



CBD



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**SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ON INCENTIVE MEASURES**

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AUSTRALIA

**INCENTIVES FOR THE CONSERVATION OF BIOLOGICAL  
DIVERSITY IN AUSTRALIA**

**CONTEXT**

In 1996 the Secretariat to the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity is gathering information and experiences for the Parties to consider on the implementation of article 11, "the adoption of economically and socially sound measures that act as incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of components of biological diversity" (Convention on Biological Diversity 1992).

The following information is provided to the Secretariat by Australia as part of its commitment under the Convention. Australia, supported by its States and Territories, industry and community organisations has an established commitment to the development of incentive mechanisms for the conservation of biological diversity, both on and off reserves. This commitment is backed by appropriate legislation and a range of initiatives which are outlined below.

**INTRODUCTION**

Australia is internationally recognised for its large number of endemic species, genera and families making it one of the most biologically diverse countries in the world. This level of endemism is the result of geographic isolation and climatic changes over long periods of time. As the only developed nation in the world with such mega-diverse flora and fauna it also has the opportunity to develop the full range of mechanisms to protect this diversity and to lead the way in the development of incentives to its conservation and sustainable use in socially sound ways. Although not the most diverse country in the world in terms of numbers of species, Australia is distinguished by the possession of a highly unusual fauna and flora. It has higher levels of vertebrate endemism than any other country, consisting of 82 % of mammals, 42% of birds, 89% of reptiles and 93% of amphibian species. In addition, around 85% of higher plants are endemic. (OECD 1995).

It has become increasingly obvious that in order to protect biological diversity and meet its obligations under the Convention, a huge effort by government and the community will be necessary. Nor will the cost be insubstantial. The protected area reserve system, even if extended as anticipated, will not be adequate to protect the range of biological diversity values. Although many ecosystems are conserved within the protected area estate, others are not represented at all and only occur on privately owned or managed land. Addition of this land to the reserve system is not feasible due to the cost of purchase and management. As over two-thirds of Australia (approximately 500 million hectares) is managed by private land holders, there is a need for a consistent and integrated approach to nature conservation on leasehold, freehold and state owned lands (Commonwealth of Australia 1995).

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The historical record in Australia reveals significant loss of species and ecological communities. More-over, the list of threatened and endangered species is substantial, especially in, but not limited to, the agricultural and pastoral regions. Consequently Australia has a keen interest in developing and implementing a range of incentive mechanisms for the voluntary conservation of biological diversity on privately managed land and has already made some progress towards this end. It is also looking at a range of institutional changes that may have to take place in order to maximise the potential for the conservation of biological diversity across all land tenures. There is a recognition that these need to be socially acceptable and economically viable.

While the acquisition of land for national parks is a well established policy action, until recently little attention had been given to the effects of economic and other policies on biological diversity values. Australian policies are being revised to encourage habitat protection and change management practices to ensure that resource use is sustainable.

### **LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY FRAMEWORKS.**

Within the context of Australia's National Strategy on Ecologically Sustainable Development Australia will consider amongst other things options which develop economic instruments and incentive arrangements which minimise government outlays and intervention and increase private sector participation in, and ownership of, conservation activity. The National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development, Australia's commitment to Agenda 21, is a fundamental basis for all policy development.

1. A National Strategy for the Conservation of Australia's Biological Diversity was signed by all Australian State and Territory governments in February, 1996. This follows priority given to biological diversity conservation and maintenance in an intergovernmental agreement on ecologically sustainable development encompassed in the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Environment. The National Strategy contains a number of actions and objectives relevant to the development of incentive mechanisms. A high level government group has been set up to oversee implementation of the Strategy together with an advisory group with representation from science, industry, conservation and indigenous sectors established to advise on its implementation. A Biodiversity Strategy Network consisting of government departments across all States and Territories with responsibility for implementing the National Strategy will also provide advice and information on the implementation of Article 11 of the Convention.

2. A National Reserves System Cooperative Program has been established to develop a Comprehensive Reserve System and was endorsed by all Australian State and Territory governments in November 1995. Under this program significant gaps which still remain in the national reserve system are currently being identified. Funds are being provided to State governments and community groups for the purchase of land to add to the reserve system. Land purchases will compliment other incentive mechanisms but are only likely to occur in special circumstances.

