



**CONVENTION ON  
BIOLOGICAL  
DIVERSITY**

Distr.  
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/COP/7/INF/35  
2 February 2004

ENGLISH ONLY

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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON  
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Seventh meeting

Kuala Lumpur, 9-20 and 27 February 2004

Item 8 of the provisional agenda\*

**THIRD BIODIVERSITY IN EUROPE CONFERENCE, MADRID, SPAIN, 19-21 JANUARY 2004**

***Conclusions of the Chairman, Mr. Juan del Alamo, Secretary-General of the of the Ministry for the Environment of Spain, on the Pan-European regional meeting in preparation for the Seventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity***

*Note by the Executive Secretary*

1. The Conference of the Parties, in paragraph 3 of decision VI/27, adopted at its sixth meeting, encourages Parties to develop regional, sub regional or bioregional mechanisms and networks to support implementation of the Convention. In addition, in paragraph 11 of decision VI/27 B, the Conference of the Parties acknowledges the important role that regional and sub regional mechanisms and networks play in promoting the implementation of the Convention, by, *inter alia*, providing forums for the preparation of regional inputs to meetings of the Convention. Accordingly, the Government of Spain hosted the third Biodiversity in Europe Conference in Madrid, from 19 to 21 January 2004, as an instrument for regional implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity in the pan European region.
2. The Executive Secretary is circulating herewith, for the information of the participants to the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the final conclusions of the Madrid Conference.
3. The document is being circulated in the language and form in which it was received by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

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\* UNEP/CBD/COP/7/1 and Corr.1.





***Third Biodiversity in Europe Conference***  
**Madrid, Spain**  
**19-21 January 2004**

**Conclusions of the Chairman, Mr Juan del Alamo, Secretary General of the Ministry for the Environment of Spain, on the Pan-European regional meeting in preparation for the Seventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity**

**Introduction**

In its Decision V/20, the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) recognized that activities at the subregional and regional levels, including existing regional processes established for other biological-diversity-related purposes, have an important role to play in preparing for the Convention meetings and enhancing implementation of the Convention, and calls on Parties to participate actively in suitable subregional and regional activities, as well as on the Executive Secretary, subject to necessary voluntary contributions, to facilitate the involvement in such subregional and regional activities of developing country Parties, in particular the least developed and small island developing States, and other Parties with economies in transition.

1. In this context, the Pan European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS), in its role as an instrument for regional implementation of the CBD in the pan European region, provides a forum to prepare for the Meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. This preparation takes place through the *Biodiversity in Europe* Conferences. On the occasion of the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Government of Spain hosted the *Third Biodiversity in Europe* Conference in Madrid from 19 to 21 January 2004. Close to 200 participants from the pan European region attended the Conference on behalf of Governments; international and regional governmental organizations; and international, regional and national non-governmental organizations. The Madrid Conference was chaired by Mr Juan del Alamo, Secretary General of the Ministry for the Environment of Spain. Ms. Margot Wallström, Member of the European Commission responsible for the Environment and H.E. Mr. Serhiy Polyakov, Minister of the Environment of Ukraine, gave keynote addresses at the Conference. HE Ms Elvira Rodriguez, Minister of the Environment of Spain sent a special message to the Conference. Invited speakers included Mr. Tom O'Mahony, Assistant Secretary General, Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Ireland, representing the Presidency of the European Union; Mr. Shafqat Kakakhel, Deputy Executive Director, UNEP; Mr. Hamdallah Zedan, Executive Secretary of the CBD Secretariat; Mr. Achim Steiner, Director General of IUCN-the World Conservation Union; Mr. Bart Jan Krouwel, Vice President of the European Task Force on Banking, Business and Biodiversity; and Ms. Sylvi Ofstad, Chair of the PEBLDS Council.
2. The Organisation of the Conference benefited from the support and close collaboration of the following European Governments: Austria, Ireland, Italy, The Netherlands, Norway, Moldova, Switzerland, United Kingdom and Spain; and intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations: UNEP, the Council of Europe, ECNC and IUCN.
3. The Governments participating in the PEBLDS process chose five priority issues for the pan European region from the COP 7 agenda to highlight and discuss at the Madrid Conference: Follow up of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Protected Areas and Ecological Networks, Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity, Mountain Biological Diversity, and Transfer of Technology and Technology Cooperation. The objective of the Conference was to reach a common

understanding on these issues and develop recommendations for submission to the CBD COP-7. The Governments of the Republic of Croatia, the Czech Republic, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, the Russian Federation, Spain and the United Kingdom, with support from Council of Europe, UNEP Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, UNEP/MAP Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas, European Centre for Nature Conservation, IUCN-World Conservation Union, Ev-K2-CNR Committee for High Altitude Scientific and Technological Research, and IUCN Mediterranean Centre for Co-operation, prepared the background discussion papers on the above priority issues.

