



Silvia Ribeiro from the ETC Group in Copenhagen during the climate meetings (Photo courtesy Diana Bronson/ETC Group)

This edition is published to coincide with the Fourteenth Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA 14), 10-21 May in Nairobi, Kenya; followed by the Third Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention (WGRI 3), being held in Nairobi 24-28 May.

This newsletter aims to present a diversity of civil society opinions. The views expressed in the articles are the views of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, its Secretariat or the CBD Alliance

Geoengineering: Moving Cautiously towards a Bolder, Broader Test Ban

By Silvia Ribeiro, ETC Group

In a laudable exercise of precaution at the last Conference of the Parties (COP) in Bonn in 2008, Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) adopted a *de facto* moratorium on ocean fertilization.¹ The wisdom of that decision was reaffirmed most recently by a study showing that dumping iron in the ocean can provoke toxic blooms and neurological disorders in marine mammals.²

In the two years since COP 9 there has been a flurry of developments and debates on

geoengineering in general, not only on the particulars of ocean fertilization. These include an upsurge of popular and scientific media coverage, prestigious publications looking favourably upon geoengineering as Plan B,³ a number of statements adopted by institutions and professional societies,⁴ joint Parliamentary and Congressional hearings in the United Kingdom and the United States, debates in other international bodies such as the London Convention, a number of emerging companies anxious to get in on the market, and non-profits keen to maintain existing governance loopholes.

Critical decisions ahead

In this International Year of Biodiversity, the fourteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and COP 10 will be faced with critical decisions on geoengineering. The fundamental issue before the international community is whether these technologies should be undertaken as a response to the climate crisis or, rather, whether their potential risks outweigh any theoretical benefits that they may have as “climate change solutions.” The implications for human rights, for biodiversity, for peace and security, and for international relations writ large are vast. It is urgent that the United Nations (UN) be prepared to prevent unilateral actions on the part of countries that have the will and the means to execute geoengineering strategies independent of international

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Mobilizing all Stakeholders in the Fight for Biodiversity



From the Secretariat: Message from Ahmed Djoghlaoui, Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity

Only through the involvement and full engagement of all stakeholders can we achieve the goals of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and halt the alarming loss of biodiversity. Despite some success stories, we have failed to meet the target set by governments in 2002 to reduce the rate of loss of biodiversity. We need a new way of doing business, a new thinking, and a new approach for preparing, agreeing and implementing together the new Strategic Plan of the Convention for the period 2011-2020: a plan that includes a 2050 biodiversity vision, 2020 targets and sub-targets, as well as means of implementation and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. As underlined by the United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, putting off critical decisions until later is no longer an option for humanity.

At the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD (COP 10) in Nagoya, Japan, the 193 Parties to the CBD will make a final assessment of progress toward the 2010 Biodiversity Target, create new biodiversity targets for 2020 and 2050, finalize a comprehensive post-2010 Strategic Plan, and establish an international regime on access and benefit-sharing. All of this is being done using a bottom-up approach, with the participation of a broad range of stakeholders, including youth, indigenous and local authorities, mayors, parliamentarians, the private sector, and development cooperative agencies.

Revisions to the draft Strategic Plan that emerged from the sixth UN/Norway Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity form the basis for the consideration of the new Strategic Plan and related targets and indicators by the fourteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific, Technical

and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-14) and the third meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention (WGRI-3), being held in Nairobi in May 2010. The new Strategic Plan has attempted to improve on the previous plan in two key ways. Firstly, by providing a mission and targets for 2020 that are both achievable and more measurable, with a clear underlying logic consistent with the available scientific evidence, including a scientific review of biodiversity projections prepared for the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook. Secondly, by providing a more effective framework, which includes national targets, for national implementation of the three objectives of the Convention, appropriate support mechanisms and a more robust approach to monitoring and review at both national and global levels, as well as an enhanced role for the COP in reviewing implementation and learning from past experience.

“Non-governmental organizations are integral partners in moving forward, as they played a leading role in the initial conception, negotiation and adoption of the Convention and continue to shape policy development”

Of utmost importance to the Convention is the mobilization of all sectors of society in the fight to preserve our biological resources. Civil society and non-governmental organizations are integral partners in moving forward. NGOs played a leading role in the initial conception, negotiation and adoption of the Convention and continue to shape policy development. They are also constant partners in its implementation. Together we can work towards shaping a better and healthier future for our planet and for ourselves. In this the International Year of Biodiversity, we have an unprecedented opportunity to raise understanding of the importance of biodiversity to our lives, our future, and our resolve to act. Let us not waste this opportunity. Biodiversity is life, biodiversity is *our* life. [sb]

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agreements. Any decision governing these technologies must be based on a solid multi-lateral agreement as the impacts will, by definition, be global—and inequitable.

There have already been attempts to develop “voluntary guidelines” for research and experimentation of these technologies. The non-profit Climate Response Fund, closely linked with commercial ocean fertilization interests, met with significant opposition when it tried to self-regulate the field.⁵ Moreover, some prominent scientists working on these technologies actually believe a UN process should be avoided,⁶ while certain think tanks argue that no international agreement whatsoever is required.⁷ The CBD’s near universal ratification, its capacity to include social impacts as it undertakes to protect biodiversity and its niche contribution to climate change debates equips it well to play an important role. It is vital that the 2008 moratorium on ocean fertilization be strengthened and broadened to cover other geoengineering technologies threatening biodiversity at a global scale.

Geoengineering is different from other technological interventions on ecosystems in that, *by definition*, it is intended to have impacts at the planetary scale. It is the antithesis of small and local initiatives that promote adapting to climate change by strengthening resilience or modifying behaviour. Whether one intends to suck carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere by stimulating the growth of phytoplankton (that will in turn sequester excess CO₂ on the bottom of the sea) or shoot sulphates into the stratosphere in order to reflect more sunlight back to space (masking the warming effect of increased greenhouse gases), these schemes can only theoretically affect the climate if executed on a massive scale. Experiments need to be large-scale and that makes the passage from theory to practice—the actual proof of principle—a critical issue for governments and civil society organizations interested in biodiversity.

There are already multiple geoengineering technologies on the brink of development and precaution is thrown to the wind. Commercial schemes underway include ocean-mixing (using huge pumps to bring

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Time for Bold and Ambitious New Biodiversity Target and Strategic Plan



From the CBD Alliance: Message from Friedrich Wulf, Coordinator of the Biodiversity working group

of the German NGO Forum Environment and Development, Head, International Biodiversity Policy—Friends of the Earth Europe, CBD Alliance Board Member (www.cbdalliance.org)



Coral reef — safeguards needed (Photo courtesy The Tourism Development Company Limited of Trinidad and Tobago)

“If governments really take the issues as serious as they say, they should set ambitious targets for the period up to 2020 and undertake every effort towards achieving them.”

2010 is a key year for biodiversity and humankind. As recently reported in the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook, we have not succeeded in reaching the target agreed by our governments in 2002 to significantly reduce the rate of biodiversity loss as a contribution to poverty alleviation and to the benefit of all life on earth. It is the year of taking stock, analyzing why we didn't get there and using the lessons learned in forging a new strategy to guide the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) policy for the next decade and reaching our goal by 2020.

Opinions have been voiced to not be too ambitious for setting the next mission and targets but rather set up “realistic” and “achievable” goals. There is a fear that the CBD would make a fool of itself if it failed again.

Such thinking reflects little faith in the Parties' joint capability to change the existing pressures on ecosystems. True, one of these pressures is climate change, a process that cannot be halted quickly even if we manage to freeze greenhouse gas levels. However, the four other factors presented in the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (habitat change, pollution, overexploitation and invasive species) all have had significantly more and bigger impacts so far, and it is possible to reduce these other pressure which are in our hands and so also reduce the climate-change induced impacts on biodiversity—if there is enough will to do this.

