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CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN REGIONAL
EXPERT WORKSHOP ON SUSTAINABLE USE
Moscow, 30 May-2 June 2005

**REPORT OF THE CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN REGIONAL EXPERT
WORKSHOP ON SUSTAINABLE USE OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Background

1. In decision VII/12, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity invited Parties, Governments, and relevant organizations to initiate a process for the implementation of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity, and requested the Executive Secretary, *inter alia*, “to convene a series of technical experts workshops on ecosystem services assessment, financial costs and benefits associated with conservation of biodiversity, and sustainable use of biological resources”.
2. The Central and Eastern European Regional Expert Workshop on the Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity was the first regional workshop organized, with financial assistance from the Government of the Netherlands, in response to this request. The workshop took place in Moscow, at the kind invitation of the Government of the Russian Federation, from 30 May to 2 June 2005.
3. In accordance with the request in decision VII/12, the workshop focused on ecosystem services assessment, financial costs and benefits associated with conservation of biodiversity, and sustainable use of biological resources. It provided a forum for government officials and practitioners to enhance their awareness and understanding of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity and promote the use of these guidelines in an integrated manner, as a contribution to facilitating the achievement of the 2010 target, sustainable development and poverty alleviation.
4. Participants in the Workshop were invited to present case-studies on the sustainable use of biological resources in their home countries. Guidelines for the preparation of case-studies were provided to participants in advance of the Workshop. The case-studies were selected to cover a broad spectrum of resource uses and regional or local conditions, with focus on, as appropriate: (i) best practices and lessons learned from the use of biological diversity; (ii) implementation of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity; (iii) lessons learned as regards to ecosystem services assessment; and (iv) lessons learned as regards to financial costs and benefits associated with the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.
5. In order to prepare adequately for the regional workshop, a training manual on the Sustaining Uses of Biological Diversity was prepared by IUCN in coordination with the Secretariat and distributed to

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participants at the venue of the workshop. In addition, a provisional list of the documents for the Workshop was also provided in annex I of document UNEP/CBD/RW-SU-CEE/1/Add.1.

B. Attendance

6. The meeting was attended by:

(a) Fifteen government-nominated technical experts from the following countries: Armenia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Latvia, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Ukraine;

(b) Representatives of international organizations, non-governmental organizations and indigenous organizations: the Regional Office for Europe of the United Nations Environment Programme; IUCN – the World Conservation Union (IUCN); WWF Russia, and the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON).

7. A list of participants is attached as annex II.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

8. The meeting was opened by the representative of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Mr. Markus Lehmann, at 9 a.m., on Monday, 30 May 2005. He welcomed participants and briefly recalled the process that led to the meeting. He then introduced and welcomed the representative of the government of the Russian Federation, Mr. Amirkhan M. Amirkhanov, Deputy Chairman of the Ministry of Natural Resources, and the representative of WWF Russia, Mr. Alexander Shestakov, designated local liaison officer to act on behalf of the Russian government for the organization of the CEE Regional Expert Workshop. He conveyed his gratitude to all the relevant authorities that made the organization of the meeting possible, in particular the WWF Russia office in Moscow. He also introduced and welcomed the two facilitators of the meeting: Mr. Steven Edwards of IUCN and Mr. David Lawson, an independent expert.

9. He then gave the floor to the representative of the Government of the Russian Federation, Mr. Amirkhan M. Amirkhanov, and to the representative of WWF Russia, Mr. Alexander Shestakov, for introductory remarks.

10. In his statement, Mr. Amirkhanov welcomed participants to Moscow and, drawing upon a number of recent initiatives and experiences in implementing policies and programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in the Russian Federation, expressed his confidence that the results of the Workshop would make an important positive contribution to further such efforts.

11. Mr. Shestakov also welcomed participants to Moscow and underlined the importance of the recent adoption of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention. He expressed his gratitude to the government of the Netherlands in providing funding for the Workshop, and said that the Workshop would certainly make a significant contribution in assisting implementation of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines in the Central and Eastern European region.

12. Following the opening remarks, and upon invitation by the facilitators, participants introduced themselves and explained their expectations for the Workshop.

