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**BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AND TOURISM: DRAFT GUIDELINES FOR
ACTIVITIES RELATED TO SUSTAINABLE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AND CASE-STUDIES ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE GUIDELINES***Synopsis of existing case-studies on the implementation of the draft guidelines on sustainable
tourism development in vulnerable ecosystems***I. INTRODUCTION**

1. In its decision VI/14, on biological diversity and tourism, the Conference of the Parties took note of the progress made in the development of guidelines for activities related to sustainable tourism development and biological diversity in vulnerable terrestrial, marine and mountain ecosystems and requested the Executive Secretary to review the current text of the guidelines and to gather and compile existing case-studies on their implementation and make them available to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice for its consideration at a meeting prior to the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

2. Pursuant to this decision, the present note contains a synopsis of two existing case-studies on the draft guidelines on sustainable tourism in vulnerable ecosystems that were brought to the attention of the Secretariat: the Tayrona National Park in Colombia and the natural and cultural heritage of Banska Stiavnica in Slovakia. The first case-study is based on discussions and information presented at a workshop held in Tayrona in November 2001. The second case-study is based on information provided by an ongoing project in Banska Stiavnica and the outcome of a workshop held in Varin, Slovakia, in October 2002, on the role of the guidelines in the development and management of tourism activities, which made recommendations on the applicability and use of the guidelines in Central and Eastern Europe. The full text of the case-studies, as well as the recommendations made during the workshops, are available on the Secretariat's website at: <http://www.biodiv.org/programmes/socio-eco/tourism/gd-cs.asp>.

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3. This summary highlights the main problems encountered in the above areas in the management of tourism activities, and discusses the strengths and weaknesses of the systems and proposed solutions and recommendations. The information contained in the report of the two case-studies offered important feedback for the revision of the guidelines, as contained in the note by the Executive Secretary on the subject prepared for the eighth meeting of SBSTTA (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/8/11).

II. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A. Elaboration of case- studies

4. The first case-study is the result of a workshop held in November 2001 in the Tayrona National Park in Colombia. Experts and participants from different institutions analysed the development of tourism activities in the area and assessed the applicability of the draft guidelines to the management of the park. The workshop was organized as part of the bilateral cooperation programme on biological diversity and tourism between the Colombian Special Administrative Unit for the National Park System and the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation.

5. As a basis for the second case-study, the German Federal Ministry for the Environment and the Ministry of the Environment of Slovakia decided to test the guidelines within the framework of the project "Promoting sustainable tourism in Central and Eastern Europe: a demonstration model applied to the natural and cultural heritage of Banska Stiavnica (Slovakia)". Relevant institutions interested in the development of the area were actively involved in the workshop and assessed how recommendations contained in the guidelines could apply to existing situations and local conditions. As mentioned above, the case-study is also the result of a workshop held in Varin, Slovakia, on the role of the guidelines in the development and management of tourism activities.

6. In both cases, the process leading to the collation and evaluation of information on the guidelines was highly participatory and made use of different methodologies, such as group discussions, brainstorming techniques, collective evaluations. The structure of the guidelines provided the overall framework for discussion during the workshops and for the planning and implementation of the Banska Stiavnica project. It was also utilized for the presentation of information contained in the reports of the workshops, the report of the second phase of the Banska Stiavnica project and in this synopsis. Indeed, discussions were focused on each element of the guidelines and their applicability to the cases analysed, and identified: (a) consistencies between existing situations and advice contained in the guidelines (i.e., strengths), (b) challenges to be addressed in response to the guidelines' recommendations, and (c) measures suggested to improve the current situation.

B. Tayrona National Park

7. The Tayrona National Park is part of the Sierra Nevada of Santa Marta eco-region on the Atlantic coast of North Colombia and covers an area of 15,000 hectares, of which 3,000 are marine ecosystems. The park was declared a protected area in 1964 and, although it does not include indigenous reserves, it is part of the ancestral territory of the indigenous groups residing in the Sierra Nevada of Santa Marta. In 1982, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) declared the combined areas of Sierra Nevada of Santa Marta and the Tayrona National Park a "Biosphere Reserve" as part of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) programme.