Biodiversity loss is still happening at an alarming rate of three species per hour. The

economic value lost annually by deforestation and forest degradation alone is estimated at 2 to 4.5 trillion US\$ annually. Biodiversity has been attested to have a major contribution to poverty alleviation, climate change mitigation and other basic ecosystem services we depend upon. The scientific community and the world's leaders have underlined biodiversity's paramount importance at the G8 meetings and several occasions during the last year, saying that tackling biodiversity loss was equally important as combating climate change.

With the consequences of biodiversity loss this dire, there is no choice but to do as much as we can to halt it. If governments really take the issues as serious as they say, they should set ambitious targets for the period up to 2020 and undertake every effort towards achieving them.

The fourteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA 14) and the third meeting of the Third Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the CBD (WGRI 3) are key milestones to do this, and the strategic plan is especially vital. We need to aim at really halting the loss by 2020, not just to take some action. We need to restore it wherever possible, taking developed countries' footprint on other countries into account. SBSTTA should recommend that the Conference of the Parties (COP) put an end to deforestation, forest degradation, nutrient loading and overfishing and ensure all other ecosystems are equally safeguarded.

We should see that financial capacity and the means to implement the Convention are increased, that financial incentives support biodiversity and drivers like the North's agricultural policy and its demands for bio-fuels, meat and other products that contribute to rainforest destruction are reduced. As failed implementation of the Convention and the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) are one of the main reasons for not having achieved the 2010 target, SBSTTA needs to decide upon clear and measurable targets and a robust monitoring framework.

Of course, the CBD or environmental policy alone cannot solve these problems—biodiversity needs to be mainstreamed everywhere. However, a strong call should emanate from the CBD to other conventions like the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and other sectors like trade and agricultural policy to collaborate and support the CBD's targets in their work. In this sense, civil society hopes SBSTTA will develop clear calls upon these to integrate the needs of biodiversity into their decisions.

Civil society will be an active participant in the SBSTTA and WGRI discussions. As a civil society representative, I hope this conference will suggest a bold and ambitious new biodiversity target and strategic plan that will strengthen the Convention and all of its three targets. [sb]

(Please note, these comments do not reflect a consensus of civil society on the post-2010 target and the draft strategic plan, but rather the views of Friedrich Wulf, board member for the CBD Alliance)

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up deep waters to the surface)⁸; adding limestone to affect the alkalinity of the water⁹; adding urea or iron to provoke algae growth (ocean fertilization)¹⁰; pumping seawater into the clouds¹¹; redirecting hurricanes by manipulating surface waters¹². The consequences of these technologies on marine biodiversity, and their long-term effects are almost too devastating to imagine. We cannot reduce our oceans and our lands to massive carbon sinks.

Consolidate moratorium

It is one thing to test chemical interactions in the laboratory or model climate change on computers. Those have been going on for decades. It is quite another to unleash geoengineering experiments in the real world. Just as the CBD put the brakes on ocean fertilization two years ago, the same precaution needs to be exercised on the other technologies that have picked up momentum just as climate change negotiations are losing it. Given the emerging scientific consensus that ocean iron fertilization is not an effective strategy for tackling climate change, the 2008 moratorium needs to be consolidated and those who violate it—including those States that support the moratorium at the CBD but then argue something else in other venues—must be condemned in the strongest possible terms.

Recently,¹³ American meteorologist Alan Robock persuasively argued that the only way to test whether or not sulphates in the stratosphere would have the desired cooling effect would be through actual deployment. There is no such thing as a small-scale geoengineering experiment, he argued. Deployment, he underlined, carries extremely high risks; for example, the disruption of African and Asian monsoons. This would have a serious impact on the food supplies of up to two billion people, not to mention other unpredictable local consequences on biodiversity. Quite simply, deployment of geoengineering schemes

“Vital that the 2008 moratorium on ocean fertilization be strengthened and broadened to cover other geoengineering technologies threatening biodiversity globally”

cannot be allowed under the guise of scientific experimentation.

For this reason, ETC Group, with international partners, recently launched the H.O.M.E campaign, “Hands off Mother Earth—Our Home is not a laboratory” (www.handsoffmotherearth.org) which asks people to lend us a hand in stopping dangerous and unilateral attempts to experiment with our climate system.

It would be a betrayal of the CBD mandate if such tests were allowed to go ahead before the international community had a chance to examine the consequences and agree on a strategy. The CBD in Nagoya must adopt a firm moratorium on the experimentation of all geoengineering climate technologies until there are comprehensive and solid studies and until a multilateral understanding and decision is reached on whether or not geoengineering is a path that the community of nations can accept.

The CBD must actively call for and participate in that international debate, ensuring thereby that biodiversity protection is properly factored into the deliberations. [sb]

- 1 The operative part of the decision reads: “requests Parties and urges other Governments, in accordance with the precautionary approach, to ensure that ocean fertilization activities do not take place until there is an adequate scientific basis on which to justify such activities, including assessing associated risks, and a global, transparent and effective control and regulatory mechanism is in place for these activities; with the exception of small scale scientific research studies within coastal waters. Such studies should only be authorized if justified by the need to gather specific scientific data, and should also be subject to a thorough prior assessment of the potential impacts of the research studies on the marine environment, and be strictly controlled, and not be used for generating and selling carbon offsets or any other commercial purposes.” See COP 9, Decision IX/16, Biodiversity and Climate Change: www.cbd.int/decision/cop/?id=11659
- 2 Charles Trick et al., *Iron Enrichment Stimulates Toxic Diatom Production in High Nitrate, Low-Chlorophyll Areas*, PNAS 2010 107 (13) 5887-5892; doi:10.1073/pnas.0910579107. See also *Nature*, 461, 347-348 (17 September 2009) | doi:10.1038/461347a; Published online 16 September 2009. Also Aaron Strong, Sallie Chisholm, Charles Miller & John Cullen, “Ocean Fertilization: Time to Move On,” *Nature* 461, 347-348 (17 September 2009) | doi:10.1038/461347a; Published online 16 September 2009.

3 For example, see UK Royal Society, *Geoengineering the Climate: Science, Governance and Uncertainty*, September 2009.

- 4 For example, the American Meteorological Society Statement on Geoengineering the Climate System, available at www.ametsoc.org/POLICY/2009geoengineeringclimate_amsstatement.html
- 5 For example, Open letter Opposing Asilomar Geoengineering Conference at www.etcgroup.org/en/node/5080
- 6 David Keith, for one, has argued specifically against getting the UN involved before the UK Geoengineering Governance hearings.
- 7 See Lee Lane, *Geoengineering Experiments Should Not Require Global Agreement*, The Enterprise Blog, 30 March 2010, available at <http://blog.american.com/?p=11895>
- 8 www.atmocean.com
- 9 This is the project of the open source company Cquestrate, funded by Shell. www.cquestrate.com.
- 10 For example Climos, a San Francisco company at www.climos.com or the Australian Ocean Nourishment Corporation at www.oceannourishment.com.
- 11 The preparation of this technology for experimentation/deployment is reportedly being developed by a new “non-profit”, Silver Lining, run by entrepreneur Kelly Wasner. See Jim Giles, *Hacking the Planet: Who Decides?* In *New Scientist*, 29 March 2010 available at www.newscientist.com/article/dn18713-hacking-the-planet-who-decides.html.
- 12 The involvement of Bill Gates and Nathan Myhrvold, along with a number of prominent geoengineering scientists recently garnered some controversial press. See Bill Gates *Hurricane-Fighting Invention* at www.huffingtonpost.com/2009/07/16/bill-gates-envisions-figh_n_235527.html
- 13 Alan Robock, Martin Bunzl, Ben Kravitz, Georgiy L. Stenchikov, “A Test for Geoengineering?” *Science*, 29 January 2010, Vol. 327, no. 5965, pp. 530-31. See also ETC Group Press Release, *Top-Down Planet Hackers call for Bottom-up Governance*, 11 February 2010, www.etcgroup.org/en/node/5073
- 14 A critical overview of the different technologies can be found in *Retooling the Planet: Climate Change in a Geoengineering Age*. This ETC Group booklet, published by the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation, is available at www.etcgroup.org/en/node/4966

WHAT IS GEOENGINEERING?

