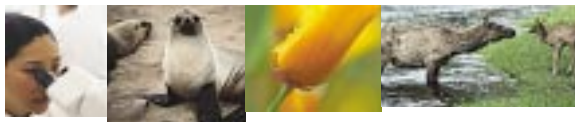


CBD

Convention  
on Biological  
Diversity

# CBD



# NEWS

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## FEATURE ARTICLE

### The CBD and Forest Management: testing alternatives

*Paul Sanchez-Navarro  
CBD Policy Adviser, WWF International*

Most of North America's Monarch butterflies spend the winter in the high-altitude fir forests of Central Mexico. These forests are also the home of indigenous communities and ejidos (local farming communities). Extensive logging, agriculture expansion and poorly managed tourism currently threaten this ecosystem.

The establishment of the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve is an example of the challenge of meeting the local population's current and future needs while being able to guarantee the long-term health of the Monarch butterfly's winter habitat.

The World Wildlife Fund is working to protect the forest habitat in Mexico by changing land use patterns in the area, relieving pressure on the forest, and substituting logging with conservation activities and sustainable tourism. The goal is to replace the current economic structure, which focuses on timber products, with one that respects the entire forest ecosystem.

This project reflects several objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity: it was successful in using the ecosystem approach to redesign the existing protected area, it promotes sustainable forest management practices, it has established a compensation plan as an incentive for conservation and sustainable use of the forest resources and it seeks to include local landowners in decision making.

In November of 2000, the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve was expanded to 56,259 hectares, with a new core zone covering over 13,000 hectares, most of which was previously under logging concessions. WWF collaborated with the Environment Ministry to study resource use problems, and deforestation patterns in the Reserve and subsequently recommended possible solutions. The result was a proposal to enlarge the Reserve, with improved resource management. The new Reserve was based on a study of the Monarch butterfly ecology, watershed and forest conservation, land tenure and social issues. Landowners will be compensated for their

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Focus

### Forest Biodiversity: from research to actions

Forests harbor a major share of global biodiversity. According to estimations, more than half of the world's terrestrial species live in primary forests, most of them in tropical rainforests, and some figures are even higher. The number of tree species can exceed 300 per hectare. This richness can be explained by biogeographic and historical factors, but also by the structural complexity of forest ecosystems. Forest soil, various tree layers and canopies are characterized by different habitats, and consequently by different species assemblages.

High biomass in forests maintains a variety of decomposers, like fungi, bacteria, many invertebrates, etc. Various forest types have their own characteristics in terms of tree regeneration, natural disturbances and successions. A great deal of forest species consist of habitat specialists, adapted to certain ecological conditions. This is especially the case for species of the old-growth forests; specialization makes them sensitive to drastic environmental changes.

It has been estimated that about 8000 years ago, primary forests covered about half of the Earth's land area; today they cover less than half of the 30% forested land surface left. Much of the temperate forest was already transformed into

*(Continued on page 3)*



## EDITORIAL



Courtesy of F. Dejon (IISD)

SBSTTA 7 Plenary

### SBSTTA 7: looking ahead

Over 515 participants from 113 countries attended the seventh meeting of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the Convention on Biological Diversity that took place from 12 to 16 November in Montreal.

The most significant achievement was the development of elements for a revised work programme on forest biological diversity, which goes beyond research to include practical actions. Building on a very high quality output of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Forest Biological Diversity, established by the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting, SBSTTA recommended more than one hundred activities that will ensure conservation of forest biodiversity; the sustainable use of its components; development of the necessary institutional and socio-economic enabling environment; and the use of knowledge, assessment and monitoring mechanisms.

The meeting placed special emphasis on primary forests, non-timber forest resources and climate change. The challenge lies ahead in the prioritization of the elements of the work programme.

Other major highlights included the endorsement of the Global Plant Conservation Strategy, the International Pollinators Initiative and the guidelines for the integration of biodiversity in Impact Assessment procedures and for the design and implementation of incentive measures. SBSTTA adopted for the first time outcome-oriented targets to promote the implementation of the Convention. It is expected that these targets will make the concept of biodiversity more concrete and provide reference points against which implementation of the Convention could be assessed. It was also recommended that the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity be the leader for matters relating to Forest Biological Diversity.

With regards to assessment processes under the Convention, the meeting approved the procedure being used relying on the work of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group. Indeed, the review of the status and trends of and major threats to forest biodiversity carried out by the Group was highly praised.

SBSTTA also welcomed the new International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resource for Food and Agriculture, which will have, in harmony with the Convention, facilitated access to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, and for the fair and equitable sharing of benefits.

The report of SBSTTA 7 is now available on our website.

Hamdallah Zedan  
*Executive Secretary*

### *The CBD and Forest Management: testing alternatives (Continued)*

logging rights and will receive payments for forest conservation activities. These payments will come from the interest earned on a capital trust fund, over the next ten years. The payment scheme is linked to the Reserve's Management Plan and will provide landowners with economic alternatives to logging as timber use is changed or prohibited. In conjunction, the Environment Ministry will establish projects that provide alternative income to landowners.

The Environment Ministry built consensus with the local landowners affected by logging as well as potential problems from creating the new reserve. It was important to communicate the goals and functioning of the trust fund, to address local questions regarding the management of the funds and responsibilities of each partner in the project, stakeholder or actor.

In an effort to include the input of local landowners, representatives from their communities were invited to sit on the Technical and Advisory Committee of the Trust Fund.

Local landowners signed contracts establishing payment schedules over a ten-year period for their property within the core zone. These payments corresponded to either the compensation for cancelled logging permits or conservation services payments. Local radio announcements and posters placed in municipal buildings provide information on upcoming payments and help ensure transparency in the process. This is key to building trust and ensuring benefit sharing among all ejido and indigenous community members.

During the process, local communities insisted on strengthened enforcement in protection against illegal logging. To support the

Environment Ministry's efforts to enforce laws, WWF facilitated negotiations with a private sector business to provide the needed vehicles, communication equipment, and checkpoints, as well as training for local landowners. This partner is also financing a baseline study to determine the current state of conservation and forest inventory for each property within the core zone. The study will determine the current status of forest density and quality, as well as watershed conditions, and will be the foundation of the monitoring and evaluation process for the Reserve. Conservation efforts will be measured against the baseline study over the next ten years and payments will be made according to improved forest cover and/or watershed integrity. Local people will also participate directly in the study and in the implementation of the Management Program.



In the state of Michoacán, the Secretary of Tourism has developed a sustainable tourism strategy for the area. As members of the Technical Committee of the state tourism plan, NGOs will contribute to the definition and completion of sustainability criteria in tourism activities within the Reserve. Similarly, stakeholders are participating to identify alternative economic activities that will support conservation which can be financed by the trust fund.