8. Although small in length, this Caribbean shoreline is one of the richest areas in biological diversity of the American littoral. The Sierra Nevada of Santa Marta is the highest coastal mountain range of the world. The region is considered a bio-geographic enclave with a high concentration of endemic species

and rare varieties of flora and fauna. The park covers four terrestrial ecosystems (thorn forest, dry forest, wet forest, cloud forest) and seven coastal marine ecosystems (beaches, reef formations, sedimentary plains, mixed sea-bottoms, rocky littoral, mangroves, coastal pools). Their distribution, establishment, development and composition vary considerably from creek to creek, in such a way that all ecosystems in the park are very heterogeneous and contribute considerably to the biological diversity of the region.

9. As a result of its easy access, its location and the beauty of its landscape in a system of bays and protected creeks and wide beaches, the park is one of the most visited areas of the National Park System of Colombia, attracting both national and international visitors. Tourism activities in the region are highly valued, since they generate revenues for the maintenance of the area and for local communities. People of the region and the local government have strong interest in the promotion of ecotourism development within the area, because of economic reasons and for the indirect benefits provided by the park to the communities as a source of income and recreational area.

C. Natural and cultural heritage of Banska Stiavnica, Slovakia

10. The Stiavnica Hills are part of the Central Slovakian Volcanic Mountain System, a broad range of different geological structures home to diverse ecological systems with high diversity of flora and fauna. The city of Banska Stiavnica is located in the heart of the Stiavnica Hills, a protected landscape area established in 1979. The area, one of the largest protected landscape area in Slovakia, covers 77,629 hectares, including 15 smaller nature reserves and protected habitat sites.

11. Approximately 72% of the territory is covered with forests, some of which still include the original plant communities. Different climatic zones and alternated biotopes characterize the rich biodiversity of the area. Over 1,500 species of higher plants, some of which are listed in the Red Book of protected species of Slovakia, are found here. Moreover, large predators, such as lynx and brown bears, and other protected and hunting animals inhabit the central part of the Stiavnica Hills forest. Because of the great diversity of endangered and endemic species of fauna and flora, and a portion of the Stiavnica Hills is considered a "bio-centre" and recognized as an area of regional importance in the context of the European Ecological Network.

12. This area presents very well preserved original habitats, however human activity has generated also a surprisingly beautiful cultural landscape, where both the human-made and natural elements coexist in harmony. In 1993, UNESCO included the historical town of Banska Stiavnica and some monuments of its surroundings on the List of World Cultural and Natural Heritage. These features made the region an important cultural and historical attraction. Although ecotourism is still a poorly developed activity, its potential for the development of the region is under consideration.

III. SYNOPSIS OF THE CASE-STUDIES

A. Institutions

13. In the case of the Tayrona National Park, the nature and type of collaborations conducted at the institutional level underscore a genuine attempt to include the public and private sectors and other stakeholders affected by tourism development in the planning and decision-making processes. There has been political willingness to acknowledge different roles and the authority of various institutions involved in environmental protection and tourism. In addition, appropriate processes for interaction and collaboration have been established.

14. Nevertheless, the often opposing interests associated with the conservation of biological diversity of the area and its tourism and economic development remain to be addressed, as it is reflected in the contradictory indications contained in the land use plan of the Santa Marta's district. Information exchange among authorities on issues and databases relevant to biodiversity and tourism development is still inadequate, thus severely impeding coordination of decision-making. Moreover, additional efforts are needed to involve local tourism operators in the development of the park.

15. The main institutional problem encountered by the Slovakia in the administration of tourism activities is the absence of a tourism management and planning authority at the national and sub-national levels. Consequently, tourism activities lack coordination; no clear guidance is offered to tourism investors and operators and there is no framework for cooperation among institutions responsible for tourism development and biodiversity conservation. The establishment of an institutional platform to coordinate tourism and biodiversity-related activities has been recommended as a possible solution. This would also contribute to reorganize and coordinate resource distribution and financing.

16. The vulnerability of public policies and programmes to political changes at the local and national levels is a common feature of both case studies, requiring the strengthening of institutional arrangements and the establishment of transparent long-term plans and policies.

B. Baseline information and review

17. The need to improve information gathering in support of planning and decision-making is a common requirement in both case studies, which also share the need to develop indicators to assess and monitor the social and cultural impacts of ecotourism.

