, attracted to the sandy beaches and teeming reefs, provide important economic revenue to the people and their governments.	H	H	H	H	H	H	M
2. Miskito Cays • Location: 14°25'42.14"N, 82°47'6.72" W • This area, part of the Nicaraguan National System of Protected Areas, has been recognized by RAMSAR and is identified as an Important Bird Area (IBA) by BirdLife International. It covers 512 ha and includes the Miskito Cays and other land formations. It contains seagrass beds (Thalassia testudinum) that provide food for sea turtles and afford protection to various species of fish in the larva and juvenile stages. It is estimated that at least 300 species of fish live here (annex 2), including dogfish sharks and rays in the waters of the autonomous regions (Herrera, 1984; PAANIC, 1993). In addition, some 120 fish species have been found to inhabit the coral reefs. Less than 5 per cent of these species are currently being exploited. These include snappers (Lutjanidae), sea basses (Serranidae), robalos (Centropomidae) and sharks (Carcharhinidae).	M	M	M	M	M	H	H
3. Corn Island • Location: 12° 6'37.61"N, 82°20'28.77"W There is general information on the biology of approximately 300 species of fish living in the shallow waters off the Caribbean coast of Nicaragua (INPESCA 2004, Ryan 2003); information on deep-water fish found along the continental shelf slope has recently been compiled (Pasenic-INPESCA 2008), including species of snapper	M	M	L	M	M	M	M

Location of Areas and Brief Description	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
	For key to criteria, see page 36						
(Lutjanidae) and sea bass; they contribute to the second-largest group of deep-water fish captured. All these species are found throughout the Caribbean. They are related to a specific substratum of deep-water (habitat), and each species apparently has a close relationship with its habitat, unlike the types of fish that swim constantly, such as pelagic fish.							
4. Tortuguero – Barra del Colorado • Location: Extends north from Tortuguero National park to Barra del Colorado in the border with Nicaragua. • The Tortuguero-Barra del Colorado area has been broadly studied for more than five decades (since 1955) due to its significance for the natural history of marine turtles, especially green turtles (Chelonia mydas). Tortuguero beach is known as the largest remaining green turtle rookery in the Atlantic (Troeng 2005). The area is also used by leatherbacks (*Dermochelys coriacea*) and in rare occasions by hawksbills (*Eretmochelys imbricata*). The Tortuguero-Barra del Colorado area also includes coastal lagoons, marine bird nesting and feeding areas, manatee concentration areas and sea turtle aggregation and nesting areas.	H	H	H	H	H	H	H
5. Cahuita – Gandoca • Location: Extends south from Cahuita National Park to the mouth of the Sixaola River in the border with Panama. • The areas of Cahuita and Gandoca-Manzanillo contain important patches of seagrasses (*Thalassia testudinum*) as well as the most important coral reef areas in the Caribbean coast of Costa Rica. Cahuita is the site with the highest reef-building diversity in Costa Rica (31 species) as well as a high diversity of octocorals (19 species). In Gandoca, the most important mangrove area of the Costa Rican Caribbean is found, associated to a coastal lagoon. Gandoca also presents leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) and hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) seaturtle nesting areas. Finally, the proposed area also presents aggregation areas for the spiny lobster, conch, tucuxi dolphins, manatees and marine bird feeding areas.	H	H	H	H	H	H	M
6. Pedro Bank, Southern Channel and Morant • Location: The identified area is located in oceanic waters south east to south west of Jamaica and encompasses from Jamaica the Pedro Bank and Cays (16° 43’ N and 17 35 N and 77° 20’ and 79° 02’ W); the Morant Cays and deep channels around; from Honduras and Nicaragua the Rosalind Bank (16°26′N 80°31′W16.433°N 80.517°W. It), and from Colombia and Jamaica; the Serranilla Bank (15° 41´- 16°04’N and 80°03’ - 79° 40´W), Alice Bank (15° 57´- 16° 10´N and 79° 28´ - 79° 16´W) and New Bank (15° 47´ - 15° 56´N and 78° 49´ - 78° 31´W). • The proposed area contains remote atolls with their associated banks and deep sea areas. They appear to share common oceanic dynamics which demonstrate relatively high biological diversity and productivity developed within an array of complex structured benthic habitats and complex bathymetry. At present, the entire area provides substantial queen conch, spiny lobster and reef fish fisheries which are threatened by the lack of regional	H	H	M	M	M	H	H

Location of Areas and Brief Description	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
	For key to criteria, see page 36						
considerations for its sustainable use.							
8. Caracol/Ft. Liberté/Monte Cristi (Northern Hispaniola Binational Area) • Location: Northeastern Haiti • Characterized by fringing/barrier reef, mangrove forests, and seagrass beds	L	M	M	H	M	L	L
9. Marine Mammal Sanctuary Banco de la Plata y Banco de la Navidad • Location: Located about 80 nautical miles off the northern coast of the Dominican Republic, extends from the western boundary of the Silver Bank of Bank of Christmas to the Bay of Samana from Punta Balandra and Miches. • This area represents unique environment for the reproduction of North Atlantic humpbacks whales. Humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) come from the high latitudes of the North Atlantic, to the waters of the Dominican Republic to reproduction activities between December and April each year. Of all the whales that make this migration, 85% of these whales visit the areas off short banks of the Banco de la Plata and Banco de la Navidad and Samana Bay.	H	H	H	H	L	H	L
10. Seaflower • Location: Seaflower is an open-ocean area surrounding the inhabited islands and including the coastal and oceanic coral reefs of the San Andres Archipelago, which is a Colombian administrative department in the south-western Caribbean. This area contains the largest, most productive open-ocean coral reefs in the Caribbean; provides rare, unique and unusual reef environments; contains remote areas demonstrating high integrity and little anthropogenic influence; and displays a continuum of habitats that support significant levels of marine biodiversity. With the presence of 192 Red-Listed species, it is an important site for the conservation of endangered and threatened species of global concern.	H	H	H	H	-	H	H
11. Saba Bank • Location: 17o25' N, 63030' W • The Saba Bank is a unique and highly significant area. Biophysically it is a submerged atoll, the largest actively growing atoll in the Caribbean, and one of the largest atolls in the world, measuring 1,850 km^2 (above 50m depth contour). The area is significant in terms of its unique ecological, socio-economic, scientific and cultural characteristics, with extensive coral reefs, fishing grounds and algal beds.	H	H	H	H	H	H	H
12. Eastern Caribbean	M	M	H	H	L	H	M

