



Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/COP/9/21/Add.1
27 March 2008

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Ninth meeting

Bonn, 19-30 May 2008

Item 4.13 of the provisional agenda*

COOPERATION WITH OTHER CONVENTIONS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND INITIATIVES AND ENGAGEMENT OF STAKEHOLDERS

Addendum

ENGAGEMENT OF BUSINESS

Note by the Executive Secretary

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its eighth meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopted the first decision under the Convention focusing exclusively on business engagement. Decision VIII/17 thus complemented references to business in the Convention text itself, previous decisions and the Strategic Plan. ^{1/} While mindful that responsibilities for implementation rest primarily with Parties, the Conference of the Parties emphasized the need for engaging the business community in the implementation of the Convention and the achievement of the 2010 target.

2. Business engagement under decision VIII/17 referred to the engagement of the business community (private sector companies, state-owned commercial entities, business organizations and industry associations) in the development and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans; the participation of business in Convention meetings, including, where appropriate, as part of national delegations; the alignment of business policies and practices with the objectives of the Convention and the 2010 target; and the prioritization of Article 6 (b) of the Convention. ^{2/}

* UNEP/CBD/COP/9/1.

^{1/} In particular, objective 4.4 of the Strategic Plan (“Key actors and stakeholders, including the private sector, are engaged in partnership to implement the Convention and are integrating biodiversity concerns into their relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes, and policies”).

^{2/} Many decisions adopted at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in addition to decision VIII/17, also explicitly referred to business. In decisions 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12, 20, 25 and 27 adopted at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, reference is made to “business”, “business/private sector groups”, “business sector”, “developers”, “economic activities”, “industry”, “key economic sectors”, “operators”, “private decisions”, “private entities”, “private sector”, “private sector agencies”. A number of economic sectors are also referred to, including agriculture (decisions VIII/1, VIII/6, VIII/8, VIII/9), animal breeding industry (VIII/27), energy (VIII/9), fisheries (VIII/1, VIII/6, VIII/8, VIII/9), forestry (VIII/1, VIII/6, VIII/8, VIII/9), financial institutions (VIII/1, VIII/5, VIII/8, VIII/9), infrastructure development (VIII/1), mining (VIII/1, VIII/8, VIII/9), shipment organizations (VIII/27), and tourism (VIII/1, VIII/8, VIII/9). The decisions cover, *inter alia*, business engagement and partnerships; the development and promotion of best practices; resource mobilization; incentives, market creation and certification; awareness raising; and business participation in Convention processes.

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3. The Executive Secretary was requested to compile information on the business case for biodiversity and good biodiversity practice, and to make this information available through the clearing-house mechanism; and to include business as a target audience for its outreach materials and in the Global Initiative on Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA).

4. In paragraph 8 of the same decision, the Conference of the Parties decided to consider, at its ninth meeting, further ways and means to promote business engagement in the implementation of the Convention, with a particular emphasis on the Convention's role in facilitating such engagement.

5. This document has been prepared to facilitate the examination of this matter by the Conference of the Parties. Section II provides a general context, by outlining the development of the 'business and biodiversity' agenda since the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Section III provides an overview of efforts by Parties and organizations in implementing decision VIII/17. Section IV reports on the business related activities undertaken by the Executive Secretary over 2006-2008. Based on this assessment, section V proposes a framework for priority actions on business for 2008-2010. A draft decision is contained in section VI.

II. THE BUSINESS AND BIODIVERSITY AGENDA

A. Policy developments

6. Since the adoption of decision VIII/17, the importance of engaging the business community has been highlighted in several policy fora, including:

7. *The Potsdam Initiative* – generally supported in March 2007 by the Environment Ministers of the Group of Eight (G8) and Brazil, China, India, Mexico and South Africa, the 'Potsdam Initiative – Biological Diversity 2010' included enhancing "the integration of policies which involve Governments, industries, civil society and consumers and implement an effective mix of mechanisms including: Regulatory measures, Market incentives and access, Codes of conduct, Certification, Public Procurement, Environmental Impact Assessments".^{3/}

8. The Potsdam Initiative included approaching "the financial sector to effectively integrate biodiversity into its decision making" and welcomed "the Equator Principles as an important benchmarking initiative". The Initiative also included enhancing financing from existing instruments and exploring "the need and the options of additional innovative mechanisms to finance the protection and sustainable use of biological diversity, together with the fight against poverty", in this context examining the "concept and the viability of payments for ecosystem services".

9. The Potsdam Initiative also included the drafting of a study to "initiate the process of analysing the global economic benefit of biological diversity, the costs of the loss of biodiversity and the failure to take protective measures versus the costs of effective conservation".^{4/}

10. *Biodiversity Communication of the European Commission* – Adopted in May 2006 with an associated biodiversity action plan, the Communication ^{5/} builds on the 1998 European Community Biodiversity Strategy and associated sectoral action plans of 2001 and provided a roadmap of actions to deliver the EU commitment of halting biodiversity decline by 2010. The roadmap included the building of more effective partnerships, including partnerships with business for biodiversity conservation both at the level of the European Union and its Member States.

^{3/} http://www.bmu.de/files/pdfs/allgemein/application/pdf/potsdam_initiative_en.pdf

^{4/} In an analogous way to the report published in October 2006 by the UK Treasury on the economics of climate change. Such a study would be relevant to decision VIII/17 which noted that contributions from business and industry towards the implementation of the Convention and its 2010 target could be facilitated by further work under the Convention to develop tools for assessing the value of biodiversity and ecosystem services, for their integration into decision-making.

^{5/} "Halting the loss of biodiversity by 2010 – and beyond – sustaining ecosystem services for human well-being", http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2006/com2006_0216en01.pdf

11. *The Biodiversity Agenda of the EU Presidencies Germany, Portugal, and Slovenia* – The Biodiversity Agenda of the Triple Presidency, adopted in November 2006, included, as one of its priorities, progress in building partnerships for biodiversity in the area of business and biodiversity. ^{6/} The European Council held in Brussels on 14 December 2007 further acknowledged the need to reinforce the link between business and biodiversity at the European level⁷.

12. In June 2006, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Council approved the *GEF Strategy to Enhance Engagement with the Private Sector*. ^{8/}

13. In August 2007, the Working Party on Global and Structural Policies of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) released a report which explores how Governments can stimulate business engagement in achieving MEA objectives. ^{9/} The report was drafted as a follow-up to the June 2005 workshop on Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and private investment held in Helsinki, Finland, with the participation of the Secretariat.

