



Convention on Biological Diversity

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AD HOC OPEN-ENDED INTER-SESSIONAL
WORKING GROUP ON ARTICLE 8(j) AND
RELATED PROVISIONS OF THE
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL
DIVERSITY

Seventh meeting

Montreal, 31 October-4 November 2011

COMPILATION OF VIEWS ON IN-DEPTH DIALOGUE ON ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT, ECOSYSTEM SERVICES AND PROTECTED AREAS

Note by the Executive Secretary

INTRODUCTION

1. At its tenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties, in decision X/43, decided to include a new agenda item on future meetings of the Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions, commencing at its seventh meeting, entitled: “In-depth dialogue on thematic areas and other cross-cutting issues”.
2. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties decided to have an in-depth dialogue, at the seventh meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions, on the following theme: *Ecosystem management, ecosystem services and protected areas*.
3. In light of the above, in November 2010, the Secretariat sent out notification 2010-210 (ref. No. SCBD/SEL/OJ/JS/DM/74443) to Parties, Indigenous and Local Communities, and relevant organizations, inviting submissions on this theme. The compilation of submissions received by the Secretariat and made available in the present document serves as background material for the deliberations of the Working Group at its seventh meeting, in Montreal, from 31 October to 4 November 2011.
4. Submissions have been reproduced in the form and language in which they were provided to the Secretariat.

* Reissued to include full submissions.

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SUBMISSIONS

Submission from Parties

AUSTRALIA

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO NOTIFICATION 2011-065 & 2010-210:
PROGRAMME OF WORK ON ARTICLE 8(J) AND RELATED PROVISIONS:

NOTE: No consultation with state and territory governments or Indigenous groups occurred due to the tight deadline for responding to this notification. All information provided below has been drawn from Australian Government agency inputs only.

IN-DEPTH DIALOGUE ON ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT, ECOSYSTEM SERVICES AND PROTECTED AREAS

Taking into account the decision of the Conference of the Parties to have an in-depth dialogue on ecosystem management, ecosystem services and protected areas at the seventh meeting of the Working Group, and in order to assist the discussions, Parties, indigenous and local communities, NGOs and other relevant organizations are requested to submit information on:

(a) Ecosystem management, ecosystem services and protected areas;

Indigenous fire management in Northern Australia: A Case study of Traditional Use/Management

The Indigenous Fire Management in Northern Australia Project is facilitated by the North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAILSMA) and run by Indigenous land management groups. It focuses on implementing traditional, mosaic-style fire management practices in northern Australia. This Australian Government Caring for our Country investment will help prevent intense wildfires that regularly burn 40% of some savanna regions in a single fire season and cause significant biodiversity loss. Better fire management practices will deliver greenhouse gas emissions abatement and opportunities to enter carbon markets as well as contributing economic benefit to traditional communities through the intergenerational transfer of traditional ecological knowledge through fire and land management activities.

IPA Program Summary

The Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) program has been very successful in supporting Indigenous communities to contribute to our national conservation goals, and we are now starting to see anecdotal evidence of broader benefits from this work for the individuals and communities that are taking part. The IPA program, which commenced in 1998/1999 with the declaration of the first IPA at Nantawarrina in South Australia, was expanded under the Australian Government's Caring for Our Country initiative, with \$50 million allocated in 2008/09 over five years to improve and expand IPAs across Australia.

As at February 2011, Australia has 42 declared IPAs, with 40 other Indigenous communities in the process of deciding whether to declare their land as an IPA, and a further 5 Indigenous communities being supported to negotiate co-management arrangements over existing state parks and reserves. IPAs are voluntarily declared by their Indigenous land owners. Every IPA declaration makes an important contribution to Australia's nation-wide network of parks and reserves, the National Reserve System (NRS). Currently, declared IPAs cover over 23.9 million hectares of Indigenous owned lands across every state and territory in Australia, except the Australian Capital Territory. This represents over 25% of the entire Australian NRS, and nearly 20% of all Indigenous owned lands.

The IPA initiative works closely with the Government's Working On Country (WOC) initiative which provides wages for Indigenous Rangers. Each declared IPA is actively managed by its Indigenous owners

through partnerships with Government and, in some cases, with the private and non-government sector. IPA rangers conduct land and cultural management activities on their traditional lands and undertake training to build their skills and capacity. The IPA program is successful because it builds on and values the knowledge, passion and commitment that Indigenous communities have for their land. It helps to build pride and self respect for those involved as well as contributing economic benefit to traditional communities, social cohesion of these communities and the ongoing education of children through the intergenerational transfer of traditional ecological and cultural knowledge. In addition, the IPAs are delivering important ecosystem services for all Australians by protecting the unique natural and cultural values of these often remote locations.