Location of Areas and Brief Description	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
	For key to criteria, see page 36						
• Location: The islands arc from Anguilla located at 18°12.80N and 63°03.00W and curve around to Tobago located at 10° 2' to 11° 12' N and 60° 30' to 61° 56' W. • The region harbours a variety of rich ecosystems associated with small islands masses, many being volcanic and some being limestone in origin. The region supports many productive ecosystems, such as coral reefs, seagrass beds and mangrove swamps. It is also home to unusual features such as a major underwater volcano, Kick Em Jelly (Grenada), and hydrothermal vents and seamounts. The region harbours significant larval stocks, which potentially serve as a source for commercially important species such as the Caribbean Spiny lobster and Queen Conch. The area also provides essential conditions for the survival of several migratory species such as turtles, fishes and sea birds.							
13. The Sargasso Sea • Location: The Sargasso Sea is surrounded by the Gulf Stream to the west, the North Atlantic Drift to the north, the more diffuse Canary Current to the east, and the North Equatorial Current and the Antilles Current to the south, extending between 22o – 38oN and 76o – 43oW, centred on 30oN and 60oW. • The Sargasso Sea is home to an iconic pelagic ecosystem with the floating *Sargassum* seaweeds, the world's only holopelagic algae, as its cornerstone. It hosts a diverse community of associated organisms that includes ten endemic species, and provides essential habitat for key life stages of a wide diversity of species, many of which are endangered or threatened. The Sargasso Sea is the only breeding location for European and American eels, the former being listed as critically endangered, and is on the migration route of numerous other iconic and endangered species. A variety of oceanographic processes impact productivity and species diversity, and the area plays a disproportionately large role in global ocean processes of oxygen production and carbon sequestration. The sea floor has two large seamount chains, home to specialized, fragile and endemic communities, and models predict the presence of numerous other isolated seamounts.	H	H	H	H	H	H	M
14. Sinu Continental Margin • Location: The Sinu Continental Margin region includes sites that extend from latitude 9 12'14"N to 10 4'38"N and between longitudes 76 34'30"W and 76 6'59"W. • The Sinu Continental Margin region is found in the southern Caribbean off the Colombian coast at a depth of 180 to 1000 m; it is characterized by the presence of geological formations that are typical of water flow systems, such as canals, canyons and continental aprons, and structural forms such as ridges, slopes, domes and troughs, which are associated with a high level of biodiversity. Deep-water corals are also present, especially Madracis myriaster, whose significance is growing from an ecological point of view. The presence of oxidizing methane at cold seeps is also becoming more environmentally important. The natural status of these sites makes them ecologically and biologically significant areas (EBSAs) in the southern Caribbean region, although the possibility of future hydrocarbon exploration makes this region vulnerable.	H	-	-	H	M	H	H

Location of Areas and Brief Description	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
	For key to criteria, see page 36						
15. Oceanic bottoms of Magdalena and Tayrona • Location: The Oceanic bottoms of Magdalena and Tayrona include sites that extend from latitude 11 3'34"N to 11 55'40"N and between longitudes 75 33'3"W and 74 2'28"W. The Oceanic bottoms of Magdalena and Tayrona region is located in the central sector of the Caribbean coast of Colombia at a depth of 200 to 3000 m. It is characterized by the presence of canyons and seamounts associated with high biodiversity. It also has deep-water corals, especially *Madracis myriaster*, which are becoming increasingly important in environmental terms. The natural status of these sites makes them ecologically and biologically significant areas (EBSAs) in the southern Caribbean region.	H	-	-	H	-	H	H
16. Amazonian-Orinoco Influence Zone • Location: N 14.517, E: -45.144, S: -0.565, W: -60.981 (The proposed area encompasses the productivity flow from Northern Brazil, French Guiana, Suriname, Guyana and Eastern Trinidad.) • The Orinoco River drains an area of 1.1 x 10 6 km2 within Venezuela (70%) and Colombia (30%) (Lewis 1988). Together with the Amazon, these two major rivers play an extremely important role in transporting dissolved and particulate material from terrestrial areas to the coasts and open ocean. Their impact is evidenced by the overall extremely high productivity associated with the marine area extending from northern Brazil, to French Guiana, Suriname, Guyana, all the way to Trinidad and Tobago. Associated with this high productivity are high levels of biodiversity inclusive of endangered, threatened and endemic species of turtles, mammals, invertebrates, fishes and birds.	H	H	H	H	H	H	H
17. Parcel do Manuel Luiz e Banco do Álvaro • Location: Covers two main areas including Parcel do Manuel Luiz (69 km^2 centered on 00^{o}50′S, 044^{o}15′W) and Banco do Álvaro (30 km^2 centered on 00^o 17.5′S, 044^o 49.5′W) • Parcel do Manuel Luiz is the most northern coral communities known in Brazil. In some areas milleporids predominate on the reef walls, followed by the octocoral *Phyllogorgia dilatata* (endemic to Brazil). There are records of 50% of the Brazilian hard corals species in the area, six of which were not previously reported in the Northeastern adjacent coast. The fire coral *Millepora laboreli* is endemic to the area and has been recently included as EN in the Brazilian List of Endangered Species. The presence and great abundance of Caribbean reef organisms, which do not occur along the eastern coast of South America, provide additional evidence that these reefs may be one of the main faunal stepping stones between the Caribbean and the Brazilian coast. The region represents an important area of feeding and reproduction of elasmobranchs.	M	M	H	H	-	H	H