In addition to effectively halting logging in the core area, the project enhances local participation in forest management, thus consolidating conservation and sustainable use activities for the entire Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve. Likewise, the project was useful in helping to clarify territorial boundaries within the core area, as well as obtaining precise data concerning the logging permits.

Seen as an innovative conservation tool, the trust fund has gathered the enthusiastic support of federal and state governments, NGOs and the local people. Landowners are becoming more involved in determining the future of their communities and forests. The compensation and payment scheme has created expectations at the local level that alternatives to logging may be viable and that there is support for concerned ejidos and indigenous communities. There also is greater cooperation for enforcement activities to curb illegal logging. Likewise, collaboration among federal and state environment officials to manage the area has been strengthened.

Perhaps the biggest challenge will be implementing projects that improve economic conditions of the local inhabitants and conserve the integrity of the area's remaining forest. Communication with local landowners will be key throughout the project. Goals, objectives, and concerns must be clearly conveyed.

The experience from this project can help inform the CBD process. The combination of using the ecosystem approach in protected area design, the importance of local participation in management processes, multi-level government coordination, the potential of sustainable tourism, international cooperation, sufficient funding and political will, has shown that reaching conservation and sustainable use objectives in forest management, while not rapidly attainable, is possible when these factors are integrated into a long-term strategy.

*For further information on this project, please contact: Jordi Honey-Roses, Conservation and Development Officer, Monarch Butterfly Project, WWF Mexico Programme, Av. Mexico 51, Colonia Hipodromo Condesa, 06100 Mexico DF, Mexico, Tel.: 525-286-5631, E-mail: Jhoney@wwfnnet.org*

## Focus (Continued)

agricultural land thousands of years ago (e.g.: in the Mediterranean area). This deforestation has tremendously accelerated during the second half of the 19th century and throughout the 20th century until now, particularly in the tropics. During the 1980s, the annual rate of deforestation has been estimated to be about 16 million hectares, most of it occurring in the tropics. As a result, more than 200 million hectares have been lost in the past 15 years. Since 1990, because of reforestation activities and establishment of plantation forests, the net loss of the forest cover is estimated to be about 9.4 million hectares (FAO). However, reforestation and plantations can only partially compensate for deforestation of natural forests in terms of biological diversity, particularly in intact areas of primary forests.

A multitude of threats endanger forest biological diversity: improper and wasteful forest management and logging, illegal logging, conversion to agricultural land and other land uses, over-exploitation of many species, like bush meat hunting, invasive species, pollution, climate change, the increasing demand for wood, fuel, paper, and other forest products, as lack of governance and institutional structures, economic distortions, policy failures, unsustainable production and consumption patterns, demographic pressures, etc. Indigenous and local communities are often those who most suffer from these.

Therefore, the conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity is one of the most urgent challenges of the international

community, and in particular environmental policy-makers, and justify why the programme of work for forest biological diversity of the CBD should be expanded from research to practical actions. A serious attempt to move forward was made at the seventh meeting of SBSTTA: the Subsidiary Body drafted an expanded programme of work providing an impressive list of potential activities addressing (1) conservation, sustainable use and benefit sharing, (2) institutional and socio-economic enabling environment, and (3) assessment and monitoring. It remains to be seen if these ambitious measures will be adopted by the sixth Conference of the Parties in April 2002 in The Hague. ■

## The Convention's Strategic Plan

The Conference of the Parties has taken 114 decisions and launched programmes of work addressing five biome-based themes and thirteen cross-cutting issues. As a result, policies have been and/or are being developed to address most of the issues raised by the Convention. The challenge for the Convention now is to demonstrate, through action and deed, that it is an effective vehicle for implementing these policies. In response to this challenge, the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting decided to initiate a process to develop a Strategic Plan for the Convention that would provide an important mechanism for the implementation of these policies.

Since COP 5 the Executive Secretary has made a number of requests for comments and organised a series of workshops with a view to developing the Strategic Plan in a way that is as transparent as possible.

The most important preparatory step in this process was the Meeting on the Strategic Plan (MSP). At this meeting Parties and other stakeholders considered a draft Plan prepared by the Executive Secretary.

The major achievement of the MSP was the agreement upon a structure for the Plan. MSP proposed that the Plan be composed of the following elements:

1. **The Issue.** This section will provide the background to the Plan and highlight why biodiversity is important, what are the major threats to biodiversity and the achievements and challenges facing the Convention;
2. **A mission statement.** This will state an eternal truth, a goal that all stakeholders will be working towards at all times;
3. **A vision.** This should be composed of three elements (one for each objective of the Convention) that represent a visionary but realistic level of achievement;

*(Continued on page 4)*



## *The Convention's Strategic Plan (Continued)*

4. **Constraints.** This will outline the major impediments to the implementation of the Convention and the proper management of biodiversity; and
5. **Operational goals.** A series of operational goals should be developed for each element of the vision and will also have a series of cross-cutting goals.

The MSP also agreed upon a process for reporting on the implementation of the Strategic Plan that builds upon the existing reporting process of the Convention.

Finally, the MSP decided that there should be a multi-year programme of work for the Convention. This was an important recommendation not only because it will set out a timetable for the work of the Convention up to 2010 but also because it clarified that the Plan should be focused on implementation of the Convention.

Even though the MSP made an important step in developing a Strategic Plan for the Convention much remains to be done to realise the goals of the exercise. A key challenge that the Conference of the Parties (COP) will have to address at its sixth meeting is to keep the Plan truly strategic. This will in fact mean reducing the number of operational goals in the draft of the Plan coming from MSP. Reducing options is never very easy at meetings where decisions are taken by consensus, such as the COP. With consensual decision-making there is always a danger that in order to accommodate all viewpoints it is easier to be inclusive rather than focused: thereby ending up with a wish list of goals. But if the Strategic Plan is not focused what chance is there of any discipline in goals setting elsewhere in the Convention.

Another key challenge is ensuring that the Strategic Plan be supported by an effective implementation process and ensuring that it

builds upon the existing initiatives of the Convention. The recommendation of the MSP on monitoring and reporting provides a sound basis for implementing the Plan. It is, however, not yet clear how the Plan will contribute to the existing initiatives of the Convention. In order to add value to the existing initiatives it is important that the Plan contain outcome-orientated targets, as compared with "output" targets or "process" targets contained in the existing programmes of work of the Convention. The recommendation of MSP contains few such targets and it will largely up to parties at COP 6 to develop this aspect of the Plan. ■

*(see also article on page 7)*



## Preparing COP 6

*Biodiversity-Conference 2002:  
"Dutch Spring Breathes Biodiversity"  
The Ministry of Agriculture, Nature  
Management and Fisheries  
Department of Nature Management  
The Netherlands*

In a few months from now, the sixth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity will be convened in The Hague under the chairmanship of the Dutch Secretary of State for Agriculture, Nature Management & Fisheries, Mrs. Geke Faber.