Geoengineering is the large-scale intentional manipulation of the Earth's systems (including the oceans, soils and atmosphere) often advocated as a response to climate change. Geoengineering strategies include technologies to capture and sequester excess carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, managing the amount of solar radiation reaching the Earth, and intentional weather modification projects such as hurricane redirection.¹⁴





(Photo courtesy UNEP)

From REDD “Realities” to REDD Absurdities

Is REDD merely a perverse incentive that triggers further deforestation and denial of community rights?

By Simone Lovera, *Sobrevivencia / Friends of the Earth—Paraguay and Global Forest Coalition*

A COP flop – that is probably the impression that the 15th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Copenhagen, Denmark, left in the minds of most citizens of this planet. What was presented by some as “the last chance to save the planet” ended in deep and bitter chaos on the night of 18 December 2009. This is tragic news for humanity, and also tragic news for the world’s biodiversity, as climate change is rapidly becoming the number one cause of global biodiversity loss.

But one can also look at the results of Copenhagen in a more positive way. Most insiders had already warned months ahead that there were only two realistic outcomes to the summit: a bad deal or no deal at all. As the Global Forest Coalition wrote in its newsletter *Forest Cover* in November 2009, Copenhagen was a ‘Chronicle of a Death Foretold.’ The main reason was that the greatest polluter of all, the United States, was not in a position to take on any firm legally binding commitments

as it had already failed to adopt the necessary domestic framework for such commitments; and other developed countries were unwilling to sign a deal without the US.

In this light, most people in the climate justice movement had already indicated that they preferred no deal above a bad deal, as it was feared that a bad deal would lock the world into an international agreement far too weak to halt climate change, and one that would remove the legal and political pressure for a better deal. This was the reason why so many civil society actions, including in particular the ‘Reclaim the Power’ action of 16 December, tried to convince the countries most affected not to accept a weak agreement that would fail to halt climate change.

In this light, the results of Copenhagen could also be seen as a great victory. The Copenhagen Summit can be considered a triumph of multilateralism over an exceptionally bad deal brokered by a select number of powerful states – the Copenhagen Accord.

The mouse that roared

The way this Copenhagen Accord was successfully rejected by a number of relatively

small countries on the night of 18 December 2009 certainly gave observers a “The Mouse that Roared” feeling. “We are not going to betray our people for 30 pieces of silver,” responded the representative of Tuvalu to the suggestion that the Copenhagen Accord should be accepted because it included some commitments for modest financial support to the countries that are most affected by climate change. So, instead of ending in yet another vague agreement that might have been a proper reflection of political realities but was an offense to scientific reality, there is still a chance that the climate negotiations will culminate in a good deal, perhaps, hopefully, in December 2011.

For people working on policies and incentives to Reduce Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD), the rejection of the Copenhagen Accord was a victory too, as the vaguely formulated REDD paragraph did not include any reference to the rights of indigenous peoples or to the need to avoid the massive replacement of forests by monoculture tree plantations. But these references were included in the formal draft REDD negotiation text that will now, hopefully, form

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the basis for further negotiations within the framework of the Climate Convention. From a positive point of view, the safeguards that were included in this draft REDD negotiation text are more detailed and advanced than many had thought possible when negotiations started in 2007.

However, the REDD reality is very different from this seemingly sympathetic draft text. As demonstrated by a report by the Global Forest Coalition on “REDD realities” in 12 different countries¹ that was launched at the Copenhagen Summit, the reality is that what is happening on the ground depends on the national legal framework already in place in different countries. In the handful of countries where indigenous peoples’ rights are relatively respected and forest policy is focused on forest conservation instead of the promotion of monoculture tree plantations, it might be possible to fund some real system of policies and incentives that effectively supports indigenous peoples and local communities in their efforts to protect and restore their forests.

However the REDD proposals on the table are actually about something else—reducing deforestation and compensating those currently engaged in deforestation - and those

“REDD a threat to good forest governance rather than a positive incentive”

countries that have good legal frameworks in place and/or indigenous peoples and communities that are engaged in protecting their forests, tend to have low deforestation rates. This means that these countries are not interesting for REDD donors, including donors like Norway and France who have recently started an informal ‘fast start’ REDD process, neatly side-stepping nasty little mice in the climate negotiations who might ask for complicated things like environmental integrity.

Donors prefer countries with high deforestation rates

Donors prefer to focus on countries with high deforestation rates, like Brazil, Indonesia and the Democratic Republic of Congo. This preference for a small number of large countries confirm fears that REDD, especially REDD outside the framework of a multilaterally guided financial mechanism, will lead to highly inequitable outcomes (as well as the leakage of deforestation activities to other non-REDD countries). It also demonstrates that the many demands and cautions by indigenous peoples and NGOs that “Rights should come before REDD”, and that good governance and combating corruption are a pre-condition for

REDD, are being squarely ignored by governments rushing to put REDD into practice.

As a result, REDD “realities” are already turning into REDD absurdities. Brazil received no less than \$US150 million from the Norwegian government to reduce deforestation in 2010. Yet, less than three months after Copenhagen the government has given the go ahead to one of the most destructive dams it has ever built, the Belo Monte dam, which will destroy 500 square kilometers of forests and indigenous territories. The very definition of “forests” in the Marrakesh Accords used under the Kyoto Protocol allows for absurdities. This definition even includes “temporarily un-stocked areas”, that is, areas that are clear cut but that will be replanted again at an unspecified date. With the result, for example, that until in the face of significant pressure by civil society it withdrew the proposal, Indonesia had proposed to recognize oil palm plantations as ‘forests’² so that it could receive REDD funding for converting peatlands (perhaps the most carbon-rich ecosystem in the world) into oil palm plantations.

Even in countries like India, that have a relatively good system of forest governance in place from a legal perspective, REDD is a threat to this legislation rather than a positive incentive. After all, in countries where the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities are recognized, the government might lose out if these communities are compensated directly for their forest conservation efforts. No wonder then that the government of Papua New Guinea, as one of its first REDD policy actions, prohibited its local communities from claiming any rights regarding the carbon value of their forests, neglecting the fact that 90% of these forests are legally owned by those communities.

So, when the Convention on Biological Diversity discusses incentive systems at its upcoming meeting of the Conference of the Parties in October 2010, it should include a discussion on REDD as a perverse incentive that actually triggers further deforestation and denial of community rights. [5b]

1 www.globalforestcoalition.org/img/userpics/File/publications/REDD-Realities.pdf

2 www.thejakartapost.com/news/2010/02/16/palm-estate-forest-says-ministry.html



Flower from Trinidad and Tobago (Photo courtesy The Tourism Development Company Limited of Trinidad and Tobago)

Twenty Percent of Biological Diversity at Risk in Africa

Challenge of reversing pattern of resource overexploitation daunting, but there is hope

By Dr. Kenneth Odera, Executive Director, Climate XL Africa

Africa, according to the 2008 World Economic Forum Report *Africa @ Risk: a Global Risk Network Briefing*, contains about 20% of all known species of plants, mammals and birds, and 15% of amphibians and reptiles. Biodiversity in Africa is under threat from climate change and other stresses. The Intergovernmental Panel in Climate Change (IPCC) predicts that continued increase in greenhouse gases (GHGs) will put 75 to 250 million more Africans at risk of water stress by 2025. This loss of freshwater also threatens biodiversity and exacerbates desertification: arid and semi-arid lands are likely to increase by up to eight per cent. Tourism, much of which is based on nature, is also likely to be hard hit with 25-40% of animal species in the national parks of Sub-Saharan Africa set to become endangered.

