



BRIEFING PAPER

BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY OF INLAND WATERS ECOSYSTEM

COP 10

By Edna Kaptoyo

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“Return to old watering holes for more than water; friends and dreams are there to meet you”

African Quote

Background

The CBD entered into force on 29 December 1993. There are currently 193 parties to the Convention, which aims to promote the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources. The COP is the governing body of the Convention. It is assisted by SBSTTA, which is mandated, under CBD Article 25, to provide the COP with advice relating to the Convention’s implementation.

Inland waters biodiversity and ecosystems plays a very important role in traditional food systems especially in food security and food sovereignty of Indigenous Peoples. Indigenous Peoples traditional knowledge has been built through their unique relationship to their lands, territories and environment.

An analysis of issues discussed in relevant past meetings (AHTEG, past COP decisions or at least COP9 decisions, and texts and discussions from SBSTTA14 and WGR1)

Past COP Decisions

At its fourth meeting (COP 4) (May 1998, Bratislava, Slovakia), the COP adopted thematic programmes of work on inland waters ecosystems and marine and coastal biodiversity, and decided to consider Protected Areas as one of the three main themes at COP 7.

At its seventh meeting (COP 7) (February 2004, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia), the COP also adopted: a decision to review implementation of the Convention, its Strategic Plan and progress towards achieving the 2010 target; the Akwé: Kon Guidelines for cultural, environmental and social impact assessments; the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for sustainable use; and decisions on incentive measures, inland waters, and marine and coastal biodiversity

At COP 8 the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity recognized the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands as the lead implementing partner on wetlands for the Convention on Biological Diversity. It was at this meeting that the definition of “wetland” used by the Ramsar Convention includes all categories of inland water ecosystems was noted. Also call for proposals to further ways and means a strategic approach to identify key stakeholders and promote, where appropriate, their full involvement in reducing drivers of negative change and increasing drivers of positive change; and Involving stakeholders in monitoring and reporting on the drivers of change, status and trends of biological diversity and implementation of the programme of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems was made at COP 8.

COP 9: Decision IX/19

The 9th COP which was held in Bonn, Germany from May 19 to 30 May 2008 under the theme “One Nature-One World-Our Future”, called for the need for collective action to address the drastic decline in the world’s biological diversity. Thirty five decisions were adopted at the ninth session aimed at initiating enhanced commitment to and implementation of the Convention, meeting the 2010 target of reducing biodiversity loss and furthering the fulfilment of the three objectives of the Convention, through a number of agreed upon measures that support conservation measures, ways to ensure sustainable use and a set of rules to ensure the equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources.

In COP 9 Decision IX/19 a considerable amount of attention focused on the work of the Ramsar Convention. The decisions made reference to the progress of contracting parties to the Ramsar convention with regards to comprehensive coverage of wetlands

supporting a wide range of inland water biodiversity through the designation of Ramsar sites; Ramsar work on the allocation and management of water for maintaining ecosystem functions and provision of their goods and services . The COP also decided on the importance of improved arrangements for international cooperation on water resources to the implementation of the programme of work on the biological diversity of inland waters ecosystems and other existing instruments operating at all levels. Parties were urged to as appropriate and where necessary to strengthen relevant international cooperative arrangements for the management of inland watercourses and waterbodies consistent with Article 5 of the convention.

Joint work between the CBD and the Ramsar convention was also endorsed and recognition was made on the vulnerability of inland waters ecosystem to climate change and consequent need to improve their management.

Indigenous peoples at the 9th COP expressed their concerns that contamination of inland waters, construction of hydro-electric power stations, development of extractive industries and artificial diversions of rivers has led to loss of biodiversity and related TK of IP's. It is therefore necessary that Parties recognize traditional water resource management and studies should be conducted on the impacts of dams and pollution of inland waters to biodiversity, including transboundary waters.

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice 13 (SBSTTA 13)

SBSTTA 13 recommendations called for the need for clear expressions of the roles of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Ramsar Convention and also welcomed the joint works programme between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Ramsar convention.

The decision made at this meeting focused on CBD and Ramsar work

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice 14

(SBSTTA 14)

The SBSTTA 14 was held in Nairobi, Kenya from May 10 – 21, 2010 at UNEP Gigiri. One of its main tasks was to examine in-depth the review of the programme of work on inland waters biodiversity (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14).