ITEM 2. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

2.1. Adoption of the Agenda

13. The representative of the Secretariat referred to the provisional agenda (UNEP/CBD/RW-SU-CEE/1/1) and explained that it reflected the mandate of the Workshop as provided in paragraph 5 of decision VII/12 of the Conference of the Parties. He provided a summary of that mandate and also referred to the documents provided by the Secretariat to facilitate the work of the Group.

14. The Workshop adopted the following agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda (UNEP/CBD/RW-SU-CEE/1/1):

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organizational matters:
 - 2.1. Adoption of the agenda;
 - 2.2. Organization of work.
3. Review of key terms and concepts used in the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines and other relevant tools and instruments of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
4. Review of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity.
5. Application of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity.
6. Ecosystem services assessment.
7. Financial costs and benefits associated with the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.
8. Assessment of the workshop.
9. Other matters.
10. Adoption of the report.
11. Closure of the meeting.

2.2. Organization of work

15. The facilitator of the meeting, Mr. Steve Edwards, explained the suggested timetable for the Workshop as provided in annex II of the annotated provisional agenda (UNEP/CBD/RW-SU-CEE/1/Add.1). He also explained that the case-studies provided by participants would be presented under item 5 of the agenda, and would also be used as input for the discussions of the items under consideration during the rest of the Workshop.

16. Participants decided to adopt the suggested timetable for the workshop, indicating the allocation of time for each agenda item, contained in annex II of the annotated provisional agenda

ITEM 3. REVIEW OF KEY TERMS AND CONCEPTS USED IN THE ADDIS ABABA PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES FOR THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF BIODIVERSITY AND OTHER CBD RELEVANT TOOLS AND INSTRUMENTS

17. Based on a presentation by the facilitators, participants reviewed a number of key terms and concepts to ensure that they are communicating effectively. The following terms and concepts were reviewed and discussed: biological diversity, biological resources, sustainable use, use, sustainability, ecosystem, ecosystem services, adaptive management, use regime, resource manager.

18. Based on a presentation by the representative of the Secretariat, participants also reviewed a number of other relevant tools and instruments that were developed under the Convention and provide further guidance in the implementation of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines. The following tools and instruments were briefly reviewed:

- (a) The ecosystem approach;
- (b) The target of Parties to the Convention to achieve by 2010 a substantial reduction the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and local level (“the 2010 target”);

(c) The programme of work on incentive measures adopted by decision V/15 of the Conference of the Parties and the recent activities under this programme of work;

(d) The Proposals for Design and Implementation of Incentive Measures endorsed by the Conference of the Parties in its decision VI/15;

(e) The Akwé: Kon Voluntary Guidelines for the Conduct of Cultural, Environment and Social Impact Assessment regarding Developments Proposed to Take Place on or which are likely to Impact on, Sacred Sites and on Lands and Waters Traditionally Occupied or Used by Indigenous and Local Communities, adopted by the Conference of the Parties in its decision VI/16;

(f) The Guidelines on Biodiversity and Tourism Development adopted by the Conference of the Parties in its decision VII/14.

19. Under this agenda item, statements were made by experts from the following countries: Armenia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Ukraine.

20. Statements were also made by the representative of WWF Russia.

21. In the context of the discussion on the role of indicators for sustainable use, an intervention was also made by the representative of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Ms. Yvonne Higueiro. Ms. Higueiro briefed informed participants that the UNEP Regional Office for Europe cooperated closely with the European Environmental Agency (EEA) in the implementation of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS), and that a working group had recently been established under this framework to identify or develop indicators for sustainable use of biodiversity.

ITEM 4. REVIEW OF THE ADDIS ABABA PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES FOR THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF BIODIVERSITY

22. Based on a presentation by the facilitators and the representative of the Secretariat, the fourteen Addis Ababa Principles for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity, as well as their rationale and operational guidance, were reviewed by participants.

23. In the discussions under this item, statements were made by experts from the following countries: Armenia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine.