Warddeken 'Walking on Country' Project: an IPA Case Study of Cultural Maintenance and Customary Use

The Warddeken Indigenous Protected Area (IPA), located in the Arnhem Land escarpment adjacent to Kakadu National Park, is managed by Warddeken Land Management Limited and funded partly through the Australian Government's IPA and WOC programs. A strong focus of the IPA is to manage the country using expertise from both Indigenous and non-Indigenous knowledge systems and to pass on traditional ecological and cultural knowledge to the younger generations.

Every year the Warddeken IPA holds a Stone Country Walk across the Arnhem Land Plateau to transfer indigenous ecological knowledge and increase understanding of key land management issues such as feral animals, weeds, management of cultural sites and uncontrolled wildfires. In 2010, 140 people participated in the walk, which ran over 10 days. Young children of all ages were amongst the walkers and elders were flown by helicopter into overnight camping locations as the walk progressed.

The biggest achievement of the walk was seen as increasing engagement of younger people in land management. Warddeken chairman Terrah Guymala wants "our children to work with Bininj (white people) and western knowledge, to build them up strong and proud of their culture".

The walks are critical to the planning and consultation aspects of land and cultural management and ensure that rangers and others working on the IPA have the support of the landowning diaspora, who for various reasons can't live on their traditional estates. The walk strengthens the position and role of elders as Terrah Guymala goes on to say "Our old people are the most important resource that we have. We need to work with them as much as we can, especially recording their knowledge, documenting it so it can be passed on".

European Union and its Member States

The EU and its Member States is pleased to share with the Secretariat views on the below elements in response to CBD Notification 2010-210 on “the Programme of Work on Article 8(j) and related provisions consistent with relevant decisions of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties”:

In-depth Dialogue on Ecosystem management, ecosystem services and protected areas

Taking into account the decision of the Conference of the Parties to have an in-depth dialogue on ecosystem management, ecosystem services and protected areas at the seventh meeting of the Working Group, and in order to assist the discussions, Parties, indigenous and local communities, NGOs and other relevant organizations are requested to submit information on:

- (j) Ecosystem management, ecosystem services and protected areas;

The follow up of the MA process on assessing ecosystem services has led to the insight that ecosystem services are usefully seen as generated by integrated social-ecological systems rather than by ecosystems. This perspective acknowledges that people are dependent on ecosystem services for their well-being, but also that people constantly shape and re-shape the conditions under which services are generated. The focus in MA and associated research on ecosystem services has focused on the negative impacts that human activities have on ecosystems that can in turn affect human wellbeing. This approach is important; however it is essential to keep in mind that humans may also organize their activities and management practices as to enhance biodiversity and generation of ecosystem services, such as in small scale farming in different parts of the world, or sacred sites that function as protected areas. Under certain conditions, people are stewards of ecosystem services. This recognition is essential for developing norms and rules for future sustainable ecosystem management, including in the management of protected areas. Sweden hence believes this would be a strategically important general approach to take related to how to proceed in the in depth dialogue of ecosystem services and ecosystem management and protected areas, in particular in the light of the new main component of article 10, with a focus on article 10(c).

As an example of an approach in this spirit, we would like to mention that Sweden has made progress in development of a new management structure for the world heritage area Laponia, which consists of four national parks, together comprising an area of 9 400 km².

Laponia includes the following Sami villages (economic associations and geographical areas where reindeer husbandry takes place): Báste (Mellanbyn), Sörkaitum, Sirkas, Jåhkågasska, Tuorpon, Luokta-Mavas and the Gällivare forest Sami village. Reindeer husbandry takes place throughout this region.

The proposed management structure, Laponiatjuottjudus, includes one coordinated delegation body with representatives from the Sámi society, the municipalities, the County and the National Environmental Protection Agency. It will deal with the different authorities on all matters concerning the Laponia World Heritage site. The Laponiatjuottjudus will meet regularly and does not deal with operational issues. These will be developed by thematic working groups to develop proposals for current management issues. While the process leading to a coordinated management plan has been lengthy, the stakeholders now recognise that it has taken time to learn about each other's needs and development objectives.

In addition to this it is worth mentioning that an overall review is currently carried out of at the Swedish Biodiversity Centre and Uppsala University of ecosystem management, ecosystem services and protected areas in Sweden and in other parts of the world. Analysis and recommendations for the future will form part of this review.

CHINA

CHINA GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO NOTIFICATION 2011-065 & 2010-210: PROGRAMME OF WORK ON ARTICLE 8(J) AND RELATED PROVISIONS:

3. In-depth dialogue on Ecosystem management, ecosystem services and protected areas

It is recommended that following issues should be in-depth discussed in seventh meeting:

—How does country improve the level of income and livelihoods of local communities while in promoting development and reducing poverty?

— How to organize and carry out various training, education and communication activities to enhance local community participation in nature reserve management?

—How to respect the traditional culture, customs and local customary rules/procedures associated with biodiversity conservation while managing ecosystems and nature reserves, and making these elements become an important driving force to improve management capacities of nature reserve.