SBSTTA 14 launched the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO) and adopted 18 recommendations that will be submitted to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the CBD, to be held from 18-29 October 2010, in Nagoya, Japan. The recommendations address: in-depth reviews of implementation of the programmes of work inland waters biodiversity among other thematic areas. Contact groups and Friends of the Co-Chairs' groups were established throughout the meeting. Plenary met to discuss ways and means to improve SBSTTA's effectiveness, and new and emerging issues, and adopt recommendations from the working groups. SBSTTA 14 made some progress on several issues by laying out clear options for decision making at COP 10.

In depth review on the implementation of work on Inland waters biodiversity among other thematic areas was considered in Working Group I. In the review of the programme of work on the biodiversity of inland water ecosystems (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/3) and INF/1 and 3) a draft recommendation (UNEP/ CBD/SBSTTA/14/WG.1/CRP.3) was discussed paragraph by- paragraph and approved with some amendments in plenary. Discussions focused, among other things, on water security, linkages with the Ramsar Convention, climate change, and payment for ecosystem services.

New Zealand, supported by India and opposed by Portugal, Malawi and China, suggested deleting reference to the role of biodiversity in water security-arguing supported by Turkey- that water security for people is outside the CBD mandate, and requesting to focus on ecosystems. Brazil suggested bracketing references to "water security," pointing to a lack of an internationally agreed definition and also cautioned against language on realigning water allocation policies based on supply, suggesting reference to demands. Delegates discussed and eventually agreed to: "encourage," rather than "urge," parties to ensure water allocation policies are based on the need to achieve water security for

ecosystems, bearing in mind the demands and need for sustainable supplies for all uses both in urban and rural sectors.

Japan suggested strengthening the CBD partnership with the Ramsar Convention. Burkina Faso proposed text encouraging the inscription of wetland areas on the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance. The Ramsar Convention identified indicators and reporting as opportunities for improved collaboration, and separate consideration of inland waters and marine ecosystems under the CBD as a potential obstacle.

On climate change, Brazil proposed recognizing the interdependence of the carbon and water cycles both in mitigation and adaptation activities. Finland pointed to synergies between freshwater biodiversity and climate change, proposing maintaining and restoring the connectivity of inland water ecosystems with terrestrial and marine ecosystems for climate change adaptation and to minimize biodiversity degradation, with Turkey requesting insertion of “where appropriate.” New Zealand cautioned that carbon and water cycles are only indirectly linked.

New Zealand, opposed by Belgium and Uganda, favored recognizing the economic benefits of ecosystem services, rather than proposed text on further developing the payment for the ecosystem services approach and agreed on the wording “as appropriate.”

The recommendation on the in-depth review of implementation of the programme of work on inland waters biodiversity (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/L.3) addresses: implementation of the programme of work; climate change; scientific needs; implementation; biodiversity and natural disasters; and biodiversity, water and the Strategic Plan. Its recommendations to the COP were that implementation needs to be significantly enhanced through better coherence between land- and wateruse policies and activities, better incorporation of water issues into other programmes of work and improved recognition of the relevance of inland water ecosystem services to human health, poverty reduction, sustainable development and climate change; urges governments to refer to the programme of work on IAS when implementing the programme of work on inland water ecosystems; encourages parties, governments and

relevant organizations to reinforce capacity for the implementation of the programme of work by, *inter alia*, extending PAs and ecological networks for inland water biodiversity and designating full appropriate networks of wetland areas throughout river basins for the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance; exploring ways and means to further develop and implement, as appropriate, the “payment for ecosystem services” approach; and ensuring that the connectivity of inland water ecosystems with terrestrial and marine ecosystems is maintained, where appropriate, and, where necessary, restored, in order to adapt to the adverse impact of climate change and also minimize the degradation of biodiversity; encourages governments, where appropriate, to ensure that their water allocation policies are based on the need to achieve water security for ecosystems and to continue to investigate ways and means to reduce the negative impacts of water use by agriculture, especially by irrigation, on inland water ecosystems and bearing in mind the demand and need for sustainable supplies for all uses in urban and rural sectors; and urges governments to, *inter alia*, recognize the interdependence of the carbon and water cycles in their climate change mitigation and adoption activities.

The recommendations mentioned that the loss of critical services associated with this biodiversity loss, and in particular water-related services, including water supply for ecosystems and people as well as the dependence on human societies on water ecosystems.

