



Technology Transfer and Cooperation

Essential for Attaining the Convention's Objectives

Access to—and transfer of—technology among countries are essential elements for attaining the objectives of the Convention. The provisions of the CBD on technology transfer reflect the consensus of the international community, as laid down in key international policy documents such as the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21, and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

The term "technology" refers both to technical machinery and equipment ("hard" technology), and to technological information or know-how ("soft" technology). This knowledge is acquired through research and innovation, by moving ideas from invention to new products, processes and services in practical use, and through a complex and often costly process involving learning from others.

In the context of the Convention, relevant technologies include techniques for *in-situ* conservation such as integrated pest management, as well as technologies for *ex-situ* conservation such as preservation and storage technologies used in gene banks. They also include technologies related to the sustainable management of biodiversity resources, for instance, sustainable forest management or integrated water management. Many monitoring technologies, such as remote sensing, are indispensable for the generation of updated and accurate biodiversity information, which is a crucial precondition to the design and implementation of policies for the conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable use of its components.

Why it is important:

- Development, transfer, adaptation and diffusion of technology, in particular environmentally-sound technology and the environmentally-sound application of biotechnology, and the building of related capacity is crucial for achieving sustainable development.

What the CBD is doing:

In 2004, at its seventh meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopted the programme of work on Technology Transfer and Technological and Scientific Cooperation. Grouped under four programme elements, it spells out a number of strategic considerations to be taken into account in its implementation by the various actors, as well as a number of operational targets and related activities required from Parties, other governments, international organizations and the Secretariat. The purpose is to promote and facilitate the transfer of and access to technologies from developed to developing countries, including the least developed and small island developing States, as well as to countries with economies in transition, and among developing countries and other Parties, necessary to ensure implementation of the three objectives of the Convention, and in support of the target to achieve a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level by 2010.



For more information:

Technology Transfer and Cooperation: www.cbd.int/tech-transfer/

COP decisions: www.cbd.int/tech-transfer/decisions.shtml

Documents: www.cbd.int/cop9/doc/



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Convention on Biological Diversity

