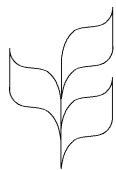




CBD



**CONVENTION ON
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

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Third meeting

Buenos Aires, Argentina

4 to 15 November 1996

Item 10.1 of the provisional agenda

**COMMUNICATION OF THE SECRETARIAT OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON
FORESTS ON PROGRESS ON ISSUES RELEVANT TO FORESTS AND BIOLOGICAL
DIVERSITY**

Note by the Executive Secretary

1. The annex to the present Note contains an Information Note from the Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forest to the Convention on Biological Diversity on the progress made by the IPF.
2. The Executive Secretary has been informed by the IPF Secretariat that the report of the Third Session of the IPF is not yet available for distribution.

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Annex

Information Note from the IPF Secretariat to the third Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity on the progress made by the IPF.

Buenos Aires, Argentina, 4-15 November 1996.

At its Second session held in Geneva, 11-22 March 1996, the Panel took note of the "Statement on Biological Diversity and Forests from the Convention on Biological Diversity to the Intergovernmental on Forests" annexed to the Decision II/9: "Forests and Biological Diversity", adopted at COP II in Jakarta, Indonesia, November 1995.

At its Third session, Geneva, 9-20 September 1996, the Panel welcomed the contribution of the Convention on Biological Diversity to its discussion. It requested the Secretariat of the Panel to provide information on progress made by the IPF to the Third Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD, so as to continue the exchange of information between the Panel and the COP". This note is prepared in response to this request. Additionally, if the Report of the Third session of the IPF, in its final version in all languages, is available in time for the III Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD, arrangements will be made for its prompt distribution to the CBD Secretariat.

The progress made in integrating relevant biodiversity issues in IPF programme of work was duly reflected in the Secretary Generals Reports presented to the Third Session of the IPF. Consistent with COP Decision II/ 9, the IPF paid particular attention to the incorporation of biological diversity components in all of the following Programme Elements:

Category I: Implementation of UNCED Decisions related to forests at the national and International level including an examination of sectoral and cross-sectoral linkages:

- I.1 National Forest and Land Use Programmes;
- I.2 Underlying Causes of Deforestation and Forest Degradation;
- I.3 Traditional Forest Related Knowledge;
- I.4 Fragile Ecosystems Affected by Desertification and the Impact of Air-borne Pollution on Forests;
- I.5 Needs and Requirements of Countries of Low Forest Cover;

Category II: International Cooperation on Financial Assistance and Technology Transfer ;

Category III: Scientific Research, forest assessment and development of criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management

- III. a) Assessment of the Multiple benefits of All Types of Forests;
- III. b) Methodologies for proper Valuation of the Multiple Benefits of Forests;
- III.2 Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management;

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Category IV: Trade and Environment Relating to Forest Products and Services;

Category V: International Organizations and Instruments.

- V.1 International Organizations and Multilateral Institutions and Instruments.
- V.2 Consensus Building Towards the Further Implementation of the Forest Principles, Including Appropriate Legal Arrangements and Mechanisms Covering All Types of Forests.

Furthermore, consistent with its mandate and taking into account the above mentioned decision of the COP II, as well as the "Inputs to the Intergovernmental Panel of Forests" elaborated by the 2nd Meeting of SBSTTA, held in Montreal, 2-6 September 1996 and contained in its recommendation II/8, the Panel in the Reports of its Second and Third sessions made explicit references to the Convention on Biological Diversity as well as to biodiversity issues, in particular:

In Programme Element I.1, the Panel asked for the "integration of conservation measures and sustainable use of biological diversity within national forest and land-use plans";

In Programme Element I.2, the Panel referred to the need for "national policy frameworks for the management, conservation and sustainable use of all types of forests that encompasses and harmonizes elements pertaining to social and economic development programmes, environment plans, land-use plans, and national biodiversity strategies and action plans";

In Programme Element I.3, the Panel emphasized that its discussions should focus on the terms of reference determined by the CSD which include considerations on "how traditional knowledge and practices in their broadest sense could be applied to sustainable forest management"; noted that "international cooperation on traditional forest-related knowledge and rights related to it must be consistent with obligations under the CBD", and other relevant instruments; and "also noted that at its fourth session, it would need to take into account, as appropriate, the outcome of the Third Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity in relation to indigenous knowledge";

In Programme Element I.4, the Panel felt that work "should be carried forward in close relationship with existing international conventions such as the CBD...";

In Programme Element I.5, the Panel recognised that "the restricted area of forests in countries with low forest cover results in reduced capacity for.....the provision of goods and services, including....the maintenance of biological diversity. Moreover, many types of the forests in these countries are distinctive or even rare and require national as well as international protective measures.."; "special attention should be made to establish networks of protected areas and ecological corridors in order to conserve biodiversity"; "A close liaison with CBD should be encouraged";