It became clear during COP 5 in Nairobi, that COP 6 would be convened in a western country and after some lobbying, The Netherlands has been selected to become the host for the next meeting. This has been ratified officially during a session in February at the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries in The Hague. On this occasion Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director of UNEP, and Secretary of State Geke Faber, signed the Host-Agreement in the presence of bureau members and the Chairman of COP 5, the Kenyan Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Mr. Francis Nyenze.

Approximately 2000 delegates from 182 countries will participate in COP 6. The organization of a conference with such a large

attendance is quite a task and preparations are well under way. Various ministries are taking part in the inter-ministerial organizing committee, particularly the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry for Development Cooperation. Throughout the preparation, special attention has been given to the possible first Meeting of the Parties on the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. If on 8 January 2002, less than 50 countries have ratified the Protocol, a third Inter-governmental Conference on the Cartagena Protocol will take place.

The summit will be held in The Hague, in premises known as the "Congresgebouw" (Congress Building), one of the largest conference locations of the country. The sixth Conference of the Parties on the Convention for Climate Change was held in the same building. Frederik Vossenaar of the organizing committee: "It's a pretty challenging building for those who will just attend for one day. You will have to find your way there. But we are sure participants will feel at home".

The priority issues for COP 6 are well known: forest biological diversity, invasive alien species, access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing, and the strategic plan of the Convention. Various inter-sessional meetings in the months to come will determine the final outcome, but there is plenty of optimism in The Netherlands

that many of the issues will end with tangible results. The subjects for a High Level segment and a Ministerial Segment at the end of the second week of the conference will be set later. Vossenaar says: "We compare the conference to the Olympic Games in our Organizing Committee. And records will be broken".

The meeting will start on 8 April 2002. Spring is a busy tourist season in The Netherlands. Vossenaar explains: "It's the time of year when bulb fields display their beautiful colours and that always attracts plenty of visitors. At the same time, the Floriade opens. This horticulture exhibition drew 2 million visitors last time it was held. Interesting to note that both events have plenty to do with biodiversity and we will definitely include them in our excursion programmes. But there is much more to see in The Netherlands when it comes to biodiversity". The organizers underline that there is a reverse side to these events: "Hotels capacity is not unlimited in The Hague. We do advise participants to make early bookings for their stay". And there is more to this: "We would also advise participants to stay in the country a few days longer. Holland is beautiful in spring. A tour in the canals of Amsterdam is a must. And we feel pretty sure that the positive outcome of COP 6 will well merit a few days off for the participants!" ■



## INSIDE THE SECRETARIAT

### Open-ended Meeting of Experts on Compliance under the Biosafety Protocol

(26-28 September 2001, Nairobi, Kenya)

The meeting considered the “draft procedures and mechanisms on compliance under the Biosafety Protocol” prepared by the Secretariat, based on the views submitted by Parties and Governments. The improved draft, describing the objective, nature and underlying principles of the regime; the institutional mechanisms; the invocation procedure; information gathering and consultation mechanisms and the measures to promote compliance and to address cases of non-compliance, was forwarded to ICCP-2.

The objective is to promote compliance with the provisions of the Protocol, to address cases of non-compliance by Parties, and to provide advice or assistance, where appropriate. It is proposed that the regime be guided by principles of transparency, fairness, expedition and predictability and be facilitative, non-adversarial and cooperative in nature.

### Second meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (ICCP-2)

(1-5 October 2001, Nairobi, Kenya)

ICCP-2 was attended by 349 participants from 117 countries and 47 intergovernmental, non-governmental, private sector and indigenous organizations and made the following recommendations:

*Capacity building:* An action plan for building capacities to implement the Protocol was adopted and the CBD Secretariat was requested to develop a coordination mechanism for its implementation. The Meeting to the Parties of the Protocol (MOP) was invited to adopt interim guidelines for use of the roster of experts which will be administered by the Executive Secretary, who will also develop a voluntary fund to support eligible Parties to use it and provide progress reports to MOP.

*Information sharing:* The progress on the pilot phase of the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH) was welcomed and recommendations for further development made. Governments were urged to nominate national BCH focal points and to participate actively in the pilot phase.

The Secretariat was requested to develop CD-ROMs, templates and guidance to facilitate the creation of national BCHs.

*Liability and redress:* Governments and organizations were invited to submit to the Secretariat further information and to organize workshops on this issue. MOP will consider a draft decision to establish an open-ended ad hoc group of legal and technical experts to elaborate a liability and redress regime, taking into account the views and information submitted.

*Handling, transport, packaging and identification of LMOs:* International organizations were invited to advise the Executive Secretary on their ability to assist Parties to meet the requirements of Article 18(2)(b) and 18(2)(c) of the Protocol, and on their capacity to adjust their systems, if necessary. The Secretariat was requested to convene a meeting of technical experts on the above articles and to develop a model template. A similar meeting on Article 18(2)(a) will be convened back-to-back to consider views to be submitted by Governments and organizations.

*Decision-making procedures:* MOP was invited to decide to adopt the proposed procedures and mechanisms, to identify and build upon mechanisms to facilitate capacity building and to review the procedures.

*Establishment of a compliance mechanism:* MOP was invited to consider the draft procedures and mechanisms on compliance under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, proposed by the Open-ended Meeting of Experts on a Compliance Regime under the Protocol that was held just prior to ICCP-2. Governments were invited to submit their views on the draft to be compiled by the Secretariat for MOP-1.

*Other issues necessary for effective implementation of the Protocol:* Governments will submit to the Secretariat comments on mechanisms to promote consideration of such issues, on those requiring clarification and on items to be included in the medium-term programme of work.

*Guidance to the financial mechanism:* MOP was invited to consider and recommend to COP the proposed eligibility criteria and guidance drawing upon the capacity building action plan and other priorities identified by ICCP.

*Monitoring and reporting:* Governments were invited to provide comments on the draft format for reporting and MOP-1 was invited to establish guidelines requiring Parties to prepare their reports every four years through a consultative process.

*The Secretariat:* COP was invited to approve the core budget for 2003 and 2004 and voluntary contributions were called for to support non-core activities and participation of developing countries.

Finally, in view of the need for further preparatory work, and in the event that the Protocol does not enter into force in time for MOP-1 to be held in conjunction with COP 6 in April 2002, a third ICCP meeting, to be held with COP 6, was recommended.

A copy of the meeting report is available at [www.biodiv.org/biosafety/mtg-iccp-02.asp](http://www.biodiv.org/biosafety/mtg-iccp-02.asp).

### Liaison Group Meeting of Technical Experts on the Biosafety Clearing-House

(27-28 September 2001, Nairobi, Kenya)

This meeting was organized by the Secretariat, pursuant to the request by the Bureau of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (ICCP), which was mandated by the ICCP to provide management oversight of the development and implementation of the pilot phase of the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH) and to draw upon appropriate technical advisory expertise.