3. The National Vegetation Initiative (NVI) builds on existing programs and aims to protect remnant vegetation and considerably increase Australia's vegetation cover over the next four years. A Council for Sustainable Vegetation Management will be established to oversee the implementation of the NVI. It will advise on the best mix of incentive measures to achieve the protection and sustainable management of native vegetation. It is anticipated that a range of incentives, including financial incentives will be developed to encourage vegetation retention.

4. The National Forest Policy Statement commits Australia to a comprehensive, adequate and representative protected forest estate. In order to achieve its goals of 15% protection for all forest types, incentives are being investigated for the conservation of private forests.

5. Legislation currently exists in all Australian States and Territories to support voluntary conservation agreements on private land. Legislation varies from State to State but generally relates to five major areas - land clearing and land degradation, heritage agreements, nature conservation, planning controls and Crown Land leases.

6. A range of other legislation to conserve biodiversity exists at both State and national levels, including endangered species legislation, land clearance legislation and fisheries management legislation. The capacity exists to develop strategies which include incentive mechanisms for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. Strategies which could incorporate incentives include the National Weeds Strategy, the National Rangelands Strategy and various feral animal control strategies.

#### **PROGRESS IN AUSTRALIA TOWARDS THE CONSIDERATION OF INCENTIVES FOR BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION.**

Australia is a diverse country with a wide range of environments and ecosystems encompassing many and varied land tenure arrangements. Institutional changes, voluntary measures and incentive mechanisms for biological diversity conservation and sustainable use are already developing on a broad front. Legislation exists in all States and/or at Commonwealth level to support voluntary conservation agreements and resource use limits. It is likely that Australia will develop a mixed range of incentive mechanisms that are sensitive to regional variation in conservation needs, land management and the prevailing culture.

In Australia land management is the jurisdiction of State and local governments. The Commonwealth's main focus for nature conservation is through provision of incentives and assistance to State/Territory and local governments, land holders, industry groups and the community. The Commonwealth plays a leadership role in policy development and by negotiating Inter-governmental Agreements on issues that affect biological diversity conservation. It does however have direct responsibility for the management of the marine resource and has made substantial progress in identifying the current status of the marine environment.

Some initiatives towards developing a policy framework undertaken in the past year include the following:

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1. Australia has contributed substantial funds to the OECD Group on Economic and Environment Policy Integration. This support assisted the OECD to stage an international conference on the Role of Incentive Measures in Biodiversity Conservation and to produce a report which canvasses options on the issue world wide. From the OECD perspective "Incentive measures can make it the enlightened self-interest of property owners and resource users *everywhere* to embrace conservation and put their knowledge and skill to work on its behalf." (OECD 1995)
2. An independent report "Reimbursing the Future, An evaluation of motivational, voluntary, price-based, property-right, and regulatory incentives for the conservation of biodiversity" was released in Australia in March 1996. This report broadly examines a variety in instruments for developing incentive mechanisms as well as containing an analysis of case studies where the practical application of incentives can be examined. The Commonwealth is still considering a response to the report.
3. A major conference on bioregional planning was held in Australia in October 1995, bringing together the issues of conservation and land management planning at the regional level. This conference highlighted the need to put theory into practice in conserving biodiversity, examined new institutional arrangements which may be required in bioregional planning and highlighted the necessity for community involvement in the process. A bioregional approach to planning is seen as vital to the conservation of biodiversity in the long term.
4. A national conference "Conservation Outside Nature Reserves" was an initiative of the academic community, supported by the Australian government. Held by the Centre for Conservation Biology at the University of Queensland in February 1996 it brought together conservation biologists, land managers, land owners and voluntary conservation organisations. Incentive mechanisms for conservation off reserves was a key concept for discussion.
5. Commonwealth grant guidelines for local government and community organisations, particularly grants which support remnant vegetation management projects are increasingly emphasising the requirements to fit into regional planning processes and consider biodiversity objectives. For example landcare grant applications are more likely to be successful when supported by a management plan which extends beyond property boundaries and includes management for multiple values.
6. The development of an Oceans Policy, together with cooperative management of the marine environment under the direction of the Department of Environment, Sports and Territories in partnership with other Commonwealth agencies.

## NEW AND EMERGING INITIATIVES

### 1. Bioregional Planning

Bioregional Planning is an initiative receiving increased attention in Australia as a means of tackling a diminishing biological diversity resource. Consistent with the National Strategy on Ecologically Sustainable Development the concept stresses the

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incorporation of social, economic and biodiversity conservation factors in regional planning and management, and the involvement of all stakeholders in planning processes. The National Strategy for the Conservation of Australia's Biological Diversity acknowledges the underlying importance of bioregional planning and management to biodiversity conservation in Objective 1.2, "Manage biological diversity on a regional basis, using natural boundaries to facilitate the integration of conservation and production-oriented management."

