



CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

DRAFT

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ADVISORY GROUP FOR THE PREPARATION OF GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY OUTLOOK 3

First meeting
Bonn, 24 May 2008

REPORT OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE ADVISORY GROUP FOR THE PREPARATION OF GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY OUTLOOK 3

INTRODUCTION

1. The first meeting of the Advisory Group for the preparation of the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook was held in Bonn, Germany, on 24 May 2008, on the margins of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

2. As set out in the document prepared for the Conference of the Parties on the subject (UNEP/CBD/COP/9/15) the purpose of the Advisory Group is to advise, within the general guidance provided through relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties and recommendations by other Convention bodies, the Convention Secretariat on all aspects of the preparation of the publication and its related products. It will seek to:

- (a) Ensure the scientific and technical soundness of the products;
- (b) Promote the appropriate style and presentation of the envisaged products in view of the target audience;
- (c) Promote the participation of relevant partners and networks in the various stages of preparation of GBO-3;
- (d) Recommend possible partnerships, including where appropriate commercial partners, for the distribution of selected products;

3. In particular, the GBO-3 Advisory Group will:

- (a) Keep the work plan and communication strategy (UNEP/CBD/COP/9/INF/18) under review throughout the preparation process and recommend adjustments where necessary;
- (b) Review the annotated outline for GBO-3;
- (c) Contribute to the compilation of data and material, case studies and elements for the storyline;
- (d) Make recommendations on suitable section/chapter contributors and review guidelines and instructions for contributors;
- (e) Review of chapter drafts, including draft graphics.

4. The group comprises experts from various relevant organization and regions serving in their personal capacity. Nineteen experts participated in the first meeting in addition to SCBD staff (see list of participants in the annex to this report).

5. David Cooper (SCBD) welcomed participants on behalf of the Executive Secretary. At a later point in the meeting, the Executive Secretary addressed the meeting, setting out his vision and priorities and welcoming the contributions of all partners.

6. A *tour de table* allowed members of the group to introduce themselves and to highlight some of their key points of interest. On behalf of Robert Höft, Lisa Janishevksi presented an overview of the status and plans for GBO-3. David Cooper then described as the main purposes of this first meeting:

- (a) to discuss effective ways of collaboration and communication in preparing GBO-3; and
- (b) to brainstorm on the content, messages and presentation of the GBO-3.

7. The main points arising from the discussions are summarized below.

MAIN POINTS DISCUSSED

Sources of information

8. The GBO-3 would draw upon:

(a) global-level information provided through partner organizations (UN specialized agencies, other intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, representatives of indigenous and local community and the scientific community), including indicator information provided through the 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership;

(b) sub-global and particularly country-level information provided through the fourth national reports as well as case studies provided by Parties, including through the series of workshops on National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans and biodiversity mainstreaming.

9. The Advisory Group was invited to assist in providing data, advice, and to reach out to other groups through their networks.

Timing of preparation

10. The Secretariat will develop and maintain a draft of the GBO-3. This will draw upon currently available information and be prepared as a “living draft”, with data, other information, case studies, which would be replaced by better or more up-to-date material as it becomes available. The timing is as follows:

(a) A zero-order draft would be prepared by the Secretariat by early 2009 for review, *inter alia*, by the Advisory Group.

(b) The first complete draft will incorporate the first set of reactions, review comments and updates and would be available for peer review by August/September 2009, by SBSTTA focal points and other experts.

(c) The final draft would be finalized in December 2009 / January 2010 and published on International Biodiversity Day 2010 (22 May 2010).

11. The timelines of developing ancillary products will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

Key considerations

12. In addition to encouraging Parties to complete their 4th Nation Reports on time, they should be invited to submit in advance other data and case studies and progress towards national targets.

13. The importance of using reliable, peer-reviewed data and information was stressed. The conclusions must be technically credible and balance positive and negative results. While political sensitivities will be kept in mind this should not compromise the scientific rigour of the report. Some ways of doing this are to present negative results as lessons learned for example. The global trends will be illustrated with regional, national and local case studies.