The meeting undertook a technical review of the pilot phase and commended the Secretariat for successfully implementing all the ICCP-1 recommendations including: establishment of the central portal and central databases online, the ability to register information online, development of common formats for registering information, interoperability with international organizations, development of a toolkit and organization of regional BCH capacity-building meetings.

The recommendations of the meeting were considered by the Bureau and incorporated into its second note on technical issues associated with the BCH, which was annexed to ICCP recommendation 2/8 (UNEP/CBD/ICCP/2/15), available at [www.biodiv.org/biosafety/mtg-iccp-02.asp](http://www.biodiv.org/biosafety/mtg-iccp-02.asp).

(Continued on page 6)



*Inside the secretariat (Continued)*

## **GRULAC Regional Meeting on the Biosafety Clearing-House**

*(4-6 September 2001, Lima, Peru)*

The regional meeting on the Biosafety Clearing House (BCH) for the Group of Latin American and Caribbean (GRULAC) countries was the second in a series of regional workshops organized by the Secretariat in response to the recommendations by the first meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (ICCP-1).

Attended by over 37 participants from 27 countries, the meeting allowed them to identify their priority capacity-building needs, develop an action plan to address them and to receive hands-on training on the pilot phase of the BCH. These include: infrastructure, financial resources and trained personnel; mechanisms for better communication, interoperability and information security; standardized formats and procedures for information exchange and the capacity to manage confidential information and intellectual property rights issues.

The meeting also discussed the information exchange initiatives in the region, major constraints and possible measures of improvement under the Protocol. In this regard, participants emphasized the need to: assess existing technical infrastructures and capacities for using new information technologies; improve technical cooperation, for example by the exchange of specialists within the region; and review sub-regional initiatives to catalogue lessons learned and gain from experience.

The training session illustrated the operation of the pilot phase, including data registration and retrieval. Several questions were raised by participants and clarified by the Secretariat, such as: the authorization procedure to register information on the BCH, security issues, authentication and validation procedures; use of controlled vocabularies and the language to be used in the pilot phase.

Overall, participants welcomed the Secretariat's initiative to organize such regional workshops and expressed satisfaction with the progress in operationalizing the BCH pilot phase.

The meeting report is available at [www.biodiv.org/bch/mtg-lac-01.asp](http://www.biodiv.org/bch/mtg-lac-01.asp).

## **African Regional Workshop on Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity**

*(22-29 September, Maputo, Mozambique)*

The purpose of the Workshop – the first in a series of three – was to identify guiding principles for the sustainable use of biodiversity, focussing on dryland resources and game utilization. The outcome will further be developed in two workshops to be held in Vietnam (January 2002) and Ecuador (March 2002).

Twenty five participants from Australia, China, Mozambique, Namibia, Netherlands, Russian Federation, South Africa, Viet Nam, as well as representatives from CITES, SADC and NGO's were present. The experts from East and West Africa, as well as from the Latin American and Caribbean region were unable to attend as a result of the 11 September tragedy.

The Maputo Principles were divided in axioms and guiding principles; they are the result of an intensive debate which concluded that for the necessary ownership of the whole African region, it is important to: encourage discussions on the adoption process of the Maputo Principles in Africa at national, local and community level; start a "bottom-up" process by promoting the message to the other African regions, who's representatives were unable to attend this workshop; forward comments on the Principles to the CBD Secretariat; request Parties to provide the Secretariat with examples of instruments on sustainable use that have proven helpful in their regions.

## **Workshop on Incentive Measures**

*(12-16 November 2001, Montreal, Canada)*

Organized with financial support from the Dutch Government, the purpose of this workshop was twofold: to elaborate proposals for the design and implementation of incentive measures in conformity with decision V/15 of the Conference of the Parties, and to formulate recommendations to the SBSTTA and the COP on an action plan for future cooperation to assist Parties in the development of incentive measures.

Government-nominated experts from each geographic region took part in the workshop and, in addition, representatives of competent intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as stakeholders, were invited to participate as observers.

A number of presentations relating to ongoing work in other intergovernmental organizations were made by GEF, UNEP, OECD, IUCN, the World Bank, the CITES Secretariat and national experiences were shared by Colombia and Kenya.

The outcome of the Workshop includes both a set of recommendation on elements for consideration in the design and implementation of incentive measures and recommendations on future cooperation to assist Governments in designing and implementing incentive measures, building on work already underway.

These recommendations were used as a basis for discussions by SBSTTA 7 (12-16 November 2001), which, in turn, adopted two sets of recommendations pertaining respectively to the design and implementation of such measures and to the coordination of further work to assist governments in this activity

## **Liaison Group Meeting on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions**

*(9 October 2001, Montreal, Canada)*

In response to its decision V/16 of the fifth Conference of the Parties on the implementation of Article 8(j) and related provisions dealing with Traditional Knowledge, relevant reports and documents are being prepared for the second Ad Hoc Open-ended Intersessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and related provisions, to be held from 4 to 8 February 2002 in Montreal, Canada.

As part of this process, a Liaison Group Meeting was convened at the CBD Secretariat on 9 October 2001, which reviewed a number of documents and their topics are under tasks 1, 2, 4, 5 and 9 of decision V/16: Draft guidelines or recommendations for the conduct of cultural, environmental and social impact assessments regarding developments proposed to take place on sacred sites and on lands and waters occupied or used by indigenous and local communities (Task 9); Outline of composite report on the status and trends regarding the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities, a plan and a timetable. (Task 5); Participatory mechanisms for indigenous and local communities. (Element 1 - Tasks 1, 2 & 4).

Key elements discussed during the meeting were the: definition of Traditional Knowledge; importance of local languages and concerns for their high rate of loss; need for proactive or action-oriented examples such as case studies; importance of communication and information



exchange services at the national level to NGOs and others dedicated to promote the interest of indigenous peoples and local communities, the conservation and management of biodiversity.

## Experts' Meeting on Education and Public Awareness

*(5 -7 November 2001, Bilbao, Spain)*

The CBD-UNESCO Consultative Group of Experts on Biological Diversity Education and Public Awareness met for the third and last time in Bilbao, Spain from 5 to 7 November 2001 as a follow-up to Article 13 and in response to decisions IV/10 B and V/17 of the Convention. The meeting was hosted by the UNESCO Basque Center "Extea" and by the Basque Government.

The EPA-Group concluded the work started earlier in Paris, France (July 2000) and Bergen, Norway (November 2000); the EPA-Group added the C of "communication" to their abbreviation. The final recommendations, as adopted by the Group, are contained in three Programme elements (see document UNEP/CBD/COP/13/Add1) for the Global Initiative on Education and Public Awareness, consisting of the following clusters: Towards a global CEPA Network; Exchange of knowledge and expertise; Capacity building for CEPA.