Location of Areas and Brief Description	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
	For key to criteria, see page 36						
18. Banks chain of northern Brazil and Fernando de Noronha • Location: Covers the North Brazilian Chain (1 ° S to 4 ° S / 37 ° W to 39 W) and Fernando de Noronha Chain (3 ° to 5 ° S / 32 º to 38 º W). • The North Brazil Current interacts with the submarine topography generating upwellings that promote productivity. Chains are inserted in oligotrophic environment and Fernando de Noronha and Rocas Atoll are seen as a "hotspot" due to the presence of coral reef formations, high biodiversity and endemism. The area is a spawning site and / or feeding site for turtles, elasmobranchs, reef fish and pelagic fish. The area is a feeding site for breeding seabirds at Fernando de Noronha and covers part of the most important seabird migration corridor in the Atlantic, both sites which qualify as BirdLife Important Bird Area (IBA) for both threatened species and congregations. Some birds, elasmobranchs and turtles species listed in the IUCN red list as threatened occur in the area. Sharks, reef fishes and lobsters are target for fisheries carried out in the region. Fishing exploitation is a traditional activity in the area. Sea turtles are also subject to incidental catch by pelagic longline and ghost nets. The Rocas Atoll has the highest rate of endemism in the region and Fernando de Noronha has the highest species richness when compared to other Brazilian oceanic islands. Fernando de Noronha and Rocas Atoll fauna display great similarity which is attributed to the presence of shallow oceanic banks that function as steps tones in the area. Larvae of coastal species suggest connectivity with the continental slope area.	H	H	H	M	M	H	H
19. Northeastern Brazil Shelf-Edge Zone • Location: The northeastern shelf-edge zone extends along the Brazilian outer shelf and upper slope, from depths of 40m to 2000m and between parallels 3ºS to 16ºS, from south Bahia up to the Ceará states, where the Brazilian continental shelf is narrow and breaks abruptly at depths between 50 to 80m. • The continental shelf-edge zone is a marine ecotone where different components of the demersal, benthic and benthopelagic communities of the continental shelf, upper slope and adjacent pelagic biota coexist in a narrow strip along the continental margin. Biogenic reef formations associated to outer shelf channels, ravines and deeper canyons represent important traditional fishing grounds. The northeastern Brazilian shelf-edge zone contains distinct habitats and unusual geomorphological features such as shelf-edge reefs that represent a last refuge for some rare or endemic reef fishes distributed across the continental margin, including threatened (IUCN) commercial species of the snapper-grouper complex, currently depleted at the Brazilian EEZ jurisdiction. The shelf-edge harbour critical habitats for the life cycle of many sea turtles, whales, sharks and reef fish species, including migratory corridors and fish spawning aggregation sites. The area covers part of the most important seabird migration corridor in the Atlantic, a site which qualifies as a Birdlife Important Bird Area (IBA) for both threatened species and congregations. This region corresponds to a portion of the breeding ground of humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) off the northeastern coast of Brazil.	M	H	H	H	L	H	M

Location of Areas and Brief Description	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
	For key to criteria, see page 36						
20. Atlantic Equatorial Fracture Zone and high productivity system • Location: The proposed area extends approximately 1.9 m km^2 across the Equatorial Atlantic Ocean from the western border of the Guinea Basin (10°W) in the east to the northeast limit of Brazilian continental margin (32°W) in the west. • The proposed area combines both benthic and pelagic habitats of the Equatorial Atlantic, as defined by the seafloor topography, surface and deepwater circulation patterns and the equatorial primary productivity regimes. It can also be characterized by particular pelagic and benthic biodiversity patterns.	H	H	M	M	H	H	M
21. Abrolhos Bank and Vitória-Trindade Chain • Location: The Abrolhos Region is an enlargement of the Brazilian continental shelf located in the eastern shore of Brazil, in the southern of Bahia and northern of Espírito Santo States. • Abrolhos Bank harbours the highest marine biodiversity in the South Atlantic, the largest coral reefs in Brazil, and relatively large populations of several endemic and endangered marine species. It presents a mosaic of different habitats, like mangroves, seagrasses meadows, rhodolith beds, submerged and emergent reefs, and a group of small volcanic islands. Abrolhos also has unique biological formations, such as the large mushroom shaped reef formations – "chapeirões", and unique geological formations, such as the "buracas" – distinctive depressions in the shelf plain (up to 20 meters deep and 70 meters large). The region is an important breeding and/or fishing site for several flagship species such as humpback whales, sea turtles and sea birds. • The Vitória Trindade Chain, located on the central coast of Brazil, is composed of seven seamounts and an island complex (Archipelago of Trinidad and Martin Vaz). The substrate of the mountains and ocean islands is composed of living reefs of coralline algae, on which is also observed the presence of different species of corals, sponges and algae. The mountains and islands have a fauna of reef fish that is still preserved, with a significant biomass and abundance of species, harbouring many sharks and spawning aggregation phenomena of important fishery resources. Moreover, the reef fish fauna includes at least 11 endemic species. Also, this area is the only breeding site for three endemic populations of seabirds, the Trindade petrel (*Pterodroma arminjoniana*), the Atlantic lesser frigatebird (*Fregata minor nicolli*), and the Atlantic greater frigatebird (*Fregata ariel trinitiatis*).	H	H	H	H	M	H	M

Note: There is no area number 7.

