CEPA Fair CBD-COP 11
SIDE EVENT


ORGANIZED BY
International University Network on Cultural and Biological Diversity

Universities and concerned organizations are invited to participate in the side event that wants to be an operative platform of dialogue aimed at launching an action plan with the following objectives:

1. allowing universities to play a dynamic role as local social drivers opened to society, local/indigenous communities, experts, policy makers,
2. allowing universities:
   2.1. to bridge the gap of communication and knowledge between the academic system of studies and the International Conventions/Organizations
   2.2. to reduce the gap between education and capacity building,
   2.3. to enhance the role universities play in disseminating and linking the CBD, UNEP, UNESCO, FAO programmes of work to the local context to which they belong,
3. supporting the implementation of the UNEP Global University Partnership on Education and Sustainability (GUPES) and the UNEP Mainstreaming Environment and Sustainability in Africa (MESA) Universities Partnership, as well as other international and regional academic and scientific networks,
4. mainstreaming and introducing the CBD and related policy agendas and programmes of work in the academic system of studies, bridging the gap between academic and institutional policy perspectives,
5. designing innovative curricula/ initiatives taking into account the local context and the visions of indigenous peoples and local communities that inspire their educational/capacity building needs
6. integrating theoretical and applied natural sciences and social sciences studies,
7. institutionalizing these innovative programmes in the academic system of studies even beyond the logics of the short term projects,
8. offering a coordinated international platform of information, knowledge, and research/teaching programmes in order to reply transdisciplinary academic studies, initiatives and curricula - linked to the ongoing CBD policy agenda - in different geographical areas,
9. developing joint research/teaching/capacity building initiatives, pilot projects and events in order to strengthen local capacities, exchange and compare local experiences and case studies at international/national multi-scale level, achieve high standards of advanced studies, link universities to the local implementation of the CBD, provide tools to grow a critical mass of experts,
10. supporting cooperation initiatives and the organization of a South oriented forum on biodiversity for development,
11. establishing a constructive learning platform of dialogue between education, science, policy and society

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