Outstanding issues of relevance to Indigenous Peoples

- Indigenous Peoples must prepare and strategize about the bracketed section on has made reference to people and human societies and there is the opportunity for indigenous peoples to advocate for inclusion of indigenous peoples as a group that relies on services from inland water ecosystems.
- References to water security are bracketed throughout the recommendation text, it is important for indigenous peoples to advocate for the removal of brackets because it is used in reference to people and measure to reduce pressure of cities on water.

- Indigenous peoples traditional knowledge of maintaining the ecosystem and their sustainable use of biodiversity and providing goods and services must be recognized in the mission and vision of the programme of work on inland water biodiversity of the convention and must be implemented in an holistic way. Indigenous peoples during the ninth COP called on the Parties, in accordance with the UN Declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples, Articles 8(j) of CBD and other international instruments, to recognize traditional water management systems of indigenous peoples and to make every effort to implement comprehensive measures including studies of the impacts of dams and inland waters pollution on bio resources and human health, and to conduct related socio-economic impact assessments.
- Concerning the issue of climate change and biodiversity of inland waters, indigenous peoples must reiterate on the need for urgent action and focus on people since the negative impact is on biodiversity associated with the culture, language and traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and their health. In fact, we are facing the threat of not only extinction of biodiversity, but also disappearance of our culture and dying out of entire ethnic groups, which can bring about irreversible consequences for the mankind. It is therefore essential for us that wise policies be pursued by states with respect to indigenous peoples and appropriate urgent actions be taken.
- There is need to reiterate the importance of considering the water ecosystems and their vulnerability to invasive alien species and urge Parties and other Governments to refer to the programme of work on invasive alien species when implementing the programme of work on inland water ecosystems.
- In Annex 11(c), there is danger for indigenous peoples as the text calls for extending protected areas with regards to inland waters.
Reinforcing their conservation efforts including, *inter alia*, extending protected areas and ecological networks for inland water biodiversity and through designating full appropriate networks of wetland areas throughout river basins for

the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance and through international cooperation in the management of inland water resources

- Indigenous peoples should call on parties to investigate ways and means to reduce water consumption for irrigation in agriculture, hydro electric dams etc especially through increased efficiency and demand management
- Call for development and implementation of legal measures, at all levels with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples, to halt unsustainable utilization of inland water ecosystems

Conclusion

Indigenous Peoples must continue to call for the inclusion of Indigenous Peoples rights in the negotiating texts. Indigenous Peoples rights must be established, recognized, protected and promoted at the international, regional and national levels. In this context, it is essential that Indigenous Peoples advocate the promotion and implementation of the significant articles related to inland waters biodiversity, traditional knowledge and lands and territories contained within the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

ANNEX

XIV/2. In-depth review of the programme of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

1. *Requests* the Executive Secretary and *invites* the Scientific and Technical Review Panel of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, in collaboration with other relevant organizations and initiatives, to prepare proposals for strengthening policy-relevant scientific advice regarding the linkages outlined in paragraph 31 of the draft decision in paragraph 3 below, including options for convening expert group meetings and potential terms of reference for such meetings, and to submit proposals to this effect for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting;

2. *Recommends to* [WGRI] that in the relation to paragraph 42 of the draft decision in paragraph 3 below, that in the process of revising and updating the Strategic Plan and its goals and targets, there is stronger reflection of the importance of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for [water security]; and that a goal or target is developed and included to reflect this;

3. *Recommends* that the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Notes with concern* the overall continuing and accelerating rate of loss of the biodiversity of inland water ecosystems and the rapidly increasing pressures from the drivers of change in these ecosystems; that the loss of critical services associated with this biodiversity loss, and in particular water-related services, including water supply for both ecosystems and people and the mitigation of hydrological extremes, are already resulting in significant economic, social and environmental costs, which are projected to rapidly escalate;

2. *Expresses its concern* that major anthropogenic changes are ongoing in the Earth's water cycle at the global, regional and local scales through direct water use; that

the limits of sustainability of both surface water and groundwater resources have already been reached or surpassed in many regions; that demands for water continue to increase; that these trends may be more pronounced in some areas through climate change; and that water-related stresses on both **people** and biodiversity are rapidly escalating;