The role of ecosystem management

The integrated process to conserve and improve ecosystem health that sustains ecosystem services for human well-being (i.e., ecosystem management) has a central role in climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction (Figure 1). It is laudable that the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) through its Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on biodiversity and climate change has started addressing the linkages between ecosystem management, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction.

According to its mandate, the Expert Group was to develop scientific and technical advice on biodiversity, in so far as it relates to climate change and decision 1/CP.13 of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on the Bali Action Plan as well as the UNFCCC Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change so as to support the enhanced implementation of synergies. Accordingly, the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on CBD had carried out an in-depth review of the work on biodiversity and climate change, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the United

Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) developed proposals for the integration of climate change considerations within the programme of work on the biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands, and proposed elements for a joint work programme between the three Rio Conventions on biodiversity, climate change and land degradation.

Little implementation

Considering the vulnerability of biodiversity to climate change, it is disquieting that less than one-fifth of the Parties who submitted their fourth national reports reported on climate change activities specifically targeted at the biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands, and that none reported on activities related to climate change activities specifically within dry forests let alone develop national biodiversity and climate change action plans. The Fourteenth Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA 14) should give strong recommendation to the Parties on the need to implement appropriate adaptation and mitigation measures in the natural resource management sector. Such action should start with the development of national and local biodiversity plans.

The case for biodiversity strategy and action plans

The necessity of (National and Local) Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans is premised on the recognition that biodiversity is one of the key sectors sensitive to the

effects of climate change. The Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan therefore should, for example clearly set out a series of adaptation strategies and actions to minimize negative impacts of climate change on biodiversity and maximize the capacity of species and ecosystems to adapt in the future. However, a national biodiversity plan ought to consider all major ecosystems since it has been shown that global warming and the subsequent events of climate variability and change may have even greater repercussions for marine ecosystems than for terrestrial ecosystems, because temperature influences water column stability, nutrient enrichment, and changes in the biodiversity of plankton communities and its reproductive cycles.

A wake up call

Publication of the 2005 Millennium Ecosystem Assessment was a turning point in the way we think of ecosystem management. The report confirmed a substantial and largely irreversible loss in the diversity of life on Earth with 20% of Earth's land cover having been significantly degraded by human activity and 60% of the planet's assessed ecosystems already damaged or threatened. But while the challenge of reversing this pattern of resource overexploitation is daunting, especially in Africa, new advances offer hope. The closer we come to achieving an accurate, holistic picture of the distribution of the ecosystem costs, benefits, and trade-offs of our actions, the better positioned we will be to formulate responses. [5b]

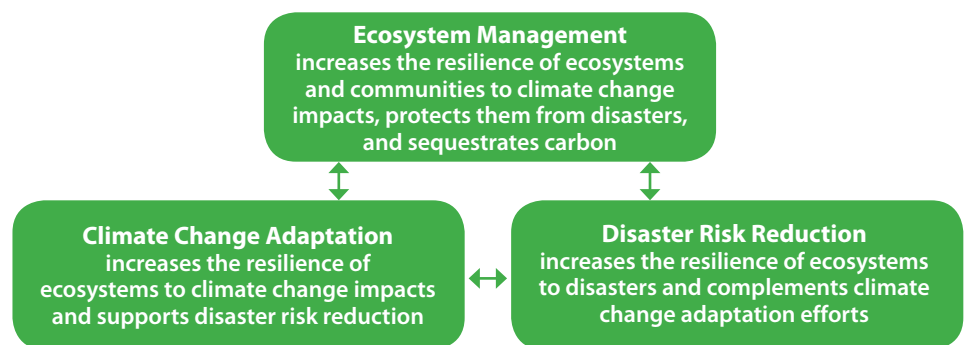


FIGURE 1: Central role of ecosystems in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation (Source: UNEP, 2009)

Global Strategy for Plant Conservation and Private Sector Engagement

FairWild certification vital for GSPC

By Britta Paetzold, TRAFFIC/
WWF Germany, and Anastasiya
Timoshyna, TRAFFIC Europe

Strategies aiming to ensure conservation of plant resources in the long term increasingly address the role of the private sector. Objective 5c of the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC) focuses on the sustainable use of plant diversity, the development of livelihoods based on sustainable use of plants and the promotion of the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of the plants. Instruments like the FairWild Standard (FWS) offer a concrete set of principles and criteria for companies and other stakeholders to verify sustainable and ethical fair sourcing of plants from the wild and to promote the use of products made from them. The FWS thus provides an important approach to help achieve GSPC Targets 3, 11, 12 and 13.

The FairWild Standard is maintained and implemented by the FairWild Foundation, a not-for-profit organization based in Switzerland. The ecological part of the FWS represents the International Standard for Sustainable Wild Collection of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (ISSC-MAP), developed by TRAFFIC, WWF, the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), the IUCN Medicinal Plants Specialist Group, together with other partners. The ISSC-MAP was highlighted in the 2007 Plant Conservation Report, when reviewing the progress in implementing the GSPC for the CBD's COP 9. In 2008 the ISSC-MAP became part of the FWS through a merging of the two initiatives.

The ISSC-MAP Principles and Criteria have proven their usefulness in different governance scenarios on four continents through a variety of projects, and provided input to the recent development of several national wild plant collection management approaches, such as the Standard for Good Field Collection Practices of Medicinal Plants, elaborated by the National Medicinal Plants Board of India (in print), a Biodiversity Management

Plan for *Pelargonium sidoides* for South Africa and Lesotho and Cameroon's National Management Plan for *Prunus africana*.

The FWS presents sound principles and criteria for sustainable wild collection based on the GSPC and on current Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) provisions, combining ecological, social and fair trade requirements. As a unique tool for sustainable wild plant collection and management, including responsible business practices, it provides a basis to ensure transparency and traceability along the trade chain from field to shelf. The option of third party certification under the FairWild label is especially interesting for the private sector and allows communities and businesses to confirm and communicate to the public that their harvesting practices meet the FWS criteria, and thereby also compliance with GSPC and ABS principles.

We regard engagement of the private sector through either voluntary internal standards or FairWild certification as vital to support the GSPC. In the long-term, the commitment of private sector actors to sustainable sourcing practices is considered to be essential for strategies to conserve wild plant resources. Implementation of the FWS principles, particularly in the context of private sector engagement, supports GSPC by, for example, offering a tool to track achievements over time to implement GSPC Target 12 by measuring increases in:

- Products meeting verifiable sustainable wild collection criteria
- Companies and industry associations adopting codes of good practice that address the sustainable wild collection of plants.

The number of companies interested in FairWild Standard implementation and certification is growing, with the first certified products already on the European Union, US and Canadian markets. Experiences from community-based projects aiming to improve income options through sustainable use of wild plant resources have shown the importance of market linkages. Support and purchase



Photo courtesy A. Timoshyna, TRAFFIC

commitments from buyer companies provide the best argument to convince producers to adhere to standards like FairWild. Sustainable management approaches for wild plants as outlined in the CBD need a multi-level, multi-stakeholder approach, involving different actors from government, scientific and private sectors.

