



Achieving the
2010
Biodiversity
Target

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity



UNEP/CBD/TF.HOA/1/2
5 September 2006

HEADS OF AGENCIES TASK FORCE ON
THE 2010 BIODIVERSITY TARGET
First meeting
Gland, 15 September 2006

ENHANCING EFFECTIVENESS OF SUPPORT TO COUNTRIES FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE 2010 BIODIVERSITY TARGET

Background document for first heads of agencies task force meeting (Gland, 15 September 2006)

1. In 2002, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted a Strategic Plan to provide a coherent focus for the various programmes of work and cross-cutting issues addressed under the Convention. The Strategic Plan includes the target, subsequently endorsed by the World Summit on Sustainable Development, of achieving by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss.
2. The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) demonstrated that biodiversity contributes directly (through biological products) and indirectly (through ecosystem services) to human well-being and that the costs associated with biodiversity loss are expected to increase, and fall disproportionately on the poor. The direct causes of biodiversity loss — habitat change, overexploitation, the introduction of invasive alien species, pollution and climate change — show no sign of abating. The MA therefore concluded that an unprecedented effort would be needed to achieve the 2010 biodiversity target.
3. A set of scenarios to evaluate the consequences of realistic, yet challenging, global policy interventions on biodiversity were prepared by the GLOBIO Consortium for Global Biodiversity Outlook 2. The study suggests the need to identify smart, nationally and locally tailored combinations of measures for reducing biodiversity loss, using a range of approaches. It concludes that:
 - (a) It is of paramount importance to minimize the rate of land conversion. The further enhancement of agricultural productivity is a key factor in reducing the need for land. Payment for environmental services that compensate for the opportunity cost of the non-conversion of biodiversity-rich natural ecosystems could also contribute to the 2010 target.
 - (b) Trade liberalization measures need to be combined with policy interventions to avoid unnecessary loss of biodiversity through land conversion in areas of low land and labour costs.
 - (c) A comprehensive and effectively managed network of protected areas is another important mechanism to limit the loss of biodiversity.
4. Global Biodiversity Outlook 2 lists five key elements of a strategy for achieving the 2010 target:



- (a) Promotion of sustainable and efficient agriculture by improving the efficiency of use of land, water and nutrients in agriculture, including aquaculture and plantations.
- (b) Improvement of landscape-level planning including through the protection of areas of high biodiversity value and those that produce essential ecosystem services while using already converted and degraded lands for expansion of agriculture, including aquaculture and plantations.
- (c) Promotion of sustainable consumption through the limitation of over-consumption of energy, timber and food, especially meat, by affluent sectors of society.
- (d) Termination of over-exploitation of wild resources, in particular overfishing and destructive fishing practices, the expansion of marine protected areas, and the termination of use of endangered species and populations.
- (e) Protection and restoration of critical ecosystems that provide resources for the poor, allow adaptation to climate change, and/or provide critical ecosystem goods and services.

5. The loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services could undermine achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Moreover, many of the actions that could be implemented most quickly to promote economic development and reduce hunger and poverty could harm biodiversity, at least in the short term. Given these complex interrelations, there is a need to integrate biodiversity consideration in policies, plans and programmes for sustainable development.

6. The proposed incorporation at the 61st Session of the UN General Assembly of the 2010 biodiversity target as an interim milestone towards the achievement of the MDGs by 2015 would facilitate the integration of MDG7 on environmental sustainability with all other MDGs. Linking the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity to the sustainable development agenda is critical to mainstream biodiversity into economic sectors and development planning.

7. The agencies committed to the achievement of the 2010 biodiversity target already support Governments and civil society and collaborate with private sector organizations within their respective mandates by addressing the elements identified by the Global Biodiversity Outlook 2 as well as the recommendations of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. It is expected that agencies can individually and collectively strengthen this support through enhanced exchange of relevant information, coordination, and where appropriate joint implementation.

8. Thus, a Memorandum of Cooperation between Agencies to Support the Achievement of the 2010 Biodiversity Target was signed by or on behalf of nine heads of agencies in Curitiba, Brazil in March 2006. Other agencies might be invited to join the Task Force. Parties to the Memorandum committed to establishing a task force of heads of agencies through which they would:

- (a) **Exchange information** on activities relevant to the 2010 biodiversity target.
- (b) **Identify and promote activities** that, within the mandates of the respective organizations, could make an enhanced contribution to the achievement of the 2010 biodiversity target.
- (c) Coordinate activities, where appropriate, or identify and implement **joint activities**.
- (d) Provide **technical support** to member nations, upon request, to support activities aimed at the achievement of the 2010 target.
- (e) Cooperate to provide **technical expertise** or other support to Governments.

9. In the first meeting of the Task Force, Heads of Agencies will have an opportunity to exchange their experiences in contributing to the achievement of the 2010 biodiversity target. In order to also identify possible activities that the Task Force could undertake in a collaborative manner within the mandates and work programmes of its members, possible options are identified in the Table 1.

Table 1. Options for possible activities of the Task Force to Support the Achievement of the 2010 Biodiversity Target

OBJECTIVE: Promote actions to support the achievement by 2010 of a significant reduction in the rate of biodiversity loss at global, regional and national levels.

Proposed Activities	Examples of Past Efforts and Ongoing initiatives	Timeline
Joint efforts to support the incorporation of the 2010 target as one of the targets for MDG7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint strategies in support of the inclusion of the 2010 target into the MDGs (IUCN-CBD-WWF) 	
Ensure that all governing bodies (of the task force members) adopt the 2010 biodiversity target as part of their strategic planning frameworks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2010 biodiversity target adopted by CBD through the Strategic Plan; • Recognized by the COP of CITES (Decisions 13.1 and 13.2); • Recognized by CMS Standing Committee in the Draft Strategic Plan (2006-2011). 	
Collaborate on a communications and awareness raising strategy for the 2010 target	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities under the International Biodiversity Day including: IBD Task Force, UNEP-WCMC Educational Tool “Biodiversity Benefits People”. • CEPA activities: CEPA programme of work and Portal (CBD); CEPA toolkit (CBD-IUCN); Ramsar Convention’s CEPA Programme and website; • Countdown 2010 initiative (IUCN ROfE) • Joint web-site of the biodiversity-related conventions. 	

<p>Develop toolkits (when possible, jointly) and capacity building initiatives to promote achievement of the 2010 target</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IUCN/CEC World Conservation Learning Network • UNEP-UNCTAD capacity building task force on trade; • UNEP Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building; • UNEP-WCMC's work on capacity-building as Biodiversity Data Management Project; • EMG Biodiversity capacity-building web-site; 	
<p>Exchange experiences and identify possible common indicators to measure progress towards the achievement of the 2010 target</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CBD work on indicators • 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (CBD, CMS, Ramsar, CITES, UNDP, IPGRI, FAO, UNEP, WWF, IUCN, UNESCO and others) • IUCN SSC's work on indicators (e.g. RLI) • UNEP WCMC Biodiversity Indicators for National Use (BINU) 	
<p>Identify opportunities to enhance reporting requirements and to promote joint reporting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNEP WCMC work on harmonization of reporting • UNEP Issues Based Modules 	
<p>Exchange best practice on the integration of biodiversity into development strategies including PRSPs so that they contribute to the 2010 target and the 2015 MDGs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation for Poverty Reduction initiative (IUCN) • Poverty Environment Partnership PEP (UNEP, UNDP, FAO, WWF, others) • Poverty Environment Initiative PEI (UNEP-UNDP) 	