18. Available taxonomic information has been employed in the Tayrona National Park for zoning purposes and the classification of ecotourism sites. The same information could be applied to the development of tourism sites management criteria and for public awareness purposes. Together with these data, the requirements for communication, public awareness and education activities have been identified, providing the foundation for the establishment of a coherent programme.

19. In the Tayrona case, although information is available on land occupation and ownership, along with regulations and building criteria for infrastructures, more data are required in support of the management of tourism activities and decision-making. It should be noted that decision-making has been facilitated by the use of technology (information systems, early warning systems) enabling the park management to respond in an adaptive manner to sudden changes and unexpected events. Also to be addressed is the lack of exchange of information between traditional indigenous knowledge and scientific-technical knowledge which has prevented the integration of related data in the assessment of plans for tourism developments and in the evaluation of the impacts of exiting activities.

20. Appropriate information and knowledge on ecosystems and their characteristics is available also in the Slovak case, providing the basis for accurate impact assessment and management. However, existing information and data need regular updating and additional and site-specific research for the conservation of selected hot-spots.

C. Visions and goals

21. The institution administering the Tayrona National Park has developed an ecotourism strategy, which elaborates on the conservation objectives of the park, offers guidance on leisure development and environmental education and promotes dialogue with indigenous and local communities on issues relevant to the development of tourism activities in culturally relevant areas and sacred sites. However, consensus

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has not been reached on the strategy by the different institutions involved, which still have divergent views on the compatibility between some tourism activities and the overall conservation objectives of the park.

22. Similar to the Colombian case, some stakeholders in Banska Stiavnica have expressed interest in the development of a common vision for the promotion of local tourism. In particular, the private sector and the municipality intend to prepare a common strategy that will envisage activities and programmes to enhance the tourism potential of local destinations. In this case, the main impediment to the development of a common vision is scarce awareness by local organizations of investment opportunities and the role that tourism can play in fostering growth in the region. Public hearings are recommended as an effective instrument to promote interaction and develop a set of principles for sustainable tourism that could act as the foundation for a commonly agreed plan.

D. Objectives

23. The main stakeholders concur on conservation objectives, which contemplate the identification of a threshold to tourism development within specific zones, and on the need to focus on ecotourism activities as the key instrument for the development of the Tayrona National Park.

24. In the Slovak case, objectives for tourism development and biodiversity conservation are not clearly defined and, as a result, reference is generally made to intentions expressed by other national or local strategies (i.e., the National Strategy for Sustainable Development, the National Programme for Tourism Development, the National Biodiversity Strategy of Slovakia, the Strategy for Tourism Development in the Middle Hron region) or by specific regional projects.

25. In both cases, a general framework for the development of ecotourism activities is missing, along with guidance on the development and planning of ecotourism activities in biologically vulnerable ecosystems. Once again, the lack of appropriate cooperation frameworks among agencies and the absence of interdepartmental collaboration seems to hinder the process leading to the identification of common goals and objectives.

E. Review of legislation and control measures

26. The development and management of tourism activities is regulated in Colombia by well structured legislation and a set of norms and standards, incorporating elements of environmental protection. Specific regulations have also been enacted to control the advance of tourism in protected areas and national parks. Public participation and involvement in decision-making processes are granted by a 1991 constitutional decision, which consents the population to intervene on matters relevant to the development of tourism activities in protected areas.

27. While the general legal framework is sound in principle, problems remain on enforcement, inadequate regulations on public use of protected areas, lack of financial and legal penalties for adverse effects on natural resources, and a need for a detailed plan for more local level implementation of national legislation.

28. Banska Stiavnica shares with Tayrona the same law enforcement problems attributable to political disagreements, administrative inefficiencies and a shortage of human and financial resources. Administrative problems include also power and authority overlaps, which results in a duplication of efforts and a lack of action by the institutions involved. Inadequate financial resources undermine the development of ecotourism projects, significantly impeding the involvement of and collaboration with the private sector. Moreover, the question of compensation for environmental damages has yet to be addressed, together with

the issue of illegal activities, which continues to damage the image of the park and weaken the authority of institutions involved.