The Group also discussed ideas for a possible communication strategy for the marketing of the Global Initiative. A series of actions were suggested, such as organizing side events

and using the IUCN Commission on Education and Communication (ECE News: [www.iucn.org](http://www.iucn.org)). A formal launch of the Global Initiative on the International Day for Biological Diversity (22 May 2002) should be taken into consideration.

## Open-ended inter-sessional meeting on the Strategic Plan, National Reports and the implementation of the Convention

*(19-21 November 2001, Montreal, Canada)*

At its fifth meeting (May 2000), the Conference of the Parties decided to hold an inter-sessional meeting to prepare for its sixth meeting (April 2002). The meeting considered: a) preparation of the Strategic Plan for the Convention, b) national reporting on implementation, and c) support to implementation of the Convention, particularly implementation of priority actions in national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

The 'Meeting on the Strategic Plan' (MSP) was held in Montreal from 19 to 21 November 2001. At the opening of the meeting, the Executive Secretary noted that the need to enhance implementation of the Convention had been clearly stated on many occasions, and that it was all the more important in the time leading up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development. Much had already been achieved under the Convention. Nevertheless, biodiversity was being destroyed at an unprecedented rate. The challenge of the meeting was to find ways to

improve the functioning of the Convention process, to give it a long-term focus, and to consider ways to support implementation.

After three days of intensive discussions, the meeting adopted recommendations on the Strategic Plan, national reports, implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, operations of the Convention, and the input of the Convention to the World Summit on Sustainable Development. These recommendations, which can be found on the Convention's website, will be considered by the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting in April 2002.

*(see also article on page 3)*

## First Joint Liaison Group Meeting between UNFCCC, UNCCD and the CBD

*(6 December 2001, Washington D.C., USA)*

The above meeting -held on the margins of the 18th session of the GEF Council- addressed the mandate and organization of the meetings of the Joint Liaison Group, the developments from recent conferences, possible areas of common activities and collaboration as well as a future work programme. In addition to bilateral cooperation, the promotion of tripartite joint activities that would ensure synergies among the three Conventions was reviewed. The need of considering types of national and field-level cooperation for the management of water resources, energy and foresting was also emphasized. A second meeting is scheduled for 30 January 2002. ■

# INSIGHT

## Where next in ABS?

*Kerry ten Kate*

*Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, member of UK delegation to the CBD and member of the Expert Panel on Access and Benefit-Sharing*

Access to genetic resources, in exchange for the fair and equitable sharing of the resulting benefits, has been described as the 'grand bargain' of the CBD. Intimately connected with conservation, sustainable use, Article 8(j), technology transfer, taxonomy, invasive alien species, and indeed with the majority of the CBD's thematic and cross-cutting issues, access and benefit-sharing (ABS) can be seen as the fulcrum of the Convention.

It has been exciting to work in an area that has developed so rapidly over the last 6 years. When I helped the Secretariat prepare its papers for COP 3 in 1996, some half dozen countries had introduced or were developing access legislation. Today, the number stands at over 50. There is also considerable experience with the development of a multilateral system for access and benefit-sharing, namely the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. This has been matched by growing expertise in all quarters – including government, communities, research institutes, and the private sector. There is now a family of experts worldwide with whom it is possible to hold a technical discussion on ABS, to share legal, policy and practical experience and from whom to ask for advice.

When they address prior informed consent and benefit-sharing, ABS partnerships can be a source of sustainable economic development, providing a country and its stakeholders with benefits such as improved capacity for conservation and support for scientific research, as well as the development of new products and income to meet basic needs such as healthcare and food security. However, ABS embraces a complex, varied and unpredictable set of issues, linked to policy-making in many areas of government, as well as to domestic and global markets. The uses of genetic resources are diverse and the stakeholders involved range from multinational companies to indigenous communities, each with different priorities. In addition, demand for access to genetic

*(Continued on page 8)*



## Insight (Continued)

resources fluctuates significantly and can be difficult to predict in the medium- to long-term. There are no simple ways to put a finite price on the value of genetic resources and associated knowledge, to assess how ABS policy can contribute to national sustainable development or to judge whether individual partnerships involving access are fair and equitable.

Strategic thinking on access and benefit-sharing at the national or regional level can help to develop informed and realistic policy that meets the needs identified as priorities by stakeholders and enable a country to remain competitive in the face of uncertainty and change. This includes mainstreaming ABS into planning processes underway in areas such as economic development, science and technology, agriculture, health and protected area management. Reflecting the call for work on ABS strategies by both Expert Panels, there is now growing experience in countries as diverse as Australia, Bolivia, India and South Africa, and a growing literature on the subject (see ten Kate & Wells, 2001).

The work of the Expert Panel and the encouraging progress at the meeting of the Open-Ended Ad Hoc Working Group held in Bonn from 22-26 October started a much-needed, intergovernmental process. This should help to clear up remaining doubts and misconceptions about the behaviour and

interests of different stakeholders, the nature and extent of demand for access to genetic resources, the range of benefits available and the manner in which they can be shared.

The 8 key features and 12 objectives of the draft Guidelines emerging from Bonn are ambitious. In some cases, some quite simple steps would help achieve them, for example the establishment by each Party of a focal point. Required by a COP 5 decision and now set out in the Guidelines, the focal point would provide information to scientists on how to obtain access to genetic resources legally in the country concerned. But we also need imaginative solutions to some tricky issues. For example, it would be sensible to distinguish between the procedures to follow for access and the benefits to be shared for taxonomic research and the commercial use of genetic resources. Currently, the Guidelines only hint at these trickier issues and how to tackle them. Some – such as treatment of derivatives – are in square brackets and remain to be resolved.

The Guidelines set out some useful provisions on prior informed consent and mutually agreed terms, and helpfully recognise that countries and organisations face responsibilities for their role in the acquisition, use and supply of genetic resources, since they are both users and providers of genetic resources. Some 'responsibilities' are indicated in the Guidelines.

However, it is not entirely clear whether and when these apply to stakeholders, nor what a country, organisation or individual would need to do to comply with them. It may be possible to clarify the Guidelines at COP 6, or to supplement them later with informal 'guidelines to the guidelines'. Practising scientists, communities and organisations – as well as policy-makers – might welcome plainer language and more technical support.

I believe this will require a package of complementary policy measures, including simple and flexible access laws, the Guidelines and associated support. This support, discussed in the Guidelines and 'other approaches' developed in Bonn, could include model agreements and institutional policies, case studies and other 'how to' literature and training. Each country could adapt and use these tools in response to its own needs-based strategy on ABS, as the Guidelines suggest. Above all, we will need to take a pragmatic approach and design measures that are sufficiently flexible and practical to accommodate the needs, activities and expectations of many different stakeholders and uses of genetic resources.