24. Interventions were also made by the representatives of WWF Russia, and of RAIPON.

ITEM 5. APPLICATION OF THE ADDIS ABABA PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES FOR THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF BIODIVERSITY

25. Under this agenda item, participating experts explored the applicability of the Addis Ababa Guidelines in concrete biodiversity management problems.

26. The item was introduced by the facilitator, Mr. David Lawson. He explained the different phases in management planning and presented an existing management programme for *Crocodylus porosus* and *Crocodylus johnstoni* in the Northern Territory of Australia. He explained that this management programme provides a concrete good practice example for successfully implementing the principles for sustainable use.

27. In addition, case-studies were presented by experts from the following countries: Czech Republic, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Poland, Ukraine.

28. The expert from the Czech Republic, Mr. Jan Plesnik, explained that the Czech Republic had a long tradition of sustainable management of natural resources, in particular of forest resources. He analysed the management plan established by the Czech Republic for the sustainable hunting of lynx, a critically endangered species. The programme failed because of low take-up: only two hunting licences

where granted in a period of heavy population loss as a result of poachers. In contrast, a number of activities of the government to foster the sustainable management of fish ponds, as an important artificial ecosystem in some regions of the Czech Republic, had had an important positive impact on the ecosystem services generated.

29. The expert from The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Mr. Sasko Jordanov, provided an assessment of the state and quantity of the populations of *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi* L. (*Spreng.*), which has been prepared in 2003 by Professor Vlado Matevski, Institute of Biology, Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, Skopje. He explained that the species was an important medicinal plant that was threatened by over-harvesting and described his Government's planned activities to conserve it and ensure its sustainable use.

30. The expert from the Republic of Moldova, Mr. Adam Begu, provided an overview of his Government's recent activities to expand the national network of natural reserves and then proceeded to present the case of the establishment of the Koblen State Natural Reserve as a concrete example for the establishment of a biodiversity conservation area, and in particular for the conservation of a small population of threatened hamsters, while at the same time managing competing use activities such as fishery and tourism.

31. The expert from Poland, Ms. Marta Kobielas, provided an overview on activities for sustainable use and biodiversity protection in Poleski National Park. She explained in particular that meadows ecosystems are an important artificial, managed ecosystem intermingled with the park prime conservation peatlands, and, by explaining their important ecological functions, underlined the importance of maintaining meadows, within a sustainable-use regime, in the park.

32. The expert from Ukraine, Mr. Valentin Scherbina, gave an overview on recent activities and policies related to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the Ukraine, and in particular highlighted a recent success in the conservation of bison whereby the population was relocated to a radioactive-contaminated area near Chernobyl, which provided a measure of protection from poachers.

33. In the discussions under this item, interventions were made by experts from the following countries: Armenia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine.

34. Interventions were also made by the representatives of WWF Russia and of RAIPON.

ITEM 6. ECOSYSTEM SERVICES ASSESSMENT

35. The item was introduced by the representative of the Secretariat. He recalled the classification of ecosystem services developed under the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment framework and how that classification related to the concept of total economic value (TEV). He explained that the benefits that biodiversity provided to people had not been well reflected in decision-making and resource management and, as a result, the current rate of loss of biodiversity was higher than what it would have been, had those benefits been taken into account. He also gave a brief overview of the various valuation methods that are available to estimate the different biodiversity values and their changes under different policy or management alternatives.

36. Two presentations were also given by experts from the Russian Federation, Mr. Georgy Fomenko, Ms. Fomenko, and Mr. Renat Perelet.

37. Mr. Georgy Fomenko and Ms. M. Fomenko presented Russian experiences with the valuation of ecosystem services. They highlighted the importance of principle 13 of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines by presenting the results of a study on the value of the different ecosystem services provided by the Kurshskaja Kosa National Park, and by drawing conclusions for the funding of the national park. By way of another study, on the arrangement of ecosystem services in the Ob-Tom interfluvium, they also highlighted the importance of principle 13 of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines, on the

involvement of, and fair sharing of benefits with, indigenous and local communities and local stakeholders.

38. Mr. Renat Perelet gave a presentation on economic issues related to the sustainable use of ecosystem goods and services. He highlighted the importance of improving markets and entrepreneurial activity related to ecosystem goods and services and discussed options for enhancing international cooperation on the establishment and management of such markets.