29. A proposed solution in the Slovak case is the establishment of an inter-ministerial steering committee to facilitate cooperation among ministries dealing with tourism and biodiversity, and to agree on a common plan for the management of the two sectors. Harmonization of approaches, regular impact monitoring and the reorganization of the administrative structure are priorities and a prerequisite for the reduction of illegal activities that have developed because of the lack of control.

F. Impact assessment

30. Monitoring and evaluation involve different stakeholders in the Tayrona National Park, such as administrative institutions, universities, specialized consultants and the public. In particular, a committee involving the local community is undertaking tourism impact assessment and promoting a balance between tourism growth and nature conservation in the park. Another inter-institutional committee, which includes different local bodies, is carrying out monitoring activities and assessment of inappropriate uses.

31. Although damage caused by increased tourism activities is visible in the model area of Banska Stiavnica, it has not raised awareness on potential impacts of different tourism activities and developments on nature and biodiversity. Comprehensive research on the topic and data on local impacts, a prerequisite for a systematic impact management plan, are still missing.

32. The establishment of interdisciplinary groups, including members of administrative institutions, research institutes, local communities and experts, to perform impact assessments of proposed projects has been recommended in both cases, thereby stressing the need for an integrated approach to monitoring and evaluation in support of a suitable methodology to decision-making processes for future developments.

G. Impact management

33. Tayrona park authorities have gained partial control over illegal activities in the area through the establishment of authorized service providers. Furthermore, the inter-institutional committee for the defence of the park has the power to intervene in cases of illegal uses. In addition, current zoning regulations and the establishment of limits of acceptable change have set a maximum ceiling to the number of tourists in the area. Also under examination is the possibility of increasing the range of public properties within the park and introducing planned ecotourism developments. Indeed, the difficulties related to the acquisition of land from private owners is considered one of the main obstacles to the implementation of conservation objectives, and agreement has not been reached on the interpretation of legislation pertinent to ownership and land tenure.

34. Similar to the Colombian case, the administrative institution responsible for the model area in Slovakia has the legal power to act in cases of unacceptable or illegal uses. Also in this, case zoning and maximum limits of acceptable change have been established and could provide a useful means for the regulation of tourism developments.

35. More guidance is also given by the UNESCO Heritage status of Banska Stiavnica, which imposes a more strict approach to the management of monuments and defines with precision investments and constructions to be permitted in the area. Recommendations for impact management of Banska Stiavnica include the preparation of a management plan for nature conservation, the establishment of a set of guidelines for future tourism developments, the elaboration of a visitor-management plan and the development of effective marketing strategies and awareness-building.

H. Decision-making

36. The Tayrona National Park Advisory Committee, which includes the Ministry of Environment, regional and local authorities, landowners and other relevant stakeholders, provides a forum for negotiations and for decision-making. In addition, the inter-institutional committee for the defence of the park supports other bodies in the introduction of legal proceedings for decision-making. Affected parties can call upon these institutions to enforce the law.

37. Indigenous and local communities are being involved in the decision making process. Platforms for dialogue have been established to discuss issues concerning zones of cultural importance and agreements for the management of these zones. Mutual understanding of the reciprocal roles in the management of the park and the surrounding territory has been gained through these practices.

38. Decision-making has been often hampered by insufficient environmental evaluation studies concerning infrastructure and biodiversity conditions in the park. Scarce recognition is also given to the precautionary principle as a tool for conservation and sustainable management of a protected area, a principle still not fully accepted as an adequate element in support of correct management choices.

39. In the Slovak case, under certain circumstances, an environmental impact study for the development of tourism projects within protected areas is required; in this case, decisions can be taken by the district office in cooperation with interested groups and authorities. When an impact assessment is not required, the district office is the authority for plan approvals. In all situations, an increased voluntary interest by different stakeholders in submitting their plans to the landscape management authority for approval has been remarked, indicating better awareness of the problem and collaborative intentions.

40. Despite these voluntary steps, and the fact that current reforms of the administrative structure create the preconditions for improving decision making through the decentralization of power, a standardized system and method to facilitate participation of other institutions and interested groups in the process is still absent. Decision-making power needs to be shared among different bodies and experts, and awareness-building is needed within decision-making bodies. Moreover, it is recommended that awareness-raising campaigns on the potential impacts of tourism activities and sustainable development be initiated in order to foster stronger public pressure for responsible decision-making.