The report of the Bonn meeting (UNEP/CBD/COP/6/6) is available on the CBD website at: [www.biodiv.org/doc/meeting.asp?lg=0&wg=cop-06](http://www.biodiv.org/doc/meeting.asp?lg=0&wg=cop-06) ■

## SYNERGY

### Putting education and communication instruments to work for the CBD

*Elin Kelsey, PhD, international consultant specializing in public involvement in environment and sustainability initiatives through education and communications.*

The Convention on Biological Diversity was the first global environmental agreement to include a specific article dealing with public education and awareness. Article 13 reflects a commitment to education and communication that has been continuously voiced since the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) launched its first global environmental education initiative twenty-five years ago.

As a follow-up to Article 13 and in response to Decisions IV/10 B and V/17, the Executive Secretary, in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (UNESCO), convened a

consultative working group of experts on biodiversity education and public awareness. The working group concluded that despite positive statements about their importance, education and communications instruments fail to be effectively utilized in the development and implementation of CBD work programmes and national biodiversity strategies and action plans. Moreover, education and communications instruments lack appropriate levels of funding and are rarely informed by relevant professional expertise.

At their final meeting in Bilbao, Spain (November 5-7), the working group assembled a comprehensive series of recommendations for the implementation of a Global Initiative on Education and Public Awareness that would more effectively integrate education and communications instruments into the strategic priorities and plans of the CBD. In short, the recommendations fall within two strategically

important areas: 1) institutional arrangements and 2) an integrated program of work. (Full reports from the consultative group's meetings may be accessed at [www.biodiv.org/outreach/awareness/epa-03.asp](http://www.biodiv.org/outreach/awareness/epa-03.asp)) The recommendations respond to a number of needs and guiding principles. These include but are not limited to the following:

- The concept of Biodiversity poses particular communication and education challenges due to its comprehensiveness, complexity and ill-defined nature.
- Education and communication instruments lack appropriate funding and are inadequately advised by relevant professional expertise.
- Education and communication, as social instruments, work best when part of an instrument mix designed to formulate, implement and manage the national biodiversity strategy and action plans (NBSAPs).





- Biodiversity conservation, sustainable use and equitable sharing call for social change. Education and public awareness are long-term investments towards this change. At the same time, biodiversity issues need to be communicated effectively to ensure the participation of major stakeholders from different sectors. The Global Initiative, therefore, distinguishes between communication strategies, on the one hand,

and education and public awareness on the other. For this reason, resulting documents use the term CEPA (Communication, Education and Public Awareness) to refer to both disciplines.

- Implementation of the Convention depends on key actors making best use of CEPA expertise and approaches to engage major stakeholders and to convey the appropriate messages to mainstream biodiversity.

COP 6 provides a significant opportunity to position the CBD as a leader in effectively utilizing education and communication expertise and instruments in the operation and implementation of multi-national environmental agreements. A quarter century after the first global environmental education initiative was launched, surely it is an idea whose time has come. ■

## VIEWS

### Preventing the Introduction and Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species in North America

*Hans Herrmann, Head, Conservation of Biodiversity, North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation (NACEC)*

*Tara Wilkinson, Program Coordinator, Conservation of Biodiversity, NACEC*

In today's world of increasing, international trade, travel and transport, the invasive alien species phenomenon has become an increasingly important threat to biological diversity. For aquatic environments, certain practices involved in shipping, aquaculture and fishing have contributed to an area's risk of being invaded by an invasive species. In these environments invasive species can enter as tradable commodities, hitchhiker in packages and containers, or as organisms found in ballast water stored in the hulls of ocean-going tankers and freighters. The invasive alien species challenge is an extremely difficult one to address in part because the vectors and pathways of invasion are so varied.

Although invasive species are generally accepted as one of the most serious threats to biological diversity, second only to habitat loss, and are consequentially an important factor affecting commercial operations such as agriculture, aquaculture and forestry, to date much effort to combat the problem has been fragmented, and international efforts to develop a more cohesive approach are still in the early stages of development.

The North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation – the organization established by the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation (NAAEC) (the environmental side agreement to the North American Free Trade Agreement) – promotes and stewards cooperation initiatives to strengthen North America's capacity to conserve

migratory and transboundary species, face common threats to the environment and tap into the opportunities of regional trade. Having this particular mandate, NACEC is in a unique position to help deal with the aquatic invasive species challenge.

As one of the first steps in its attempt to a trilateral initiative addressing bio-invasions in North America, in March of this year NAFEC organized a workshop which focused on ways that Canada, Mexico and the United States could work together to facilitate action to reduce the incidence and severity of biological invasions in North America's coastal and freshwater ecosystems. Major recommendations of the scientists, modelers, managers, policy makers and industry representatives who attended the workshop followed four lines of action: 1) Informatics, Prediction & Modeling; 2) Prevention and Control Mechanisms: Regulatory Measures; 3) Prevention and Control Mechanisms: Voluntary Measures & Engaging the Private Sector; 4) Public Awareness Development. Draft versions of the recommendations can be found on the following web site: [www.crossdraw.ca/marinet](http://www.crossdraw.ca/marinet). NACEC, through the North American Biodiversity Information Network (NABIN), is also examining the possibility of creating a system to analyze and predict invasive species' pathways via trade corridors.

#### Is Our Work Inherently Lacking?

*John Nevill, Director of Conservation Ministry of Environment and Transport, Seychelles*

*(This article is personal and does not necessarily reflect the viewpoint of the Government of Seychelles and of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity)*

On examining the text of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) one finds that the first paragraph reads:

*“The contracting parties, conscious of the intrinsic value of biological diversity and of the ecological, genetic, social, economic, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational and aesthetic values of biological diversity and its components.”*

it is clear that the recognition of the value, in all of its nuances, of biodiversity was a primary concern and motivation behind the development of the CBD. Also clear is that intrinsic value is cited first because of the particular importance placed upon it by the negotiators developing the convention text. This is particularly significant as it constitutes the first such reference in a binding international instrument. As such the CBD marked a new approach to biodiversity in this regard, and one might logically expect to see this concern duly reflected in SBSTTA recommendations and COP decisions. Sadly this is not the case, in fact the general trend of the work of the CBD seems, often, to be to the contrary, two recent notable examples have been:

- **The Development Of The Ecosystem Approach, SBSTTA 5.**

The document 5/L.11 that was presented to the final plenary for approval had as the final sentence of the first principle's rationale the following text:

*“Ultimately, Ecosystems also should be managed for the benefits of humans, in a fair and equitable way – whether that benefit is tangible or non-tangible.”*

This text, in effect, opened the possibility for states to exploit all ecosystems, whether they be pristine, protected or otherwise and, provided benefits were shared equitably, it would be justifiable under the ecosystem approach. In fact it goes further and could be logically paraphrased to say:

Ultimately all ecosystems should be managed for the benefit of humans.