Table 3. Description of areas that could meet EBSA Criteria in the Mediterranean region

(Each area is described by some polygons presented in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/8)

Explanation of scores: how important is the polygon for the criterion?

4 = completely; 3 = a lot; 2 = somewhat; 1 = a little; 0 = not at all

Name of the area	n.	name of polygon	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7	Notes
Alboran Sea	1	Djibouti Seamount	4	3	4	4	4	4	3	
	2	Alborán Crest	4	3	4	4	4	4	3	
	3	Motril Seamount	4	3	4	4	4	4	3	
	4	Seco de los Olivos Seamount	4	3	4	4	4	4	3	
	5	E Malaga coast	2	3	3	2	3	3	2	not ABNJ: Important foraging ground for seabirds within the Alborán context.
	6	Bay of Almeria	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	not ABNJ: important breeding colonies of gulls and terns that use the adjacent sea to forage
	7	Alborán island	3	3	3	3	2	2	4	holds one of the most important colonies of Audouin's gull in the world
	8	Chafarinas Islands	3	4	4	4	3	3	4	not ABNJ: holds the second most important colony of Audouin's gull at global level
	9	Al-Mansour Seamount								
	10	Torrox Seamount								
	11	Gibraltar Strait	4	3	3	2	3	4	1	Unique location is key for long-term survival of seabird populations that move between Mediterranean Sea and Atlantic Ocean
	12	Alborán Sea	3	3	3	2	3	3	2	Area of high (primary) productivity: acts as feeding area for locally-breeding bird

										populations, as winter area and most importantly for migration/passage
	13	Seco de los Olivos Seamount	3	3	4	4	3	4	2	presence of black corals, red coral, sponges, gorgonian gardens, coralligenous, maerl, marine turtles, cetaceans and commercial species.
	14	Alborán and Algerian	0	2	3	1	2	1	2	loggerhead turtle habitat
	15	Polygon 4		3						*Scyliorhinus canicula* nursery area
	16	Alborán Sea	2	4	4	3	4	3	1	Common dolphin, striped dolphin, bottlenose dolphin, Cuvier's beaked whale, pilot whale
	89	SW Alborán	2	3	0	0	3	2	0	important suitable habitat for small pelagics (sardines and/or anchovies)
Balearic Islands area	17	Aguilas Seamount								
	18	Emile Baudot Seamount								
	21	Balearic Sea	3	4	4	4	4	4	3	Bluefin tuna spawning ground, sperm whale habitat
	23	Ebro River system	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	Key area for feeding of globally-threatened and other seabird species of conservation concern that concentrate for breeding in Ebro Delta (gulls, terns) and in Balearic Is (shearwaters)
	25	Palos Seamount	4	3	4	4	4	3	3	corals, gorgonian gardens, sponges, marine turtles, cetaceans, elasmobranchs and commercial species.
	26	Emile Baudot Seamount	3	3	4	3	2	4	3	coralligenous, maërl, gorgonian gardens, corals (included some black corals), bryozoans, marine turtles, cetaceans and commercial species.
	27	Menorca Canyon	3	3	3	3	4	4	2	gorgonian gardens, corals, sponges, coralligenous, maërl, sharks and commercial species.
	30	Spanish shelf + Balearic	0	2	3	2	2	2	2	loggerhead turtle habitat
	90	Balearic Sea								important habitat for sperm whales

Gulf of Lions area	19	Palamos Canyon								
	20	Cap de Creus Canyon	4	3	4	4	2	4	3	*Lophelia, Madrepora,* 218 m, ROV, submersible (Orejas et al. 2008)
	22	Gulf of Lion	3	3	3		4			High primary productivity of pelagic waters
	24	Gulf of Lion - Hyères Islands	2	3	3	3	3	3	2	High-productivity area; important for feeding of globally-threatened and other seabird species of conservation concern: Procellariiforms from Hyères, Corsica & Balearics, gulls & terns from Camargue, wintering seabirds from Atlantic
	28	Gulf of Lion - fin whale habitat	3	4	1	2	4	4	0	
	29	Gulf of Lion - striped dolphin habitat	2	2	1	2	2	4	0	
	73	Gulf of Lion canyons								Lacaze-Duthiers Canyon, *Madrepora,* at 300 m, submersible, dredges (Zibrowius 2003), Cassidaigne Canyon, *Madrepora,* 210-510 m, submersible (Bourcier & Zibrowius 1973)
	81	Catalan coast	1	3	0	0	3	2	0	important suitable habitat for small pelagics (sardines and/or anchovies)
Tyrrhenian Sea	31	Polygon 5		3						*Galeus melastomus* nursery area
	32	N Tyrrhenian	2	1			2			High primary productivity of pelagic waters
	33	Corsica - Sardinia - Tuscan Is.	1	2	3	2	2	2	2	Important area for feeding of endemic and other seabird species of conservation concern that concentrate for breeding in Corsica-Sardinia-Tuscan archipelagos
	36	Polygon 10		3	3	3	3	3		*Scyliorhinus canicula, Raja clavata, R. asterias, Carcharinus brachyurus, Galeus melastomus, Etmopterus spinax* nursery area
	37	Polygon 11		3						*Squatina oculata* probable nursery area
	38	Polygon 5 bis		3						*Scyliorhinus canicula* nursery area
Tunisian Plateau	40	Bluefin tuna breeding area	3	4	4	4	1	3	3	

