

Compendium of Side Events

Events held during the second meeting of the open-ended working group on review of implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity

Paris, France
9-13 July 2007



FOREWORD:

The second meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (WGRI-2), held with 360 participants at the headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Paris from 9 to 13 July 2007, concluded by recommending a number of key decisions aimed at enhancing the implementation of the objectives of the Convention. The meeting adopted a series of recommendations on the status and guidance for the development and implementation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans as well as priority areas for building capacity building, access to and transfer of technology and technology cooperation. The participants also recommended measures related to the mechanism of implementation of the Convention as well as measures aimed at streamlining guidance to the GEF and a multi-year framework of collaboration with the GEF for the Facility's next phase from 2010 to 2014 and options for a draft strategy on resource mobilization. To this end a meeting with the Bureau and Ms Monique Barbut, the CEO and Chairman of the GEF was convened as well as a high level dialogue with the participants. Recommendations on the scope and format of the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook were also adopted as well as process for the retirement of decisions of the Conference of the Parties and procedures for the admission of organizations to meetings under the Convention. These recommendations will be taken up by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention when it meets in Bonn, Germany from 19 to 30 May 2008.

The meeting was preceded by training sessions on national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) that were organized by the Secretariat in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) acting as Implementing Agencies of the Global Environment facility. The training, hosted by the Natural History Museum in Paris, was attended by more than 60 participants.

Against this background, twelve side events took place during the week. A poster session on exchange of experience on NBSAPs was also organized. In keeping with the tradition established in Grenada in January 2006, the following CBD compendium of these events demonstrates how effectively the biodiversity community is coming together cohesively in the quest of enhancing the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention and achieving the 2010 Biodiversity target.

Ahmed Djoghlaoui

Table of Contents

Side-events held during WGRI-2:

- 1. Dialogue Session with Ms. Monique Barbut CEO/Chairman of GEF**
- 2. Setting National Goals and Targets for 2010/An Alliance for Exchange**
- 3. Aid Flows Targeting CBD Objectives**
- 4. Launch of Project to support Implementation of Protected Areas POW**
- 5. Technology Transfer: Benefits from Biotech**
- 6. Assessing progress towards the 2010 – The Fourth National Report**
- 7. TEMATEA: Issue-based Module on Protected Areas**
- 8. Developing International Payments for Ecosystem Services: Avoided Deforestation**
- 9. Experiences in Sub-National Implementation – organized by the Government of Canada and the Government of Mexico**
- 10. Integrating Biodiversity into National Strategies for Poverty Eradication and the Millennium Development Goals - Sharing country experiences and examples of methodologies for mainstreaming biodiversity into MDG-based national plans**
- 11. International Day of Biodiversity (IBD) in Viet Nam: Communicating and promoting linkages between biodiversity and climate change**
- 12. Launch of the UNEP-WCMC 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership**

#1) Dialogue Session with Ms. Monique Barbut CEO/Chairman of GEF - organized by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

This event was held in the afternoon of 9 July 2007. More than 100 delegates held a frank and informal dialogue consisting of question and answers with the GEF CEO, Ms. Monique Barbut. She was joined on the podium by Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the CBD and Mark Zimsky, Program Manager for Biodiversity of the [Global Environment Facility](#). This event was co-organized with the CBD Secretariat.

After the introduction by the Executive Secretary, Ms. Barbut opened the floor for discussion. The questions posed by the participants ranged from the Resource Allocation Framework (RAF) to the need for all the Conventions under which the GEF serves as financial mechanism to provide clear and focused guidance. Other topics included:

Enabling Activities

The Small Grants Program

Funding for ABS and National Reporting

Global Performance Indicators

National Dialogues

Announcement of the GEF Ombudsman (didn't catch the name) Need for national coordination