One such example is a FairWild implementation project in Silves, Brazil, involving the community-based organization AVIVE (www.avive.org.br), which collects and processes wild medicinal ingredients. An agreement has been signed with a buyer company in Brazil interested in the long-term procurement of FairWild certified products. Within the project, mechanisms for community-based resource management and benefit-sharing agreements are being developed. In a participatory approach, responsible companies, government agencies and academic experts work to establish a model for sustainable use of medicinal plants that can be replicated throughout Amazonia.

Current FWS implementation projects are supported by TRAFFIC (www.traffic.org) and are expected to serve as models for future application of the Standard's principles and guidance documents. [5b]

For more information: TRAFFIC is the Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network: www.traffic.org; FairWild Standard (FWS): www.fairwild.org

(Editorial Board: While voluntary initiatives such as FairWild Standards make an important contribution, the importance of the need for industries and others sourcing plant samples to comply with domestic laws and the CBD provisions on ABS cannot be over emphasized.)

A Rights-based Approach to Supporting Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas

Bio-cultural community protocols can help communities define and advocate for recognition of their roles in conserving biodiversity and ensure the local integrity of other environmental laws and policy

By Holly Shrumm, Barbara Lassen, Kabir Bavikatte, and Harry Jonas

Communities and international policy-makers alike are calling for the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in the management of protected areas.¹ Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas (ICCAs) may provide a resolution to the sometimes disparate agendas of environmental conservation, human rights, and economic development that have historically prevented community participation.

There is increasing recognition of ICCAs' role in the *in situ* conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. ICCAs consist of natural and modified ecosystems containing high ecological benefits and biodiversity and cultural values that are voluntarily conserved through communities' customary laws and ways of life.² They are governed through institutional systems specific to local political, economic, social-cultural, and ecological contexts. They also help strengthen collective land rights, reinforce customary natural resource management and knowledge systems, and enhance endogenous development.

The importance of ICCAs has been enshrined within several international environmental frameworks. At the Fifth World Parks Congress, the Durban Accord and recommendations called for the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to recognize, strengthen, protect, and support ICCAs in order to address gaps in national protected area governance systems and to strengthen the relationships between people and biodiversity. The CBD's Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA) then set several targets, including to use long-term participatory planning and management processes with active stakeholder involvement (Target 1.4), to establish mechanisms for the equitable sharing of costs and benefits of protected areas (Target 2.1), and to ensure the full and

effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities based on their rights and responsibilities (Target 2.2). ICCAs are also recognized by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as one of the main types of governance for protected areas.

“Communities also gain awareness about international and national legal frameworks that can help them affirm their substantive and procedural rights and engage with external stakeholders in proactive and culturally appropriate ways”

Empowering communities

Indigenous peoples and local communities have expressed several basic needs for their ICCAs, including formal recognition of their rights to land and natural resources, recognition of ICCAs' governing institutions and customs, and culturally-sensitive support for livelihoods, engaging local youth, and working collaboratively with other stakeholders³.

A rights-based approach that responds to these issues is the bio-cultural community protocol. The development of a protocol is a community process of awareness-raising, gathering and communication of information, and internal reflection about the interconnectedness of biodiversity and customary ways of life. The affirmation of the implicit relationships between traditional knowledge, cultural and spiritual values, and customary laws that govern the sustainable use of natural resources counteracts the tendency of laws to disaggregate these otherwise interconnected elements.⁴ It facilitates an internal assessment of common challenges, endogenous development plans, and visions for the future. Communities also gain awareness about international and national legal frameworks that can help affirm their substantive and procedural rights and engage with external stakeholders in proactive and culturally appropriate

ways. Communities then have increased capacities to call on duty bearers such as government agencies to ensure that their rights are respected and supported in decision-making processes that affect their lives.

A variety of participatory tools can be used to develop community protocols, including role-playing scenarios, video and photography, GPS/GIS mapping, and community theatre and radio. These tools engage youth and bridge the typical “language” barriers between traditional knowledge and Western science and between communities and external stakeholders. They enable communities to take ownership over communication and decision-making processes, to support local ICCA governance institutions through evidence-based monitoring, and to gain engage in constructive dialogue with other stakeholders.⁵

Protocols respond directly to the international recommendations and targets set out by the Durban Accord, CBD PoWPA, and IUCN. They also help communities respond to other legal and policy frameworks such as access and benefit sharing by helping them define internal procedures for engaging with other stakeholders. Overall, protocols can be used by communities to advocate for recognition of their ICCAs' roles in conserving and sustainably using biodiversity and in doing so, ensure the local integrity of other environmental laws and policy. [sb]

1 Convention on Biological Diversity Programme of Work on Protected Areas, Element 2: Governance, equity, participation, and benefit sharing

2 Grazia Borrini-Feyerabend, Ashish Kothari, and Gonzalo Oviedo. “Indigenous and Local Communities and Protected Areas: Towards Equity and Enhanced Conservation”. IUCN, 2004. Available at: http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/pag_011.pdf

3 IUCN-CEESP Briefing Note No. 10: *From learning to action: recognising and supporting conservation by indigenous peoples and local communities*, May 2010.

4 Kabir Bavikatte and Harry Jonas. *Bio-cultural Community Protocols: A Community Approach to Ensuring the Integrity of Environmental Law and Policy*. UNEP, 2009. Available at: www.naturaljustice.org.

5 For examples of bio-cultural community protocols, see: www.naturaljustice.org



left: Farmers selling their products at a weekly market in Eastern Hill, Nepal (Photo courtesy Bikash Paudel); right: Inside view of a community seed bank in Kachorwa, Bara, Nepal (Photo courtesy Bikash Paudel)

Taking a Community Biodiversity Management Approach to ABS in Local Communities: The Nepal Experience

Local communities should also benefit from an international regime

By Bikash Paudel, Pitambar Shrestha, B B Tamang and Pratap Shrestha
Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development (LI-BIRD), Pokhara, Nepal

Although the International Regime on Access and Benefit-Sharing (IRABS) is a global legal instrument, the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and Bonn Guidelines shows implementation of the international regime should start at the local community. While an international instrument for regulating ABS is required to generate the incentive for conservation of rapidly depleting biodiversity, the execution should effectively guarantee the recognition of the local communities and indigenous people as the true custodian of the genetic resources, and their right to make decisions on documentation, conservation, development and sustainable use and access to and benefit sharing. Environmental laws are most likely to generate local environmental and social benefits when indigenous peoples and local communities have the right of free, prior and informed consent over any activities undertaken on their lands or regarding access to their traditional knowledge, innovation and practices (TKIP).

An international regime on ABS is being questioned in CBD forums on its ability to adequately respect and promote communities' ways of life that have contributed to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Ensuring the right of communities to the genetic resource should be a major directive principle of IRABS. Moreover, Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS)-compliant domestic intellectual property rights (IPR) laws in the North should also consider community rights over the components of biodiversity and traditional knowledge that have been manipulated to generate 'novel' products, in the form of disclosure requirements sanctioned in the IPR system; as in Norway, Brazil, India and many other countries in South.

Policy and legal initiatives in Nepal

In the absence of appropriate national legislation, people of developing countries have not been able to claim the right to prevent others from accessing or using their biodiversity and technical knowledge. Although it has been recognized in recent national policies and strategies; Nepal has not established any legal, administrative or organizational framework for implementing IRABS. But, recently initiated national and regional projects supportive for the development of ABS law and preparation of ABS draft law by government are worth looking forward to.