	41	Tunisia Plateau area 1		2	3			3		*Carcharodon carcharias* nursery area
	42	Tunisia Plateau area 2		2	3			3		Several batoids and white shark nursery, loggerhead turtle feeding and wintering area, Maerl beds
	43	Strait of Sicily	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	High-productivity area: important for feeding of Procellariiforms nesting in Tunisia (Zembra is), Sicily (Egadi is) and Pantelleria
	44	Malta - Outer Gabés	2	3	3	3	3	2	3	New data from BirdLife Malta LIFE Yelkouan Shearwater Project show importance of the extensive area SE of Malta for feeding of this Mediterranean endemic species.
	45	Tunisian - Inner Gabés	0	3	3	3	3	3	3	loggerhead turtle habitat
	46	Strait of Sicily, Ionian	0	2	3	1	2	1	2	loggerhead turtle habitat
	47	Polygon 8		3						*Carcharodon carcharias* probable nursery area
	48	Polygon 9		3				3		*Carcharodon carcharias* probable nursery area
	49	Waters around Lampedusa	2	4	3	3	4	2	2	Fin whale winter feeding grounds
	50	Waters around Malta	1	4	3	3	2	1	2	Common dolphin
	74	*Lophelia*, *Madrepora* in Strait of Sicily								Urania Bank, *Lophelia, Madrepora*, 509-613 m, ROV (this study), Linosa Trough, *Lophelia, Madrepora*, 669-679 m, ROV (this study), off Malta, *Lophelia, Madrepora*, 453-612 m, ROV (this study), off Malta, *Lophelia, Madrepora*, 392-617 m, demersal trawl (Schembri et al. 2007)
	87	Inner Tunisian Plateau, N part		2						
	88	SW Sicily	2	3	0	0	3	2	0	important suitable habitat for small pelagics (sardines and/or anchovies)
Adriatic Sea	51	Northern and central Adriatic	0	3	3	3	3	3	2	loggerhead turtle habitat
	52	Polygon 1		2	2	2				*Squalus acanthias* nursery area

	53	Polygon 2		3						*Scyliorhinus canicula* nursery area
	82	Central western Adriatic	1	3	0	0	3	2	0	important suitable habitat for small pelagics (sardines and/or anchovies)
Ionian Sea	54	Ionian	0	2	3	1	2	1	2	loggerhead turtle habitat
	55	Polygon 6		3						*Raja clavata* nursery area
	56	Eastern Ionian Sea	1	4	4	3	3	2	2	Common dolphins, bottlenose dolphins, Cuvier's beaked whales, fin whales, sperm whales
	75	*Lophelia* and *Madrepora* in Gulf of Taranto								Santa Maria di Leuca, *Lophelia, Madrepora,* 300-1100 m, dredges, ROV (Taviani et al. 2005a, this study), off Gallipoli, *Lophelia*, *Madrepora,* 603-744 m, ROV (this study)
	78	*Lophelia* reefs								
Aegean Sea	59	Northern Aegean Sea	2	4	4	3	3	2	2	Common dolphin, harbour porpoise, monk seal, beaked whale
	77	*Lophelia* and *Madrepora* reefs off Thasos								off Thasos, *Lophelia*, *Madrepora,* 300-350 m, dredging (Vafidis et al. 1997)
	83	N West Aegean	2	3	0	0	3	2	0	important suitable habitat for small pelagics (sardines and/or anchovies)
	84	N Aegean	2	3	0	0	3	2	0	important suitable habitat for small pelagics (sardines and/or anchovies)

XVI/5. MARINE AND COASTAL BIODIVERSITY: SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES AND ADDRESSING ADVERSE IMPACTS OF HUMAN ACTIVITIES ON MARINE AND COASTAL BIODIVERSITY

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice recommends that the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting adopts a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties,

Recognizing that addressing biodiversity consideration in fisheries management, addressing adverse impacts of human activities on marine and coastal biodiversity, including coral bleaching, ocean acidification and anthropogenic underwater noise, support the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Targets 5, 6, 8 and 10[8] and also that other adverse impacts of human activities on marine and coastal biodiversity, including pollution, need to be addressed with a view to achieve these Targets,

Addressing biodiversity concerns in sustainable fisheries

1. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Government of Norway for funding and hosting the Joint Expert Meeting on Addressing Biodiversity Concerns in Sustainable Fisheries, convened by the Executive Secretary in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the Fisheries Expert Group of the IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management (IUCN-CEM-FEG), in Bergen, Norway, from 7 to 9 December 2011, and *welcomes* the report of the meeting (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/13);

2. *Recognizing* that fisheries management bodies are competent bodies for managing fisheries and, depending on the situations in different countries and regions, should have roles to play in addressing the impacts on biodiversity, *notes* the need for further improvement and implementation of the ecosystem approach in fisheries management by enhancing the capacity of these fisheries management agencies, constructive interagency collaboration, and full and meaningful participation of a wide range of experts on biodiversity, indigenous and local communities, and relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, in the fisheries management process;

3. *Encourages* constructive collaboration between biodiversity and fisheries bodies, and *invites* fisheries management bodies at national and regional levels, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), to ensure that biodiversity considerations are a part of their work;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to transmit the report of the joint expert meeting, referred to in paragraph 1 above, to Parties, other Governments, the Food and Agriculture

[8] Target 5**:** By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.

Target 6: By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.

Target 8: By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity.

Target 10: By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning.

Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and regional fisheries management bodies, and to collaborate with these bodies
with a view to improving how biodiversity concerns are addressed for sustainable fisheries;

Progress made in the implementation of the specific work plan on coral bleaching

5. *Welcomes* the report *Progress made in the implementation of the specific work plan on coral bleaching* (appendix 1 to annex I to decision VII/5) that includes information on the barriers to implementation as well as ways to overcome them, including specific actions to mobilize financial resources, as contained in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/11, and *takes note* of the key messages of the report provided in annex I to document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/6;

6. *Notes* that progress has been made since the specific work plan was adopted;

7. *Recalling* Aichi Biodiversity Target 10, e*xpresses its deep concern* that climate change will increase the severity and incidence of coral bleaching and ocean acidification throughout tropical seas in the twenty-first century;

8. *Also expresses its concern* that many recurrent capacity and financial challenges remain, which preclude significant progress in developing countries that still struggle to cope with localized stressors and do not have the capacity or financial resources to fully incorporate climate-change impacts as well as other relevant stressors into coral-reef or coastal-management programmes;

10. *Takes note* of the urgent need to update the specific work plan on coral bleaching, taking into consideration other global impacts on coral reefs caused by climate change, most notably, projected impacts of ocean acidification, but also the effects of tropical storms and rising sea levels, and recognizes that the projected impacts of ocean acidification need to be integrated into management frameworks alongside the interaction with local stressors;

11. *Further notes* that meeting the growing challenge of climate-change impacts on coral reefs will require significant investment to increase the capacity for effective management of future bleaching events and other stressors and to scale up the delivery of resilience assessments in all coral-reef regions, and that identifying a range of viable financial mechanisms to achieve these goals is critical;

12. *Recognizes* the need for managers of coral reef ecosystems to:

(a) understand the vulnerability of reef systems to multiple stressors;

(b) plan proactively for climate risks and associated secondary effects, applying ecosystembased adaptation measures;

(c) manage coral reefs as socio-ecological systems undergoing change due in many cases to climate change;

(d) formulate adaptation strategies that aim to enhance the resilience of ecosystems to enable the continued provision of goods and services;

13. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to incorporate issues concerning the impacts of climate change on coral reefs and their implications for coastal management programmes, including, as appropriate, the elements specified in paragraph 11 above, in regional or subregional capacity-building workshops;

14. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to collaborate with Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations, and indigenous and local communities, to develop proposals to update the

specific work plan on coral bleaching through an addendum to the work plan that addresses the needs set out in paragraph 11 above, and to submit the draft addendum for consideration at a meeting of the Subsidiary Body prior to the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

Impacts of anthropogenic underwater noise on marine and coastal biodiversity

15. *Welcomes* the report *Scientific synthesis on the impacts of underwater noise on marine and coastal biodiversity and habitats* (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/12), and *takes note* of the key messages of the report provided in annex II to the document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/6;

16. *Takes note* of resolution 10.24 adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species at its tenth meeting, which provides guidance on further steps to abate underwater noise pollution, where necessary, for the protection of cetaceans and other migratory species;

17. *Notes* that anthropogenic noise may have both short- and long-term negative consequences for marine animals and other biota in the marine environment, that this issue is predicted to increase in significance, and that uncontrolled increase in anthropogenic noise could add further stress to oceanic biota;

18. *Encourages* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations, according to their priorities, to:

(a) Promote research with a view to further improving our understanding of the issue;

(b) Promote awareness of the issue with relevant stakeholders both nationally and regionally;

(c) Take measures, as appropriate, to minimize the significant adverse impacts of anthropogenic underwater noise on marine biodiversity, including best available technologies (BAT) and best environmental practices (BEP), drawing upon existing guidance; and

(d) Develop indicators and explore frameworks for the monitoring of underwater noise for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity, and report the progress to a future meeting of the Subsidiary Body prior to the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parities;

19. *Noting* the need for a consistent terminology to describe underwater noise, *requests* the Executive Secretary to collaborate with Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations, to prepare, subject to availability of financial resources, a draft set of consistent terminology for consideration by a meeting of the Subsidiary Body prior to the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

20. *Noting* the gaps and limitations in existing guidance, including the need to update it in the light of improving scientific knowledge, and recognizing a range of complementary initiatives under way, *requests* the Executive Secretary to collaborate with Parties, other Governments, and competent organizations, including the International Maritime Organization, the Convention on Migratory Species, the International Whaling Commission, as well as indigenous and local communities and other relevant stakeholders, to organize, subject to availability of financial resources, an expert workshop with a view to improving and sharing knowledge on underwater noise and its impacts on marine and coastal biodiversity, and developing practical guidance and toolkits for minimizing and mitigating the significant adverse impacts of anthropogenic underwater noise on marine and coastal biodiversity, which can assist Parties and other Governments in applying necessary management measures. The workshop should cover issues such as, the development of acoustic mapping of areas of interest, among others;

21. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to bring this decision to the attention of the organizations referred to in paragraph 19 above;

Progress made in the joint expert review process to monitor and assess the impacts of ocean acidification on marine and coastal biodiversity

Recalling paragraphs 63–67 of decision X/29,

22. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Government of Spain for funding the Expert Meeting to Develop a Series of Joint Expert Review Processes to Monitor and Assess the Impacts of Ocean Acidification on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity, convened by the Executive Secretary in collaboration with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (IOC/UNESCO), in Montreal, from 19 to 20 October 2011, and *welcomes* the report of the expert meeting (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/14);

23. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to collaborate with IOC/UNESCO**,** relevant scientific groups, other relevant organizations, and indigenous and local communities, on the preparation of a systematic review document on the impacts of ocean acidification on biodiversity and ecosystem functions, which will provide a targeted synthesis of the biodiversity implications of ocean acidification for marine and coastal systems, including information on the less-reported paleo-oceanographic research, building upon the synthesis provided in CBD Technical Series No. 46, and make it available for consideration by a meeting of the Subsidiary Body prior to the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, with a view to forward it to Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations and transmit it to the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