I. Implementation

41. Private tourism developments in Tayrona have not been subjected to a process of planning and assessment, thereby reducing the possibility of controlling unsustainable uses and minimizing adverse impacts. The need for a coordinated planning strategy and guidance has been emphasized by various institutions and local communities. Local communities are aware of the conservation needs of the area, and have agreed to have controls on their activities within the park and to participate in the monitoring of compliance to restrictions. Once again, the major obstacle to the planning and implementation of ecotourism activities is not the need for further public collaboration but the lack of coordination and complementarities among institutions.

42. The implementation of guidelines on sustainable tourism in Banka Stiavnica is often unintentional and is not part of an overall strategy. Indeed, the lack of appropriate legislation and binding agreements has so far reduced proactive intents and efforts. The forthcoming application of new legislative measures and plans could create the basis for the effective management of protected areas and represents a possible breakthrough for future implementation. Moreover, unsuccessful stories and bad practices have

strongly influenced planning solutions, inviting the establishment and application of corrective measures and new regulations.

43. In both cases, lack of coordination is one of the major impediments to a common approach to implementation and problem solving for sustainable tourism development and biodiversity conservation. As a possible solution, in the Slovak case-study, it is suggested that a habitat management strategy be launched and integrated into the tourism management strategy for the model area. Should the integration of the strategies be successful, it could set an example and be extended to all protected areas.

J. Monitoring

44. In the Tayrona National Park, attempts to start monitoring activities have been isolated and fragmented: a monitoring and evaluation system has been established to verify service suppliers' compliance with conditions set out in the agreements with park authorities; other institutions and monitoring programmes have undertaken specific monitoring activities which could provide some basic information for assessment of the impact of tourism on biological diversity; and, studies and statistical information are also available on visitor flows in specific areas. Despite the availability of this information, systematic monitoring of ecotourism activities in the park and coherent systems to assess data collected are not in place. More specifically, possible impacts of tourism in sacred sites of indigenous communities within the protected area are not systematically monitored as a result of the lack of resources and agreed to methodologies. Adverse impacts on the local ecosystems and on the socio-economic and cultural structure of the area remain undetected and, consequently, not addressed.

45. In the protected landscape area of Banska Stiavnica, impacts of human and economic activities on biodiversity are not monitored systematically and do not permit reliable results and assessments to be made. A systemic and standardized monitoring approach to register and evaluate natural changes caused by human activities is needed, complemented by a coherent system to assess data collected and to examine the impact of tourism activities in protected areas. It is suggested that cooperation with universities be enhanced on issues relevant to data collection and interpretation, as a preliminary step towards the creation of a regular monitoring system and for the implementation of monitoring and research activities.

46. Although universities and educational institutions could indeed contribute their expertise to the setting of a monitoring process, it has to be noted that in both cases the efficiency and extent of their collaboration is limited by inadequate financial resources. Further coordination should also involve scientists and park managers. In both instances, the lack of national guidelines for monitoring is reflected in the absence of established long-term assessment programmes.

K. Adaptive management

47. The national administrative unit for the national park systems has established working groups and committees with different stakeholders to discuss their contributions and participation to the management of the park, demonstrating a certain dynamism and flexibility in tackling technical, political and social challenges of ecotourism activities in the park. Although responsiveness to changes and new challenges is facilitated by the use of modern technologies in support of decision-making, management remains heavily dependent on the availability of information gathered through monitoring and assessment processes.

48. In the model area of Banska Stiavnica, monitoring and assessment are considered also essential prerequisites for adaptive management. Moreover, it is recommended that awareness should be raised on

the need to introduce adaptive management as a tool for sustainable development of human and economic activities, and to introduce and examine case studies in collaboration with existing educational institutions.

L. Notification process

49. Once the environmental authority has examined the project proposal affecting a protected area, the national administrative unit for the national park systems and the Tayrona National Park authorities collaborate with the environmental authority to disseminate information on the project proposal and to notify the various authorities and stakeholders involved in or affected by the development. However, at present, except for notifications required under the national law, there are no official established procedures for notifications issued by the park. Only certain requirements of the notification process have been implemented, such as a public call-for-tenders and the publication of all decisions on the park in a State bulletin.

