

IUCN's position on selected issues on the agenda

Tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP10), 18-29 October, 2010, Nagoya, Japan)

This position paper includes IUCN's recommendations on selected issues contained in the Provisional Agenda for the Tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (UNEP/CBD/COP/10/1).

Other agenda items are addressed in individual papers.

The following is a list of the agenda items included in this position paper:

- 1. Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (agenda item 4.7)**
- 2. Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations and initiatives, engagement of stakeholders, including business and biodiversity, cities and biodiversity and South/South cooperation (agenda item 4.9)**
- 3. Inland Waters biodiversity (agenda item 5.1)**
- 4. Mountain biodiversity (agenda item 5.3)**
- 5. Biodiversity and Climate Change (agenda item 5.6)**
- 6. Biofuels and biodiversity (agenda item 6.4)**
- 7. Invasive Alien Species (agenda item 6.5)**
- 8. Incentive Measures (agenda item 6.8)**

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1. Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (agenda item 4.7)

IUCN welcomes and endorses the proposal for a Consolidated Update of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC) as referred to in document UNEP/CBD/COP/10/3. IUCN reiterates its support for the GSPC and affirms the success thus far of the target-based approach which has led to the achievement of significantly more plant conservation than had this strategy not been in place. The GSPC has galvanized efforts in the botanical communities of governments, NGOs, botanical gardens and others for plant conservation and is an essential policy tool to drive plant conservation activities forward. Each GSPC target contributes directly to one or more Post 2010 Strategic Plan targets; however, IUCN would like to suggest amendments in the text of the following targets:

- Target 2: to remove “as far as possible”. After this change, Target 2 should read: “An assessment of the conservation status of all known plant species as needed to guide conservation action”.
- Target 5: to remove “of each ecological region”. After this change, Target 5 should read: “At least 75 per cent of the most important areas for plant diversity protected with effective management in place for conserving plants and their genetic diversity”.
- Target 9: to include “*in situ* and *ex situ*” after conserved. After this change, Target 9 should read “70 per cent of the genetic diversity of crops including their wild relatives and other socio-economically valuable plant species conserved *in situ* and *ex situ*, and associated indigenous and local knowledge respected, [preserved][protected] and maintained”.

IUCN remains highly committed to the achievement of the Strategy and its constituent targets beyond 2010 in particular through assessments of conservation status for The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ (species assessments), invasive species

management and identification of areas of importance for plant diversity, as well as the development of indicators and facilitation of capacity building (notably training for species assessment work). The flexible coordination mechanism should develop indicators, milestones and mechanisms to enable and enhance implementation of the GSPC which should also contribute to the achievement of the post-2010 Strategic Plan.

IUCN encourages Parties and other Governments to pursue implementation of the GSPC as a contribution to implementation of the targets of the Strategic Plan of the Convention beyond 2010 and notes that appointing national focal points and developing or updating and integrating national and regional plant conservation targets as appropriate can make significant contributions to the implementation of the Strategy.

In light of the above, IUCN calls on CBD COP10 to ask Parties to:

- ✓ Adopt the consolidated update of the GSPC as recommended in UNEP/CBD/COP/10/3;
- ✓ Call for the flexible coordination mechanism to strengthen links between the GSPC and CBD post-2010 Strategic Plan, through the development of GSPC implementation mechanisms, milestones and indicators;
- ✓ Encourage Parties and other Governments to pursue enhanced implementation of the Strategy as a contribution to the implementation of the targets of the Strategic Plan of the Convention beyond 2010 through, inter alia, appointing national focal points where they have not yet been identified, and developing or updating national and regional plant conservation targets, and, as appropriate, to incorporate them into relevant plans, programmes and initiatives, including National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs).

2. Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations and initiatives, engagement of stakeholders, including business and biodiversity, cities and biodiversity and South/South cooperation (agenda item 4.9)

IUCN supports the focus of the Convention on promoting cooperation with other organizations, conventions and initiatives and welcomes WGR1 recommendation 3/2 contained in document UNEP/CBD/COP/10/1/Add.2 promoting business engagement.

In this light, IUCN recommends that a more defined role be attributed to business within the Convention. Business has an important role to play in implementing the Convention and its new Strategic Plan. This role goes beyond financial assistance and includes solutions linked to technology transfer, capacity building and ecosystem stewardship.