24. *Takes note* of the elements in annex III to document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/6 as guidance for practical responses to the impacts of ocean acidification on marine and coastal biodiversity, and *encourages* Parties, other Governments and competent organizations to make use of this guidance, as appropriate, to reduce various threats from ocean acidification to vulnerable ecosystems and enhance resilience of ecosystems through various area-based or other management measures, in addition to measures to reduce CO_2 emissions;

Addressing impacts of marine debris on marine and coastal biodiversity

25. *Welcomes* the preparation by the GEF-STAP of a report on the impacts of marine debris on marine and coastal biodiversity (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/15) and *takes note* of the key messages contained in annex IV to document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/6;

26. *Requests* the Executive Secretary in collaboration with Parties, other Governments, relevant organizations, and indigenous and local communities, subject to the availability of financial resources, to:

(a) Invite Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to submit information on the impacts of marine debris on marine and coastal biodiversity and habitats;

(b) Compile and synthesize the submissions by Parties, other Governments and competent organizations as well as additional scientific and technical information as inputs to an expert workshop;

(c) Organize an expert workshop to prepare practical guidance on preventing and mitigating the significant adverse impacts of marine debris on marine and coastal biodiversity and habitats, which can be applied by Parties and other Governments in their implementation of the programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity;

(d) Submit the compilation/synthesis, referred to in subparagraph (b) above, and the practical guidance, referred to in subparagraph (c) above, for consideration by a meeting of the Subsidiary Body prior to the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

27. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to availability of financial resources, to include in regional capacity-building workshops the issue of marine debris in order to discuss ways to prevent and reduce their impacts on biodiversity and strengthen research on the reduction and management of marine debris.

XVI/6 MARINE BIODIVERSITY: MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING AND VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF BIODIVERSITY IN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS AND STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS IN MARINE AND COASTAL AREAS

A. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice *recommends* that the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting adopts a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties,

Voluntary guidelines for the consideration of biodiversity in environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessments in marine and coastal areas

Recalling decision VIII/28, by which it endorsed voluntary guidelines on biodiversity-inclusive environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment,

Noting that marine areas, in particular open-ocean and deep-sea areas, have important ecological differences from terrestrial and coastal areas,

[1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the voluntary guidelines[9] for the consideration of biodiversity in environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessments in marine and coastal areas, including in areas beyond national jurisdiction, in accordance with Article 4 of the Convention;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to make these voluntary guidelines available as a reference to Parties, other Governments and United Nations specialized agencies, as well as relevant United Nations General Assembly processes, in particular the United Nations Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction, as well as regional seas organizations and regional fisheries management organizations and agreements, with regards to fisheries management, as appropriate;

3. *Encourages,* as appropriate, Parties, other Governments and competent organizations, in accordance with national and international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, to use the voluntary guidelines, and to adapt and apply them as considered necessary in accordance with their national priorities;

4. *Invites* Parties and other Governments to share, as appropriate, information on their progress in the application of these voluntary guidelines, consider including such information in the fifth and subsequent national reports, and provide suggestions for their further refinement;]

5. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and competent organizations, in accordance with international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, to facilitate further research to fill gaps in knowledge, as highlighted in the voluntary guidelines with regards to marine and coastal areas, in particular in areas beyond national jurisdiction;

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to availability of financial resources, to provide further assistance to promote capacity-building on the application of the voluntary guidelines,

[9] The voluntary guidelines will be further refined based on the document (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/7/Add.1) with the addition of the following phrase in the chapeau: "These voluntary guidelines should be used in a manner consistent with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea", and taking into account additional submissions from Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations, in accordance with the request to the Executive Secretary in part B of this recommendation.

to compile information on experience in the application of the voluntary guidelines and report on the progress to a
meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

Marine spatial planning

7. *Acknowledges* the synthesis document on the experience and use of marine spatial planning (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/18), and *takes note* of the key messages as set out in section III of document (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/7);

8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to availability of financial resources, to collaborate with Parties, other Governments, United Nations specialized agencies, regional organizations, and other competent organizations, and indigenous and local communities to:

(g) Develop a web-based information-sharing system linking existing information sources[10] on marine spatial planning on the web;

(h) Continue to compile information on experience and use of marine spatial planning practices and make the compiled information available to Parties, other Governments and competent organizations to evaluate its usefulness and implications;

(i) Convene an expert workshop to provide consolidated practical guidance and a toolkit for applying marine spatial planning, building upon existing guidance,[11] subject to availability of financial resources, in order to complement and further enhance the existing cross-sectoral efforts of Parties and other Governments on the application of the ecosystem approach to the implementation of integrated marine and coastal management; the identification of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs); the design and establishment of conservation and management measures including marine protected areas and other area-based management efforts. The expert workshop should:

(i) Review existing guidance and toolkits on marine spatial planning;

(v) Identify gaps;

(vi) Develop proposals to fill these gaps; and

(vii) If considered necessary, prepare a consolidated practical guidance and toolkit on marine spatial planning;

(j) Make the guidance and toolkits, as referred to above, available to Parties, other Governments and competent organizations;

(k) Disseminate awareness-raising materials on marine spatial planning to decision makers based on the synthesis document (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/18) and its key messages as contained in document (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/7) with a view to facilitating the application of practical guidance and toolkits as referred to above;

(l) Organize training workshops, subject to availability of financial resources, in close linkage to existing capacity-building efforts on marine protected areas[12] and EBSAs,[13] in order to

[10] For example, the IOC/UNESCO webpage on marine spatial planning, (http://www.unesco-ioc-marinesp.be/marine_spatial_planning_msp).

[11] For example, the IOC/UNESCO guidelines on marine spatial planning.

[12] For example, the UNDOALOS training manual on marine protected areas.