Catchment and regional planning is being undertaken by Commonwealth, State and Territory agencies in Australia, frequently incorporating environmental conservation as a management goal. One example is provided by the Murray-Darling Basin Commission, which is seeking to reverse land degradation and loss of agricultural productivity in a vast area covering some 1.1 million square kilometres of the continent. The area includes parts of four States, and all of the Australian Capital Territory. While it includes many ecosystems and thus would encompass far more than a bioregion, it is an important example of how large scale planning can involve all stakeholders, and address large environmental concerns.

Other examples of regional and catchment management include the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and the Wet Tropics areas of north Queensland. While both areas are centred on conservation reserves, they both must incorporate the demands of industries, including power generation and tourism, as well as include the active participation of indigenous and other local communities. The learning processes of the management agencies responsible for both areas have served as important tools to guide the development of bioregional planning.

The "Approaches to Bioregional Planning" Conference discussed previously and the examples of bioregional planning "precursors" described briefly above point the way ahead clearly: to achieve biodiversity conservation both on and off-reserve, it is essential to incorporate ecological and biodiversity parameters in regional scale planning and management, and it is equally important to ensure that all stakeholders are involved with the process to own the final result. These stakeholders must include all levels of government, residents, community groups, scientists, industry and other resource users, and must recognise the necessity to achieve a consensus in order to ensure ecologically sustainable development.

## **2. The Greater Parks Concept.**

The development of compatible land management plans on properties surrounding National Parks and Conservation Reserves is considered a cost effective mechanism for adding value to the biological diversity resource contained within the reserve system. An example of a place where this approach is being developed is the Northern Territory of Australia.

Development of conservation plans and cooperative arrangements with landowners surrounding important parks and reserves in the Northern Territory is currently underway. Incentives to maintain high standards of conservation management on private (mainly indigenous) lands abutting parks and reserves will include the

development of direct employment opportunities, or preference in contracts let for park maintenance and tour or other concessions. It is hoped this model will produce a greater parks concept culminating in the delineation of a huge conservation region of five and a half million hectares of land (ANZECC Working Group on Nature Conservation On Private Land 1995). The presence of local industry (park management and tourism) and the opportunity for education and training based on biodiversity conservation and management make this incentive model attractive to the surrounding landowners. Similar proposals are being considered for the central region of Australia.

Broad-scale preventative measures, such as those outlined above, are considered likely to return the greatest long-term benefits to conservation. This is in contrast to narrow program guidelines for financial incentives which may impede programs designed to prevent the emergence of problems rather than correct entrenched and intractable difficulties.

### **3. Biosphere Reserves**

Australia has committed considerable resources to the Biosphere Reserves concept. Recent work has focused on the Bookmark Biosphere Reserve in South Australia and the Fitzgerald Biosphere in Western Australia. These Biosphere Reserves are two of twelve in Australia designed to protect core areas of biodiversity while involving the community, academics, land-managers and others in the development of research, education and management of the environment. The program demonstrates the possibility of integrating protected area management into the surrounding community who undertake educational and research work within the Biosphere Reserve.

### **4. Leasehold Land**

Large areas of Australia are leasehold land where it is possible to impose under the terms of the lease appropriate conservation measures for the land. The potential also exists to convert leasehold land to reserve status through voluntary purchase with indigenous co-management arrangements as is proposed for parts of northern Australia. This type of plan has the potential for wide community support.

### **4. Indigenous Protected Areas**

The concept of Indigenous Protected Areas is currently being investigated by Australia as a major new initiative which could see the enhancement and expansion of the Reserve System. It has the potential to significantly enhance biodiversity conservation. Proposals include the voluntary inclusion of Aboriginal lands which are currently outside the Reserve System into some form of formally protected areas, in exchange for, among other things, indigenous management of areas which are part of the Reserve System.



## 6. Extension Officers

Extension officers have been attached to agricultural and conservation departments to advise on farm practises for many years. The very successful National Landcare Program has mobilised individuals and community groups across Australia in a multiplicity of programs whose aim is to arrest land degradation. These community groups are serviced with advice and networking capacity by extension officers employed both by government and community organisations. Recent initiatives such as Farming for the Future are now providing for extension officers specifically to advise on biodiversity conservation within a property management planning framework. The deployment of more biodiversity advisers at the community level is seen as a necessary component to the development of voluntary biodiversity incentive mechanisms.