IUCN further proposes that the CBD looks to other organizations, conventions and initiatives to shape its cooperation and engagement with business. Relevant experiences may include the development and promotion of “clean” technology under the Montreal Protocol, the monitoring and management of trade in endangered species under CITES, and the mobilization of private finance for climate mitigation under the UNFCCC.

Moreover, IUCN recognizes the potentially beneficial role of establishing national and regional business and biodiversity initiatives but underlines the need for these to be standardized, with time-bound targets, measurable indicators and credible verification, and offers its support to the Secretariat in this important endeavour.

IUCN has supported implementation of COP decisions VIII/17 and IX/26, by convening leading multinationals from the mining, oil and gas, food and beverage, agriculture and tourism sectors to facilitate participation of business in the global conservation agenda.

In addition, IUCN continues to support partnerships with private companies to develop sector-specific approaches and tools for reducing the risks and both identifying and building on the opportunities related to biodiversity conservation. IUCN is committed to partner with governments and the private sector to help mobilize new and additional resources to implement the CBD, including through the promotion of voluntary commitments to no-net-loss and net-positive-impact on biodiversity, as articulated in the Jakarta Charter agreed at the Third Business and 2010 Biodiversity Challenge Conference, held in Jakarta, Indonesia, from 30 November to 2 December 2009.

To support business engagement in the run-up to COP10, IUCN, in partnership with the WBCSD, has provided a platform to facilitate private sector inputs into the Convention’s processes. To this end, IUCN has consulted business stakeholders to capture views on the post-2010 biodiversity targets and other key topics. Outputs of this consultation include the “Information Paper on Business Engagement in the CBD” and a set of milestones and indicators for business to help implement the post-2010 biodiversity targets.

With support from the CBD Secretariat, IUCN, WBCSD and Keidanren Committee on Nature Conservation (KCNC) is convening a Business and Ecosystem Dialogue for business leaders and governments to explore adaptive business strategies and policy frameworks to help reduce and ideally halt biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation. IUCN, KCNC and WBCSD welcome the support provided by the CBD in organizing this event and are confident that it represents a significant milestone in the longer term effort to ensure that businesses are contributing to the CBD mission/targets.

IUCN calls on COP10 to urge Parties to:

- ✓ Work with businesses to translate the post 2010 biodiversity targets into meaningful metrics for their operations including through the development of milestones and indicators for the biodiversity targets and hence encouraging businesses to support the

implementation of the new Strategic Plan;

- ✓ Develop policies that favour those businesses addressing biodiversity in their operations, including through incentives that stimulate for biodiversity-friendly practices and by building on the concepts of No Net Loss and Net Positive Impact;
- ✓ Recommend that the Executive Secretary encourages the establishment of a more defined role for business within the Convention; this role would go beyond providing financial assistance and would include offering solutions linked to technology transfer, capacity building and ecosystem stewardship; and
- ✓ Request that the Executive Secretary works with other IGOs and NGOs to strengthen new and existing national and regional business and biodiversity initiatives so that these become standardized, with time-bound conservation targets, measurable indicators and credible verification.

3. Inland Waters (agenda item 5.1)

IUCN welcomes the in-depth review of the programme of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems, the recommendations from SBSTTA 14 and the draft decisions in document UNEP/CBD/COP/10/1/Add/2.

IUCN is deeply concerned about the continuing deterioration of inland water biodiversity health as summarized in UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/3. Ensuring clean water is critical for maintaining healthy biodiversity and for delivering ecosystem services to humans which are vital for development. The importance of establishing systems to maintain clean water and to address the potential impacts of climate change on water resources underscores the need for urgent global, regional and national action.

As a result, IUCN strongly supports many of the draft decisions on this subject contained in UNEP/CBD/COP/10/1/Add/2. If adopted, these will serve to accelerate implementation of the existing programme

of work relating to inland water biodiversity and to update it in essential areas.

The cross-cutting nature and services that inland water resources provide are recognized in the CBD COP10 draft decisions as well as Global Biodiversity Outlook 3, the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, the Plan of Action on Cities, Local Authorities and Biodiversity, and consolidated guidance to the CBD financial mechanism. While the services from inland water ecosystems are relevant to all thematic and cross-cutting areas of the CBD, IUCN supports the particular need, as shown in the COP10 draft decisions, to recognize common areas within the programmes of work on marine and coastal biodiversity, agricultural biodiversity and biofuels.