3. *Notes with appreciation* the continuing value of national reports of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands in providing key information on the status and trends of inland water biodiversity and drivers of change, and *expresses its appreciation* for the inputs of the Secretariat and Scientific and Technical Review Panel of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands into the in-depth review;

4. *Stresses* that human societies rely on numerous services from inland water ecosystems and that biodiversity underpins those ecosystem services;

5. *Notes* that water is one of the most valuable natural resources and that **[water security]** for ecosystems and people is widely agreed to be the primary natural resource challenge, and stresses that water is the key natural resource link between the various Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and biodiversity;

Implementation of the programme of work

6. *Concludes* that the programme of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems remains a good framework for implementation of relevant activities but that implementation needs to be significantly enhanced through better coherence between land- and water-use policies and activities, better incorporation of water issues into other programmes of work of the Convention and improved recognition of the relevance of inland water ecosystem services to **human health**, poverty reduction, sustainable development and climate change;

7. *Notes with concern* evidence that proves that inland water ecosystems are particularly vulnerable to invasive alien species and *urges* Parties and other Governments to refer to the programme of work on invasive alien species when implementing the programme of work on inland water ecosystems;

8. *Urges* Parties and other Governments to develop and implement national and regional action plans and to enforce existing legal measures in order to halt

unsustainable utilization, and promote the conservation and sustainable use, of inland water biodiversity;

9. *Recalling* decision IX/19, paragraph 3, *alerts* Parties and other Governments of the continuing need to further strengthen efforts towards international cooperation at the regional and bilateral level regarding inland water resources;

10. *Urges* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to reinforce their efforts for the implementation of the programme of work on inland water biodiversity, taking into account the relevant goals and targets of the Strategic Plan for the post-2010 period;

11. *Encourages* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to reinforce capacity for the implementation of the programme of work, including institutional coordination, with particular emphasis on the contribution of the programme of work to the achievement of sustainable development, poverty alleviation and achieving the Millennium Development Goals by, *inter alia*:

(a) Enhancing coordination and collaboration between all sectors using water and other resources associated with inland water ecosystems to avoid negative impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services;

(b) Further incorporating biodiversity considerations into Integrated Water Resources Management and related approaches;

(c) Reinforcing their conservation efforts including, *inter alia*, extending protected areas and ecological networks for inland water biodiversity and through designating full appropriate networks of wetland areas throughout river basins for the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance and through international cooperation in the management of inland water resources;

(d) Enhancing efforts to address the drivers of inland water biodiversity degradation and loss by integrating biodiversity considerations, where appropriate, into decision-making by other sectors, e.g., energy production, transport, agriculture, fisheries, tourism and into regional development plans and with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities;

(e) Addressing the alteration of water flows that are detrimental to biodiversity and ecosystem services;

(f) Preventing unsustainable use of groundwater;

(g) Rehabilitating degraded inland water ecosystems and their services;

(h) Exploring ways and means to further develop and implement, **as appropriate**, the “payment for ecosystem services” approach;

(i) Exploring opportunities to strengthen resource allocation for capacity-building for implementation, as **might be** justified by the economic benefits of improved inland water ecosystem management; and

(j) Ensuring that the connectivity of inland water ecosystems with terrestrial and marine ecosystems is maintained, where appropriate, and where necessary restored, in order to adapt to the adverse impact of climate change and also minimize the degradation of biodiversity;

12. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to support programmes and activities at regional and national levels to address the drivers of loss of biodiversity of inland water ecosystems;

13. *Encourages* Parties and other Governments to take into full account inland water ecosystems and their values in their sectoral development plans;

14. *Recognizing* the importance of inland water ecosystems on islands, their often unique inland water biodiversity and, in particular, their role in sustaining limited water supplies on islands, *urges* small island developing States, as appropriate, to give increased attention to the implementation of the programme of work;

15. *Recognizes* the rapidly urbanizing global population and the importance of water supplies to cities and *urges* Parties and other Governments to take measures to reduce the pressure of cities on water and in particular on inland water ecosystems and to strengthen attention to the role of urban authorities and **other stakeholders** including indigenous peoples and local communities and involve them further in support of measures to increase **[water security]** for ecosystems;