In Programme Element II, the Panel recognised that "forest-related projects to be supported through GEF programmes relevant to biodiversity, climate change and international waters, are done under the guidance provided by the COPs of international instruments on these subjects"; the Panel also noted that "priority in technology transfer and capacity building should be established and continuously reviewed and could include.....species research, including biotechnology, for tree improvement...and native species research; technology and methods for retaining forest values, including biological diversity...";

In Programme Element III.1 (a), the Panel noted that "much attention is still given to timber and forest cover, whereas other goods and services provided by forests such as....biological diversity. ..protection functions....are rarely covered and will need more attention"; "the Panel was informed of the recommendations made by the II SBSTTA on priorities for scientific research on biological diversity and forests. The Panel instructed its Secretariat to liaise with the Secretariat of the CBD to ensure that any such work undertaken by the CBD addresses gaps in existing knowledge identified by the Panel as effectively as possible";

In Programme Element III.1 (b), the Panel stressed that the "costs associated with deforestation and forest degradation and changes in forest quality with respect to biological diversity, biological functions, social consideration and environmental impacts, are not adequately covered by present (valuation) methodologies"; it also recognised "the importance of the services provided by forests relating to, for example, biological diversity and climate regulation, and the potential for developing mechanisms to translate these values into monetary terms.....". However, it also noted that "further discussion on these issues should take place...in the COP to the CBD and FCCC"; the Panel also "noted the input received from the COP to the CBD with respect to the need to develop methodologies for valuing forest biodiversity" and "welcomed further input from the COP to the CBD to be considered at IPF IV, in particular with respect to providing technical advice to the appropriate valuation of forest biodiversity";

In Programme Element III.2, the Panel "encouraged countries, international organizations and research organizations to consider ways to promote research relating to indicators for sustainable forest management in the following priority areas:....approaches to measuring biological diversity; approaches to measuring and valuing the production of non-wood forest products"; "urged the COP to the CBD to take note of existing criteria and indicators frameworks with a view to ensuring that work done by the CBD on developing and implementing biodiversity indicators is consistent with and complementary to these frameworks";

In Programme Element IV, the Panel recognised the need to "promote the marketability of lesser-used species through increased investment and research and development (R&D); methodologies.... should reflect a balance among economic, environmental (including biological diversity) and social considerations"; the Panel also noted the need "to intensify efforts to promote lesser-used species from all types of forests, including non-timber forest products"; and

In Programme Element V, consideration of the CBD programme of work was included among the several existing instruments whose work was analysed "in order to identify work carried out ... in forest-related issues...in order to identify any gaps, areas requiring enhancement, as well as any areas of duplication".

At the Third session of the IPF several proposals were also put forward relevant to Programme Elements V.1 and V.2 on international institutional and legal arrangements. Some of these indicated support for the elaboration of a legally-binding instrument dealing with sustainable management of all types of forests, whether through initiating the preparation of a global convention or supplementing and coordinating existing instruments. There were also proposals on the establishment of an institutional follow-up process with a view of elaborating, in a limited time frame, recommendations to the CSD on possible legally-binding instrument and other programme priority work dealing with conservation, management and sustainable development of all types of forests.

The Panel felt that "further information and study of the international organizations, multilateral institutions and legal instruments relevant to forests and of their mandates, as well as their progress in and capacity for implementing the forest-related outcomes of UNCED would be needed in order to achieve a more accurate diagnosis and to formulate proposals for action". The Panel also agreed that "more specific conclusions and proposals for action will be elaborated during the Fourth session of the IPF after, inter alia, consideration of relevant proposals to be prepared by the informal high level Inter-Agency Task Force on Forest and the results by other relevant initiatives".

It should be noted that Draft Conclusions and Proposals for Action in the Report of the Third session of the IPF includes all these points together with many other as "Elements for negotiations" at the Fourth session of the Panel, to be held in New York in February 1997, which will result in Panel's Final report to the Fifth session of the CSD, New York, 7-25 April 1997.

The Panel agreed that at its Fourth session it will also take into account additional proposals and inputs, including the results of the COP III to the CBD relevant to IPF mandates as well as of other inter-sessional activities that will take place during the period between the IPF III and IPF IV.

The IPF Secretariat would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge all the valuable substantive input and cooperation provided by the COP and the CBD Secretariat in connection with the various Programme Elements of its programme of work as well as for the important contributions made by the CBD Secretariat as member of the informal high level Inter-Agency Task Force on Forest. It is hoped that this cooperation will continue and be mutually beneficial to the activities of both intergovernmental bodies towards the full implementation of UNCED Decisions and Agenda 21.

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