Forging key linkages

Water security for communities and ecosystems is widely considered to be the world's most pressing natural resource challenge today. Water is a common issue with both biodiversity and development and is a fundamental natural resource link between the various Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and their targets. IUCN thus agrees that creating a stronger connection between water, biodiversity and people within the MDGs is essential. Also, changes in the availability and quality of water related to increases and decreases in precipitation from climate change will affect approaches to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Parties should consider the sustainable use of inland water biological diversity that allows for biodiversity conservation and equitable access and benefit sharing within and between countries.

IUCN thus calls on COP10 to encourage Parties to:

- ✓ Recognize the connectivity of inland water systems and facilitate cooperation for the effective and sustainable management, protection and use of transboundary inland waters;
- ✓ Recognize the impact that altering water flows can have on human well-being, biodiversity and ecosystem services, and the fact that major

- alterations arise from infrastructure development including dams;
- ✓ Maintain and restore the capacity of biodiversity to support and regulate the availability of quantities of water of acceptable quality to ensure human and ecosystem health;
- ✓ Prioritize implementation of measures to avoid, reduce and mitigate the negative impact that dams, surface water diversions, inland water habitat fragmentation, and unsustainable abstraction of surface and groundwaters have on biodiversity and ecosystems services;
- ✓ Encourage the implementation of environmental flows in the planning, design, and operation of dams and other water infrastructure in conjunction with improved water allocation principles, recognizing all ecosystem services;
- ✓ Ensure decisions about infrastructure planning are made in the context of integrated river basin management to allow for optimization of multiple objectives (e.g., water provisioning, sustainable fisheries, energy, flood risk mitigation, and biodiversity conservation);
- ✓ Guarantee that ecosystem services and the role of inland water systems in responding to climatic variability are included in integrated investment and planning frameworks, and that ecosystem services gain further recognition within Integrated Water Resources Management and related approaches;
- ✓ Make sure that climate change mitigation and adaptation activities are designed and implemented taking into account the needs and opportunities to sustain and/or enhance the services provided by biodiversity in inland water ecosystems;
- ✓ Address the under-representation of inland water biological diversity in the global network of protected areas through identification of areas of importance for freshwater biodiversity; and

- ✓ Facilitate cooperation for the effective and sustainable management, protection and use of inland water systems shared by multiple Parties.

IUCN calls in particular for policy coherence at the national level between implementation of the CBD and efforts to address climate change through both mitigation and adaptation. IUCN asks Parties to recognize the important role that inland water ecosystems provide in terms of ecological services such as food, flood regulation and water provisioning, and encourages COP10 to urge all Parties, with the support of the international donor community, to:

- ✓ Ensure policy coherence, when implementing river basin management and responses to climate change, at the national level between water resource management strategies, National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and national climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies and plans, including for energy; and ensure that the Ecosystem Approach is applied where appropriate.

IUCN acknowledges political, economic and social considerations surrounding water resources and inland water ecosystems. 'Water security' is about ensuring sustainable and equitable access to water provisioning, regulating services necessary to meet the water needs of healthy societies, inland water biological diversity and sustainable development. IUCN therefore encourages Parties to consider changes to the text in the draft decision for this agenda item and:

- ✓ Replace reference to [water security] with 'ensuring sustainable and equitable access to water to meet the needs of people and of biodiversity'.

4. Mountain biodiversity (agenda item 5.3)

IUCN welcomes the in-depth review of the implementation of the Programme of Work (PoW) on Mountain Biological Diversity (agenda item 5.3), the recommendation on biodiversity and climate change from SBSTTA14, and the draft decision in UNEP/CBD/10/1/Add/2.

Mountains, as sources of many rivers, are essential for multiple ecosystem services including the supply of fresh water for people and downstream habitats, and are fundamental to the food security of communities vulnerable to changing climates. Biodiversity conservation through effectively managed mountain protected areas and connectivity conservation corridors across mountain ecosystems is essential to ensuring sustainable and equitable access to water provisioning, regulating services necessary to meet the water needs of societies, and maintaining inland water biological diversity. Drivers of biodiversity loss in mountain areas such as infrastructure development of dams and roads, mining, deforestation and unsustainable land use practices all threaten mountain biodiversity and the ecosystem services provided.

IUCN welcomes progress in protecting the mountain biome and congratulates Parties on protecting as 14.4 % of the mixed mountain system biome. However, IUCN notes that not all of these areas are effectively managed or well governed using a variety of governance types. Many montane sites of global biodiversity conservation significance remain completely unprotected. There is great potential to support community conserved areas in this biome which could greatly contribute to Target 11 being proposed in the revised Strategic Plan 2011-2020.

