This information document is relevant to the Long-term Framework for Capacity Development and the Knowledge Management Component of the Global Biodiversity Framework to be considered under Agenda Item 7 of the Third Meeting of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation on “Capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer, knowledge management and communication”.

The implementation of these elements of the Global Biodiversity Framework depends on the commitment, collaboration and partnership of organisations around the world, and the Decisions on this agenda item to be adopted at the 15th Conference of the Parties will likely call for this commitment and partnership.

This document was prepared by IUCN, the International Union for Conservation of Nature and the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission.

Annex 1 contains suggested text references in the Draft Decision to be recommended to the 15th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

BIOPAMA is implemented in 79 countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific. It involves collaboration with all relevant regional institutions including:

- Secretariat of Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)
- University of the West Indies
- Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD)
- Central African Forests Observatory (COMIFAC OFAC)
- Centre de Suivi Ecologique (CSE)
- Regional Network of Marine Protected Areas (RAMAPO)
- University of Ghana
- the Agrhymet Centre and
- the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU).
1. SUMMARY AND RECOGNITION OF THE INVESTMENT BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE ORGANISATION OF AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC STATES

BIOPAMA, the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management Programme, contributes to the long-term strategic framework for capacity development, the knowledge management component and the establishment of global and regional cooperation support centres in support of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (CBD/SBI/3/7/Add.2, section V.15 - 21).

The European Union (EU) and the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) together with regional institutions have invested in regional information systems, regional observatories and a granting programme through the BIOPAMA (Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management) initiative. These are partnerships and mechanisms for capacity development and technology transfer that will support the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework. They also support translation of knowledge into action, and will contribute towards monitoring and reporting against the goals and targets of the Global Biodiversity Framework.

The information and diagnostic tools will further define needs for resource mobilisation and capacity development.

BIOPAMA aims at strengthening the management and governance of protected and conserved areas and it supports Parties to the Convention in achieving their conservation objectives and to report more accurately their progress on relevant multilateral environmental agreements. BIOPAMA’s relevance and contributions to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, progress towards the Aichi Targets and the Sustainable Development Goals have already been acknowledged in CBD Decision XI/24, which called on initiatives such as BIOPAMA “to align capacity-building so as to further support implementation of national action plans for the programme of work on protected areas, and to continue to develop technical guidance to achieve the full scope of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11”.

In the context of the emerging Global Biodiversity Framework, BIOPAMA will contribute towards the capacity development of staff and organisations, and the knowledge and information management, through the five regional centres for protected areas and biodiversity and their reference information systems, and the grant-making facility, the “Action Component”.

Figure 1. From knowledge to action: BIOPAMA logic of intervention.
2. RECOGNITION OF GLOBAL AND REGIONAL CENTRES AND THE REPORTING FRAMEWORK

Mandated by regional organisations BIOPAMA has established five regional centres for biodiversity and protected areas management or “regional observatories”, that serve 79 countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific regions. Their mission includes:

- Information and knowledge management: data collection, current and complete data, analysis, monitoring and reporting;
- capacity development for staff and organisations to manage this information and provide policy guidance for better decision making on biodiversity conservation; and
- networking and communication.

These Regional Observatories help to achieve:

- Improved decision-making at local and national levels by collating and managing high quality and verified biodiversity datasets and information.
- An open-data practice as a global resource by making these data and information available freely and by promoting and encouraging their use.
- Effective tracking of progress against global, regional and national biodiversity goals such as the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, progress towards the Aichi Targets and the Sustainable Development Goals, and the forthcoming Global Biodiversity Framework.

The Regional Observatories catalyse and facilitate technical cooperation and technology transfer. They facilitate liaison between Parties and stakeholders and they provide tailored support to Parties’ needs and requirements. The BIOPAMA regional observatories for protected areas and biodiversity make a direct contribution to the objectives of the Global Biodiversity Framework. For Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific these regional observatories are ideally placed to be advanced options for establishing the proposed “regional cooperation support centres”.

