

Exemplary biodiversity laws on stage
THE FUTURE POLICY AWARD CEREMONY 2010



Winner Future Policy Award 2010 Costa Rica Biodiversity Law 1998 – a milestone of excellence in meeting the goals of the UN Convention on Biodiversity

Winner Future Policy Silver Award 2010 Australian Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975 and Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

Honourable Mention Region of Tuscany – Law No. 64/2004 – Protection and Promotion of Heritage of Local Breeds and Varieties of Interest to Farming, Animal Husbandry and Forestry

Exemplary biodiversity laws on stage The Future Policy Award Ceremony 2010 at COP 10

On October 25, the Future Policy Award 2010 was presented to Costa Rica for its ground-breaking Biodiversity Law 1998 at the UN Biodiversity Conference (COP 10) in Nagoya, Japan. The aim of the award is to raise global awareness for exemplary policies and speed up policy action towards just, sustainable and peaceful societies. The Future Policy Award, established by the World Future Council, annually celebrates laws with particularly positive effects on the living conditions of current and future generations. It is the first award to honour exemplary policies rather than people on an international level.

This year's award gala was hosted by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) as an official part of the tenth Conference of the Parties. Its Executive Secretary Dr. Ahmed Djoghlaif (photo) and Shoichi Kondo, Senior Vice Minister of Environment of Japan, held the opening speeches. Dr. Ahmed Djoghlaif said: *“By honouring exemplary laws and regulations, by disseminating best practices successful in stopping biodiversity loss and irreversible destruction of our eco-systems, the Future Policy Award 2010 encourages policy action fundamental to the post-2010 biodiversity strategy.”*





Jakob von Uexkull, Founder of the World Future Council and the Right Livelihood Awards, spoke to the numerous delegates recalling *“that the right rules and legal frameworks help millions of people to do the right thing”*.

Milestones on the road of biodiversity protection

The Costa Rican Biodiversity Law proves that exemplary biodiversity legislation can be successfully put into practice. On 25 October, several hundred delegates, ministers, decision-makers, media and donors gathered at the Future Policy Award Ceremony 2010 to celebrate the Costa Rican Biodiversity Law as a milestone of excellence in meeting the goals of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity. With 26% of its total territory designated as protected areas, Costa Rica is the first developing country that succeeded in halting and reversing deforestation. A national Biodiversity Commission was set up as well as local and regional conservation councils. Moreover, the country ranked first in the Happy Planet Index 2009 and is a recognised pioneer in ecotourism. For a special impression of the positive effects of the Costa Rican Biodiversity Law a 9-minute-film "The Right of Mother Earth" was shown.

Prof. Marie-Claire Cordonier Segger, Director, CISDL, and Chair of the WFC Future Justice Commission, presented the ceremony's highlight when she spoke of the Costa Rican policy as *“a brilliantly comprehensive policy for the respect for all forms of life and for cultural diversity, biodiversity protection and inter- and intragenerational equity”*, before handing over the



Future Policy Award 2010 to His Excellency Mr. Mario Fernandez Silva, Ambassador of the Republic of Costa Rica to Japan and Mrs. Lesbia Sevilla Estrada, Head of the Costa Rican CBD Delegation (photo).

H.E. Mr. Silva expressed deep gratitude and said, *“I am most honoured to accept this prize from the World Future Council. This law integrates biodiversity protection and the sustainable use of biodiversity and it enables us to pass the beautiful natural wealth of Costa Rica on to our future generations.”*

The Australian Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act jointly with the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, the winner of the Future Policy Silver Award, was introduced by Prof. Motoyuki Suzuki, Chairman, Central Environmental Council of Japan, and WFC Councillor. He stated that *“the acts aim to provide the highest level of protection to the marine ecosystems and should be a worldwide standard”*.



Prof. Suzuki presented the award to Peter Cochrane, Director of National Parks and Head of the Australian CBD Delegation, who proudly accepted (photo). The Australian law has elevated the region of the Great

Barrier Reef to a matter of national environmental significance, while still allowing for sustainable use by industries such as commercial fisheries, recreational fishing and tourism, pioneering the idea of a ‘multiple-use’ park.

The solemn Future Policy Award Ceremony 2010 was supported by the Japanese musicians Grand Master Chihaya Tanizawa and Grand Master Yuzan Watanabe (photo). On a Japanese harp and bamboo flute they beautifully accompanied the award gala with traditional music.



More than 90 reports in the international media were released about the award, e.g. www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2010/oct/25/costa-rica-biodiversity National media in Costa Rica, Germany, Great Britain, Mexico, Norway, Namibia, New Zealand, Switzerland and South Africa also covered the event. As a result numerous countries indicated interest to create comprehensive biodiversity laws.



The awarded biodiversity policies from Costa Rica and Australia as well as four further exemplary policies are described in a World Future Council brochure titled “Celebrating the world’s best biodiversity policies”. It is available in print at World Future Council Foundation headquarters in Hamburg, Germany, and online at <http://www.worldfuturecouncil.org/publications.html>.



The World Future Council

The World Future Council brings the interests of future generations to the centre of policy-making. Its up to 50 eminent members from around the globe have already successfully promoted change. The Council addresses challenges to our common future and provides decision makers with effective policy solutions. In-depth research underpins advocacy work for international agreements, regional policy frameworks and national lawmaking and thus produces practical and tangible results. In close cooperation with civil society actors, parliamentarians, governments, business and international organizations the World Future Council identifies future just policies around the globe. The World Future Council is registered as a charitable foundation in Hamburg, Germany. For more information visit www.worldfuturecouncil.org

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