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Item 4.5 of the provisional agenda *

SYNTHESIS OF THE AICHI NAGOYA INTERNATIONAL E CONFERENCE 2010

Information note by the Executive Secretary

1. The Executive Secretary is pleased to circulate herewith, for the information of participants in the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, an information document entitled “Synthesis of the Aichi Nagoya International E Conference 2010” prepared by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as a summary of the online forum that took place between November 2009 and 30 June 2010.
2. The document is being circulated in the form and language in which it was provided to the Secretariat. Courtesy translations of the synthesis into French and Spanish are available on the CBD website.

* UNEP/CBD/COP/10/1.



Aichi Nagoya International E Conference 2010 Synthesis of comments received

Prepared by: IUCN – International Union for Conservation of Nature
August 18 – 2010

Background

The Aichi Nagoya International E Conference 2010 (ANIEC2010) was launched by the Secretariat on 9 November 2009, to seek the views of the larger biodiversity family on the design of the post 2010 biodiversity strategy. Four questions were posed for input:

- Question 1: What does biodiversity mean to you?
- Question 2: Do you think that biodiversity is important and why?
- Question 3: Do you think that climate change is a threat to biodiversity? If so, what should be done?
- Question 4: What will be your message to the Heads of States meeting on biodiversity on 20 September 2010 in New York and to the delegates to COP 10?

After eight months of dialogue, close to 500 messages have been received and exchanged through the global participation of English (37), Spanish (100) and French (2) registered users. It closed on 30 June 2010 and the following synthesis of the comments made has been prepared by the IUCN.

IUCN assisted the Secretariat by providing support for the Spanish version of the e conference and by providing and dissemination periodic summaries of the discussions through their networks.



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COP 10 / MOP 5

Question 1: What does biodiversity mean to you?

Many respondents referred to the CBD definition of biodiversity as “the diversity of life” among plants and animals and comprised of the three components of genes, species and ecosystems. Some respondents added that the meaning of biodiversity should also extend to the ecosystem services it provides. Other issues that were mentioned for consideration relate to the interconnectedness of biodiversity – ‘the circle of life’ that contains many linkages across components that are fundamental to providing those ecosystem services.

In addition, respondents noted the importance of considering biodiversity in its relation to people and to sustainable development which was defined as comprised of economic development, social equity, and ecological sustainability. Several respondents noted the need to consider respect for and awareness of the value of biodiversity for people.

The sustainable use objective of the CBD already includes the aspect of links with people although many current practices are not sustainable and loss of biodiversity continues. Some respondents stated that this objective supports the concept that sustainable use doesn’t necessarily result in biodiversity loss but provides both an incentive for biodiversity conservation.

Respondents also noted concerns relating to biodiversity, especially the current biodiversity crisis that threatens humanity’s own survival, and the need for greater awareness among the general public of the value of biodiversity and the urgency to conserve it. Several respondents noted the need to recognize people’s role and responsibility as stewards of biodiversity.

Question 2:

Do you think that biodiversity is important and why?

Most respondents replied that biodiversity was critically important because people are a part of biodiversity and our own lives depend on it. Some noted that biodiversity is the result of the natural process of evolution. It ensures the stability of our environment in the face of change and supports productivity of the environment to provide the services we need such as food, clothing, and clean air and water. In particular, several respondents noted the importance of non-material benefits of biodiversity (aesthetic, cultural, spiritual) which are fundamental to supporting quality of life.

Threats to biodiversity are threats to ourselves. Some respondents noted that, unfortunately, this intimate relationship between people and biodiversity is not always taken into consideration when decisions are being taken and, in that process, the opportunities that biodiversity provides are also being ignored.

Question 3:

Do you think that climate change is a threat to biodiversity? If so, what should be done?

Most respondents agreed that climate change was a threat to biodiversity but some noted that this was not universally the case and that, in some places, climate change might actually support biodiversity.

Many noted that climate change will result in both extinction of some species as well as migration of species to new areas with resulting impacts on local livelihoods.