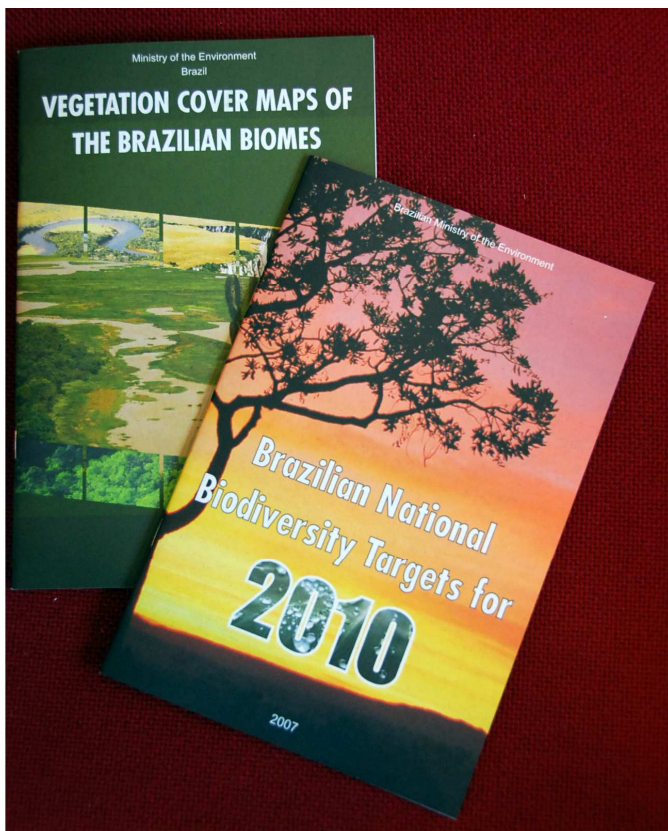
In his closing remarks the Executive Secretary thanked Ms. Barbut for her participation and expressed his hope an ongoing dialogue with the GEF CEO would become a permanent feature at future CBD events, especially during the Conference of the Parties.



#2) Setting National Goals and Targets for 2010/An Alliance for Exchange – organized by Government of Brazil and Countdown 2010

In December 2006 Brazil's multi-stakeholder National Biodiversity Commission adopted a set of National Biodiversity targets for 2010. The side event elaborated on the background to this process, how it was organized and made a [presentation](#) concerning the 51 agreed national targets.

This presentation was coupled with an explanation by [Countdown 2010](#) of alternative ways Countdown 2010 addresses the implementation gap. Countdown 2010 has used the 2010 biodiversity target as an opportunity for joint action by providing focus, direction and additional commitments. In just a few years, Countdown 2010 partners have established a strong network bringing together stakeholders from different sectors and continents. Each partner commits additional efforts to tackle the causes of biodiversity loss. The secretariat – hosted by the World Conservation Union (IUCN) – facilitates and encourages action, promotes the importance of the 2010 biodiversity target and assesses progress towards 2010.



#3) Aid Flows Targeting CBD Objectives – organized by the OECD

Donors report to the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) on their aid flows in support of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The OECD presented the methodology used to collect the data ("Rio marker") and most recent statistics by donor.



The side-event was dedicated to “OECD Statistics on aid to biodiversity”. A factsheet was circulated and a [PowerPoint](#) presentation was used.

The latest statistics available from the OECD database (Creditor Reporting System) were [presented](#), the Rio marker methodology was described, and emphasis was made that improvement in reporting by donors is needed in this field. The CBD reiterated the importance of OECD data for their work. Country delegates suggested a number of improvements to the statistical presentation: add, for reference, the ODA/GNI ratio; account for donors’ multilateral aid (contributions to GEF); they also commented on the growing share of budget support that would need to be taken into account in the presentation.

4) Launch of a Global Project to Support Implementation of the Protected Areas Programme of Work – organized by SCBD

A new GEF project, “Supporting Country Action on the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas”, was launched at a side-event held in the margins of WGRI-2. The project, implemented by UNDP is funded by a GEF grant of US\$ 9.4 million GEF plus co-financing. The project was prepared in response to the adoption by COP in 2004 of the programme of work on protected areas and the related guidance to the GEF to support to its implementation.

