



Norway/UN Conference on Technology Transfer and Capacity Building

June 23-27, 2003

Conference Conspectus

Technology transfer and capacity building are to be major themes of the seventh Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biodiversity in 2004. One aim of the Trondheim Conference will be to provide useful input to that discussion and the discussions at the SBSTTA-meeting in November 2003, while also supporting the work of UNEP and its Intergovernmental Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building to Developing Countries.

Conveners and organizers

The Norway/UN Conference on Technology Transfer and Capacity Building is the fourth Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity and is being hosted by the Norwegian Ministry of Environment in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Invited to take part in the international advisory committee of the Conference are, i.a., the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Secretariat, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), the World Bank (WB), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), the African Centre for Technology and Science (ACTS), International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), Third World Network (TWN), and the International Conservation Union (IUCN),

The organisation and sponsoring of the Conference is a joint venture between the Norwegian Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Fisheries, the Ministry of Education and Research, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Conference will be organised by the Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management (DN), which is the executive body of biodiversity management under the Ministry, in cooperation with the Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (NINA), and the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), all based in Trondheim.

The preparations for the Norway/UN Conference on Capacity Building and Technology Transfer are led by a Conference Steering Committee, chaired by Mr. Peter J. Schei of the Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management. Mr. Schei is presently Negotiations Director and Senior Adviser to DN and the Ministry of Environment. In 1996-97 he was chairman of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technological and Technical Advice (SBSTTA) under the CBD.

Rationale for the Norway/UN Conference on Technology Transfer and Capacity Building

Since the adoption of the CBD it has become increasingly clear that a successful implementation of the Convention hinges on active development and use of knowledge, whether traditional or scientific. This includes both transfer of technology and knowledge among Parties, active collaboration to develop competence and capacity, and the recognition, inclusion and application of traditional knowledge relating to biodiversity conservation and use. These issues will be a main subject on the 7th COP in 2004. The Norway/UN Conference on Capacity Building and Technology Transfer aims to provide input to the discussions at the SBSTTA-9 meeting scheduled for November 2003, as well as for COP-7. The discussions at the Conference will also

support the work of UNEP in the development and implementation of its Intergovernmental Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building to Developing Countries.

The objectives of the Conference are:

- To contribute to a sound scientific knowledge base on issues related to technology transfer and capacity building.
- To contribute to the development of more efficient ways and means of building capacity and developing sustainable and useful institutions.
- To present lessons learned and identify success factors regarding technology transfer and capacity building.
- To explore the role of traditional knowledge in capacity building and technology transfer.
- To provide a forum for cross-sectoral and multidisciplinary dialogue between scientists and policy makers on issues related to the implementation of Articles 16-19 of the CBD, dealing with technology transfer, exchange of information, scientific cooperation, and biotechnology.

Conference programme and output

The programme is now being developed, and will cover a wide range of topics associated with capacity building and technology transfer, including:

- implementation support,
- the role of technology transfer in fighting poverty,
- case studies, lessons learned and success factors concerning capacity building and technology transfer,
- partners or clients – the terms for capacity building and technology transfer,
- capacity building and technology transfer to create sustainable institutions,
- recognising and involving the knowledge and skills of local and indigenous communities,
- building public-private partnerships,
- technological solutions, e.g. for cataloguing and monitoring biodiversity,
- technological and institutional solutions regarding bioprospecting, pharmaceuticals, etc.,
- information technology in biodiversity conservation and use,
- capacity development in biotechnology,
- biodiversity in agriculture and fisheries.

Related issues for discussion will include sustainable use approaches, biotechnology, access to genetic resources, and intellectual property rights. The complete programme will be distributed to all registered participants as soon as possible.

Expected outputs of the 2003 Trondheim Conference will include (1) Proceedings of the Conference in the form of an un-refereed technical report, and (2) a shorter summary report aimed as input to SBSTTA-9. The reports will be distributed to relevant international fora working on issues related to the ecosystem approach and sustainable use of biodiversity, including in particular those working with the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA).

Rationale for the Trondheim Conferences on Biodiversity

The first of the Trondheim Conferences on Biodiversity in May 1993 provided important input from a number of the World's leading scientists to a wide scientific and management audience from most of the signatories at that time. This input was highly instrumental to the first Intergovernmental Committee meeting of the signatories to the CBD in September that year. The theme of the second Conference in July 1996 was scientific and management problems related to alien invasive species. The Conference provided useful input to the discussions at the second SBSTTA meeting in September 1996, and to the development of the Global Invasive Species Program (GISP). In 1999, the Conference discussed the Ecosystem Approach for Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity, and provided input to SBSTTA-5, and to the discussions leading to the adoption of the Principles for Ecosystem Approach at COP-6 in 2002. In June 1997, the organizers of the Trondheim Conferences also hosted a workshop on biodiversity in freshwaters, to provide scientific input to the third SBSTTA meeting in September 1997.

The Trondheim Conferences focus on the multidimensional nature of the implementation of the Biodiversity Convention. There is a need to establish the best possible scientific basis for this implementation, taking into account that the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and fair and equitable sharing of benefits

derived from it, constitute the very foundation for sustainable development. The Conference series has established and develops and maintains contact and collaboration between scientists and policy makers from all Parties to the CBD. It will enhance the cross-sectoral and multi-sectoral dialogue on biodiversity research and management, and contribute to a solid basis for policy and management decisions needed to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity. This approach will also underpin the 2003 Trondheim Conference, which has a very broad and challenging theme, of relevance to the entire sector of sustainable development.

Participation

Against this background, Norway invites to the 4th Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity: the Norway/UN Conference on Technology Transfer and Capacity Building. Invitation letters are sent by the Norwegian Minister of the Environment to all members of the United Nations, CBD Focal Points, as well as relevant UN agencies. In addition, a number of organisations and institutions working on issues related to the theme will be invited to attend, including a number of international instruments and non-governmental organisations in the field of development collaboration.

The participants will hopefully include policy makers and scientists in the field of environment, biodiversity management, capacity and competence building, and development collaboration.

Practical arrangements

The 2003 Trondheim Conference will take place at the Royal Garden Hotel, which is beautifully and conveniently located in the centre of Trondheim. The opening of the Conference will be at 10:00 hrs on Monday 23 June, closing at 16:00 hrs on Friday 27 June. Due to the size of the Conference facilities, participation will be limited to a maximum of 300 participants. Space considerations require us to request that countries and organisations/institutions limit their delegations to no more than two participants.

A registration form for the 2003 Trondheim Conference has been enclosed with this Conspectus. Completed registration forms must be received by 1 April 2003. More information on practical details, including on hotels, excursions and transport, will be distributed as soon as possible and no later than late April, to registered participants.

Travel support

The Norwegian Government is prepared to provide travel support for a limited number of participants from countries eligible for such support according to criteria under the CBD. Applications for support should be sent to the Trondheim Conferences on Biodiversity, Tungasletta 2, NO-7485 Trondheim, Norway (fax no. +47 73 80 14 01) as soon as possible, and not later than 1 March 2003. Participants are reminded to check if they need a visa to enter Norway.

Addresses

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