B. Mobilization of the business community

14. Ahead of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, several meetings have been organized and several initiatives have been developed to mobilize the business community on biodiversity, including:

15. On 12-13 November 2007, the Portuguese Presidency of the European Union (EU) Council organized a high level conference on business and biodiversity in Lisbon. ^{10/} The conference contributed, *inter alia*, towards confirming the interest of the business community to participate in biodiversity conservation as well as building an EU business and biodiversity initiative.

16. The European Commission is currently following-up the Message from the Lisbon conference ^{11/} by establishing a technical facility to support the EU Business and Biodiversity Initiative. Procedures are under way for publishing a call for tender in the spring of 2008 for the provision of technical services to assist the Commission in setting up this facility, and making it operational. ^{12/}

17. The German Federal Environment Ministry (BMU) established a business and biodiversity initiative to, *inter alia*, encourage active participation of companies at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties; encourage and present voluntary, concrete commitments by companies to the

^{6/} http://www.bmu.de/files/pdfs/allgemein/application/pdf/biodiversity_agenda_en.pdf.

^{7/} www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/ec/97669.pdf.

^{8/} Document GEF/C.28/14,

www.thegef.org/Documents/Council_Documents/GEF_C28/documents/C.28.14PrivateSectorStrategy_000.pdf). The Strategy notes that “Over the long-term, preserving biodiversity, and maintaining the ecological processes that support life, societies and economies requires that the functions and features of ecosystems that are used as production landscapes and seascapes are sustained. Therefore, the necessity for the private sector to play a more central role in GEF projects, and actively participate in sustaining biodiversity within their land use activities, became apparent” (para. 28). See also Monique Barbut, March 2007. “Deepening GEF engagement with business”, *Business.2010*, 2(1), pp. 4-5.

^{9/} Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), August 2007. *Business contribution to MEAs: Suggestions for further action*. ENV/EPOC/GSP(2007)1/FINAL

^{10/} More information available at www.countdown2010.net/business. The Secretariat was part of the conference organizing committee, along with the Institute for Nature Conservation and Biodiversity (ICNB), the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), WWF International, The World Conservation Union (IUCN), and the European Commission.

^{11/} http://www.countdown2010.net/file_download/143

^{12/} In 2007, the European Commission also organised a series of stakeholder consultations to obtain the views of Member States, business and non-governmental organisations about the principles, objectives and possible elements for an EU-level action on business and biodiversity. The Secretariat was invited by the European Commission, in June 2007, to participate in a panel discussion on business and biodiversity organized as part of the EU Green Week in June 2007.

objectives of the Convention. The Initiative is implemented by cooperation agency Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ). ^{13/}

18. On 2-3 April 2008, the environmental foundation Global Nature Fund (GNF) and GTZ - Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit, supported by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) in cooperation with the Business and Biodiversity Initiative of the German Federal Ministry for Environment (BMU), is organizing an international conference on business and biodiversity, in Bonn, to promote the exchange of knowledge among national and international business representatives, government officials and other stakeholders. The Secretariat has been invited to participate.

19. In April 2008, Samson Belair/Deloitte & Touche is organizing with IUCN, in collaboration with the Secretariat, and with the financial support of the Government of Canada, a business conference to explore how Canadian companies could respond to the biodiversity challenge. The conference aimed at enabling participants to understand the biodiversity challenge and its implications for business; gain exposure to biodiversity best practice in different sectors; understand the changing regulatory environment and how companies could better engage in the business and biodiversity agenda; identify research needs to address impediments to progress by business in biodiversity conservation; showcase achievements to date, and shape the development of new Canadian initiatives on business and biodiversity to help respond, over time, to the practical needs of Canadian companies.

20. In Japan, Biodiversity Network Japan (BDNJ) organized a symposium on business and biodiversity at the beginning of February 2007 where, in particular, the Ministry of the Environment provided an overview of how business engagement was being incorporated into the revised National Biodiversity Strategy. ^{14/}

21. Other relevant meetings included the November 2007 conference on 'Business and Biodiversity: Challenges and Opportunities for Growth' organized in Jakarta, Indonesia ^{15/} and the 29 February 2008 Satellite Workshop on business and ecosystems to the Second International Conference on Health and Biodiversity, supported by the government of Ireland. ^{16/}

22. As part of the French presidency of the EU Council, the November 2008 meeting of the European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy (EPBR) is scheduled to focus on research needs for business and biodiversity.

^{13/} As part of the German Business and Biodiversity Initiative, a 'Leadership Declaration' was developed (www.bmu.de/english/nature/downloads/doc/40635.php). Signatory companies are to be profiled at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

In a separate endeavour, 40 companies and business associations have signed the 'Countdown 2010 Declaration' developed by Countdown 2010 – a network of partners working together towards the 2010 biodiversity target with a secretariat hosted by IUCN (www.countdown2010.org/?id=20&ctr=65).

With the support of BMU and BfN, an initiative on business and biodiversity was developed by Deutschen Naturschutzring (DNR, Germany), Quercus (Portugal) and the Institute for Sustainable Development (Slovenia) to facilitate further discussion and collaboration between civil society, business and public authorities and to provide input into the development of the European business and biodiversity initiative (see <http://www.business-biodiversity.eu/>). In September 2007, Quercus organized a seminar on civil society, business and biodiversity and a declaration of environmental NGOs on the business and biodiversity initiative was issued (see http://www.business-biodiversity.eu/uploads/Xq1E/Xq1E1xMeOF4_x4-xhP-7Q/LISBON_DECLARATION_OF_ENGOS_ON_BB.pdf).

^{14/} Naoya Furuta (ed.), 2007. *Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Business – a Japanese perspective*. Summary of a symposium on business and biodiversity, February 2007, Tokyo, Japan (http://www.bdnj.org/b&b_sympto_feb2007.pdf). A business and biodiversity roundtable was also organized in Tokyo, Japan, on 23 May 2007 by the United Nations University Institute for Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS) - http://www.ias.unu.edu/resource_centre/Report%20-%20Business%20and%20Biodiversity%20Roundtable.pdf.