16. *Notes* that there is a need to clarify the scope of, and interlinkages between, the programmes of work on inland water biodiversity and marine and coastal biodiversity of the Convention on Biological Diversity in coastal areas, including with regard to coverage of coastal wetlands under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, and *requests* the Executive Secretary and *invites* the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands to include under the Joint Work Plan between the two conventions an assessment of ways and means to address relevant inland water biodiversity needs in coastal areas and to report on this matter to the next meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice;

17. *Encourages* Parties and other Governments, where appropriate, to ensure that their water allocation policies are based on the need to achieve [water security] for ecosystems and bearing in mind the demand and need for sustainable supplies for all uses in urban and rural sectors and that these policies should not prevent traditional, cultural and other values of the inland waters by indigenous peoples;

18. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in partnership with relevant organizations, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Water Management Institute, to continue to investigate ways and means to reduce the negative impacts of water use by agriculture, especially by irrigation, on inland water ecosystems and to enhance the ability of ecosystems to contribute to improved [water security] and quality for food production for present and future generations;

19. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Secretariat and the Scientific and Technical Review Panel of the Ramsar Convention, to undertake an analysis of information in the fourth national reports to the Convention on Biological Diversity relevant to the status and trends of wetlands and drivers of change in wetlands, from all programme areas, and report the findings to the Scientific and Technical Review Panel and Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands in order to strengthen mutual information flow between the two conventions and in particular to inform, *inter alia*, the planned report on the State of the Worlds Wetlands;

20. *Urges* Parties and other Governments to consider the need for joint implementation of elements of the programmes of work on inland water ecosystems and marine and coastal ecosystems, taking into account the role of biodiversity in the water cycle;

Climate change

21. *Notes* the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Technical Report *Climate Change and Water*, which concludes, *inter alia*, that the relationship between climate change and freshwater resources is a matter of primary concern as water quality and availability will be severely affected by climate change;

22. *Notes* that the carbon cycle and the water cycle are perhaps the two most important large-scale biogeological processes for life on Earth and that these two cycles are broadly linked;

23. *Notes* that inland water ecosystems are significant stores of carbon and that peatlands and other wetlands have very high carbon stocks, particularly below ground, as recognized in decision IX/16 D, and as recognized by the report of the second Ad-Hoc Technical Working Group on biodiversity and climate change (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/INF/21) that peatlands and other wetlands store more carbon than the world's tropical forests;

24. *Urges* Parties and other Governments to:

(a) Recognize the prominence of changes occurring in the water cycle when considering the impacts of climate change on terrestrial, inland and coastal ecosystems and also therefore the importance of the role of the water-related services provided by ecosystems, in particular inland water ecosystems, in ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change;

(b) Ensure that their 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 inland water ecosystems; and that these adaptation and mitigation activities do not violate the rights of indigenous peoples and affect their livelihood.

(c) Recognize the inter-dependence of the carbon and water cycles in their climate change mitigation and adaptation activities and, in particular, the need to sustain the water cycle in order to ensure [water security] for ecosystems and thereby sustain the carbon storage services they provide;

25. *Encourages* Parties and other Governments to take into consideration the adaptation and mitigation capacities of wetlands when developing their climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies;

26. *Notes* that water provides strong linkages between biodiversity, climate change and desertification and *invites* Parties and other Governments to build upon these linkages to further strengthen coherence between these subjects at the national level, as appropriate, to strengthen coordination between the Convention on Biological Diversity and other multilateral environmental agreements, such as the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, taking into account the crucial role of Convention on Biological Diversity in this context, and *requests* the Executive Secretary to use these linkages to strengthen collaboration within and between the Joint Liaison Group and the Biodiversity Liaison Group;

27. *Stresses* that reducing wetlands degradation and loss can provide multiple benefits for biodiversity and reduce greenhouse-gas emissions and *invites* relevant bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to consider the issue of reducing emissions from wetlands degradation and loss in their framework;

Scientific needs

28. *Recognizes* the need for enhanced science-policy coordination and integration between natural and socio-economic sciences and notably between the inter-related subjects of biodiversity, terrestrial and inland water ecosystem functioning and service provision, land- and water-use practices, [water security], poverty reduction, sustainable development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;

29. *Notes* the importance of robust data on inland water species in determining the status and trends of these ecosystems, including as key underlying data for other

assessments and initiatives, including, *inter alia*, the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook and the 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, and *expresses its appreciation* to those organizations, initiatives and individuals responsible for generating and maintaining these datasets;