39. Under this item, statements were made by experts from the following countries: Armenia, Latvia, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine.

40. Statements were also made by the representatives of the UNEP Regional Office for Europe, IUCN, WWF Russia and RAIPON, as well as by Mr. David Lawson.

ITEM 7. FINANCIAL COSTS AND BENEFITS ASSOCIATED WITH THE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

41. The item was introduced by the representative of the Secretariat. He recalled the different types of costs and benefits, including financial costs and benefits, and said that they need to be adequately taken into account for effective policy planning and decision-making through appropriate capture mechanisms such as incentive measures. He discussed the implications of different mechanisms for the funding of activities for conservation and sustainable use, and also highlighted the distributional implications associated with the changing costs and benefits under different policies.

42. Under this item, interventions were made by representatives of the following countries: Armenia, Latvia, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Ukraine.

43. Interventions were also made by the representatives of UNEP-ROE, IUCN, WWF Russia, RAIPON, as well as by Mr. David Lawson.

44. In closing the discussion, the representative of the Secretariat explained that, based on the interventions made by participants, draft recommendations would be prepared in cooperation with the facilitators for consideration by participants under item 10 of the agenda.

ITEM 8. ASSESSMENT OF THE WORKSHOP

45. Participants were requested by the facilitators to evaluate to what extent the Workshop achieved their expectations and its objectives, and to provide feedback thereon by completing an assessment form. This feedback will help revise the structure of the workshop to better serve future participants.

ITEM 9. OTHER MATTERS

46. Further to a discussion among participants on the importance of indicators for sustainable use, a presentation was given by Mr. Alexander Shehovtsov of the Russian State Center for Environment Programmes (Rostehnadzora). Mr. Shehovtsov provided an overview on recent activities in the Russian Federation to develop and use environmental indicators as a means to enhance the enforcement of environment policies.

47. The representative of the Secretariat reminded participants that ongoing work under the programme of work on incentive measures included the preparation of documentation, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its eleventh meeting, on tools for the valuation of biodiversity and biodiversity resources and functions. He briefly summarized the contents of the draft documents on this topic that had been prepared by the Secretariat, and explained that an invitation for peer-review of the draft documents had recently been issued. He invited experts to participate in the peer-review of the drafts.

ITEM 10. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

48. Participants in the Workshop considered and adopted the present report and the annexed recommendations on the basis of the draft prepared and presented by the representative of the Secretariat on Friday, 2 June 2005. The final report of the Workshop will be submitted to SBSTTA at its eleventh meeting for its consideration prior to the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

ITEM 11. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

49. Closing remarks were provided by the representative of the Government of the Russian Federation, Mr. Valery A. Orlov, Deputy Head of Division, Ministry of Natural Resources.

50. Closing remarks were also provided by the representative of WWF Russia, Mr. Alexander Shestakov, designated local liaison officer to act on behalf of the Russian Government for the organization of the Central and Eastern European Regional Expert Workshop.

51. In closing the meeting, the representative of the Secretariat thanked the participants as well as the host country authorities and the local organizer for their presence and assistance throughout the meeting, and for hosting the meeting.

52. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the Workshop closed at 3 p.m. on Friday, 2 June 2005.

Annex I

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORKSHOP

The Central and Eastern European Regional Expert Workshop on Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity, in accordance with the mandate of decision VII/12 of the Conference of the Parties;

Having considered:

(a) The application of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines on Sustainable Use in a number of practical cases throughout the region,

(b) The role of assessment and valuation of ecosystem services in the context of principle 10 of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines on Sustainable Use;

(c) Financial and other types of costs and benefits associated with the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the context of principle 12 of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines on Sustainable Use,

Recalling decision V/24 of the Conference of the Parties, which states that conservation of biodiversity is a global service to humankind,

Recalling also that the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting, in decisions V/15 and V/24, noted the linkages with the programme of work on incentive measures and called for ensuring synergy with activities on incentive measures,

1. *Recognizes* that the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines on Sustainable Use are a useful tool to further sustainable use in the region, and that challenges in the application of the principles deserve further consideration;

