



Convention on Biological Diversity

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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Seventh meeting
Kuala Lumpur, 9-20 and 27 February 2004
Agenda item 20.3

DECISION ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AT ITS SEVENTH MEETING

VII/24. Education and public awareness (article 13)

The Conference of the Parties,

Taking note of the report of the meeting of the Consultative Working Group of Experts on Communication, Education and Public Awareness (UNEP/CBD/COP/7/17/INF/10) and, in particular, the matrix in the report, which summarizes suggestions and proposals to enhance the implementation of the Global Initiative on Communication, Education and Public Awareness, including, *inter alia*, key elements required to develop an operational strategy to guide the implementation of the three programme elements in a coherent and consistent manner (including prioritization, clarification of intended audience, activities, means and resources to undertake the identified activities, institutional arrangements, results to be generated, as well as the reporting mechanisms on implementation and impacts of outputs).

Noting further that communication, education and public awareness are essential elements for the successful and effective implementation of the programmes of work of the Convention on Biological Diversity and also for facilitating the process of mainstreaming biodiversity into national sectoral policies and programmes,

1. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Executive Secretary and progress achieved in the implementation of the Global Initiative on Communication, Education and Public Awareness, taking into consideration the limited financial resources available for these efforts;

2. *Welcomes* the report of the fourth meeting of the Consultative Working Group of Experts on Biological Diversity Education and Public Awareness and the proposals contained therein for further implementation of communication, education and public awareness which are attached as an annex to the report of the meeting;

3. *Invites* Parties to take into consideration the need to communicate the various elements of the 2010 biodiversity target and to establish appropriate linkages to the Decade on Education for Sustainable Development in the implementation of their respective national CEPA programmes and activities;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to:
 - (i) Allocate a specific post to facilitate the implementation and further development of Article 13 on education and public awareness;
 - (ii) Convene an informal advisory committee on communication, education and public awareness, which would meet at the next meeting of SBSTTA to further develop the CEPA work programme for in-depth consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting. This informal advisory committee would meet at subsequent meetings of SBSTTA and the Conference of the Parties, as is the current practice for the informal advisory committee for the clearing-house mechanism;
 - (iii) Invite Parties to assist the Executive Secretary in the implementation of this action through voluntary contributions to secure the implementation of the work programme;
- (b) Continue the collaborative efforts with the CEPA programmes of other relevant organizations including the Rio Conventions to enhance coordination and maximize synergies;
- (c) Report to the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting on progress in the implementation of the identified priority activities in the CEPA programme of work;
5. *Invites* donor organizations to make available the required financial support for the implementation of the identified priority activities in the CEPA programme of work;
6. *Invites* donor organizations to provide funding to developing countries, particularly the least developed and small island developing States among them, and countries with economies in transition for the implementation of their national CEPA programmes and activities;
7. *Requests* Parties to contribute and make available financial support towards the cost of the production of the second edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook report for release in May 2005;
8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to availability of funding, to publish the third edition of the Handbook on the Convention on Biological Diversity, including the decisions of the Conference of the Parties up to its seventh meeting, in the United Nations languages.