14. While it is expected that the Outlook will likely indicate that the 2010 target has not been achieved for biodiversity as a whole at the global level, it is also envisaged that there will be some positive cases for aspects of biodiversity at various sub-global scales. Presentation of such success stories

will be important to demonstrate that success is possible. Criteria for such success stories were circulated for comment¹.

15. While the main purpose of the GBO-3 is to assess progress towards the 2010 target, it would be published before the end of 2010 and therefore ahead of the time when a definitive assessment can be made. The latest data that could be used would be that made available in late 2009, and in fact much data would be much older than that. In some cases it may be justifiable to extrapolate from trends, in other cases a more general assessment will be made on the basis of available data, and in yet other cases it may be justifiable only to present observed data.

16. Consideration of future prospects for biodiversity and ecosystems would be important to inform the updating of the Strategic Plan and the revision of a biodiversity target or targets post-2010. The meeting discussed the use of scenarios and agreed that models used should be peer-reviewed. Scenario work could be complemented by a review (or “mini-assessment”) of the scientific literature.

17. The meeting also discussed the need to coordinate with related initiatives, such as the G-8 study on the economics of ecosystems and biodiversity with a view to:

- (a) drawing upon data and analysis;
- (b) ensuring consistent messages; and
- (c) maximizing impact on the media and the awareness of the public and decision makers.

18. The idea of a communication approach following the IPCC publication model was raised. In having a staggered release of its reports IPCC managed to maintain interest over an extended period of time. By launching different GBO-3 products at relevant occasions throughout the International Year of Biodiversity the same could be achieved for biodiversity.

Next steps

19. The Group will communicate largely through email discussions, and will also make use of the e-discussion forum to post and discuss documents. Occasional conference calls will be used for specific issues. The Group plans to meet again at the margins of SBSTTA 14. ²

20. Secretariat will provide the Group with the following:

- (a) Updated timetable including deliverable times of indicator processes so the group can easily see which data can feed each step of the report;
- (b) Times at which inputs from the group will be requested so they have advance notice;
- (c) Close monitoring of the preparation of the 4th National Reports.

21. Advisory Group members would:

- (a) provide timelines of indicator and data processes they are aware of/involved in;
- (b) through their networks, encourage Parties to complete 4th National Reporting on time and to provide data in advance;
- (c) provide comments on the specific products to be produced and their timing.

¹ Specific criteria on case studies were provided in the Reference Manual for the Preparation of the Fourth National Report. Cases do not necessarily demonstrate reduction in loss of biodiversity, but need to show what is working at various levels.

² Following the meeting, COP decided to have only one meeting of SBSTTA before COP-10. SBSTTA-14 will be held in May/June 2010. Therefore alternative arrangements will be needed to allow the group to meet in 2009.

Annex

List of participants

Carsten Neßhöver, UFZ, Germany
Fabiana Issler, UNDP-GEF
Tony Gross, UNU-IAS
Joji Carino, Tebtebba Foundation, Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity
Neeraj Khera, Teri University, representing Countdown 2010
Kunihiko Kobayashi, Youth NGO, A SEED Japan
Jon Hutton, UNEP-WCMC
Toru Asaro Nakashiko, Tohoku University, Japan
Jan Plesnik, ANCLPCR, Czech Republic
Braulio Dias, Ministry of the Environment, Brazil
Paul Grigoriev, IUCN
Holly Dublin, IUCN-SSC
Andrew Stott, Defra, United Kingdom
Ryo Kohsaka, Nagoya, Japan
Oudara Souvannavong, FAO
Christian Prip, Denmark
Ashgar Fazel, Iran
Alfred Oteng-Yeboah, Ghana
Nick Davidson, Ramsar Secretariat
Ahmed Djoghlaif, CBD Secretariat
David Cooper, CBD Secretariat
Lijie Cai, CBD Secretariat
Lisa Janishevski, CBD Secretariat