The five BIOPAMA-established regional observatories are:

- The “Regional Resource Hub” for Eastern and Southern Africa (RRH), hosted by the Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD)
- The “Caribbean Protected Areas Gateway”, (CPAG) hosted by the University of the West Indies
- The “Observatoire des Forêts d’Afrique Centrale”, (OFAC) hosted by the Commission des Forêts d’Afrique Centrale (COMIFAC)
- The “Observatoire pour la biodiversité et les aires protégées en Afrique de l’Ouest”(OBAPAO) hosted by Centre de Suivi Ecologique (CSE), (CSE), the Regional Network of Marine Protected Areas (RAMAPO), the University of Ghana, the Agrhyмет Centre and the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU)
- The “SPREP Regional Programme of Support for Protected Areas” (SPREP-PA), hosted by the the Secretariat of Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

Consequently, Parties are encouraged to make reference to BIOPAMA and these Regional Observatories as contributing to the proposed regional networks and regional biodiversity when formulating the decisions under Item 7 of the Provisional Agenda of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation on Capacity Development, Technical and Scientific Cooperation and Technology Transfer. V. ELEMENTS OF A DRAFT RECOMMENDATION. Specific text suggestions are made in Annex 1.
The Regional Observatories catalyse and facilitate technical cooperation and technology transfer. They facilitate liaison between Parties and stakeholders and they provide tailored support to Parties’ needs and requirements.

Example of the Central African Observatory

The Central Africa Protected Areas Portal hosted by the Central Africa Forest Observatory (OFAC), a specialised unit of the Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC) displays protected area information of 10 countries in the region and tracks progress against regional and global conventions and agreements. It compiles and maintains a spatial protected areas dataset in collaboration with the relevant protected area national agencies linked with the World Database on Protected Areas. It has enhanced the accuracy and completeness of data in the WDPA, and has provided analytical tools for decision-making.

The Regional Observatories catalyse and facilitate technical cooperation and technology transfer. They facilitate liaison between Parties and stakeholders and they provide tailored support to Parties’ needs and requirements.

Figure 2. The functions of the BIOPAMA Regional Observatories allow data and information to be translated into decision-support for enhanced governance and management of protected and conserved areas.

3. INVESTMENT IN EARLY ACTIONS, LEARNING AND CAPACITY ACTORS

As currently stated in the documentation to be considered by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, “Reliance solely on databases to collect and communicate the needs of Parties on the one hand, and opportunities and/or existing technologies to meet those needs on the other is not sufficient to catalyse and facilitate technical cooperation and technology transfer. Interventions to facilitate the liaison between Parties and stakeholders that have needs with those that can offer assistance is often required. Matchmaking continues to be a key modality for facilitating technical and scientific cooperation”. BIOPAMA is addressing this need.

BIOPAMA’s grant-making facility, the “Action Component” supports governments and relevant non-government actors to effectively and sustainably contribute to the achievement of the goals and 2030 action targets of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework by:
1. mobilising additional resources;
2. facilitating access and utilisation of data and information.

Figure 3. Extract of the Central African Observatory dashboard.
The BIOPAMA Action Component fosters partnerships and multi-stakeholder initiatives. To date, 93 grants are already supporting actions on the ground, including Rapid Response Grants to address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on protected and conserved areas and the local communities.

In mobilising knowledge from management effectiveness and governance assessments and strategic documents, the BIOPAMA Action Component addresses priorities for action to strengthen the management effectiveness and governance of protected and conserved areas. The Regional Observatories play an important role in managing the information and knowledge generated by the implementation of the BIOPAMA-funded projects.

By highlighting progress against global targets, and more particularly the headline indicators of the monitoring framework for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, the BIOPAMA Action Component will support Parties by enhancing the planning, reporting and review mechanisms.

Capacity development has been a strong focus of the BIOPAMA programme since 2012. Regional strategies for capacity development have been developed and implemented based on assessments and regional consultations. More than 120 training programmes and workshops were organized and more than 2,000 professionals, NGOs, academics, local communities and private sector have been trained on relevant protected and conserved area subjects including “other effective conservation measures” for their specific contexts. Capacity development and knowledge management are key cross-cutting themes of the BIOPAMA regional observatories, their reference information systems and the grant-making facility.

Figure 4. Overview of the BIOPAMA support to protected and conserved areas (PCAs) in Africa, the Caribbean, and the Pacific. Legend: protected areas represented in pink are BIOPAMA Action Component supported PCAs. Protected areas in blue and green are marine and coastal, and terrestrial PCAs.