Many suggestions for actions to take with respect to the impact of climate change on biodiversity, covering broad areas from promoting government action on climate change to environmental education and awareness raising to changing behavior of individual citizens.

With respect to government action, respondents urged:

- Countries to commit to reduce CO2 emissions and promote conservation actions to maintain ecosystem services in support of mitigation and adaptation
- Governments to actively develop and implement climate change adaptation strategies that include biodiversity opportunities, especially across key sectors such as agriculture, energy, transport and communications
- Governments to integrate biodiversity considerations in all their economic decisions
- Governments to integrate local communities into discussions about actions to reduce the impact of climate change
- Governments to support biodiversity conservation and restoration activities wherever possible
- Governments to promote recycling of materials

With respect to environmental education and awareness raising, respondents urged:

- Education departments to establish a strong programme of environmental awareness among young people.
- Universities to increase support for graduates in environmental research.
- Governments increase efforts to make the public aware of the impact of their individual actions

With respect to changing behaviour of individual citizens, respondents urged:

- People to recognize that individual actions and decisions, taken collectively, can make a difference to the impacts of climate change.
- Individuals take action to reduce waste, recycle when possible and support local eco-friendly enterprise including organic farming, local production and green markets.

Question 4:

What will be your message to the Heads of States meeting on biodiversity on 20 September 2010 in New York and to the delegates to COP 10?

The message to Heads of State should be about biodiversity and its importance to humanity as well as the urgency of dealing with the current biodiversity crisis as a challenge equal to, and perhaps more critical, than any other challenge facing us today. Failing to address this crisis is taking a huge global risk for our future. Respondents noted the need to prioritize biodiversity concerns in all development and economic decisions. Several noted that biodiversity conservation is an issue of national security, not just an environmental imperative, and that threats to natural resources are threats to global peace and harmony. Biodiversity recognizes no political boundaries and the impacts of the biodiversity crisis are global.

At the same time, action to conserve biodiversity also needs to be taken at local level. Governments therefore need to empower local conservation initiatives.

Respondents noted the need for increased awareness, especially among the younger generations, of the importance of biodiversity and the need for long term perspectives in supporting biodiversity as part of sustainable development for our future. They also noted the need for more awareness of the science of biodiversity conservation as the foundation for decisions and as a potential source of innovation for sustainable development. For example, new approaches to assessing ecosystem services, natural capital and bio-regional planning could assist policy makers.

Many noted the need for increased investment, especially in developing countries, as fundamental for success. Effective action against the impacts of climate change need to include investment in biodiversity conservation. New economic tools and information about the value of biodiversity should assist in raising biodiversity's place on international agendas, including in non-traditional sectors and institutions.

The UN should recognise the importance of commitments contained in the new Strategic Plan of the CBD that should be adopted in Nagoya and should support implementation of that Plan.

Question 5:

What should be done to ensure the success of COP 10?

Respondents proposed many specific ideas that would indicate success of CBD COP 10 but also generally noted the need for a demonstrated global commitment to biodiversity conservation. CBD COP10 participants should recognise the urgent threat that biodiversity loss presents and take responsibility to implement actions to address that threat. CBD COP10 participants should encourage innovation in biodiversity conservation and one suggested action included the establishment of a global court for the environment. Whatever the outcome of CBD COP10, it should reflect the crucial link between human well being and biodiversity and the opportunities that biodiversity provides to support that well being.

Participation by as broad a group of stakeholders as possible should be supported and adequate time to build the relationships required for successful conservation should be provided. Biodiversity loss affects everyone and everyone should be engaged in its conservation. A strong communications programme to make the world aware of the threat posed by biodiversity loss and the need to implement the decisions and agreements undertaken at COP10.

Participants highlighted the need for an agreed Strategic Plan for the CBD, including a post-2010 target to halt the loss of biodiversity and that includes achievable targets for the coming years. In particular, participants noted the importance of achieving an agreement on an international regime for Access and Benefit Sharing. Finally, respondents noted the need to take the decisions agreed on paper in Nagoya and urgently translate them to action on the ground.