2. *Invites* the United Nations Environment Programme, IUCN – The World Conservation Union, WWF, and other competent international organizations to provide further assistance (provision of training, development of methodologies and case-studies etc.) to the countries and the region to implement the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines, which were found to be of great relevance for the region and individual countries;

3. *Recommends* that the case-studies presented at the Workshop be made available, through the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention, for the participants as well as those who may be interested but did not participate in the Workshop;

4. *Underlines* the need for training materials and technical support to assist Parties, other governments, relevant stakeholders including the private sector, as well as indigenous and local communities to apply the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines on Sustainable Use;

5. *Underlines also* that there is a need for the development of practical indicators, taking into account ongoing work, to monitor the status of the biodiversity under use, as well as the performance of the resource management system, in order to assist governments and users of biodiversity in the application of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines on Sustainable Use;

6. *Recommends* that SBSTTA further considers:

(a) The application of the categories of ecosystem services provided by the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment in the context of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use;

(b) The development and application of means to incorporate, to the extent feasible, all costs and benefits associated with the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, including transboundary and global costs and benefits, in domestic and global decision-making on projects, programmes and policies, as well as in national economic accounts;

(c) Undertaking an analysis of ways and means for the international exchange of ecosystem services, taking into account existing ways and means such as the Kyoto mechanisms under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

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7. *Recognizes* further that there is need for:

(a) The application and, as appropriate, development of training materials and guidance on flexible and reliable tools for assessment and valuation of ecosystem services and biodiversity resources and functions;

(b) The development and implementation of mechanisms for sharing relevant information and experience amongst governments and technical experts in the field, including through regional electronic forums and the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention, as appropriate;

(c) The design and implementation of means for Parties, other Governments and relevant stakeholders including the private sector, as well as indigenous and local communities, to secure advice and assistance in the application of methods to assess the values of ecosystem services;

(d) The identification or, as appropriate, development of methods for the rapid valuation of the change in ecosystem services associated with the implementation of new projects, programmes and policies, such as through the application of rapid-assessment methodologies or benefits-transfer approaches;

8. *Welcomes* the recent work undertaken by the Executive Secretary, in the context of the programme of work on incentive measures, on the analysis of existing valuation tools and other methodologies for prioritization in decision-making, as well as the development of proposals on the application of such tools, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its eleventh meeting.

9. *Recommends* that SBSTTA request the Executive Secretary to:

(a) Communicate to the World Trade Organization the importance of enhanced market access and international trade in biodiversity goods that are produced in a sustainable manner as a practical measure to generate incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity; and

(b) Prepare an analysis of economic issues related to the provision of ecosystem goods and services in the Central and Eastern European region, in cooperation with relevant organizations, for consideration by SBSTTA.

Annex II

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Country	Expert
Armenia	Ms. Tatyana Danielyan
Czech Republic	Mr. Jan Plesnik
Estonia	Mr. Mart Külvik
Georgia	Mr. Givi Ninikashvili
Latvia	Ms. Ilona Mendzina
Poland	Ms. Marta Kobielas
Russian Federation	Mr. Sergey Bobylev
Russian Federation	Mr. Georgy Fomenko
Russian Federation	Ms. M. Fomenko
Russian Federation	Mr. Renat Perelet
Russian Federation	Mr. Alexander Shehovtsov
Republic of Moldova	Mr. Adam Begu
The former Yugoslav Rep. Of Macedonia	Mr. Sasko Jordanov
Ukraine	Mr. Valentin Scherbina

Organization	Expert
RAIPON	Mr. Mikhail Todyshev
RAIPON	Ms. Olga Timofeeva-Tereskina
UNEP-ROE	Ms. Yvonne Higuero
Independent expert	Mr. David Lawson
IUCN (Switzerland)	Mr. Steve Edwards
UNEP-SCBD	Mr. Markus Lehmann

Representatives of the host country	
Russian Federation	Mr. Amirkhan M. Amirkhanov
Russian Federation	Mr. Valery A. Orlov
WWF Russia	Mr. Alexander Shestakov