The side-event was attended by Chief Executive Officer and Chair of the GEF, Monique Barbut, who launched the project and by the Executive Secretary. The project was introduced by Mr John Hough, UNDP-GEF Principal Technical Adviser on Biodiversity and a presentation on its implementation was made by the Project Coordinator, Mr. Maxim Vergeichik. Some sixty participants attended the event.

This project was approved by the Global Environment Facility in early 2007. Its goal is to assist eligible countries to achieve effective national systems of protected areas in accordance with their commitments under the programme of work on protected areas. The project will enable eligible countries in need of assistance to undertake critical actions in response to the programme of work, which complement, but will not be addressed, by any other national programmes and projects, other official donors or international NGOs. The project provides an effective mechanism to assist eligible countries, with an emphasis on Least Developed Countries and Small Island Development States, to undertake country-driven critical actions consistent with the programme of work. The project is expected to disburse over US\$ 13.0 million in GEF resources and co-financing through approximately 35-40 funding awards to governments with a ceiling of US\$ 250,000 per country. The project will invite proposals from eligible countries, and an International Technical Review Committee will assess them and decide on the release of assistance. The Review Committee will be co-chaired by the CBD Secretariat.

Project [website](#):



#5) Technology Transfer: Benefits from Biotech – organized by the Biotechnology Industry (BIO)

The side-event was organized by the [Biotechnology Industry Organization](#) (BIO) and chaired by BIO's Managing Director, Intellectual Property, Ms. Lila Feisee. Presentations including practical case studies and experience were made by Dr Kevin Cullen, the Director of Research and Enterprise at the University of Glasgow, UK; Owen Hughes, Senior Corporate Council and Global Head of Policy of the Legal Division of Pfizer Inc., Global Research and Development; and Susan Kling Finston of Finston Consulting who serves as the Executive Director of the American BioIndustry Alliance. The session included three presentations:

Enabling Environments for Technology Transfer

On the basis that many answers to development problems already exist through experiences, Susan Kling Finston provided case studies from Brazil, Jordan, India, Ireland, Israel and Mexico.

Universities, Technology Transfer and Economic Development

Kevin Cullen provided experience and examples from the work of the [University of Glasgow](#).

Technology Transfer for Development: the View from Industry

Owen Hughes on experience of Pfizer, spoke on core values including transparency, fairness and respect for local laws, on market rules and intellectual property rights and on the fact that exchanges only work if everyone wins.

Mr Neil Pratt, Senior Environmental Affairs Officer of the CBD Secretariat attended and provided closing remarks and thanks to the speakers and organizers of this event.



#6) Assessing progress towards the 2010 – The Fourth National Report – organized by the SCBD

The side event was held from 6:15 pm to 7:30 pm July 10, 2007, in Room III, UNESCO. It was opened by the Executive Secretary, who highlighted the importance of the fourth national report to assessment of progress towards the 2010 target and urged countries to submit reports in time. Ms. Annemarie Watt from Australia chaired and facilitated discussion at the side event. Four presentations were made at the side event, with each followed by some Q & A and discussions. The first presentation was made by [SCBD](#) on the guidelines for the fourth national report and suggestions on the process of preparing the report (based on a training module on national reporting). The second presentation was made jointly by UNDP and UNEP, introducing a MSP for funding national assessment of progress towards the 2010 target, including preparation of the fourth national report. The other two presentations were made respectively by Australia and Canada, covering Australia's experience in reviewing its NBSAP and Canada's ongoing work on preparing a report on the status and trends of Canada's ecosystems (both of which are related to two chapters covered in the fourth national report).

There were about 30-35 participants and many of them indicated that this side event was very helpful and recommended that this should be reorganized during major meetings. They were particularly interested in exchanges of national experience in undertaking reviews of national implementation.



#7) TEMATEA: Issue-based Module on Protected Areas - organized by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), German Federal Ministry for the Environment (BMU), UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) and the World Conservation Union (IUCN)

Horst Korn (BfN) opened the side event, welcoming the new issue-based module on protected areas, which has been sponsored by BfN.