## ISSUES.

The project team commissioned by the Department of Environment, Sport and Territories to undertake "an evaluation of motivational, voluntary, price-based, property-right, and regulatory incentives for the conservation of biodiversity" produced the report "Reimbursing the Future" (Young *et al* 1996). To assist them in developing the recommendations contained in the report a series of workshops was held to canvass community attitudes. During this consultation process, which took place across Australia and involved members of the rural community, conservation organisations, government, business and industry, the following issues emerged.

1. Education and awareness campaigns are considered an essential adjunct to incentive-based measures for biological diversity conservation. Voluntary programs are potentially one of the most efficient and cost effective ways of conserving biodiversity but need to be underpinned by a high level of understanding and awareness. Because of this there are doubts that voluntary programs alone will produce positive results quickly enough to halt biodiversity loss. Evidence from a recent New South Wales study, for example, indicates that only a small percentage of the Australian population has an understanding of biodiversity conservation at present. (NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service 1996)

2. Successful implementation of biodiversity conservation incentive measures should involve local communities, industries and land holders in the decision making process. It is possible new institutional arrangements might need to be developed to enable this to happen. Biodiversity extension officers operating at the local level would be an important part of the process.

3. Regulations can have a support and complementary role to play with incentive measures.

4. It is inevitable that a mix of incentive mechanisms will most likely achieve the best outcomes. These should be planned for on a bioregional basis. Different instruments may need to be applied to different components of a single problem.

5. The removal of disincentives to biodiversity conservation from all government programs could be examined. This means removing the most perverse incentives and avoiding government intervention failures by appraising economic and sectoral policy for its impact on biodiversity. Cross-compliance with other areas eg. landcare, irrigation rights, timber royalties etc could also be examined.
6. Industries based on the use of the biodiversity resource, which have as their aim the protection and expansion of this resource, such as biotechnology, ecotourism, the export of native plants and wildlife commercialisation should be monitored.
7. There is a mixed response as to the effectiveness of using taxation as an incentive to biodiversity conservation. Tax deductions are of no value to land holders with incomes below the taxable threshold. Those who have been the beneficiaries of the taxation system in the past anticipate problems. However there is no doubt that there is a range of taxation measures which could help landowners achieve some economic returns from the development of crops, especially trees, which improve Australia's capacity to retain its biodiversity resource. The incentive may be for projects one step removed from the resource which it is designed to protect, eg. for plantation establishment as an alternative fibre source to native forests or the establishment of fish farms to protect wild fish stocks.

## THE FUTURE

As part of its commitment to Ecologically Sustainable Development which encompasses biodiversity objectives, Australia has a commitment to developing policy on incentive measures for the conservation of biological diversity which will be cost effective and involve the whole community. Policy development will arise from all levels of government and the community through both existing and new government mechanisms and community forums such as the Biological Diversity Advisory Council. A wide range of options is available to the Australian government for consideration. These include the following:

### Voluntary Programs

A consultancy report has indicated that in Australia, voluntary programs are generally favoured over binding contractual arrangements or compensatory measures as a mechanism for conserving biological diversity on private land (Young 1996). These may occur with or without compensatory mechanisms for compliance. Voluntary arrangements can maximise the opportunities for off-reserve conservation using a range of economic and management incentives.

### Community Action

Voluntary conservation groups and community-based organisations, of which there are many in Australia, are an important and cost effective means of promoting biodiversity conservation. A relatively small amount of resourcing for these groups often leads to a huge effort in conserving a resource. As well they provide an information and support function for individuals attempting to protect biodiversity. They provide a basis for attitudinal change and the adoption of an ethic for conserving nature on private land, an integral part of any efforts to introduce incentives to conserve biological diversity.

#### **Promotion.**

The establishment of a National Biodiversity Education Program to parallel all stages of the implementation of the Strategy for Biological Diversity would enable a broader understanding of biodiversity conservation in the community generally. This would be seen to make a valuable contribution to the successful implementation of all other initiatives, leading to a wider range of voluntary options in the future.