[13] For example, EBSA training manuals and modules prepared by the Executive Secretary.

increase the capacity of Parties, especially developing country Parties, in their application of marine spatial planning as a tool to enhance existing efforts on integrated marine and coastal area management, identification of EBSAs, design and establishment of conservation and management measures including marine protected areas and other area-based management efforts, and other marine biodiversity conservation and sustainable-use practices.

B. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice *requests* Executive Secretary to refine the voluntary guidelines for the consideration of biodiversity in environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessments in marine and coastal areas in light of views submitted by Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations by 30 June 2012.

XVI/8. PROPOSALS ON INTEGRATING BIODIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS INTO CLIMATE-CHANGE-RELATED ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING ADDRESSING GAPS IN KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMATION

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

1. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations, including national and international organizations responsible for funding and conducting research activities, to provide technical and financial support, strengthen capacity-building and build knowledge and information on the linkages between biodiversity and climate change, including traditional knowledge, innovations and practices embodying traditional lifestyles, with prior informed consent or approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge, by:

(a) Promoting work that considers the outputs from a number of individual models (multimodel combinations), together with ground-truthing, including through field-based observations and experiments, to generate fine-scale projections of the impacts of climate change on biodiversity, particularly on the most vulnerable ecosystems and species;

(b) Building knowledge, with comparable datasets, on the potential impacts of climate change and climate change response activities on biodiversity relevant for decision makers responsible for land-use planning and implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, bearing in mind the specific needs of indigenous and local communities and other stakeholders, from local to regional scales;

(c) Subject to national legislation, respecting, preserving and maintaining the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles related to the linkages between biodiversity and climate change with the prior informed consent or approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge and encouraging the equitable sharing of such benefits arising from the utilization of such knowledge, innovations and practices;

(d) Developing and improving regional programmes for bioclimatic modelling and monitoring the impacts of climate change on biodiversity;

(e) Addressing gaps in biodiversity modelling including, *inter alia*, the impacts of invasive alien species and overexploitation in terrestrial, coastal and marine systems; pollution and invasive species in freshwater systems; and land degradation and pollution in coastal and marine systems;

(f) Encouraging research to strengthen knowledge on how the impacts of climate change on biodiversity affect the delivery of ecosystem services;

(g) Identifying data and information needs, availability and gaps in order to determine how to develop or improve the extent to which existing data collection and management systems support decision-making, adaptive management, national planning and reporting on the impacts of climate change on biodiversity;

(h) Liaising with existing data-standard bodies and data-sharing initiatives at the global, regional and national levels to enhance access to and the interoperability of relevant global data sets and promoting the establishment or enhancement of national data collection and management systems;

(i) Investing in higher education and training programmes, including for researchers across different biodiversity disciplines, on monitoring, field study tools and methodologies and bioclimatic modelling;

(j) Investing in the consolidation and strengthening of national institutional capacities to monitor climate change impacts on biodiversity; and

(k) Strengthening or establishing multi-purpose monitoring programmes for climate change impacts on biodiversity, among others, the Biodiversity Observations Network of the Group on Earth Observations, and encouraging the online publication of the resulting data from these monitoring programmes, with the view to maximize the use of limited resources as well as to effectively address information gaps in both spatial and temporal scales;

2. *Recommends* that the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting adopts a decision along the following lines:

"The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling in particular, decisions VIII/30, IX/16, annex II, and decision X/33,

1. *Endorses* the recommendations of the Subsidiary Body (paragraph 1 of the present recommendation) to strengthen knowledge and information on the linkages between biodiversity and climate change;

2. *Reiterates* the importance of activities to integrate biodiversity into relevant climate change activities and to ensure coherence in national implementation of both the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity;

3. *Invites* Parties, other Governments, relevant organizations, and indigenous and local communities, when carrying out work on biodiversity and climate change, to consider the proposals to overcome obstacles contained in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/9;

4. *Welcomes* the collaboration among the secretariats of the Rio conventions, the Global Environment Facility and other organizations in the convening of the Rio Conventions Pavilion at meetings of the conferences of the parties to the Rio conventions and as an event convened at the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development;

[5. *Encourages* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to [explore options for further financing] [further mobilize resources], in accordance with Article 20 of the Convention and Target 20 of the Strategic Plan [and the Rio Principles, including Principle 7], in order to fill biodiversity and ecosystem services data gaps in the context of climate change, and for research studies at larger spatial scales;]

6. *Encourages* Parties and other Governments to:

(a) Take into account the importance of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices related to biodiversity when addressing the impacts of climate change in sectoral plans and strategies, especially when considering vulnerable communities;

(b) Strengthen knowledge and information on the linkages between biodiversity, climate change and human well-being in their educational programmes at all levels;

(c) Integrate biodiversity and climate change policies and measures; and

(d) Recognize the role that protected areas and other conservation measures can play in climate-change-related activities;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, including through the Joint Liaison Group and in line with decision X/33, to:

(a) Identify relevant workshops and activities under the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and disseminate such information through the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention and other means with a view to enhancing knowledge sharing on ecosystem based approaches; and

(b) Continue discussions on the relevant activities presented in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/9 for further consideration and implementation as appropriate and based on their financial feasibility, and to explore options to enhance the interoperability of databases managed by the two Secretariats to enhance cooperation on ecosystem based approaches, especially in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to climate change;

8. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to promote educational activities on the synergies among climate change, biodiversity and desertification as well as their links to livelihoods and development through the programme of work on communication, education and public awareness;

9. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary, through the clearing-house mechanism and in collaboration with relevant organizations, to build awareness and capacity among organizations and programmes engaging in climate-change modelling and studies of ongoing biodiversity modelling, scenario, and data management initiatives, including DIVERSITAS, the Biodiversity Observations Network of the Group on Earth Observations and the Global Biodiversity Information Facility, among others.