Trickling down IRABS to communities

The impact of an international regime on ABS on local and indigenous communities will only trickle down when effective and innovative mechanisms, serving as the basis for implementing IRABS in communities and appropriate institutional development among the custodians of genetic resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge (ATK), are identified, legitimated and promoted through multi-partnership collaboration. The mechanisms serving as the basis for implementing IRABS may include mechanisms to: document genetic resources and ATK with true recognition of the custodians; add value to local genetic resources and ATK and promote *in-situ* conservation through use; facilitate the controlled (without the condition of losing community ownership) access to genetic resources and ATK; and fair and equitable distribution of the benefits accrued.

Opportunities provided by the CBM approach

Community-based Biodiversity Management (CBM) is a participatory approach to empower farmers, farming communities, and local institutions in managing biodiversity for social, economic and environmental benefits to the community, as well as to the general public. It includes good practices, proven to be effective in *in-situ* conservation of biodiversity, it provide a base for a range of practices which may serve

as the basis for IRABS to be affable and affordable to local communities. Regarding documentation and the sharing and conservation of genetic resources and ATK, CBM provide options of participatory tools and practices like the Community Biodiversity Register, and the Biodiversity Fair and Community Seed Bank. It also accommodates a range of practices, such as Participatory Plant Breeding, Participatory Varietal Selection, Value Addition and Market Promotion of local genetic resources and Community-Based Seed Production successful in pragmatic adoption of "Conservation through Utilization"; financing on these activities could easily be course to sharing benefits, fairly and equitably.

CBM approach encompasses mechanism to distribute benefits aroused from use of common property resources including genetic resources within community. Community Biodiversity Management Fund (CBM fund) is found to be the mechanism to fairly and equitably distribute such benefits in the communities. CBM approach also gives emphasis in building institutions of the farmers and custodians of GR as a part of empowering communities. These institutions of farmers have been found to be successful in

"The challenge for the post-2010 Strategic Plan is to ensure that the momentum generated over the past eight years doesn't dissipate"

making decisions on conservation and use of GR and useful in facilitating access and sharing benefits from the use of them if properly capacitated.

The research done by Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development (LI-BIRD) shows that CBM package is successful in empowering local communities to garner control over the genetic resources and ATK that they own. Moreover, the practices accommodated in CBM would provide a complete package of innovative mechanisms and institutional arrangement which would serve as the base to trickle down an international regime on ABS to communities; and thus ultimately ensuring the conservation, sustainable use and fair and equitable sharing of benefits. [sb]

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How the 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership Communicates its Message across Sectors

By Tristan Tyrrell, 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre; with input from Damon Stanwell-Smith, Peter Herkenrath, Philip Bubbs and Anna Chenery

The International Year of Biodiversity (IYB) is upon us, and the time of reckoning as to whether we have achieved the 2010 Biodiversity Target of significantly reducing the rate of biodiversity loss is imminent. The 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (2010 BIP; www.twentyten.net) is a global initiative supporting the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) through development of a suite of indicators to assess our progress towards the Target. The Partnership has been working with the scientific community and the CBD Secretariat to release the results from the indicators in time for the fourteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and

Technological Advice (SBSTTA) and to support the discussions on the post-2010 agenda.

Engaging with a range of sectors

The 2010 BIP, with major support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), brings together over forty organizations working internationally, including several NGOs, to further develop and promote indicators for the consistent monitoring and assessment of biodiversity, thereby providing the best available information on biodiversity trends to the global community. The 2010 BIP has three main objectives: (i) to ensure improved global biodiversity indicators are implemented and available; (ii) to generate information on biodiversity trends which is useful to decision makers; and (iii) to establish links between biodiversity initiatives at the regional and national levels to enable capacity building and improve the delivery of the biodiversity indicators.

One of the major challenges facing the Partnership has been how to disseminate the results across a wide range of sectors and potential audiences, and critically: how to do so in a meaningful and effective way which both highlights the plight of biodiversity loss and encourages effective responses by decision makers. All outputs from the Partnership are translated into the six UN languages and Japanese; including the website and a regular quarterly newsletter—*BIPNews*. The Partnership has actively engaged with a range of key international fora, including the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Governing Council, the 2008 IUCN World Conservation Congress, the 2010 Society for Conservation Biology conference, a variety of major CBD meetings, and those of other biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements. Specific publications on the

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outcomes of the indicator development have significantly contributed to the third edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO-3)*, underpinned published articles in high-level peer reviewed journals, and provided a range of information documents to conferences and meetings throughout the world. The 2010 BIP Secretariat is also contributing to the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) indicators, in particular relating to MDG7 on environmental sustainability, the discussions on a potential intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services, and the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI)—the global network-based organization developing

frameworks for private sector sustainability reporting—on the use of biodiversity and ecosystem service indicators.

The CBD post-2010 Strategic Plan

Not only has the Partnership been supporting the current CBD Strategic Plan to 2010, but it has also been very actively contributing to discussions on the CBD's post-2010 Strategic Plan. It has worked closely with the CBD Secretariat to contribute to major international meetings on the post-2010 agenda, including the Expert Workshop on the 2010 Biodiversity Indicators and Post-2010 Indicator Development (CBD & UNEP-WCMC; Reading, UK; July 2009), Expert Meeting on Development of Post 2010 Global Biodiversity

Targets (UNEP; Nairobi, Kenya; October 2010), and the Sixth Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity (Government of Norway; Trondheim, Norway; February 2010). This has allowed for the results and experiences of the 2010 BIP to be captured in the draft post-2010 Strategic Plan to be tabled at SBSTTA 14.

The challenge for the post-2010 Strategic Plan is to ensure that the momentum generated over the past eight years will not dissipate. Rather, it should increase in the coming years as efforts to harmonize the climate change agenda with biodiversity conservation, the emergence of other pressures on effective conservation, an international regime on access and benefit-sharing, private sector activities,



Community Actions for Global Impact

Ensuring nature's rights and sustainable livelihoods in the Ecuadorian Amazon region

By Ana Maria Varea, National Coordinator, Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme, Ecuador

Through the support of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Program (SGP) and the technical support of the Front for the Defense of the Amazon (FDA), the Kichwa Shayari community has effectively shaped their livelihood in a sustainable way within the *Sumak Kawsay*. *Sumak Kawsay* means good living, and is a vision held by indigenous people in Ecuador that proposes that humans and nature can relate to each other through mutual respect.

The 2008 Ecuadorian Constitution asserts that the biodiversity of Ecuador, considered as mega diverse, must be protected. Natural resource extraction poses a great threat to the framework proposed by the new constitution. In particular, the Amazon Chernobyl—Chevron Texaco in Ecuador—showcases the horrifying effects of oil extraction on the Amazon and its people, accentuating the need to shape Ecuador's development through the *Sumak Kawsay*.

In light of this, the Kichwa Shayari, a community located in the northern Ecuadorian Amazon is working to preserve their culture

and the community's homeland which is being threatened by oil extraction activities. Therefore, this project, designed under the *Sumak Kawsay* vision, aims to ensure their right to preserve their land and water.

Fostering sustainable livelihoods

Through this project a key axis of cooperation between the Kichwa Shayari community, FDA and the local government of Cascales has been established to foster a sustainable livelihood for the indigenous people of Ecuador's Northern Amazon. Up until now, the project shows the success of using the knowledge of Ecuador's Amazon people for biodiversity management. In addition, the project promotes their sovereignty in order to consolidate resistance towards oil extraction and preserve their territory.

By securing the Kichwa Shayari's rights to land and water, the *Sumak Kawsay* facilitates the creation of a productive sustainable landscape and ensures the livelihoods of these families. The project worked with 78 members of the community who live on 500 hectares of Northern Amazonia.