^{15/} http://www.kehati.or.id/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=154&Itemid=89

^{16/} www.cohabnet.org

23. Progress on the uptake of the biodiversity agenda was highlighted by a number of developments in the business community, including the establishment of a task force on the Convention on Biological Diversity by the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) in January 2006. Likewise, and further to Environment Round Table ^{17/} organized in 2007 in France, the French employers' organization MEDEF (Mouvement des Entreprises de France) established a working group on biodiversity and natural resources with a membership of over 50 companies.

24. In March 2007, the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) elevated its work on ecosystems as one of four 'focus areas' with a scope to "Assess, measure and value the ecosystem impacts, dependence and assets of member companies and broader business; Reduce business impacts on ecosystems by scaling up mitigation, offsetting or finding sustainable use solutions; Explore and promote new business opportunities associated with sustainable management and stewardship of ecosystems and the creation of markets and payments for ecosystem services; Advocate for ecosystem governance and policy frameworks that include flexible, innovative market orientated approaches; Promote the actions of leading member companies in addressing their ecosystems impacts and mobilizing their ecosystem assets". ^{18/}

25. In the financial services sector – and building on the mandate of decision VIII/17, paragraph 5, which invited "businesses and relevant organizations and partnerships, such as the Finance Initiative of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP FI), to develop and promote the business case for biodiversity (...)" – UNEP FI established, in late 2006, a Work Stream on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (BESW) which the Secretariat was invited to join. ^{19/}

III. PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING DECISION VIII/17

A. *The business case for biodiversity*

26. Pursuant to paragraph 3 of decision VIII/17, the Secretariat has compiled information on the business case for biodiversity – that is, documents that explain the business rationale for a company to include biodiversity into its decision-making – and has made this information available through the clearing-house mechanism. The Secretariat has produced a preliminary bibliography of such studies. ^{20/}

^{17/} <http://www.legrenelle-environnement.fr/grenelle-environnement/>

^{18/} Relevant WBCSD publications published since the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties have included the following: *Ecosystem Challenges and Business Implications* (November 2006, with Earthwatch Institute (Europe), IUCN and the World Resources Institute); *Markets for Ecosystem Services – New Challenges and Opportunities for Business and the Environment* (October 2007, with IUCN); and *Biofuels Issue Brief* (November 2007).

^{19/} See http://www.unepfi.org/work_streams/biodiversity/index.html. UNEP FI signatories which joined the work stream included ABN AMRO (chair), Citigroup, Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), F&C Asset Management, Insight Investment, Nedbank, Nikko Asset Management, Rabobank Netherlands, Royal Bank of Canada, Sustainable Asset Management (SAM) Group, WestLB, and Westpac Banking Corporation. In April 2006, the Secretariat participated in a working session with several financial institutions, co-convened by UNEP-FI and the World Resources Institute (WRI) and hosted by Citigroup in New York, USA. The Secretariat also participated in the first Workshop of the Biodiversity & Ecosystem Services Work Stream (hosted by KPMG on 5 April 2007, in London, UK) to discuss the Work Stream's 2007 programme (<http://www.unepfi.org/events/2007/london/index.html>).

Opportunities for engaging the financial services sector may arise from current efforts to strengthen research into the materiality of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) issues. See, for instance, UNEP Finance Initiative, July 2006. Show Me The Money: Linking Environmental, Social and Governance Issues to Company Value. The Goldman Sachs Environmental Policy Framework, established in November 2005, includes a commitment to "systematically incorporate environmental, social and governance criteria into fundamental analysis of companies". The 3 first principles of the UN Principles for Responsible Investment (UN PRI), launched at the New York Stock Exchange in April 2006, refer to the incorporation of ESG issues into investment analysis and decision-making processes; the incorporation of ESG issues into ownership policies and practices; and the seeking of appropriate disclosure on ESG issues by entities which are invested in. Asset owners and investment managers having signed the Principles collectively manage over USD 10 trillion in assets.

^{20/} The Secretariat also co-drafted a tentative compilation of the different components of the business case which was presented at the 2007 Annual meeting of the Academy of Management (see http://program.aomonline.org/2007/pdf/AOM_2007_Annual_Meeting_Program.pdf).

27. Whilst the ‘business case’ varies from sector to sector and from company to company, ^{21/} a generic business case can be presented. Accordingly, sound biodiversity management can help business, *inter alia*, reduce operating costs, secure the formal and social license to operate, strengthen corporate image and facilitate access to capital. One of the aims of the CBD business newsletter, referred to below, is to illustrate this business case in various economic sectors.

28. Paragraph 5 of decision VIII/17 invited “businesses and relevant organizations and partnerships, such as the Finance Initiative of the United Nations Environment Programme, to develop and promote the business case for biodiversity”. On the occasion of its 2007 Global Roundtable, UNEP FI, published *Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, Bloom or Bust?* as part of its ‘CEO Briefing’ series, to explain the business case for biodiversity for financial institutions. ^{22/} In the mining sector, the business case was outlined by the International Council for Mining and Metals in June 2006. ^{23/}

29. A guide on business and biodiversity, published in November 2007 by the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA), with the support of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (UK) and Aggregate Industries UK Ltd included a presentation of the generic business case for biodiversity. ^{24/}

30. A report published by Shell and IUCN (2008) exposed the business case in the context of a ‘biodiversity business’, defined as a “commercial enterprise that generates profits via activities which conserve biodiversity, use biological resources sustainably, and share the benefits arising from this use equitably”. ^{25/}

31. Whilst these recent developments contribute to a better understanding and dissemination of the business case, most companies remain unaware of the connection between biodiversity and their operations. The further development and dissemination of sector-specific business cases – which use a language and examples as well as refer to business frameworks to which corporate managers in these sectors can relate to – could help in this regards.

B. Compilation of good practice

32. Pursuant to paragraph 3 of decision VIII/17, the Secretariat has compiled information on good biodiversity practice and made the information available through the clearing-house mechanism.