Ines Verleye (IUCN) introduced TEMATEA, the UNEP/IUCN project on issue-based modules. She explained that after the development phase of the project, its focus is now more on the application of the modules to assist pilot countries in implementing the conventions. A series of national workshops to support the use of the modules has been held in Africa and Europe and workshops in Latin America are foreseen for the near future.

Peter Herkenrath (UNEP-WCMC) introduced the new [module](#) on protected areas, which is the fifth, following modules on biodiversity and climate change, inland waters, invasive alien species, and sustainable use. The module presents provisions from articles, decisions and resolutions on protected areas from the biodiversity-related and Rio Conventions and the MAB programme. The inclusion of provisions from regional treaties in Europe is currently underway.

The discussion emphasized how Parties have used or expect to use the modules, for example for the development of National Biodiversity Strategies and national policies on issues such as climate change and protected areas.



#8) Developing International Payments for Ecosystem Services: Avoided Deforestation – organized by UNEP-IUCN

On the 11th of July 2007, UNEP-IUCN, in close collaboration with the CBD, hosted a side event on "Developing International Payments for Ecosystem Services: Avoided Deforestation" at the Second Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention. The purpose of this event was to enable attendees to better understand the opportunities and challenges associated with Avoided Deforestation (AD) as an emerging form of IPES and to explore the potential for AD to include other ecosystem services in voluntary and regulated carbon markets with a special focus on biodiversity protection.

More than 40 delegates from governments, inter-governmental organizations and NGOs participated in the event. The event was chaired by UNEP Economics and Trade Branch (ETB) consultant, Louise Gallagher. Two presentations were made by Alain Karsenty from the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD) and Annah Peterson from UNEP ETB. The discussion confirmed the high level of interest among the participants for devising a system for AD that accounts for both biodiversity conservation and rural livelihoods. Though the issue of using AD as a mechanism to address climate change, biodiversity conservation and rural livelihoods is both controversial and complex, there was a general sense that if applied appropriately, AD may have the potential to deliver a number of benefits in terms of climate and conservation. While further technical discussions remain necessary, it was generally acknowledged that this UNEP-IUCN Side Event provided some clarification and depth to the ongoing discussions on developing AD through an IPES framework.

If you have any questions regarding this meeting or other related issues please contact Louise Gallagher (louise.gallagher@unep.ch) or David Huberman (david.huberman@iucn.org) or please visit <http://www.unep.ch/etb/areas/>.



#9) Experiences in Sub-National Implementation – organized by the Government of Canada and the Government of Mexico

Environment Canada hosted a side event on Wednesday, 11 July 2007 on "Experiences in Sub-National Implementation". The event highlighted that some CBD Parties have federal systems of government, in which power is divided between a central government and state, territorial or provincial governments. Sub-national governments carry out various activities relevant to CBD implementation. Some have developed their own sub-national biodiversity strategies and action plans. The event provided an opportunity to examine and compare experiences in sub-national implementation across a number of jurisdictions in Canada and Mexico.

Ms. Bonnie James, Environment Canada, moderated the event and provided an overview of the [Canadian Biodiversity Outcomes Framework and sub-national implementation in Canada](#). Canadian examples of sub-national implementation were presented by Jody Snortland, Sahtu Renewable Resources Board, on [The Northwest Territories Biodiversity Action Plan](#); and Benoit Limoges, Government of Quebec, on [Implementation of the Quebec Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan](#).

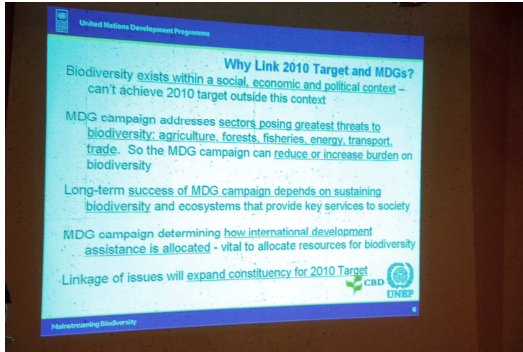
Mr. Hesiquio Benitez Diaz, Government of Mexico provided an overview of [State-level implementation in Mexico](#).