Mountains contain nearly half of Alliance for Zero Extinction species (and sites) and therefore many key biodiversity areas important for conservation. These areas include glaciers, montane forests and cloud forests in tropical regions. The establishment, formal recognition, effective management and good governance of new protected areas, supported where appropriate by large scale connectivity conservation areas, in mountains in all 8 Biogeographic Realms of Earth would contribute significantly to both biodiversity conservation and a strategic response to climate change.

IUCN thus recommends COP10 to call on Parties to:

- ✓ Identify and safeguard key biodiversity areas in mountains for effective protection including through protected

area systems with appropriate governance types, including private lands and community conserved areas;

- ✓ Promote cooperation between Parties that share mountain biomes and associated watersheds;

Coherence in national implementation of the convention can be achieved by considering the needs of mountain biological diversity, and the communities this diversity supports, in the implementation of many Programmes of Work including those on Protected Areas and Inland Waters, the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation and on Biodiversity and Climate Change. IUCN strongly supports ways and means to overcome the obstacles to mountain biodiversity conservation identified in UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/ 14/2.

To prevent and mitigate the negative impacts of key threats to mountain biological diversity PAs must be of a sufficient size, with appropriate buffers and governance systems to allow varying degrees of resource use and human impact, to support sustainable use. Long term monitoring of biodiversity is usually best accomplished in PAs due to greater stability in governance and management objectives. There are many gaps in the network and the effectiveness of conserving biodiversity by systems of PAs must be nevertheless enhanced.

In this respect, IUCN encourages COP10 to call on Parties to:

- ✓ Recognize the size requirements in some PAs to accommodate large-scale natural disturbances that occur in mountains.

The development and implementation of regional initiatives that improve the conservation and connectivity of mountain biomes is fundamental to effective conservation. The successful implementation of large scale connectivity conservation projects can maintain ecosystem integrity and support climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies.

IUCN thus recommends that COP10 urges Parties to:

- ✓ Monitor and respond with adaptive management to the effects of climate change on mountain environments and biological diversity; and identify and promote sustainable adaptation and mitigation strategies and implement mitigation and adaptation measures;
- ✓ Promote and implement connectivity of protected areas, where appropriate, through sustainable use in intervening landscapes that maintains ecological functions of natural corridors; and
- ✓ Minimize deforestation and promote the ecological restoration of degraded mountain forest ecosystems, and inland water systems, to enhance the provision of critical ecosystem services.

Parties should strengthen policy and planning coherence between agencies to support effective and urgent implementation of the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan. Such approaches require Parties to strengthen synergies between government agencies to allow and promote the integration of PAs into wider landscapes and objectives of surrounding ecological/social/ economic systems.

IUCN calls on COP10 to urge Parties to:

- ✓ Adopt geographically and administratively linked coherent policies for upland and lowland management strategies, mountain watershed management, horizontal and vertical connectivity of migration corridors for migratory species and aquatic species, and transboundary mountain protected areas;
- ✓ Manage mountain protected areas within ecosystem networks in collaboration with relevant stakeholders to demonstrate the advantages of integrating protected areas into the objectives of surrounding ecological/ social/ economic systems.
- ✓ Recognize the potential of “sacred natural sites” to conserve biodiversity and as part of the spiritual/cultural heritage of indigenous and local communities, who have long been

traditionally conserving and managing these sites; and

- ✓ Consider developing international protocols to safeguard, as far as possible, mountain PAs during times of conflict and political instability.

In addition, IUCN recommends COP10 to call on Parties and others to:

- ✓ Identify and implement best practices to enhance sustainable use and ecosystem resilience;
- ✓ Recognize and increase the awareness of the inter- relationship between biodiversity conservation, sustainable use, and traditional knowledge of indigenous and local communities in mountains; and
- ✓ Encourage the use of “heritage” varieties of crops, especially in view of the shrinking genetic base of current food production to maintain genetic diversity in mountain ecosystems in particular through the preservation and maintenance of traditional knowledge and practices.

5. Biodiversity and Climate Change (agenda item 5.6)

IUCN welcomes the in-depth review of the cross cutting issue on biodiversity and climate change, the Recommendation on biodiversity and climate change to CoP10 from SBSTTA, contained in UNEP/CBD/10/3, and the report of the 2nd AHTEG on Biodiversity and Climate Change, contained in CBD Technical Series 41, to which IUCN contributed technical expertise.