30. *Urges* Parties and other Governments to support strengthened capacity for monitoring of the biodiversity of inland water ecosystems, including at the species level;

31. *Recognizes* the need for improved guidance on the relationships between biodiversity and water and *calls for* further policy-relevant scientific assessments of the relationships between biodiversity, hydrology, ecosystem services and sustainable development, in particular regarding, *inter alia*:

(a) The relationships between the carbon and water cycles, and policies and management interventions in each, and the ability of biodiversity to underpin both cycles; and

(b) The impact of the direct anthropogenic use of water on terrestrial biodiversity, and *vice versa*, including, *inter alia*, fluxes between soil moisture, groundwater and evapotranspiration of plants, and shifts in local and regional precipitation, taking into account any additional water-induced stresses on ecosystems through climate change;

and *invites* Parties and other Governments to provide technical and financial support for this work;

32. *Recognizes* the need for improved incorporation of biodiversity and ecosystem-service considerations in water-resources scenario planning and *requests* the Executive Secretary and *invites* the Scientific and Technical Review Panel of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands to strengthen and contribute to ongoing processes in this regard, including, *inter alia*, the scenario analysis being undertaken for the Fourth World Water Development Report; and *invites* Parties and other Governments to provide technical and financial support to this end;

Implementation

33. *Welcomes with appreciation* the development and expanded use of tools to assist implementation of the programme of work by Parties, other Governments, international and non-governmental organizations and other partners, and *encourages* their further development and wider application while *noting* that priority needs lie in the social, economic, institutional and policy arenas in order to better coordinate the management of the multiple drivers of change to inland water ecosystems so as to achieve balanced, fair, equitable and sustained delivery of their multiple services as a contribution to sustainable development;

34. *Invites* Parties and other Governments to pay attention to the increasing relevance of existing guidance available under, and resolutions of, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and to continue, and strengthen where necessary, consideration of this guidance and resolutions;

35. *Urges* Parties to both the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands to take more comprehensive measures for joint implementation of the two conventions at the national level, amongst other means by using the TEMATEA tool;

36. *Notes* that 2011 represents the fortieth anniversary of the negotiation of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, and *encourages* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to contribute to celebrations of this event and to utilize this as an additional opportunity to further strengthen efforts between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands;

37. *Urges* Parties and other Governments to consider the implications of changes in the water cycle, and freshwater resources, where relevant and feasible, in the implementation of all thematic and cross-cutting programmes of work, and with special attention to the links between hydrology, biodiversity, ecosystem functioning and sustainable development; and *requests* the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technical Advice to consider these aspects in their relevant deliberations;

Biodiversity and natural disasters

38. *Noting* the role of biodiversity and ecosystems in providing services that reduce vulnerability to and the impact of some natural disasters, in particular water-related impacts such as flooding and drought, and that current global changes are anticipated to increase disaster vulnerability and risk;

39. *Encourages* Parties and other Governments to recognize the role of healthy ecosystems, and in particular wetlands, in protecting human communities indigenous peoples and local communities from some natural disasters and to integrate these considerations into relevant policies;

40. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to resources, in collaboration with partners, including the Ramsar Convention and the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction to:

(a) Undertake a gap analysis in relation to inland water biodiversity and ecosystem services and their potential role in disaster-risk reduction;

(b) Address these gaps, as necessary, and within the mandate of the Convention on Biological Diversity, through strengthened tools and information, including policy and management guidance; and

(c) Strengthen capacity-support to these ends, as a means to assist Parties to improve the contribution of inland water biodiversity and ecosystem services to natural disaster risk reduction;

and *invites* Parties and other Governments to provide technical and financial support to this end;

Biodiversity, water and the Strategic Plan

41. *Notes* that water provisioning, regulation and purification:

(a) Are critically important services provided by ecosystems, underpinned by biodiversity, and essential to sustainable development;

(b) Are essential for the continued functioning of terrestrial, inland and coastal ecosystems and the existence of biodiversity within these; and

(c) That there is a clear scientific and technical basis to strengthen attention to water across all relevant interests and programmes of work of the Convention;

42. Making full use of the opportunities presented by the recognition of the role of biodiversity in the achievement of [water security], *urges* Parties, other Governments, and relevant organizations to mainstream biodiversity into all sectors of government and society as a contribution to the achievement of the objectives of the Convention.