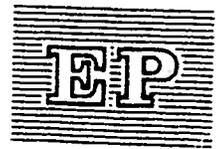




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INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING
COMMITTEE FOR A CONVENTION ON
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

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"AGREED INCREMENTAL COSTS"
FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Note by the Executive Director

1. It is expected that a wide range of activities will be undertaken within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity that will add to the financial burden of those countries that are rich in biodiversity or that host rare or endangered species. Funding for biodiversity conservation and its rational use under the Convention could be based on agreed incremental costs rather than all incremental costs.
2. Incremental costs likely to be incurred in the conservation of biological diversity by a given country could be defined as the difference between the current total expenditure/investment in biodiversity conservation and its rational use (national, bilateral and multilateral), and the projected total direct and indirect costs, including foregone benefits (economic opportunity costs) associated with the implementation of conservation measures that will be identified within the framework of the Convention over a given period of time. The preparation of biodiversity country studies would assist Governments in assessing such incremental costs.
3. Determining the current costs that are directly or indirectly associated with biodiversity conservation and its rational use is an important issue calling for a common understanding and approach.
4. The costs incurred by wildlife services, for example, are direct costs that can be easily identified. However, there would be indirect costs that should be flagged.
 - (a) For example, if a poacher is caught by a customs department with a haul of ivory, timber or plants (e.g. Cannabis sativa) from a protected national reserve, to what degree should Governments reflect the cost of law enforcement - the police, the anti-poaching unit, the anti-narcotics squad, the customs department, the court prosecutors and the magistrates - as part of the costs incurred to conserve biodiversity?

(b) Another example could be the case of national parks, which in most countries, are facing mounting human population pressures leading to almost inevitable encroachment into those protected areas in the form of illegal human settlements. To what extent should family planning programmes created to favour biodiversity conservation be regarded as indirect costs? Such programmes could be instrumental in reducing serious pressures on the integrity of existing national parks.

(c) If protected reserve areas or other types of parks are also facing the threat of pollution to their rivers or ecosystems emanating from industrial pollution, to what degree should anti-pollution measures (waste-water treatment plants, law enforcement against pollution, etc.) taken by municipalities or other government agencies to eliminate threats to protected areas, be included in the costs incurred by Governments to safeguard biodiversity?