IUCN also welcomes recognition by the CBD of the three overarching relationships between biodiversity and climate change. Firstly, that biodiversity is affected by climate change, and therefore in addition to urgent greenhouse gas emission reductions, additional and urgent efforts should be made to reduce other threats to biodiversity (including overexploitation, habitat loss and fragmentation, pollution, and the spread of invasive alien species) to ensure that ecosystems are more resilient to the increasing threat posed by climate change. Secondly, that

ecosystem-based approaches to mitigation, through sequestering and storing carbon in a range of terrestrial and marine ecosystems include forests, peatlands and other wetlands. And thirdly, ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation, where biodiversity supports people in adapting to climate change through providing the ecosystem services on which people depend to reduce their vulnerability, and enhance their capacity to adapt to change.

In furthering the implementation of the programmes of work of the CBD, IUCN calls on COP10 to encourage Parties to:

- ✓ Continue to explore synergies between efforts to address climate change and efforts to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity, and further recognize that mitigating climate change is a central component of efforts to address biodiversity loss, and vice versa; and
- ✓ More fully integrate climate change mitigation and adaptation opportunities into the implementation of the full range of CBD Programmes of Work.

IUCN particularly calls for synergies to be made at national level between implementation of the CBD and efforts to address climate change through both mitigation and adaptation, and encourages COP10 to urge all Parties to:

- ✓ Ensure synergy at the national level between their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and national climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies and plans, ensuring that the Ecosystem Approach is applied where appropriate when implementing responses to climate change.

At the international level, IUCN recognizes the potential for increased collaboration between the CBD, the UNFCCC, UNCCD and other multilateral agreements addressing aspects of climate change mitigation and adaptation, and biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, including the UN Forum on Forests, and the Ramsar Convention. IUCN therefore

- ✓ Supports the establishment of a joint expert group to explore opportunities that could be addressed by a joint work programme on biodiversity and climate change between the three Rio Conventions, and other relevant Conventions as appropriate.

6. Agriculture and Biofuels (agenda item 6.4)

IUCN recognizes the work of the Secretariat in compiling experiences in the development and application of tools relevant to the sustainable production and use of biofuels as well as information on monitoring the impacts of biofuels on biodiversity and people.

IUCN recalls the extensive discussions about the biofuels and biodiversity agenda item at the SBSTTA 14 meetings and recognizes the diversity of views that are presented in the draft recommendation XIV/10 B of SBSTTA14 as contained in UNEP/CBD/COP/10/3.

IUCN recalls that there are several credible and ongoing multi-stakeholder processes that are establishing sustainability safeguards, including biodiversity and social criteria, for biofuels production and policies.

IUCN emphasizes the important role that the Convention on Biological Diversity plays in underpinning this work by promoting land use and water policies and strategies that ensure the Ecosystem Approach is applied to biofuels plans, programmes and projects.

IUCN thus calls on COP10 to recommend Parties to:

- ✓ Develop and implement land use and water policies and strategies that safeguard both biodiversity and women and men from communities, from negative impacts (direct and indirect) of biofuels plans, programmes and projects.

IUCN strongly recommends that COP10 urges Parties to:

- ✓ Select Option B for Paragraph 4 in the draft decision on this agenda item as included in UNEP/CBD/COP10/1/Add2; and

- ✓ Include in this paragraph 4: *Work with* (instead of *taking into account*) other competent partner organizations and relevant processes such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Panel for Sustainable Resource Management, the Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels, the Global Bio-Energy Partnership when compiling, organizing and disseminating information on tools for ways and means to promote the positive and minimize the negative impacts of biofuel production and use on biodiversity.

When developing frameworks, tools, and/or toolkits, IUCN recommends the Parties ensure the following issues are fully addressed:

- Ecosystem Approach (as part of efforts to promote the use of the ecosystem approach in all sectors and call for Parties to take into account the application of the ecosystem approach in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and climate-change adaptation and mitigation activities as outlined in Decision IX/7);
- Agriculture and food security (consistent with the Cross-cutting initiative on biodiversity for food and nutrition established under Decision VIII/23);
- Gender considerations (based on the requirements established by the Gender Plan of Action Decision IX/24) in institutional capacity building plans;
- Climate change and biodiversity (ensuring biodiversity and the resilience and resistance of ecosystems and selected species are understood and addressed when pursuing biofuels as a strategy for climate change mitigation as called for in Decision IX/16);
- Water (consistent with the call in the Joint Work Programme for the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands for integration of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the

wise use of wetlands into relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies);