*(Continued on page 10)*



## Views (Continued)

How could such a text get through to the plenary stage of any meeting under the auspices of the CBD? Clearly the text enables the dismissal of all notions of value except that which is purely utilitarian.

Fortunately the text was blocked at the last minute but not without strong resistance from several delegations.

- **The Interim Guiding Principles For The Prevention, Introduction And Mitigation Of Impacts Of Alien Species And Their Further Elaboration In SBSTTA 6.**

In the interim guiding principles approved by COP V the term “cost-effective” is utilised on several occasions. In the elaborations of SBSTTA 6 this is compounded by reference to the precautionary approach as stated in principle 15 of the Rio Declaration.

The concept of cost-effectiveness does, of course, have its place but its usage must be very carefully defined. Consider the following hypothetical example:

There is an island which is the last refuge for 5 endemic species which are known to be unable to co-exist with rats and unfortunately *Rattus rattus* has been unintentionally introduced. Of the feasible options considered (ie. rat eradication, open-ended rat control, establishment and maintenance of ex-situ populations etc.) eradication is the cheapest but will still cost an estimated US\$ 250,000. This is beyond the

budgetary means of the agencies involved ie. it is not affordable which is entirely different to not being “cost-effective”. To imply that when an action is not affordable it is equally not cost-effective contravenes the concept of intrinsic value; and in this case would mean that the sum total of all the values (intrinsic, ecological, genetic and so on..) of the five species in question for the rest of evolutionary time is less than a quarter of a million dollars! Clearly this is incorrect.

This is in contrast to a case where an invasive crop pest reduces crop production or natural harvest productivity. Here it is simple, if the cost of eradication is so high that it is not balanced by the long-term benefits to yield, the action can be said to be “not cost-effective”.

The concept of cost-effectiveness can not be properly applied to the other values attributed to biodiversity in the preambular text, particularly when extinction is involved. In order to stop this slide into total utilitarian valuation other language needs to be found; and furthermore reference to Rio principle 15 in preference to the precautionary principle in the CBD preamble should be avoided.

Our basic reference point of direct economic value is, of course, understandable. Economic value is readily quantifiable and has formed the basis of human civilisation. It is the tool we understand, but to paraphrase a saying I heard from my colleague the delegate from Uganda:

“If the only tool you have is a hammer, you will treat every problem as a nail.”

The CBD came in to being so that we could develop NEW tools for decision-makers to address biodiversity issues. I do not think we are currently taking the right path to achieve this. The CBD bereft of a functioning concept of intrinsic (and other non-commercial) value becomes just another tool for sustainable development not conservation and sustainable use.

Having started with reference to the preambular text it seems appropriate to end with references from it. The sixth paragraph of the preamble reads:

*“The Contracting Parties, concerned that biological diversity is being significantly reduced by certain human activities,”*

I firmly believe that the continual, and sometimes cynical, undermining of intrinsic value as a concept within the work of the CBD is one such activity.

Meanwhile, the eighth paragraph which reads;

*“The Contracting Parties, noting that it is vital to anticipate, prevent and attack the causes of significant reduction or loss of biological diversity at source,”*

is the “raison d’etre” for the article you have just read. ■

## NEWCOMERS TO THE SECRETARIAT

**Paola Deda** (Italy) joined the Secretariat as the Programme Officer on Sustainable Use and Tourism. Paola is an architect and a regional planner. She has previously worked for the UN Division for Sustainable Development (New York). Paola can be reached at: [paola.deda@biodiv.org](mailto:paola.deda@biodiv.org)

**Xueman Wang** (China) started to work as Programme Officer for legal and policy affairs in the Biosafety Unit. She is an international lawyer who previously worked with the Climate Change Secretariat on developing compliance regimes under that Convention and its Kyoto Protocol, as well as on trade and environment issues. Xueman’s email is: [xueman.wang@biodiv.org](mailto:xueman.wang@biodiv.org)

**Michelle Gauthier** (Canada) is the Agricultural Biological Diversity Programme Officer. She is seconded by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) where she was a Forestry Officer, specializing also in biodiversity and

urban and peri-urban issues. Michelle has worked for other international agencies such as the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA). She has a keen interest in mountain biodiversity. You can contact her at: [michelle.gauthier@biodiv.org](mailto:michelle.gauthier@biodiv.org)

**Ryan Hill** (Canada) started to work in the Biosafety unit as Environmental Affairs Officer, Scientific Assessments. He is an applied ecologist specializing in the development and application of risk assessment methodologies for addressing environmental issues. Ryan previously worked in Zimbabwe as a project coordinator with IUCN, and in western Canada as an environmental consultant to government and industry. He can be reached at: [ryan.hill@biodiv.org](mailto:ryan.hill@biodiv.org).

**Lijie Cai** (China) took up the post of Programme Officer for National Reports. Previously he worked as coordinator for the

implementation of the CBD in the State Environmental Protection Administration of China. As a country delegate, he took part in some important activities and negotiations under the CBD since 1996. In addition, he also coordinated the implementation of the ozone and climate change treaties in China. His e-mail is [lijie.cai@biodiv.org](mailto:lijie.cai@biodiv.org).

**Markus Lehmann** (Germany) is now the Secretariat’s Economist. He is an environmental economist who previously held research positions with the Free University of Berlin, the German Max-Planck-Society and the German Institute for International and Security Affairs. He also served as a special advisor on environmental economics to the United Nations Development Programme. Markus can be contacted at: [markus.lehmann@biodiv.org](mailto:markus.lehmann@biodiv.org).



## IN BRIEF

### International Symposium on Managing Biodiversity in Agricultural Ecosystems (8-10 November 2001, Montreal, Canada)

The Secretariat co-organized with the United Nations University and the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute an International Symposium on Managing Biodiversity in Agricultural Ecosystems, to discuss, among other themes, managing crop and livestock genetic resources; agro-ecosystem services; and agricultural landscape, scale and change. The Symposium showed some of the dimensions of diversity, including associated pollinators, pest and diseases, organisms as service providers and

livelihood. Many success stories were presented which showed achievements by farmers around the world in sustainable farming practices. The proceedings from the Symposium and a book on agro-biodiversity will be published on a CD-ROM format before the sixth Conference of the Parties to the CBD.

### Internships at the Secretariat

Between April and December, the Secretariat welcomed three students sponsored by the Ministère des Relations Internationales du Québec. Catherine Bernier worked in Financial Resources management, Julie Crowley for the

Clearing-house Mechanism, and Boris Romaguer for the Forest Biological Diversity Programme. The six months internships were highly profitable both for the interns and the Secretariat. In addition to a unique working experience in a United Nations organization, this has been an opportunity for them to participate in the international environmental governance process and to witness the evolution of biodiversity protection efforts. The Secretariat benefited from their contributions within the Implementation and Outreach Programme and the Scientific, Technical and Technological Matters Programme. ■

## PUBLICATIONS AND OTHER NEWS

### Analysing the implementation of the Convention

The Secretariat has developed a web-based tool for analysing the information contained in national reports on implementation of the Convention. By selecting among counties or groups of countries and among the clusters of thematic questions, users can construct an analysis of the information on any given issue (for example, implementation of the elements of the programme of work on inland water biodiversity, or the availability of resources to identify the threats posed by alien species) in different countries.