33. In order to assist with this compilation, the Secretariat issued two notifications in March 2007 and received submissions from Australia; the BAT Biodiversity Partnership; Colombia; CREM BV; CropLife International; the Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources (Australia); the Department for International Development (UK); Dupont; the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries Associations (EFPIA); Fieldfare International Ecological Development plc; Germany and the European Commission, on behalf of the European Community and its Member States (as well as additional information from France and The Netherlands); Grand Perfect Plantation Company; Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network (IABIN); International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association (IPIECA); International Seed Federation; Marine Aquarium Council; O

^{21/} See N. Bertrand (ed.), 2002. *Business and Biodiversity: The Handbook for Corporate Action*. Earthwatch, IUCN and WBCSD; and CBD Secretariat, 2005. “Exploring Private Sector Engagement in the Convention on Biological Diversity”, background paper to the first Business and the 2010 Biodiversity Challenge meeting (20-21 January 2005, London, UK).

^{22/} http://www.unepfi.org/fileadmin/documents/CEOBriefing_biodiversity_01.pdf . An associated report is scheduled for release in March 2008.

^{23/} Sally Johnson, June 2006. *Good Practice Guidance for Biodiversity*. International Council on Mining & Metals (ICMM).

^{24/} Matt Cowley and Ben Vivian, November 2007. *The business of biodiversity: a guide to its management in organisations*. Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA), Best Practice Series, Volume 10.

^{25/} Joshua Bishop, Sachin Kapila, Frank Hick, Paul Mitchell, and Francis Vorhies, 2008. *Building Biodiversity Business*. Shell International Limited and IUCN - The World Conservation Union.

Boticário Foundation for Nature Protection; Rainforest Alliance; Rio Tinto plc.; the Sultanate of Oman; Sweden; Thailand; Trinidad and Tobago; UNCTAD BioTrade Initiative; Unilever; Union for Ethical BioTrade (UEBT); the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD); and the World Resources Institute.

34. In addition to providing information on good practice tools, several of the above submissions refer to individual company case-studies/stories and individual conservation projects, including in Brazil, Colombia, Ghana, Kenya, Malaysia, Sultanate of Oman, Sweden, Tanzania, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America.

C. *Recent and ongoing initiatives*

35. Decision VIII/17 notes that several types of tools and mechanisms may be of use in facilitating contributions from business towards the implementation of the Convention. Recent developments have included:

(a) *Awareness-raising material on business and biodiversity issues* – In France, for instance, under the coordination of the National Biodiversity Strategy, a contact group convening large and medium-sized enterprises, NGOs and the Nature and Landscape Directorate produced, in May 2006, a booklet on site management and biodiversity. ^{26/}

(b) *Guidance on the integration of biodiversity considerations into existing voluntary or mandatory reporting standards* – Following the release of the third generation (G3) of its *Sustainability Reporting Guidelines*, ^{27/} the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) released, in February 2007, a *Biodiversity Resource Document* ^{28/} to help companies report on biodiversity, in the context of sustainability reporting. The Secretariat was a member of the Advisory Group and participated in one of the workshops organized during the development phase of the product. ^{29/}

(c) *Guidance and tools to assist companies in implementing good practice with regard to biodiversity* – In the mining sector, recent developments have included the release, in June 2006, of a *Good Practice Guidance for Mining and Biodiversity* by the International Council on Mining & Metals (ICMM), ^{30/} the development of a Mining and Biodiversity framework by the Mining Association of Canada (MAC) ^{31/} and the release by the Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources (Australia) of a handbook on biodiversity management. ^{32/} In March 2006, Earthwatch Institute and Rio Tinto released a *Review of Biodiversity Conservation Performance Measures* which reviewed the key considerations in biodiversity conservation performance measurement, examined existing systems and identified further

^{26/} Ministère de l'Écologie et du Développement Durable, May 2006. *La biodiversité, un atout pour vos sites d'entreprises*. (http://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/biodiversite_sit_entreprise_web.pdf)

^{27/} October 2006, available at <http://www.globalreporting.org/ReportingFramework/G3Guidelines/>

^{28/} www.globalreporting.org/NR/rdonlyres/07301B96-DCF0-48D3-8F85-8B638C045D6B/0/BiodiversityResourceDocument.pdf

^{29/} Hosted by F&C Asset Management in July 2006 in London, UK. In a separate endeavour, the GRI is currently working on the development of a Food Processing Sector Supplement.

^{30/} Sally Johnson, June 2006 op. cit. Since October 2007, the publication is also available in Russian and Spanish.

^{31/} The *Mining and Biodiversity Conservation -Towards Sustainable Mining Framework* was developed over 2006-2007. A workshop held in October 2006 reviewed a framework, a final version of which was adopted by the Board of the Mining Association of Canada in June 2007 (http://www.mining.ca/www/media_lib/TSM_Documents/Biodiversity_Framework_EF_0729207.pdf).

^{32/} Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources, February 2007. *Biodiversity Management*. Leading Practice sustainable development programme for the mining industry (<http://www.industry.gov.au/assets/documents/itrinternet/biodiversity20070227104512.pdf>)

actions that could be taken by companies and environmental groups to develop biodiversity conservation performance monitoring systems. ^{33/}

36. In the oil and gas sector, the joint Biodiversity Working Group of the International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association (IPIECA) and the International Association of Oil and Gas Producers (OGP) released, in October 2007, a *Guide to the Convention on Biological Diversity for the Oil and Gas Industry*. ^{34/}

37. The World Resources Institute (WRI), with support from the Meridian Institute and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), developed a Corporate Ecosystem Services Review (ESR), a methodology to help corporate managers proactively identify specific business risks and opportunities that arise from their company's dependence and impact on ecosystems. ^{35/} During 2007, five WBCSD member companies – Akzo Nobel, BC Hydro, Mondi, Rio Tinto, and Syngenta – piloted the ESR in selected business situations and provided on-the-ground feedback.

38. The Institut Français de la Biodiversité (IFB) and Orée joint working group on business and biodiversity is currently developing guidelines for the integration of biodiversity into corporate strategies in France. ^{36/} Within the England Biodiversity Strategy, the Business and Biodiversity Strategy Implementation Group (BBSIG) is expecting to revise an analysis of tools and methodologies available to assist business in managing biodiversity impacts which was originally produced in 2005 for the construction and building materials; forestry and paper; mining; oil and gas; utilities; food producers and processors; food and drug retailers; and leisure and hotels sectors.