- Protected areas and areas of importance for biodiversity conservation (use up-to-date information about the location of areas important for biodiversity as called for in Decision IX/18);
- Invasive species (following the guiding principles on invasive species contained in the Annex to Decision VI/23);
- Incentive measures (particularly considering engagement in the Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels in the context of the decision to develop methods to promote science-based information on biodiversity in consumer decisions, for example through eco-labelling in Decision IX/6); and
- Business engagement (promoting companies in the biofuels sector to deliver on the objectives of the Convention, as outlined in Decision IX/26).

7. Invasive Alien Species (agenda item 6.5)

Invasive alien species are one of the key drivers of biodiversity loss causing severe negative impacts on ecosystems, habitats and species, as reported in the Global Biodiversity Outlook 3 (GBO3) and recently presented at SBSTTA14. Parties at COP10 are encouraged to address the areas of this complex subject that have not yet been adequately addressed by the Convention.

A main emphasis during SBSTTA14 as stated on UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/16/Rev.1 was on the further work needed in the international regulatory framework on biological invasion, particularly as related to species introduced as pets, aquarium and terrarium species, as live bait and live food, and best practices for addressing risks associated with their introduction. An outcome of that discussion, were the Terms of Reference proposed for an Ad-Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG).

These TORs are broad and cover several important topics related to invasive alien species and were subsequently approved by the SBSTTA as a draft recommendation XIV/13 A and B in UNEP/CBD/COP/10/3 and included in UNEP/CBD/COP/10/1/Add.2.

IUCN calls on COP10 to request Parties to:

- ✓ Adopt the TORs of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group approved by the SBSTTA14 and convene this AHTEG as soon as possible so as to report on the findings to CBD COP11.

IUCN welcomes the thorough technical discussions at SBSTTA14 which increased understanding of the subject of biological invasion. This included the requirement for regional cooperation to address invasive species issues, essential given their ability to cross borders and the need for regionally based information exchange; the potential for species of plants used for biofuel feedstocks and for carbon sequestration to become invasive; the problem of pathways which are further facilitating the movement of invasive species (such as hunting, fishing, inept management of existing invasions, and invasive alien genotypes as well as species); biological invasions being exacerbated by climate change; and the problems faced by island biodiversity which is particularly affected by invasive species.

IUCN supports recognition of the importance of these conclusions from SBSTTA14 and calls on COP10 to request Parties and relevant local and international organizations to:

- ✓ Further emphasize the increasing importance of alien invasive species as a direct driver of biodiversity loss impacting the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity. In this regard IUCN emphasizes the importance of target 9 in the proposed Strategic Plan (UNEP/CBD/COP/10/Add.2); and
- ✓ IUCN recommends the promotion of regional coherence in the development of national policies on invasive alien species, particularly related to the use of alien species for biofuel production

and carbon sequestration, which may become invasive.

IUCN further supports the concept of "industry best practice" in such areas as the management of species used as pets and as live bait as well as plants used in production of biofuels. IUCN supports the efforts of the Secretariat to further develop cooperation between the various international agreements and organizations which address elements of the prevention and management of biological invasions during Interagency Meetings; and encourages Parties to promote this concept of international cooperation to address biological invasions on as many fronts as possible.

8. Incentive Measures (agenda item 6.8)

Economic incentives play an important role in the sustainable use and the conservation of biodiversity by governments, businesses and people at international, national and local levels. It is essential that economic incentives make it worthwhile, in both financial and livelihood terms, for people to maintain or enhance, rather than degrade, natural resources through economic activity. Through the use of economic instruments, regulation and other tools of governance, the public sector can encourage behavioral change by managing the incentives facing producers and consumers to encourage more environmentally sustainable decisions.

IUCN strongly supports efforts to align economic incentives with the goals of the CBD. To complement regulation, the use of economic instruments includes removing or mitigating 'perverse' incentives that contribute to the loss of biodiversity, and promoting positive incentives for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. Moreover, more systematic use of economic valuation tools may facilitate the integration of ecosystem values into decision-making.

IUCN has actively contributed to background document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/17 and, in particular, to the compilation of case studies intended to showcase best practice cases in the removal of perverse incentives and the

promotion of positive incentives for improved resource management.