4. The Third *Biodiversity in Europe* Conference enjoyed a special significance for the pan European region given the recent adoption by the environment Ministers of the region of the Kyiv Resolution on Biodiversity which reflected the European Ministers' objective of halting the loss of biodiversity by 2010 and established a number of specific regional targets in order to support this objective.
5. The Conference participants urged the biodiversity community in Europe, in particular the PEBLDS Council and the European Union, to make the promotion and achievement of the Kyiv biodiversity targets a core concern and part and parcel of the PEBLDS and its workprogramme, as well as the EU biodiversity strategy, taking into account the need for a full implementation of principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on access to information and public participation, while bearing in mind the needs of developing countries and economies in transition for achieving the 2010 target.
6. The Conference also stressed the need for the CBD to strengthen cooperation with international organizations such as UNDP, IMO, UNCLOS, WIPO and the WTO as a means to further integrate biodiversity considerations in their areas of work.
7. Finally, the Conference requested the Council of the PEBLDS to consider the follow up of these recommendations in Europe, taking into account the outcome of COP-7.

#### **Recommendations to the CBD/COP-7**

As regards the follow up to the WSSD and other priority issues for CBD/COP-7, the Conference reached consensus on the following recommendations:

#### ***Follow Up of the World Summit On Sustainable Development***

8. The WSSD recognised at the highest political level that biodiversity is essential for sustainable development. It is now important to maintain this political momentum to achieve the 2010 target. Moreover since the WSSD also confirmed the CBD as the key instrument, it needs to be closely involved in the follow up, and COP7 should take the appropriate decisions to ensure this.
9. The Conference welcomes the recommendation of the SBSTTA for a process for establishing baselines, and tracking progress towards the 2010 target through monitoring and reporting on progress in the achievement of the CBD target, and recommends that each COP-7, and where possible each high level segment, should review progress towards the 2010 target and provide guidance as appropriate.
10. The COP-7 should encourage and support partnerships and cooperation aimed at demonstrating and assisting in the promotion and achievement of the CBD target. In order to ensure synergies and mutual supportiveness, there is a need to further improve cooperation both at national, regional and international level between CBD and all relevant international organisations, NGOs and agreements, in particular MEAs. COP-7 should further decide to develop a global partnership on biodiversity as suggested by the MYPOW intersessional meeting.

11. With regard to the regional and sub-regional level, the Conference recommends that the COP-7 take into account of the approaches adopted in Europe (i.e., the Kyiv Resolution on Biodiversity and related work of PEBLDS) in developing its guidance on implementation at the regional level.
12. Improve the functioning of the Convention, including through supporting voluntary reviews of national implementation and the establishment of an ad-hoc high-level advisory group to review the effectiveness of existing processes under the Convention.
13. The COP-7 should encourage the Parties to evaluate whether their national biodiversity strategies and action plans are adequate and up to date in relation to the 2010 target.
14. The CBD should develop a more outcome focused approach, i.e. to focus on results and field projects in connection with a number of agenda items including national reporting, target setting and reporting at the global and thematic programme level.
15. Parties to the CBD should ensure that the links between biodiversity loss and poverty, the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and sustainable development are fully understood within all sectors including the development community and ensure that action to achieve the MDGs is not detrimental to biodiversity.
16. The COP-7 should adopt a Multi-Year Programme of Work, concentrating on implementation, in line with the CBDs intersessional meeting of March 2003.
17. The COP-7 should underline the importance of communication, education and awareness-raising at all levels in order to implement the 2010 target. In that context the COP-7 should recognise that the CBD global initiative (CEPA) will be particularly important. In this regard the principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on access to information and public participation should be used allowing broad participation from NGOs and relevant stakeholders.
18. Support the negotiation, in accordance with the mandate from WSSD, of a transparent, effective and comprehensive international regime on access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing, building on an analysis of gaps in the present systems and an evaluation of experience gained in the implementation of the Bonn Guidelines.