39. In the financial services sector, 'Equator Banks' – a group of financial institutions that together represent the vast majority of global project financing – revised, in July 2006, the Equator Principles, following an update of the International Finance Corporation (IFC) social and environmental performance standards, upon which the Equator Principles are based. The IFC Performance Standard 6, in particular, focuses on Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management. In March 2006, the IFC also launched, at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, a *Guide to Biodiversity for the Private Sector*. ^{37/}

40. Decision VIII/17 noted that contributions from business and industry towards the implementation of the Convention and its 2010 target could be facilitated by further work under the Convention to develop "guidance for potential biodiversity offsets in line with the objectives of the Convention".

41. The Business and Biodiversity Offsets Programme (BBOP) is a partnership between companies, Governments, conservation groups and financial institutions to explore biodiversity offsets. Concurrently to the development of a methodology toolkit for biodiversity offsets, BBOP members have been running a portfolio of pilots on the ground around the world. ^{38/} The Programme is expected to show progress on the development of guidelines at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

^{33/} Graham Tucker, March 2006. *A Review of Biodiversity Conservation Performance Measures*. Rio Tinto and Earthwatch Institute (Europe).

^{34/} With a preface from the Executive Secretary; available at http://www.ipieca.org/activities/biodiversity/downloads/publications/cbd_guide.pdf.

In June 2007, Phase III final report of the Energy and Biodiversity Initiative (EBI) was published (<http://www.theebi.org/pdfs/EBIPhaseIIIFinalReportJune07.pdf>). EBI convened over 2001-2007 four energy companies (BP, Chevron, Shell and Statoil) and five conservation organizations (Conservation International, Fauna & Flora International, IUCN, Smithsonian Institution and The Nature Conservancy).

^{35/} expected publication date, March 2008.

^{36/} See *Business.2010*, 2(3), pp. 30-31.

^{37/} <http://www.ifc.org/biodiversityguide>

^{38/} See <http://www.forest-trends.org/biodiversityoffsetprogram>. Since the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, BBOP partners, through its Learning Network, have held meetings in Kampala, Uganda; Antanavario, Madagascar; Pretoria, South Africa; Mexico City, Mexico; Bainbridge Island, United States of America; and Accra, Ghana (see www.forest-trends.org/biodiversityoffsetprogram/ln_meetings.php).

42. The Dutch Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment (VROM) has commissioned the development of guidance for compensating indirect impacts on biodiversity. The project, scheduled for completion in October 2008, is implemented by CREM and Sustainability Consulting (two consultancies) and Shell International. The project – which convenes VROM and the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (LNV); three companies with international operations; and two non-governmental organizations – will, in addition to the development of guidance, formulate compensation plans for each of the participating companies.

43. On 19 February 2008, the Caisse des Dépôts, a French public sector financial institution, launched CDC Biodiversité, a subsidiary focusing, *inter alia*, on biodiversity offsets. ^{39/}

44. Decision VIII/17 noted that “further work on ways and means of supporting small and medium-sized enterprises with environmentally sound products, such as that developed by the UNCTAD BioTrade Initiative, would help to promote good biodiversity practice among business and industry” ^{40/}

45. Since the eighth Conference of the Parties, the UNCTAD BioTrade Initiative published a number of relevant guidance documents including the *BioTrade Principles and Criteria*, ^{41/} which provides guidance to business and biodiversity initiatives; a value chain analysis methodology to assess the trade of biodiversity-related products, identify actors involved and facilitate discussions to reach agreement on problems, solutions and joint strategies to make the management of natural resources and access to markets more efficient, ^{42/} and a manual to guide SMEs and their providers towards sustainable use, in line with the BioTrade principles and criteria. ^{43/}

46. UNCTAD BioTrade also supported the creation of the Union for Ethical BioTrade (UEBT), a business-led multi-stakeholder association whose members adhere to the BioTrade principles and criteria. ^{44/} UNCTAD assisted the Union in the development of a verification framework to measure members’ conduct, based upon an international consultation process. ^{45/} The Union was launched in May 2007 and has a board including private sector companies and NGOs. ^{46/} The Union’s initial focus will be the cosmetics and functional foods industry, for which it develops practical approaches in consultation with business representatives, NGOs and CBD National Focal Points.

47. Pilot work has continued to set up Biodiversity Technical Assistance Units in three EU Member States (Bulgaria, Hungary and Poland) to create and apply a public-private partnership approach to exploring business opportunities for safeguarding biodiversity. The aim is to link commercial loan funding with public subsidies to produce long-term, site and region-specific economic and nature benefits. ^{47/}

^{39/} http://www.caissedesdepots.fr/IMG/pdf_communique_de_presse_cdc_biodiversite_valide_18_02_2008.pdf and http://www.caissedesdepots.fr/IMG/pdf_Dossier_de_presse_version_finale.pdf.

^{40/} With respect to engaging the SME community, the Secretariat continued to support the UNDP Equator Initiative by participating in the 2006 Technical Advisory Committee (<http://www.undp.org/equatorinitiative/equatorprize/EquatorPrize2006/2006-advisory.htm>).

^{41/} UNCTAD/DITC/TED/2007/4. BioTrade “refers to those activities of collection, production, transformation, and commercialisation of goods and services derived from native biodiversity under the criteria of environmental, social and economic sustainability” (www.biotrade.org).

^{42/} UNCTAD, 2007. *Methodological guidelines for the support to value chains of BioTrade products: from the selection of products to the development of sector strategies*.

^{43/} UNCTAD/DITC/TED/2007/8

^{44/} See www.ethicalbiotrade.org

^{45/} UEBT, 2007. BioTrade Verification Framework for Natural Ingredients.

^{46/} Board composition: Aldivia (France), Candela (Peru), Nativa (Colombia), Natura Cosmetics S/A (Brazil), Organic Partners (UK), PhytoTrade Africa (Zimbabwe), Pi Environmental Consulting (Switzerland), PromPerú (Peru), the World Conservation Union (IUCN), the Uganda Export Promotion Board, and the United Nations Foundation. The International Finance Corporation (IFC) is also an observer on the board.