Lunch was provided and a draw was held for t-shirts and a book from the Sahtu Renewable Resources Board. The event was well-received by the audience.

This event complemented the [poster session](#) that was held at the beginning of the week.



#10) Integrating Biodiversity into National Strategies for Poverty Eradication and the Millennium Development Goals - Sharing country experiences and examples of methodologies for mainstreaming biodiversity into MDG-based national plans – organized by UNDP with support from the Government of Norway



Progress towards the 2010 Biodiversity Target and other biodiversity objectives clearly depend on incorporating biodiversity considerations into the productive sectors of the economy (e.g. agriculture, forestry, transport, energy, etc.) that present both serious threats to, and opportunities for, the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Charles McNeill of UNDP's Environment and Energy Group reviewed the case for linking the 2010 Target with the Millennium Development Goals and development planning processes, presenting methodologies and programs to assist countries in this endeavour, including MDG Support, the Poverty-Environment Initiative, Millennium Ecosystem Assessment follow-up, and Strategic Environmental Assessment.

The universal adoption of the Millennium Development Goals at the Millennium Summit in 2000, and the integration of the 2010 Target within the MDG framework in 2006, ensures that MDG-based national development strategies now offer a powerful mechanism for embedding biodiversity concerns into national and sectoral planning. Representatives of Rwanda, Colombia, and Cambodia presented their experiences in mainstreaming biodiversity and NBSAPs into their national development planning processes.

Aimée Mpambara of the Rwandan Environmental Management Authority described Rwanda's experience integrating biodiversity into their national economic plan through MDG Support, PEI, and Integrated Ecosystem Assessment. Ms. Mpambara underlined the fact that the mainstreaming of biodiversity has been relatively successful in Rwanda because of a number of crises that put public and political attention on the economic cost of environmental degradation. Francisco Arias Isaza of INVEMAR described Colombia's experience with the adoption of NBSAP priorities into national development planning, underlying that Colombia has been successful due, in part, to the pre-existing climate of environmental awareness and an already established institutional structure to deal with cross-sectoral issues. Somaly Chan of the Cambodian Ministry of Environmental Conservation shared lessons learned in mainstreaming biodiversity into her country's sectoral and national policy. Ms. Chan described the challenges encountered as an LDC incorporating the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, referring to the increasing value of land and the competing values for land use and the need to concretely demonstrate the economic case for conservation.

The presentations catalyzed a lively discussion with interventions from representatives of Tanzania, Burundi, Suriname, Nepal, Guinea, Ghana, Ukraine, and Zambia, as well as from the

NGO BirdLife International and the private sector firm Pfizer. The discussion centered around the opportunities for mainstreaming biodiversity into productive sectors of the economy, the challenges of coordinating the integration of biodiversity into development planning, and the related difficulties in moving from planning to implementation. Overall, the shared perspectives reflected optimism for the full integration of biodiversity-related priorities into national development planning, but also a shared concern over the coordination of implementation across sectors.

#11) International Day of Biodiversity (IBD) in Viet Nam: Communicating and promoting linkages between biodiversity and climate change – organized by GTA, WWF International and SCBD

Presentations were made by Suhel al-Janabi (GTZ) and Rolf Hogan (WWF international). Other remarks were made by Neil Pratt and Ahmed Djoghlaif (SCBD)

Filmscreening, discussion: “A delicate balance” – Biodiversity & Climate Change in Vietnam

Background and actors

Since 2001 [German Technical Cooperation](#) (GTZ) GmbH - on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for economic cooperation and development (BMZ) - supports Developing Countries in planning and realizing [International Biodiversity Day](#) (IBD) celebrations. In partnership GEO magazine’s annually organized “24 h biodiversity marathons” in Germany, action oriented biodiversity inventories and thematically related events have been carried out in Colombia, Brazil, China, Mali, Honduras, and at the UN Headquarters in New York. This series of activities are undertaken jointly with environmental authorities in Germany’s partner countries - contributing to implement the CEPA programme of work (Communication, Education and Public Awareness) under the CBD.