50. Generally, both case-studies offer the opportunity to implement the guidelines on biological diversity and to develop and test procedures for notification and examination of ecotourism proposals. It will be necessary to establish clear procedures for notification, and to identify relevant stakeholders, in an effort to ensure transparency and consistency. This can also be achieved through the enhancement of public relations policies and information tools and the standardization of notification instruments. Public awareness will be, therefore, stimulated, increasing interest by the local communities in acquiring information on the protected areas.

M. Public education and awareness-building

51. Only recently have public-awareness programmes been implemented in the Tayrona National Park, and almost no literature has been produced on the topic of environmental conservation. Education and training programmes need to be improved and included as part of the activities to promote ecotourism. Unfortunately, funding shortages and the fact that tourism was not identified as a priority by the region have prevented the production of educational materials and academic courses on the topic. Nevertheless, there are several approved projects to establish information centres, establish a mobile unit to raise awareness on conservation and ecotourism, organize educational meetings and publish promotional material.

52. The development of a coherent strategy, a planning framework and management tools, is recommended to address problems related to the management of high tourist flows. This strategy should also address environmental education programmes and awareness-raising for visitors to the park.

53. In Banska Stiavnica, there are several initiatives to raise public awareness on environmental issues and a nature-protection information centre has been located at a site of high tourist flow. Also of significance is the potential for the development of public-awareness activities, given the presence of environmental and nature-science institutions in the town. In addition, conservation is a subject sufficiently covered by local newspapers and media. However, public institutions responsible for environmental protection are not very active in education and awareness-building and the existing structures are inadequate to cover the needs for staff education and training.

54. The creation of a long-term and effective campaign strategy on sustainable development involving university institutions is recommended as a means to support a system of permanent activities and ad hoc events to raise public awareness. In addition, it is suggested that an interpretative centre be established, with information, educational and marketing functions which will report on the tourism activities in the region. The centre should also provide training and education to staff of local institutions.

N. Capacity-building

55. A capacity-building plan has been prepared and approved for the Tayrona National Park. The plan is addressed at the stakeholders involved in tourism activities, including public officers and service suppliers in the private sector, and is designed to improve the overall ability to provide good quality services within the park. Capacity-building initiatives on ecotourism are still insufficient, and programmes addressed to local staff with responsibilities for tourism development in protected areas are infrequent. This could be related to a lack of awareness at the national, regional and local levels on the urgency to improve capacity on this issue.

56. Budget shortfalls, the lack of appropriate provisions by educational bodies and insufficient programmes within the various organizations drastically limit capacity-building for the design of tourism activities in relation to biological diversity. Furthermore, this problem also affects capacity-building in areas related to the identification and management of the impacts that tourism can have on biological diversity and on social and cultural factors.

57. In Banska Stiavnica, the need to increase capacity-building for sustainable development has been recognized, and several programmes have been activated to address some of the components required in a capacity-building programme. Decision makers, public authorities and the business sector have scarce knowledge pertaining to the management of tourism activities in biodiversity vulnerable areas. Coordinated measures for capacity-building and training of target groups are needed and several measures have been recommended to address this problem.

O. Conclusions

58. All participants recognized the guidelines as a helpful tool, to be used together with other instruments in the planning and management of tourism developments in protected areas. Given the specificities of ecosystems and national differences, it was suggested that the guidelines be adapted to different situations in an effort to address unique needs, thereby ensuring an optimal use of the instrument, to be implemented in its entirety or only partially, according to individual requirements. The specificity of each case-study does not prevent countries from adopting a common approach to the implementation of the guidelines. On the contrary, participants suggested the need for coordination at the international, regional and national levels in the application of the guidelines.

59. The guidelines lack a fertile institutional environment to support their implementation. For this reason, participants in the two workshops and stakeholders in the Banska Stiavnica project identified some of the prerequisites for the application of the guidelines to tourism projects, including:

(a) Awareness-raising and capacity-building at all institutional levels on the potential of sustainable tourism;

(b) Review of current legislation and control measures contradictory to the development of sustainable tourism activities;

(c) Development of pilot projects to test the feasibility and acceptability of the guidelines.

60. The note by the Executive Secretary prepared under this item for the eighth meeting of SBSTTA (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/8/11) contains specific recommendations on future needs and actions to be taken by Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

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