^{47/} www.smeformbiodiversity.eu; See also *Business.2010*, 3(2), p. 30. The Message from Lisbon also recognized “that there is an urgent need to promote biodiversity conservation in micro, small and medium sized enterprises, and in particular

48. *Biodiversity benchmarks to guide and assess companies' biodiversity management practices* – Building on the release of biodiversity benchmarks for the mining, oil and gas and utilities sector, ^{48/} UNEP FI, as part of the 'Natural Value Initiative' is collaborating with Fauna & Flora International and Brazilian business school FGV to develop a biodiversity benchmark for the food and beverages. The Secretariat was invited to join the steering committee of the Natural Value Initiative and participated in a workshop on 3 September 2007 hosted by BOVESPA stock exchange in São Paulo, Brazil.^{49/}

49. *Partnerships to facilitate knowledge sharing with regard to good practice*. Building on the experience of the Netherlands Committee for IUCN, the World Conservation Union (IUCN) launched, in 2007, a Leaders for Nature initiative in Switzerland and exploratory work is underway in Nepal. The initiative aims at engaging prospective corporate leaders “to move ecosystem thinking to the centre of business thinking”.^{50/} Progress has also been achieved by a number of multi actor agribusiness platforms.^{51/}

50. Decision VIII/17 notes that contributions from business towards the implementation of the Convention could be facilitated by further work under the Convention to develop “tools for assisting the value of biodiversity and ecosystem services, for their integration into decision-making”.

51. In December 2007, Business for Social Responsibility (BSR) published a guide which introduces corporate managers to market-based mechanisms relating to the environment, including biodiversity. The guide seeks to help corporate managers in the assessment of the relevance, risks and opportunities associated with environmental markets. ^{52/}

52. Since the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Katoomba Group, an international working group dedicated to advancing markets and payments for ecosystem services and which includes representatives from the business community, held meetings in Portland, USA (June 2006), São Paulo,

those with a strong link to biodiversity conservation as well as those based in the rural economy and to provide them with the information, relevant expertise and tools which are adapted to the operating conditions of these enterprises”.

Several reports on pro-biodiversity businesses have recently been released, including B. Dickson, D. Watkins, and J. Foxall, 2007. *The Working Partnership: SMEs and Biodiversity*. Fauna & Flora International, Cambridge, UK ; PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), February 2007. *Sustainable investments for conservation – the business case for biodiversity*; Bishop et. al, 2008 op. cit.

^{48/} Annelisa Grigg and Kerry ten Kate, May 2004. *Protecting Shareholder and Natural Value. Biodiversity risk management: towards best practice for extractive and utility companies*. Insight Investment Management Limited (http://www.insightinvestment.com/Documents/responsibility/Reports/protecting_shareholder_and_natural_value.pdf) and Jack Foxall, Annelisa Grigg and Kerry ten Kate, March 2006. *Protecting shareholder and natural value. 2005 benchmark of biodiversity management practices in the extractive industry*. Fauna and Flora International and Insight Investment Management (Global) Limited (http://www.insightinvestment.com/Documents/responsibility/Reports/protecting_shareholder_and_natural_value_2005.pdf).

This product was launched at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (<http://www.unepfi.org/events/2006/curitiba/index.html>).

^{49/} http://www.unepfi.org/fileadmin/events/2007/saopaulo2_biodiversity/nvi_workshop_report_brazil.pdf ; a similar workshop was organized on 8 August, 2007 in London, UK (http://www.unepfi.org/events/2007/london_biodiversity/index.html).

^{50/} Leaders for Nature aims to engage “international top management and high-potentials to move ecosystem thinking to the centre of business thinking”. Other examples of IUCN's work with business since the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, include (1) the signing, in September 2006, of an Memorandum of Understanding with the European Investment Bank (EIB) establishing a “framework for cooperation on matters related to biodiversity” (www.eib.org/about/news/the-iucn-and-the-eib-signed-framework-for-cooperation-on-biodiversity.htm ; (2) the establishment of the Western Gray Whale Advisory Panel (WGWAP) in October 2006 (www.iucn.org/themes/marine/sakhalin/the-wgwap.htm); (3) the development of a partnership with Holcim (www.iucn.org/themes/business/Cement/index.htm); and (4) the renewal of the collaboration with Shell (www.iucn.org/themes/business/our_work.htm#Shell).

^{51/} See *Business.2010*, 3(2) for updates on the Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels (RSB), the Biodiversity and Agricultural Commodities Programme (BACP), as well as several certification schemes. The SAI Platform has also carried out a mapping exercise of members' projects on sustainable agriculture, due to be published in 2008.

^{52/} Sissel Waage and Emma Stewart, December 2007. *The New Markets for Environmental Services: A Corporate Manager's Guide to Trading in Air, Climate, Water and Biodiversity Assets*. Business for Social Responsibility (BSR).

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Brazil (October 2006), Cape Town, South Africa (November 2006), Iquitos, Peru (October 2007), and Cartagena, Colombia (February 2007).

53. An initiative on International Payments for Ecosystem Services (IPES) has also been developed by UNEP, in partnership with several organizations, including IUCN, the Secretariat, the World Bank, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Forest Trends, the Katoomba Group, World Resources Institute (WRI), World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), Conservation International, and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development.

D. National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and National Reports

54. Paragraph 1 of decision VIII/17 urges national focal points “working with relevant government departments, to communicate the importance of biodiversity to companies operating within the jurisdiction of Parties, including state-owned companies and small and medium enterprises, to engage such companies in the development of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and to encourage such companies to adopt practices that support the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the objectives of the Convention”

55. In Japan, the engagement of the business community has been included in the third revision of the National Biodiversity Strategy. ^{53/} Australia reported that business was involved, from the onset, in the development of and current revision of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. Sector specific industry groups (e.g. peak national farming and forestry bodies, port and transport infrastructure authorities, financial industry bodies and housing and building industry associations) were bilaterally engaged at the beginning of the review period and were regularly consulted as the review proceeded. Sweden also reported that the Confederation of Swedish Enterprise and the Federation of Swedish Farmers take part in the work of the Environmental Objectives Council which administers the assessment process of the Environmental Quality Objectives (EQO, which superseded in several but not all parts the national biodiversity strategy and action plans). In addition, the major trade associations may take part in the official review of the Council's report. Special arrangements have been set up that involve the forestry sector.

56. Chapter III of the Guidelines for the Fourth National Reports provides an opportunity for Parties to describe their efforts to integrate biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies as required by Article 6 (b) of the Convention.

E. Business participation in meetings of the Convention

57. In decision VIII/17, paragraph 7, the Conference of the Parties encouraged “business representatives to participate in the meetings of the Conference of the Parties, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, and other intergovernmental meetings”. In the same decision, paragraph 2, the Conference of the Parties encouraged “national focal points, where appropriate, to include private sector representatives on national delegations to meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, the Conference of the Parties, and other intergovernmental meetings, and nominate them to participate in technical expert groups”.