The project focus on capacity building as an effort to preserve the livelihood and culture of this community and has led to the

and a potential intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services are carried forward. The 2010 BIP will continue to support the global discussions on indicator development and use, produce policy-relevant information on biodiversity and ecosystem services, and aid appropriate capacity building at national and regional levels. The support of NGOs in achieving such objectives cannot be underestimated, as their experience and knowledge of key issues at a range of scales is essential. [sb]

For more information on the 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, and to find comprehensive information on the CBD indicators, see: www.twentyten.net



A Vietnamese market (Photo courtesy Taylor Miles)

preservation of 2500 hectares of invaluable biodiversity in the Amazon. This project restores the harmony implied by the *Sumak Kawsay* and recognizes and values the knowledge of the Kichwa Shayari community in order to promote a sustainable livelihood and sound management of natural resources.

Through this project the community has developed a sustainable management plan of their natural resources and livelihood in order to protect their intensely biodiverse rainforest and home in Sucumbíos, Ecuador. In two years, the community has been able to achieve an adequate and sustainable use of the forest through productive activities which sustain their livelihood and promote the conservation of the region.

Efforts to promote awareness of the right to a clean and healthy environment, Article 14 of the constitution, are also a key characteristic of the project. A rescue center for animal victims of trafficking of species is managed by the community in collaboration with the Ecuadorian Ministry of Environment. This rescue center has an ongoing program for reproducing native species and rehabilitating the animals which have been victims of this illegal practice, and if possible return them to their home environment. These ongoing efforts in the community are building a sustainable livelihood within the *Sumak Kawsay* and assert their rights to a dignified and harmonious relationship with nature.

Additionally the project has succeeded in reframing the productive activities of the

community as a strategy of resistance to oil production. The Kichwa Center houses a cooperative eco-tourism small business and aquaculture pools which in addition to the agroforestry activities promote food sovereignty for these families. The aquaculture pools house and reproduce cachama and sabalo (endemic fish species) in an environmentally friendly manner, restoring one of the traditional food sources of the Kichwa Shayari community.

The center is also concerned with valuing and rescuing culture through artisanal production. In complement to this, the geographic planning and creation of ethno botanical tourist trails was achieved in collaboration with the families which emphasizes the importance of participatory action for constructing the community's livelihood with their landscape in order to preserve it. The Lianas Center fosters the community lifestyle of the Kichwa Shayari by supporting a sustainable agriculture terrain in which the biodiversity of local agricultural products is ensured and warrants the food sovereignty of the community. The

chacra (the latter terrain) sustainably produces tropical wheat, maize, bore and other grains key to the diet of the community.

The success of this project in valuing natural resources and culture has been key in the capacity building of the community and developing a sustainable livelihood strategy which promotes biodiversity management and conservation of this Amazon region.

Such has been the success of the project that the municipality of Cascales wants to implement the project with other communities in the province. Additionally the ongoing efforts of this community project have been promoted as an intercultural initiative within the objectives proposed by the Millennium Goals. The Kichwa Shayari community is now a model in biodiversity management and conservation and in productive landscapes promoted within the *Sumak Kawsay*. This project shows how a community can sustainably secure their land and water rights, and at the same time contribute to help ensure nature's rights. [sb]

ABOUT THE GEF SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

Launched in 1992, SGP supports activities of nongovernmental and community-based organizations in developing countries towards climate change abatement, conservation of biodiversity, protection of international waters, reduction of the impact of persistent organic pollutants and prevention of land degradation while generating sustainable livelihoods.

Since its creation SGP has provided grants to 12,000 communities in 122 developing countries. Funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) as a corporate programme, SGP is implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on behalf of the GEF partnership, and is executed by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS).

Perspectives

To promote an exchange of viewpoints on the 2010 Biodiversity Target and the way forward for both the Convention and in setting new biodiversity targets, the [square brackets] editorial board posed three questions to civil society actors.



Christine von Weizsaecker,
President, Ecoropa

Why did Parties fail to achieve the 2010 targets? Further, why is

the Convention failing to achieve its three objectives?

Biodiversity loss is not caused in the ministries of environment. It is caused by decisions in other—more powerful ministries. Political decisions in the ministries of agriculture, forestry and fisheries, in the ministries of trade, ministries of transport often strengthen drivers of biodiversity loss e.g. by perverse policies and perverse subsidies. This cannot be undone by well meant conservation policies and a little bit of funding available to the ministries of environment. As long as biodiversity is not an issue recognized as an interministerial task under the leadership of the environment ministries failure will continue.

The fathers and mothers of the CBD wisely identified the three objectives that must be achieved jointly so that biodiversity and people can thrive: conservation, sustainable use and justice regarding benefits. No conservation policy is going to be successful on the long run without adequate sustainable use policies. Protected areas need sustainable support at the national level for many generations to come. Without an assertion of human rights' protection and justice in the sharing of benefits every populist new government will distribute conservation land to the poor. Sustainable use and sharing of benefits are going to collapse if conservation is not successful. Again, a failure of consolidated, coherent national and international biodiversity policies.

What should the post-2010 strategy focus on and what, if any, should the main targets be? What are the imperatives to achieve these targets?

The strategy should focus on all land use policies, instruments and regulations. Reduction

of perverse measures and subsidies should be one of the main targets. Such reductions are the only way to come close to the impact needed to reverse the trend in biodiversity status. Reduction of perverse subsidies by the economically powerful, moreover, is a contribution to international fairness.

What are the three most important things that must be done in order to make progress in achieving the three objectives of the Convention?

In view of my answer to the first question, there is just one most pressing decision to be taken at Nagoya: the long overdue legally-binding Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing must be agreed on, ratified and implemented in the most expeditious manner feasible. Such a Protocol must be much more than just an instrument to legitimize past biopiracies and facilitate access. The Protocol must address all present and upcoming types of utilization. It must recognize and address the rights of governments, indigenous peoples and local communities over their biodiversity and their traditional knowledge. Compliance measures for users, including certificate of legal provenance and check points must be established. The interrelationship between the Global Taxonomy Initiative and this Protocol has to be clarified. The obligations of the Protocol have to take the lead over scientific interests. So far, the increase in taxonomic collections is not proportionate to the increase in the successful conservation of ecosystems. The failure of achieving the 2010 target, see question a., is due to a lack of political will and not a lack of inventory lists of species.



Antonio Claparoles,
President, Philippines
Ecological Society

Why did Parties fail to achieve the 2010 targets?

Further, why is the Convention failing to achieve its three objectives?

The targets were not met because they were never really meant to be achieved. There was



Elephant Seal, Macquarie Island, New Zealand
(Photo courtesy Ministry for the Environment New Zealand/C. J. R. Robertson)

a lack of political will and a business as usual attitude. The parties to the CBD are being controlled by some governments and big international NGOs. With them controlling, nothing was really done.

Perhaps a simple quote will help surmise it all. "Government is instituted for the protection, safety, and happiness of the people, and not for profit, honor, or private interest of any man, family, or class of men. . . the origin of all power is in the people, and they have an incontestable right to check the creatures of their own creation, vested with certain powers to guard the life, liberty and property of the community. . ." —Mercy Otis-Warren, poet, patriot, historian and advocate of the Bill of Rights.

What should the post-2010 strategy focus on and what, if any, should the main targets be? What are the imperatives to achieve these targets?

The post-2010 strategy must focus on real targets with real actions to be taken. There must be political will and a UN monitoring center. There is not much time left. They must be made accountable.

What are the three most important things that must be done in order to make progress in achieving the three objectives of the Convention?

Three things that must be done are:

- Set the targets
- Make the framework actions
- And the political will and commitment of all parties to achieve the goals.

The planet is dying and the lack of political will has never been more prevalent.



Patrick Mulvany,
Senior Policy Adviser,
Practical Action

Why did Parties fail to achieve the 2010 targets?