Many subsidies are environmentally harmful, costly and inefficient and their removal can contribute significantly to more sustainable resource use. Environmentally harmful subsidies make harmful products too cheap, beneficial products too expensive, and investments in beneficial alternatives appear unprofitable. Subsidy removal is most urgent in the fisheries, agriculture and energy sectors. The large relative size of these industries and the extremely high levels of distortionary subsidies in these sectors combine to cause substantial biodiversity loss, environmental damage, and lost opportunity for environmentally beneficial innovation. In this regard, IUCN draws attention to the particular importance of including a robust target within the post-2010 Strategic Plan for the Convention that addresses the need to eliminate perverse incentives, including subsidies, which are harmful to biodiversity (i.e. target 3).

IUCN also recognizes that perverse incentives exist that are not associated with subsidies. It is important to reform policies which produce perverse incentives by encouraging unsustainably high levels of resource use, such as low royalty fees in forestry sectors or "beneficial use" laws which require use of idle land in some countries.

IUCN recommends that COP10 requests Parties and others to:

- ✓ Urgently increase efforts to identify and reform policies which produce incentives to exploit resources unsustainably, including subsidies which have unintended negative effects on biodiversity.

IUCN advocates the use of economic instruments, including regulations, standards, property rights and other governance tools, to create the enabling conditions and incentives to manage resources sustainably. TEEB for Policy-Makers (D1) and other studies have reviewed available practical mechanisms to reward the provision of ecosystem services and promote sustainable production and consumption; property rights, Payments for Ecosystem Services

(PES), environmental taxes and charges, market creation, Green Public Procurement (GPP) and others should be implemented more widely.

For example, to complement the existing environmental regulatory milieu, PES schemes can provide payments to resource owners and users to protect and manage ecosystems for continued long-term provision of ecosystem services. Green markets for biodiversity-friendly goods can stimulate the adoption of new production and processing methods that are cleaner, greener and more equitable, while also promoting the continued provision of ecosystem services.

In light of this, IUCN recommends that COP10 encourages Parties and others to:

- ✓ Promote economic instruments that provide incentives for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use (such as PES), at all levels, and to monitor closely the performance of these instruments in terms of cost-effectiveness and their impact on the provision of ecosystem services, poverty, gender, equity, and other criteria.

While there are a growing number of successful PES schemes at the local and national level, there remains a need to scale up PES to the international level. Many of the benefits of sustainable ecosystem management accrue at a global level, while costs mainly fall on local resource managers. Hence there is a need for new and additional international transfers of financial and other resources to support biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration, especially in the least developed countries.

Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD) and related initiatives (REDD+) provides a significant opportunity to provide incentives for forest conservation, sustainable forest management and the enhancement of forest carbon stocks, both nationally and internationally. REDD + also provides important opportunities for biodiversity conservation, through the bundling of ecosystem services.

Similarly, proposals for a new Green Development Mechanism (GDM) are

under development as a complement to existing international biodiversity financing arrangements to enable the private sector to play a more significant role in filling the biodiversity funding gap.

IUCN recommends that COP10 requests Parties and others to:

- ✓ Further develop, pilot and promote international PES schemes, focusing initially on REDD + and other initiatives with potential for biodiversity benefits, while also exploring the need and potential for new international biodiversity financing mechanisms such as the Green Development Mechanism (GDM).

IUCN continues to advocate the use of economic valuation tools for decision-making. The work of TEEB and others has demonstrated clearly that the economic value of biodiversity and ecosystems is significant, but still poorly recognized and inadequately reflected in public and private decisions. Valuation can encourage better natural resource stewardship by increasing the efficiency (and reducing the environmental footprint) of economic activities and by revealing opportunities to capture ecosystem values through more

holistic management of the resource base. In order to build support for and guide efforts to reduce ecosystem degradation and halt biodiversity loss, more information and wider understanding is needed of the local and global benefits of ecosystem services, as well as the full costs of restoration and conservation. Economic valuation is a tool that is increasingly being applied in both the public and private sectors. For example the World Business Council for Sustainable Development's Ecosystem Valuation Initiative, in which IUCN is a partner, aims to identify the business case for sustainable resource management for companies that rely and have impacts on ecosystem services.

IUCN recommends that COP10 encourages Parties and others to:

- ✓ Further develop, pilot and promote work on economic valuation of environmental goods and services, and to encourage activities that improve the understanding and integration of valuation results in public and private decision-making.