58. In past Convention meetings, several delegations have included representatives from business. The Netherlands reported, for instance, that a representative, selected by the Dutch Association of Enterprises, has participated in the seventh and eighth meetings of the Conference of the Parties, thus facilitating, *inter alia*, regular communication with the business observers to these meetings. Australia reported that representatives of business have been invited to join national delegations to meetings of the

^{53/} S. Tomioka, May 2007. “Business in the Japanese National Biodiversity Strategy”, *Business.2010*, 2(2), pp. 30-31.

Conference of the Parties whilst mentioning that business interests have not been represented on official Australian Government delegations in the recent past. ^{54/}

59. Decision VIII/17, in its paragraph 9 invited the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Technology Transfer and Scientific and Technical Cooperation to “address the role of the private sector in achieving the three objectives of the Convention and to consider the relevance of the present decision for the work of the Expert Group, and to report thereon to the Conference of the Parties”. The Group, which met in Geneva, Switzerland, on 10-12 September 2007, addressed the role of business in the context of its mandate, which was, as per decision VIII/12 paragraph 4, to “collect, analyse and identify ongoing tools, mechanisms, systems and initiatives to promote the implementation of Articles 16 to 19 as well as to propose strategies for practical implementation of the programme of work on technology transfer and scientific and technical cooperation, with the mandate as set out in decision VII/9, paragraph 7”^{55/}. Accordingly, the Draft Strategy for the Implementation of the Programme of Work, developed by the Group, contains several references to business. ^{56/}

IV. WORK BY THE SECRETARIAT

A. *Communication, Education and Public Awareness*

60. Paragraph 4 of decision VIII/17 requested the Executive Secretary “to include the private sector as a target audience for its outreach materials and in the Global Initiative on Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA)”. Secretariat activities have focused on the following:

61. *Newsletter on business and biodiversity* – To accompany the implementation of decision VIII/17, the Secretariat has published *Business.2010*, a newsletter on business and biodiversity. Contributions have been received from Parties, companies, business associations, business schools, environmental organizations, and the United Nations, including MEA Secretariats. ^{57/} The newsletter has been distributed electronically and hard copies have also been distributed at several Convention and other meetings.

62. *Outreach to business schools* – The Secretariat collaborated with Harvard Business School in the development of a case study focusing on the Secretariat’s effort to engage with the business

^{54/} The Australia submission noted, however, that “Australian business remains interested in the work of the Convention and continues its engagement, where appropriate, through the activities of affiliated international business organizations. Efforts by the Secretariat and other Convention bodies to promote business engagement with the Convention and biodiversity issues are widely circulated within the Australian business community”.

^{55/} See meeting report, UNEP/CBD/COP/9/INF/1.

^{56/} UNEP/CBD/COP/9/18.

^{57/} See <http://www.cbd.int/business/newsletter.shtml>. Issues have focused on the outcomes of the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (October 2006); the tourism sector (March 2007, released on the occasion of ITB Berlin 2007), the linkages between business, biodiversity and climate change (May 2007, released on the occasion of the International Biodiversity Day); technology transfer and cooperation (October 2007, released on the occasion of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Technology Transfer and Scientific and Technological Cooperation); the financial services sector (October 2007, released on the occasion of the UNEP FI 2007 Global Roundtable); Access and Benefit-sharing (January 2008, released on the occasion of the Sixth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing); agribusiness (February 2008, released on the occasion of Thirteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice); and business-related activities at ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (April 2008).

With a view to strengthening the content and reach of the newsletter, the Secretariat established an informal advisory committee. The committee was composed of representatives from the International Finance Corporation (USA), University of Stellenbosch (South Africa), Desenvolvimento Sustentavel (Brazil), Mitsubishi Research Institute, Inc. (Japan), Samson Bélair / Deloitte & Touche s.e.n.c.r.l. (Canada), World Business Council for Sustainable Development (Switzerland), Indian Institute of Management (India), PricewaterhouseCoopers (Germany), Delta Association (Lebanon), Harvard Business School (USA), International Environmental Resources SPRL (Belgium).

communit. ^{58/} This case was taught to senior executives during the Agribusiness Seminar, in January 2007 and is available, as teaching material, as part of the Harvard Business School collection of cases.

63. The Secretariat collaborated with the Haas School of Business, University of California, Berkeley, the Center for Responsible Business at Haas, and the Net Impact Club to develop a seminar on Environmental Strategy in Business for MBA students over January – April 2008. A report is to be produced which could serve as potential background material for the development of similar programmes in other business schools / business programmes across the world.

64. The Secretariat's outreach activities to business students have included participating in the McGill Business Conference for Sustainability (February 2008). ^{59/} In 2006-2008, the Secretariat has also welcomed two interns from McGill University undergraduate business programme as well as HEC Montreal business school.

65. *Guide to the Convention* – Decision VIII/17 noted that contributions from business towards the implementation of the Convention could be facilitated by further work under the Convention to develop A Guide to the Convention for business. A draft Guide is being prepared, explaining the relevance of the Convention to business, the CBD and its processes, and how the business community can effectively participate in CBD meetings.

66. *Training module* – Decision VIII/17 noted that contributions from business towards the implementation of the Convention could be facilitated by further work under the Convention to develop Guidance for Parties on how to engage the business community. The Secretariat has developed a draft training module for the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in line with training modules developed for the second meeting on review of implementation. ^{60/}

B. Business engagement across the *Organization, and with biodiversity-related MEAs*

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67. The Secretariat has participated in discussions on business engagement across the Organization, notably through the UN System Private Sector Focal Points Meeting in June 2006 (Paris, France) co-hosted by the UN Global Compact Office, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the UN System Staff College and the UN Fund for International Partnerships. ^{61/}

68. The UNCTAD BioTrade Initiative has convened an informal working group of secretariats of biodiversity-related MEAs focusing on business engagement in MEA implementation. BioTrade facilitated two meetings, in November 2006 and May 2007, with the CBD Secretariat, CITES, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification/Global Mechanism. These provided an opportunity to discuss challenges and lessons learned, as well as to identify strategic areas for cooperation in issues related to business and biodiversity.