#### **Resource Planning**

The establishment of a comprehensive, adequate, and representative system of protected areas by the year 2000 is underway. A range of national strategies supported by intergovernmental agreements between national, State and local governments are required with the possibility of purchasing lands which are required for the system. A bioregional approach is recommended to achieve the best outcomes for biodiversity conservation in this context.

#### **Institutional Arrangements**

New institutional arrangements have already been set in place and additional arrangements may have to be considered. Indications are that these should tend towards bioregional mechanisms for biodiversity conservation and an educational framework to support voluntary conservation initiatives.

#### **Taxation Policy**

Taxation Policy in Australia already provides incentives for land management activities and voluntary donations associated with conservation and the protection of remnant species. However these could be expanded to provide additional incentives over time for example, tax credits. They could also be expanded to incorporate fees and taxes paid to state and local governments and the removal of perverse incentives to biological diversity conservation.

#### **Ownership and Use Rights.**

Many management options for the sustainable use of natural resources hinge on the allocation of property rights. The separation of resource control rights from resource ownership often leads to the better protection of the biodiversity resource. This is particularly the case when communal ownership takes over from state ownership and is pertinent to lands held by indigenous groups. Tradeable and transferable rights to resources such as fishing and water are valuable commodities where limits are placed on the total use of a resource. However use rights may also contain disincentives to biodiversity conservation.

#### **Legal Liabilities and Safe Minimum Standards**

Legal liabilities operate as an incentive by encouraging compliance to prevent legal action. Where insurance premiums are attached to a no claims bonus this may provide an additional incentive. However defining what are safe minimum standards and invoking the precautionary principle currently presents problems for resource managers.

### **Accreditation Schemes**

Accreditation is used widely to establish the value of products in the market place. Schemes for green labelling, including labelling of products and services for their biodiversity value are being considered in Australia. Most notable of these are the labelling of timber products and ecotourism services.

### **User-pays Principle.**

This is being used more widely to cover the cost of conserving biological diversity but could be expanded to cover many more uses. At present some States are charging fees for visits to national parks, governments issue licences for resource use, and polluters are being asked to pay the costs of repair to the environment. However the full costs of resource use, taking into account the environmental costs for loss of, or damage to, a biological resource are generally not recovered. Incentives which reward conservation of the resource could be applied in many instances.

### **Environment funds**

A range of environmental funds are in existence with money put aside specifically for conservation purposes. These range from government funds eg the anticipated National Heritage Trust of Australia, funds which manage debt-for-conservation swaps and green investment funds managed by financial institutions. Funds which buy land for covenanting purposes are also developing.

### **Biodiversity Prospecting Contracts and the Commercialisation of Wildlife.**

These provide a mechanism for countries and communities with a high biodiversity resource to benefit from this resource and from the traditional knowledge associated with its use. Therefore they provide an incentive for the protection of the genetic resource.

## **CONCLUSION**

The biodiversity resources of the world form the basis of all life on earth. Australia, with a unique and relatively untapped genetic resource, is in a pivotal position to contribute to the protection of this resource. Protection needs to occur at all three levels of ecosystem, species and genetic diversity. Impacts on the biodiversity resource are occurring as a result of government policy, community attitudes and individual actions although there are many positive examples of ecosystem repair through community and individual action as well as government intervention.

A range of incentives that positively influence the attitudes and motivations of people as well as recognise their desire for economic well being is required. Many of the options available to initiate a reversal of negative impacts on biodiversity and protect the resource are canvassed above. The choice of mechanisms and their successful implementation will depend on a range of circumstances including the state of local economies, the perceived importance of the resource and the will of both governments and communities.

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VI. Background material on incentive measures for promoting conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity

We in China synchronise the environmental impact assessment with the engineering reconstruction. The guideline of Comprehensive Plan, Positive Conservation, Scientific Management and Sustainable Use has been worked out in the 1990's. China is a developing country, and in most of its regions, the local people to make living by means of biodiversity resources and it is increasingly urgent to be resolved for how to coordinate the biodiversity conservation and resources sustainable use. For the purpose of coordinating the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable development, we are posed to take the following measures:

1. Establishment of biodiversity management and conservation & development areas

In the regions around the nature reserve areas there are to set up biodiversity management and conservation & development pilot programmes which aims at the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity, to undertake land programming, arrange the industry, agriculture and mineral production and facilitate the local government and masses to actively participate in the biodiversity conservation cause.