In 2007 Vietnam celebrated its first international Day of Biological Diversity focussing on the current IBD theme - biodiversity and climate change. Vietnam is considered to be one of the worldwide most affected countries by climate change effects: such as rising temperature, changing rainfall patterns, elevation of the sea level and extreme weather events. Both, population and ecosystems are extremely vulnerable. Key objective of the Vietnamese IBD was to raise public awareness and to enhance the political attention of biodiversity and climate change as key development issues for the country – in order to initiate concrete steps for a better conservation of biodiversity and for a more effective adaptation to climate change.

The IBD events were by the Vietnamese Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE), German Development Co-Operation, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD), the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the International Nature Conservation Union (IUCN),

Events and Instruments

Initially on May 19th, a “biodiversity action day” took place in world renowned Tam Dao National Park, about 70 km from the capital Hanoi. On that occasion more than 700 Vietnamese and international participants experienced the nature of the National Park – and were also confronted with the threats to this unique mountainous rainforest ecosystem caused by illegal use and climate change. The visitors participated in a variety of activities: over 250 students were doing CO-2 free bicycle tour from Hanoi to the National Park, VIPs planted trees to decrease carbon emissions – others learnt more about nature through guided forest-tours or celebrated biodiversity with art, games and music events in the park.

The action day was complemented by a scientific program - the symposium on “Biodiversity and climate change”, on the 22nd and 23rd of May, 2007 in Hanoi. More than 200 decision makers from policy, management, media, science and representatives of international developing cooperation discussed consequences of climate change, biodiversity loss as well as possible adaptation strategies in Vietnam. Both, action day and the high ranking symposium were largely covered by national and also international media.

The film “*A delicate balance*” – *Biodiversity & Climate Change in Vietnam*” (17’) was produced by GTZ, SCBD and WWF to explain and highlight the linkage between Climate Change and Biodiversity as well as to report on the different events on and around IBD in Vietnam.



#12) Launch of the UNEP-WCMC 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership – organized by UNEP-WCMC

The [2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership](#) (2010BIP) was launched during the second meeting of the Working Group on the Review of Implementation of the Convention, on Thursday 12th July. The launch event marked the start of a three-year project, funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and others.

The 2010BIP, coordinated by UNEP-WCMC, has over forty Partners, including UN agencies, IGOs, NGOs, scientific institutions, Multilateral Environmental Agreements, and representatives of national governments. The Partnership will coordinate the delivery and communication of a suite of indicators measuring progress towards the “2010 target”, agreed by the CBD and WSSD, to significantly reduce the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010. 2010BIP activities will include the development and delivery of more than twenty biodiversity indicators showing progress towards the 2010 target at the global scale, communication of the outputs of the Partnership to policy- and decision-makers worldwide, and the development of capacity at the national and regional levels to develop and use biodiversity indicators.

The launch event was chaired by Spencer Thomas (Govt of Grenada), who also spoke on the importance of the 2010BIP project with regard to national and regional-level indicators. The event featured speeches by Monique Barbut (GEF Chief Executive Officer) and Ahmed Djoghlaif (CBD Executive Secretary), and a presentation on the 2010BIP and its activities by Neville Ash (UNEP-WCMC). The occasion was further marked by a signing ceremony in which Monique Barbut endorsed GEF funds to assist with the submission of countries’ fourth national reports.

The event was well-attended, by approximately 60 delegates. Many interesting points and questions were raised from the floor, a number of which related to how countries can become involved in the 2010BIP process. In addition several 2010BIP partners in attendance (including Birdlife International, IUCN, and FAO) spoke of their involvement in the Partnership.