Further, why is the Convention failing to achieve its three objectives?

Despite many decisions and intentions there has been little effort by Parties to limit damage to the productive environment nor to ensure that biodiverse, ecologically sound practices are implemented nationally within the framework of legally-binding global protocols. The causes of the continuing loss of agricultural biodiversity are due to the unregulated expansion of industrial agriculture and monocultures, with negative downstream impacts on the environment. For example, varietal replacement is the major cause of loss of seed diversity in common use on-farm. In the past 20 years systems based on industrial agricultural methods and inputs have expanded and penetrated deeper into rural areas. This has reduced the diversity (at genetic, species and ecosystem levels) of terrestrial, aquatic and marine plants, animals and microorganisms needed for people to provide food, fibre, fuel and medicines from their land, waters and fishing grounds. Benefits have not been forthcoming. These should have benefitted the developers and guardians of agricultural biodiversity, the small-scale farmers, pastoralists, fisherfolk, Indigenous Peoples and other small-scale food providers.

What should the post-2010 strategy focus on and what, if any, should the main targets be? What are the imperatives to achieve these targets?

Post 2010, the CBD should focus on developing indicators for monitoring changes in Agricultural Biodiversity and its associated ecosystem functions at local to national levels. The target is to ensure that agricultural biodiversity of food species and their associated support species increases at all levels.

What are the three most important things that must be done in order to make progress in achieving the three objectives of the convention?

- Reduce the explicit and implicit power of TNCs in the Convention, and related instruments, and develop legally binding protocols that will ensure immediate action to

“Post 2010, the CBD should focus on developing indicators for monitoring changes in Agricultural Biodiversity and its associated ecosystem functions at local to national levels”

stop damaging activities and ensure full redress and compensation for any environmental, social or economic damage, especially to the guardians and developers of agricultural biodiversity.

- Remove commercial, trade and other pressures on the guardians and developers of agricultural biodiversity e.g. protection for locally-based biodiverse ecological food provision free from GMOs and the restrictions on sale, re-use, exchange and use from monopoly privileges, laws and technologies.
- Implement policies for changing the food system towards smaller-scale, more local, biodiverse, ecological food provision, in the framework of food sovereignty, that will increase agricultural biodiversity on-farm.

Onel Masardule, Executive Director,
Foundation for the Promotion
of Indigenous Knowledge

Why did Parties fail to achieve the 2010 targets? Further, why is the Convention failing to achieve its three objectives?

The main reason Parties have failed to achieve the 2010 targets and the three objectives of the CBD is lack of will to implement the initiatives necessary to achieve the 2010 targets and the objectives of the Convention.

What should the post-2010 strategy focus on and what, if any, should the main targets be? What are the imperatives to achieve these targets?

The main strategy should come from civil society, providing initiatives that affect national, regional and international environmental policies which will allow us to achieve the objectives of the Convention.

What are the three most important things that must be done in order to make progress in achieving the three objectives of the convention?

The three most important things to do are:

- Change national legislations so that they are in harmony with the agreement
- Recognize the rights of indigenous peoples
- Real implementation of agreements and the objectives of the Convention.



Pat Mooney,
ETC Group

Why did Parties fail to achieve the 2010 targets? Further, why is the Convention failing to achieve its three objectives?

In 1992, ETC Group (then, RAFI) declared the adoption of the Biodiversity Convention in Rio at best, a political mistake, at worst, a sell-out of the global South's genetic resources. With similar bad-humor, we condemned the Cartagena Protocol as facilitating the introduction of GM crops. Looking back, we can take masochistic comfort in knowing that our original curmudgeonly critiques withstand the test of time.

This, however, doesn't fairly address either the accomplishments, the failures or the continuing potential of the Convention. Government and private funding for biodiversity conservation is in decline. Even the rhetoric is suffering. In this the International Year of Biodiversity Year, the species and genetic diversity loss on land and at sea continue to accelerate and the world's policy makers have moved on to other topics.

Given the compounding crises of food, fuel, finance and climate, this failure could hardly be laid solely at the feet of the Convention. Industry and governments are fixated on new hi-tech solutions for all of these crises and neither biological diversity nor the indigenous knowledge crucial to using the diversity seem as important as they did a few years ago. Support for biodiversity has always been, classically, a kilometer wide and a millimeter deep among policymakers.

All of us who fundamentally support the goals and objectives of the CBD share the blame for not having forced policymakers to face the connections between these various crises and for not recognizing that whether we are talking about alternatives to fossil fuels or the need to feed hungry people or the strategies of responding to climate change, the conservation and equitable use of biological and



(Photo courtesy UNEP)

genetic diversity is absolutely central to our survival as a species.

What should the post-2010 strategy focus on and what, if any, should the main targets be? What are the imperatives to achieve these targets?

We need to make clear not only to governments but to ourselves that the conservation of biological diversity is not a romantic ideal but a vital necessity. The planet is caught in a pincer. Industry no longer thinks in terms of producing foods or fuels, pharmaceuticals or other carbon-dependent manufactures but in producing biomass that can, through synthetic biology, convert living carbon into whatever end product is most profitable at harvest time. Industry reckons that we are on the threshold of the elusive “Carbohydrate Economy” that can control the multi-trillion dollar energy industry; the \$8 trillion food industry and the \$3 trillion plastics industry as a single raw material. From industry’s perspective, less than one quarter of the world’s annual terrestrial biomass has been commodified—meaning that the race is on to commodify and monopolize that three quarters of the world’s annual terrestrial biomass that has not yet been commercialized. In this race, land, location and (most of all) technology are critical—biodiversity is irrelevant.

The second pincer—much encouraged by the Copenhagen debacle and the growing shock over climate tipping—is the notion that we must geoengineer our planet out of the climate crisis. The “proof of principle”, geoengineers maintain, is all around us—the Industrial Revolution geoengineered the planet into global warming. Now, they contend, science must manipulate the stratosphere, the ocean surfaces, and land-masses in order to regulate the planetary thermostat and sequester greenhouse gases. Both the US Congress and the UK Parliament are holding hearings to this effect and the British Royal Society and various US science associations are cooperating on research models, proposing funding experiments, and discussing governance models that will make it possible for a handful of governments to make decisions for the rest of us about planetary systems. Scientific proposals that were dismissed as insane or, at least, insanely expensive—20 years ago are now being presented as an unavoidable “Plan B” for planetary survival. At the recent Cochabamba “Peoples Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth”, a team of geoengineers came to the conference to explain why they should be given permission to regulate the thermostat. The large numbers of indigenous peoples and peasant organizations recognized an enormous threat to biological diversity. At the end of the conference, the 35,000 delegates from more than 140 countries roundly condemned geoengineering as a “false solution”.

What are the three most important things that must be done in order to make progress in achieving the three objectives of the convention?

Shortly after the adoption of the Biodiversity Convention, we coined the term “biopiracy” to describe the North’s commercial interests in the South’s biodiversity. With this new pincer movement, we have moved beyond biopiracy to an era of Geopiracy where not only the biosphere but all of our planetary systems are at enormous risk. Contrary to what ETC group thought decades ago, the biodiversity convention has proven itself to be a remarkably effective forum for debating emerging issues and confronting new threats. The challenge in the years ahead is for indigenous communities, peasant organizations, civil society in general and governments in particular to come to grips with this new threat of geopiracy and to challenge the notion of geoengineering first at the CBD but also at the UN General Assembly and at the International Court of Justice. [sb]

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This newsletter aims to present a diversity of civil society opinions. The views expressed in the articles are the views of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, its Secretariat or the CBD Alliance.

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ISBN 192-9225-256-9



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Biological Diversity



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2010 International Year of Biodiversity