2. Establishment of regional economic demonstrative mode for co-ordination of biodiversity conservation and sustainable development

As a developing country, China's investment in the nature reserve areas is limited, therefore, the economic development of the areas near the nature reserve areas will be facilitated by the demonstration of the pilot programmes.

3. Establishment of Demonstrative Nature reserve Areas

Select several conservation areas that have representative implications and make careful plan of them, enhance its management to make out concrete effects for the eventually spreading of its experience.

EGYPT

INCENTIVE MEASURES

PRELIMINARY EGYPTIAN VIEWS

We consider that COP-3 should take into account the outcome of the meeting in March/April 1996 of the OECD expert group on economic aspects of Biodiversity.

The COP could authorize the secretariat to attend the meeting and request it to prepare a note for consideration at COP-3. The COP should also seek to identify other relevant work on economic incentive measures for the conservation and sustainable use of Biodiversity.

It is necessary to determine the major obstacles in the conservation process and specify how conservation of biological resources can be integrated with development more effectively.

Research activities relating to safeguarding the habitat and its fauna and flora may be promoted using historical records/scientific data.

The organisations associated with the conservation of biological diversity in one way or other may be strengthened with qualified & technically sound manpower. Foundation for conservation of biodiversity may be created. Local communities need to be involved in the design, implementation and review of conservation plans. Co-ordination between different agencies need to be made and priorities for action at the national and international level be fixed.

National Parks and special areas may be developed and facilities provided there for the tourists supported by publicity and guided activities for public awareness and tourist attraction. Entry fees may be charged for visiting the National Parks and special Wildlife areas can be arranged and guides from the local community can be engaged and provided to visitors on payment. Similarly other user fees can also be charged like camp sites, car parks etc.

It is not appropriate to put complete ban on trophy hunting or trapping of wildlife for sport and trade. This often has negative impact. In conservation terms, an absolute ban on animal hunting is often a misguided strategy because healthy population of wildlife produces a harvestable surplus. Furthermore, the number of animals taken legally are small fraction then taken illegally and of course the presence of legal hunting parties can deter illegal hunting. Therefore sustainable utilization of wildlife may be allowed by regularising trophy hunting. In this way considerable funds can be generated. Special taxes on trade in wildlife and wildlife products, both endemic and exotic, can be used as the conservation measures.

Industries may be asked to pay 1% of their annual income towards Biodiversity Conservation Fund. Voluntary contributions, from the philanthropists, public or private bodies may be encouraged. The Governments should agree that the funds would be tax



fee. The Funds, thus earned, could be used for management of the wildlife of the country and for adopting conservation measures as well as for various economic incentives directed towards improving co-operation with surrounding communities.

Rural electrification, distribution of cylinder gases/stones for cooking purpose, distribution of solar cooking posts in rural areas, popularization and provision of alternate source of energy, would be good incentive measures for promoting conservation and sustainable use of Biological Diversity.

1. Medidas (incentivos) para promover la conservación y utilización sostenible de la diversidad biológica.

En relación a este punto, la solicitud de la Secretaría alude a lo establecido en el artículo 11 del Convenio sobre la Diversidad Biológica que hace referencia específica a medidas -normas jurídicas, políticas, programas u otros- que pudieran eventualmente actuar como INCENTIVOS para la conservación de la diversidad biológica y la utilización sostenible de sus componentes.

- un incentivo (indirecto) para la conservación de la diversidad biológica y la utilización sostenible de sus componentes que se implementó a mediados de 1995 en Lima, lo constituyó un programa de capacitación en legislación ambiental dirigido a funcionarios públicos -de oficinas con competencias ambientales- y del sector privado -de empresas auditoras en materia de EIA's.

SOUTH AFRICA

Mr Juma,

Re: Request for written contributions and information on:

- a. The Conservation and sustainable use of Marine and coastal biological diversity
- b. Intellectual property rights
- c. Transfer and development of technology under the CBD
- d. Information on Forests and biological diversity.

Re: Background material

- a. Knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities
- b. Incentive measures for promoting conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity
- c. Identification, monitoring and assessment of biological diversity

Re: Guidelines of the review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism of the CBD.

Unfortunately South Africa is not yet in a position to make a meaningful contribution with regard to the above mentioned requests.

South Africa is currently in the process of developing a strategy for the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). As soon as this process is under way and the appropriate and responsible organisations have been identified, we would submit the information you requested (Target date, 31 August 1996).

Yours sincerely  
Kallie Naude  
Assistant Director  
Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism

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