The analysis can be undertaken for an individual country, selected countries, or a wide range of regional groups of countries (for example, members of the UN Economic Commission for Africa, Pacific Island countries, or countries comprising the Mekong delta). The National Report Analyser provides statistical information in the form of pie charts and bar graphs, and can be used to compare the experience of one group of countries against others. The Conference of the Parties will thus be able to identify whether, for example, countries in given regions are at a comparative disadvantage in terms of the human, institutional or financial resources required for implementation of particular commitments under the Convention.

The tool is available on the CBD website ([www.biodiv.org/reports/nr-02.asp](http://www.biodiv.org/reports/nr-02.asp)). By making it widely accessible, the Secretariat aims to assist all those involved in national or regional implementation to carry out analysis of the information on implementation so far, as reported by Parties to the Convention, that will contribute to the identification of priorities and targeted actions.

### Recent publications

*Global Biodiversity Outlook. Montreal: CBD Secretariat, 2001. 282p.*

The Global Biodiversity Outlook shows that the condition of biodiversity in the world's major ecosystems continues to deteriorate. It is a tool for use for Contracting Parties and other stakeholders identify barriers to implementation, help set priorities for implementation and communicate progress and advocate needs to decision makers. The report represents also an account of what has been achieved since the Convention was opened for signature in Rio during the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. It points to some of the critical issues that have to be addressed if the Convention is to succeed in meeting its objective.

*Handbook of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Montreal: CBD Secretariat, 2001. 690p.*

This official Handbook, compiled by the Secretariat, contains the full texts of the Convention, the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the decisions of the Conference of the Parties from 1994-2000. It presents all the most important information about the Convention and its institutional arrangements, a guide to the decisions adopted and a guide to ongoing activities in relation to particular articles and thematic areas.

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity has published 6 Technical Series to date:

*Assessment, Conservation and Sustainable Use of Forest Biodiversity. Montreal: CBD Secretariat, 2001. 120p. CBD Technical Series #3)*



Courtesy of F. Dejon (IISD)

*The Global Biodiversity Outlook was launched at SBSTTA 7 in a ceremony attended by (from left to right): Geke Faber, State Secretary for Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries (The Netherlands), Reuben Olembo (UNEP) on behalf of the COP-5 President and Hamdallah Zedan, CBD Executive Secretary*

*The Value of Forest Ecosystem. Montreal: CBD Secretariat, 2001. 59p. CBD Technical Series #4)*

*Impacts of Human-caused Fires on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Functioning, and their Causes in Tropical, Temperate and Boreal Forest Biomes. Montreal: CBD Secretariat, 2001. 27p. CBD Technical Series #5)*

*Sustainable Management of Non-Timber Forest Resources. Montreal: CBD Secretariat, 2001. 27p. CBD Technical Series #6)*

A complete list of publications is available at [www.biodiv.org](http://www.biodiv.org) and in hard copy from the CBD Secretariat. Documents may be ordered free of charge. ■





## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

For a complete up-to-date list please visit: [www.biodiv.org/events/default.asp?org=unep/scbd](http://www.biodiv.org/events/default.asp?org=unep/scbd)

Date & Venue	Title of Meeting	Status
<b>February 2002</b>		
3 February 2002 (9h00 to 17h00) Montreal, Canada	Impacts of Genetic Use Restriction Technologies on Indigeneous and Local Communities, and on Farmers' Rights inkeeping with the Revision of the International Treaty on Plant Conservation for Food and Agriculture	Confirmed
4 - 8 February 2002 Montreal, Canada	Second Meeting on the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Inter-sessional Working Group on Article 8 (j) and Related Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity	Confirmed
4 February 2002 (1h15 p.m.) Montreal, Canada	Brainstorming Session on the Clearing-House Mechanism and Traditional Knowledge	Confirmed
5 - 9 February 2002 Nitra, Slovak Republic	Regional Meeting on the Pilot Phase of the Biosafety Clearing-House, Central and Eastern Europe Region to be held in conjunction with the UNEP-GEF Regional Meeting on National Biosafety Framework	Confirmed
11 - 13 February 2002 Gran Canaria, Spain	Technical Expert Group Meeting on Global Strategy on Plant Conservation	Tentative
18 - 21 February 2002 Manta, Ecuador	Third Regional Workshop on Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity	Confirmed
18 - 19 February 2002 Yaounde, Cameroon	ICCP Bureau Meeting	Confirmed
19 - 20 February 2002 Montreal, Canada	Informal Meeting on Formats, Protocols and Standards for Improved Exchange of Biodiversity Information	Confirmed
End of February or Beginning of March 2002 Montreal, Canada	Ad hoc Technical Expert Group on Dry and Subhumid Land Biodiversity	Tentative
<b>March 2002</b>		
March 2002 To be determined	Regional Preparatory Meetings for the Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-6)	Tentative
4 - 8 March 2002 Beijing, China	Regional Meeting on the Pilot Phase of the Biosafety Clearing-House, Asia, Pacific Region to be held in conjunction with the UNEP-GEF Regional Meeting on National Biosafety	Confirmed
13 - 15 March 2002 Montreal, Canada	Technical Expert Meeting on Handling, Transport, Packaging and Identification of Living Modified Organisms (Article 18, paragraphs 2.b and 2.c)	Confirmed
18 - 20 March 2002 Montreal, Canada	Technical Expert Meeting on Handling, Transport, Packaging and Identification of Living Modified Organisms (Article 18, paragraph 2.a)	Confirmed
18 - 22 March 2002 Kingston, Jamaica	Regional Preparatory Meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean in preparation for the Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 6)	Tentative
<b>April 2002</b>		
7 - 19 April 2002 The Hague, The Netherlands	Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-6)	Confirmed
22 - 26 April 2002 The Hague, The Netherlands	Third Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (ICCP-3)	Confirmed

### Editorial Board:

Hamdallah Zedan, Arthur Nogueira, Cristina Stricker, Marcos Silva, Alexander Heydendaal, Zoumana Bamba, Ione Anderson, Eric Tamale and Paola Deda.

### Write to Us

*CBD News* invites readers' letters for publication. Comments on issues that matter to the Convention on Biological Diversity are also welcome. Readers may also wish to give us their views on *CBD News* itself and the role it should play. Letters should not be longer than 300 words and can be sent by post or e-mail.

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