### ***Protected Areas and Ecological Networks***

Emphasizing the importance of protected areas and ecological networks to achieving the 2010 target and the three objectives of the CBD:

19. A fundamental objective of the COP7 decision should be to promote the development, by 2010 on land and 2012 at sea of comprehensive, ecologically representative and effectively managed national and regional systems of protected areas and ecological networks integrated into a global network, paying also attention to transboundary protected areas.
20. Countries should apply a bottom up approach in developing a global network and building upon existing national regional and global networks. These protected areas and ecological networks should contribute to the conservation of habitats of threatened species.
21. COP7 should adopt an ambitious, focused and concrete Programme of Work on protected areas and ecological networks and secure the commitment of Parties to implement such a programme immediately.

22. COP7 should establish an open-ended Working Group to monitor and evaluate the programme of work and agree to consider, if the assessment indicates that the programme of work is not sufficiently ambitious, the adoption of additional measures under the Convention.
23. Promote the ecological network concept, including protected areas in a wider holistic context, enabling the most effective overall conservation and sustainable use of the whole ecological network system, as well as the application at the global level. Increase focus on synergies between protected areas and the wider landscape, including, where appropriate, ecological corridors and landscape matrices to favour connectivity.
24. Facilitate the application of the ecosystem approach, which has been adopted by the CBD as an overriding concept for implementing the CBD programmes of work, as an instrument for integral planning and management of ecosystems, enhancing sustainable development by balancing ecological, social and economic aspects.
25. COP7 should also underline the importance of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity outside protected areas, in particular by integrating conservation aspects into the management of natural resources as well as relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral policies and programmes.
26. Promote evaluation of ecosystem services and values provided by protected areas and ecological networks in line with approaches to equitable sharing of costs and benefits associated with designation, functioning and management of protected areas and ecological networks.
27. Underline the important role of protected areas and ecological networks in mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change.
28. Develop bio-geographic frameworks, based on species and habitat inventories, in order to identify the gaps in protected area systems and ecological networks.
29. Develop a consistent approach using IUCN refined categories regarding protected areas and threatened species to enable comparative monitoring of progress in protecting biodiversity, the contribution of Protected Areas and ecological networks to achieving the 2010 target.
30. Adopt a participatory approach in establishing and managing protected areas and ecological networks, giving priority to the role and respecting the rights of local and indigenous communities and addressing and mobilising the socio-economic potentials of protected areas and ecological networks and discuss ways of bringing more benefits to local and indigenous communities as well as enabling local communities to be more responsible for the sustainable management of their natural resources.
31. Provide and generate adequate capacity and financial sustainability to plan, establish and to effectively protect, manage and monitor protected areas and ecological networks.
32. Welcome the commitment of the consortium of international NGOs to provide and mobilise technical and financial support for the implementation of the PoW through the establishment of cooperative partnership between governmental agencies and civil society.
33. Link protected area and ecological network initiatives to major investment programmes and opportunities, including the GEF, where relevant, the CBD initiative on banking, business and biodiversity, and other public and private initiatives. This should address, inter alia, capacity building in order to meet the 2010 target.
34. Give high priority to the establishment of protected areas and ecological networks in under-represented habitats and vulnerable ecosystems, including marine areas and coastal zones, and including high seas, consistent with international law and in synergy with relevant international instruments.

### ***Marine and Coastal Biodiversity***

The Conference gave support to the recommendations on coastal and marine biodiversity proposed by the SBSTTA-8 to the COP-CBD 7 and recommended the following:

35. Highlight the importance of addressing the under-representation of marine and coastal protected areas and therefore support the establishment by 2012 of a system of representative networks of such areas covering both coastal waters and high seas consistent with international law, and as reflected in relevant international instruments, as part of the broader strategy for the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity.
36. Promote cooperation and coordination of regional and sub-regional activities and strengthening of synergies with partners (e.g. General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean, PAM, ACCOBAMS) and other international mechanisms (e.g. UNCLOS) including to protect and conserve vulnerable marine ecosystems in areas beyond national jurisdiction including in the water column and deep seabed. Conservation of high seas biodiversity should include urgent consideration of marine protected areas and associated scientific research and other measures such as UN resolutions and moratoria.
37. Promote transboundary cooperation within the framework of bilateral and multilateral legal instruments paying due account to the sensitivity and special environmental fragility of closed seas.
38. Promote the ecological network concept, including a network of marine and coastal protected areas in a wider holistic context, enabling the most effective overall conservation and sustainable use of the whole ecological network system, as well as the application at the global level. Marine protected areas may include, where appropriate no-take zones and regulations of extractive activities with a view of achieving the sustainable use of resources reflecting the bottom up approach.
39. Refine the CBD programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity, in relation to marine and coastal protected areas, mariculture, and conservation and sustainable use of deep seabed resources beyond the limits of national jurisdiction. The Programme of Work should integrate social and economic considerations, in particular regarding sustainable livelihoods and implications for local fishing communities and indigenous people; and ensuring their participation in its planning and implementation.
40. Support the proposed marine and coastal biodiversity management framework for implementation at national level.
41. Consider the establishment of an ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on implementation of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) as it should become one of the most important tools in conservation of coastal and marine biodiversity.
42. Adopt guidelines on relevant methods and techniques, including EIA, for avoiding adverse effects on coastal and marine biodiversity, for example regarding mariculture, for incorporation into national biodiversity strategies and action plans.
43. Support international mechanisms aimed at preventing the negative effects of marine transport on marine and coastal biodiversity and the swift adoption of effective measures to avoid the introduction of harmful aquatic organisms from ship's ballast water currently being negotiated within the IMO.
44. Promote research on marine and coastal biodiversity issues, especially data collection, rapid assessment and analysis of threats to marine and coastal ecosystems for the development of conservation measures.

45. Promote initiatives for addressing potential risks and impacts caused by military activities.

### ***Mountain Biological Diversity***

Recognising the specificity and importance of mountain ecosystems for their natural social and cultural values and for the important services they provide, and the importance of a significant reduction in the loss of mountain biodiversity as a contribution to the 2010 target, the Conference recommends the COP to:

46. Adopt the programme of work on mountain biological diversity as agreed by SBSTTA9 recommendation IX/12.

47. Highlight the following issues in the proposed PoW:

- The role of sustainable agriculture, rangelands and pastoralism using traditional practices that can maintain biological diversity in mountain ecosystems;
- The need to protect natural dynamic processes in order to enhance the capacity for ecosystems to cope with negative impacts and climate change;
- Land-use and water resource planning at landscape level;
- Environmental planning in order to reduce the negative impact of tourism and its associated settlements and facilities;
- Integrated watershed management practices;
- Promotion of integrated transboundary cooperation and cross-sectoral approaches;
- Promotion of collaboration between CBD and its joint work programme with the Ramsar Convention, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, international and regional agreements and relevant international organisations concerning mountain biodiversity.
- Foster the importance of upland-lowland contracts in maintaining mountain integrity and achieving the 2010 target.

### ***Transfer of Technology and Technology Cooperation***

48. Welcome SBSTTA recommendation IX/5 as a good basis for the proposed Programme of Work, and believe some aspects should be refined by

- modifying the almost exclusive focus in the programme on the transfer of technology from developed to developing countries, and recognise that technology transfer should take place amongst and between the developed countries, countries with economies in transition and developing countries, and
- ensuring the programme of work does not omit transfer of technology that makes use of knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities.

49. Promote the transfer of both hard and soft technology that better fits socio-economic, cultural and religious circumstances. The soft technology –e.g. traditional and indigenous knowledge and practices- should be included in the transfer of technologies for the mutual benefit of those involved.

50. Promote the development and integration of technologies with relevant sectors; involving all stakeholders; promoting horizontal cooperation; and addressing technologies related to sustainable use, information, data management, education, public awareness raising, biotechnology and biosafety, access and benefit-sharing, and value-adding processes.

51. Recommend carrying out further work relating to assessment of technology and capacity building needs, training in international negotiations and understanding trade-related issues and creating an enabling environment.

52. Define clear targets and concrete actions to achieve the 2010 target as well as identify concrete action for assessment of specific technology needs, along with risk assessments and impact assessments.
53. Integrate relevant actions into the framework of the thematic work programme and cross-cutting issues of the CBD, in particular Article 8j and access and benefit-sharing whilst avoiding duplication of work.
54. Promote the central role of the CHM in the implementation of the proposed POW, not only as a key mechanism for exchange of information on technologies, but also as a facilitation instrument, which actively supports cooperation and needs assessment. Synergies with the UNFCCC Technology Information Clearing House can be of considerable assistance in this regard.
55. Indicate the possible financial mechanisms for developing countries and countries with economies in transition for implementation of activities under the proposed programme of work. In this regard Parties, Governments and relevant international and regional organizations should consider ways to provide financial and technical support and relevant training.
56. Highlight the role of patents as a source of technological information

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