



## Convention on Biological Diversity

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INTERNATIONAL EXPERT MEETING ON RESPONSES  
TO CLIMATE CHANGE FOR INDIGENOUS AND  
LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND THE IMPACT ON  
THEIR TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE RELATED TO  
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY -THE ARCTIC REGION  
Helsinki, 25-28 March 2008

### ORGANIZATION OF WORK

#### *Annotations to the provisional agenda*

### INTRODUCTION

1. The impact of climate change on indigenous and local communities, their traditional knowledge and related biological diversity is of great concern to the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity. In decision VIII/5 B, section I, on phase two of the composite report, paragraph 6, the Parties noted with concern the specific vulnerabilities of indigenous and local communities, inter alia, of the Arctic, small island States and high altitudes, concerning the impacts of climate change and accelerated threats, such as pollution, drought and desertification, to traditional knowledge, innovations and practices, and requested further research be conducted, subject to the availability of resources, into highly vulnerable indigenous and local communities, with a focus on causes and solutions, with the outcomes of the research to be made available to the Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions for attention at its fifth meeting. <sup>1/</sup> At that meeting, the Working Group considered the report (UNEP/CBD/WG8J/5/INF/18) and made several recommendations for the consideration of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The report has been included as a information document for the current meeting to provide an overview of the impacts of climate change on indigenous and local communities, as preparation for the discussions during the meeting, concerning observed and potential impacts of climate change measures on indigenous and local communities, their traditional knowledge and biological diversity in the Arctic region.

2. Furthermore, the initial research has stimulated a great deal of interest across the international system by providing, for the first time, a human face to climate change. As such, it resulted in “Indigenous Peoples and Climate Change” being chosen as the theme for the annual meeting of the United Nations Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues, held in Montreal in September 2007, and for the seventh session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, to be held in New York in April 2008. <sup>2/</sup> Biodiversity, climate change and indigenous and local communities also

<sup>1/</sup> Article 8(j) as a cross-cutting issue within the Convention on Biodiversity provides indigenous and local community perspectives throughout the work of the CBD.

<sup>2/</sup> The special theme of the seventh session of UNPFII (21 April - 2 May 2008) is: “Climate change, bio-cultural diversity and livelihoods: the stewardship role of indigenous peoples and new challenges”.

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formed the basis for a photographic exhibition created by the Secretariat of the Convention, which has been featured at United Nations Headquarters (New York, May–September 2007), the UNESCO General Conference (Paris October–December), and the IFAD General Conference (Rome, March – April 2008), and will be on display at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (Bonn, May 2008) and at FAO in June 2008.

3. Finally, through decisions and recommendations from the Conference of the Parties and the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), Parties have called for the enhanced integration of climate change impact and response activities within the programmes of work of the Convention. Guidance towards such integration includes:

- (a) Indications or predictions of climate-change impact-response activities on relevant ecosystems;
- (b) The most vulnerable components of biodiversity;
- (c) The risks and consequences for ecosystem services and human well-being;
- (d) The threats and likely impacts of climate change and response activities on biodiversity and opportunities they provide for the conservation of biodiversity and its sustainable use;
- (e) Monitoring of the threats and likely climate-change impacts and response activities on biodiversity;
- (f) Appropriate monitoring and evaluation techniques, related technology transfer and capacity-building initiatives within the programmes of work;
- (g) Critical knowledge needed to support implementation, including inter alia, scientific research, availability of data, appropriate measurement and monitoring techniques technology and traditional knowledge; and
- (h) The ecosystem-approach principles and guidance and the precautionary approach.

4. In order to fully respond to this mandate it will be necessary to include not just scientific information on impacts and vulnerability, but also indigenous and local community knowledge, innovations and practices.

5. The meeting was made possible through the generous donation from the Government of Finland. The meeting will be held from 25-28 March 2008, in Helsinki, Finland. Registration of participants will take place at the venue of the meeting from 9.00 am on Tuesday, 25 March 2008, prior to the opening of the meeting at 10 a.m.