69. As part of this effort, the Secretariat also participated on a panel discussion, during the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (CoP14) on business engagement in MEAs with H.E. Serapio Rukundo, Minister of State for Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities, Republic of Uganda, the CITES Secretariat and UNCTAD.

^{58/} David E. Bell and Mary Shelman, December 2006. "The Convention on Biological Diversity: engaging the private sector". Case-study N9-507-020. Boston: Harvard Business School.

^{59/} See <http://mbcs.mcgill.ca>. As part of its outreach to business students, the Secretariat also participated in the McGill Business Conference for Sustainability Fair (February 2007) and the McGill / Net Impact Leadership & Social Change - Career Fair & Conference (March 2007). The Secretariat also gave presentations to the McGill undergraduate and MBA programmes (November 2006) as well as the eco-consulting programme of the Université du Québec à Chicoutimi (UQAC, September 2007).

^{60/} <http://www.cbd.int/meetings/wgri-02/training-session.shtml>

^{61/} Information sharing throughout the Organization is also facilitated by the online newsletter *The UN-Business Focal Point* produced by the UN Global Compact Office in collaboration with GPPi.

C. Business and 2010 Challenge meetings

70. In January and November 2005, the Ministry of the Environment of Brazil and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs of the United Kingdom, together with the World Conservation Union (IUCN), the Brazilian Business Council for Sustainable Development (CEBDS), Insight Investment and the Secretariat, organized a meeting to develop ideas, that could best be pursued through the Convention or in support of its objectives, for engaging business in biodiversity issues, as a means of working towards the 2010 target. This initiative was welcomed in decision VIII/17.

71. Through a Letter of Intent, signed in December 2007, the Government of The Netherlands has provided funding for the organization of third Business and the 2010 Biodiversity Challenge meeting. This meeting will help further develop concrete steps for companies to address the 2010 biodiversity target, taking into account the outcomes of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Such a meeting could assist in the review of several cross-cutting tools, such as offsets, reporting, benchmarking, as well as current developments in sectors such as the financial services, cosmetics and functional foods.

72. In preparation to the third Business and the 2010 Biodiversity Challenge meeting, a draft document synthesizing information on tools and initiatives underway, including information on market creation and payments for ecosystem services, is being prepared. A draft document is also being prepared on biodiversity, climate change and business interlinkages. Both reports will be updated with relevant outcomes from the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

D. Administrative and budgetary matters

73. Through a Letter of Intent signed in December 2007, The Netherlands has financed several business related activities. These include the development, printing and distribution of the newsletter and ancillary products; the development of a Guide to the Convention for business; and the development of a training module on business engagement for National Focal Points.

74. In addition to the third Business and 2010 Biodiversity Challenge meeting, the Letter of Intent also covers the organization of two meetings on Access and Benefit-sharing and business.

75. In order to oversee the implementation of decision VIII/17, the Executive Secretary decided to appoint in 2006 a full-time staff to act as a Focal point for business, although no such post was budgeted.

V. FRAMEWORK OF PRIORITY ACTIONS ON BUSINESS, 2008-2010

76. While there has been notable progress in mobilizing the business community on biodiversity since the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, relatively few companies are aware of the business and biodiversity linkages or the relevance to business of negotiations carried out under the Convention. With this in mind, and in the continuity of decision VIII/17, the present note sets out the priority actions to be undertaken by the Secretariat in 2008-2010:

Priority area 1: Build and promote the business case for biodiversity

77. Continue the compilation and dissemination of information on the business case for biodiversity, including through the clearing-house mechanism and the CBD newsletter on business as well as mainstream business forums.

78. Partner with business schools to determine options for incorporating biodiversity into course curricula, including through the development of case studies and other teaching material.

79. Produce and disseminate a synthesis of the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook for the business community.

Priority area 2: Disseminate tools and best practice

80. In collaboration with the ISEAL Alliance and other relevant organizations, compile information on the impact of international voluntary certification schemes towards the implementation of the

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objectives of the Convention and develop knowledge sharing and technical assistance tools to encourage the wider uptake of best practice. Activities would include:

- (a) Compile of the use of international voluntary certification schemes in national biodiversity strategies and action plans
- (b) Draft a gap analysis
- (c) Make information on international voluntary certification schemes available on clearing-house mechanism
- (d) Develop training sessions on certification schemes

81. In collaboration with the Business and Biodiversity Offsets Programme (BBOP), and other relevant organizations and initiatives, compile and make available (a) case studies, (b) methodologies, tools and guidelines on biodiversity offsets as well as (c) relevant national and regional policy frameworks in view of informing the drafting of a legislative study.

82. Compilation and dissemination, including through the clearing-house mechanism and the CBD newsletter on business, of information on procurement policies which are in line with the objectives of the Convention

Priority area 3: Facilitate business participation in Convention processes

83. Prepare and disseminate guidance notes for business delegates ahead of Convention meetings, including through the business newsletter.

84. Develop options, with the Host Government, for the participation of business at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, including at the High Level Segment.

85. Organize, with the Host Government, a technology fair and workshops on the margins of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

86. Prepare a statistical report identifying business participation in different bodies of the Convention, participation from different countries, participation in government delegations as well as outside of government delegations.

VI. DRAFT DECISION

87. In view of the above, Parties may wish to consider the following draft decision:

The Conference of the Parties

Recalling its decision VIII/17,

Noting with appreciation the initiative of the Portuguese Presidency of the EU Council to hold a high level Conference on business and biodiversity in November 2007,

Welcoming the efforts of Germany, including through its Business and Biodiversity Initiative, to mobilize the business community for the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties,

Welcoming the support of The Netherlands for the organization of a third informal 'business and the 2010 biodiversity challenge' meeting, to further develop ideas that could best be pursued through the Convention or in support of its objectives, for engaging business in biodiversity issues, as a means of working towards the 2010 target,

Welcoming also the development by initiatives such as the Business and Biodiversity Offsets Programme of tools for biodiversity offsets as input into the above meeting,

Noting with appreciation the efforts of the Secretariat to engage the business community, including through the designation of a focal point for business;

Urges Parties to enhance the engagement of the business community in the implementation of the three objectives of the convention

Welcomes the framework for priority actions to be undertaken by the Secretariat contained in section V of the present note and *requests* the Executive Secretary, where possible and appropriate, to take into account relevant initiatives by Parties and organizations.