6. With the assistance of the Government of Finland, the Secretariat is also posting on the Convention's webpage and distributing an information note containing details regarding and logistical arrangements for the meeting, including registration, information on travel, visa requirements, accommodation and other matters.

## **ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING**

7. A representative of the Government of Finland will open the meeting at 10 a.m. on Tuesday 25 March 2008. A representative of the Executive Secretary and an indigenous representative will make introductory remarks.

## **ITEM 2. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS**

### **2.1. Officers**

8. Participants will be invited to elect two co-chairs to chair the meeting. A representative of the Executive Secretary will act as Rapporteur of the meeting.

### **2.2. Adoption of the agenda**

9. The Working Group is invited to consider and adopt the provisional agenda (UNEP/CBD/EM.CC-ILC/1/1/Rev.1) that has been prepared by the Executive Secretary.

### **2.3. Organization of work, including a review of documentation and case-studies**

10. A list of documents for the meeting is provided in annex I below, and a proposal for the organization of the work of the meeting is contained in annex II.

## **ITEM 3. SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS:**

### **3.1 Observed and potential/predicted impacts of climate change in the Arctic region: the most vulnerable components of biodiversity**

11. Under this agenda item, the substantive discussions will commence with a focus on observed and potential impacts of climate change, including impacts on the most vulnerable components of biodiversity. To assist the meeting with this discussion, the Secretariat has made available the following documents: CBD Technical Series No. 10, *Interlinkages between Biological Diversity and Climate Change*, (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-10.pdf>); a fact-sheet on climate change (UNEP/CBD/EM.CC-ILC/2); and a compilation of case-studies on climate change and biodiversity considerations for the Arctic (UNEP/CBD/EM.CC-ILC/1/3).

12. Discussions are expected to touch on both scientific and technical publications, such as the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and on observations of impacts as noted by indigenous and local communities. Participants may also wish to discuss how both types of information can be best integrated into future reports on biodiversity and climate change.

### **3.2 Measures taken in the Arctic and elsewhere: overview of the work of the United Nations system on climate change and indigenous and local communities**

13. This sub-item will be introduced with a presentation by the representative of the Secretariat, as the current Chair of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues (IASG), who will provide an overview of current international activities on climate change and indigenous peoples, based on discussions held at the annual IASG meeting facilitated by the Secretariat of the Convention on 17-19 September 2007 and the resulting document (E/C.19/2008/CRP.2), which is a collation of the various participating agencies input.

14. Participants working on related climate change issues will also contribute presentations on their work to the discussions. The discussions will also include an overview of various mitigation and adaption strategies introduced by a representative of the Convention. This discussion will also be informed by the publication CBD Technical Series No. 25, *Guidance for Promoting Synergy among Activities Addressing Biological Diversity, Desertification, Land Degradation and Climate Change* (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-25.pdf>)

### **3.3. *Observed and potential impacts of these measures on biodiversity in the Arctic region***

- (a) *Analysis of the potential benefits and threats from mitigation and adaptation activities, including but not limited to carbon-trading, biofuels and mono-cropping, infrastructure development, support for traditional livelihoods/occupations*

15. Based on the previous discussions on mitigation and adaptation activities, a list of measures will be prepared by the Rapporteur and participants will be invited to break into sub-working groups to discuss observed and potential benefits and threats from the various measures and strategies in terms of their impacts on biodiversity and biodiversity-based livelihoods in the Arctic. Each sub-working group will report back to plenary on their discussions.

- (b) *Possible opportunities climate change, mitigation and adaptation activities may provide for the conservation of biodiversity and its sustainable use*

16. Participants will be invited to consider the various adaptation and mitigations activities previously discussed, with a view to consider how they may be applied in such ways so as to protect and promote the conservation of biodiversity and biodiversity-based livelihoods in the Arctic. It is expected that participants will work in small groups and report back to plenary.

- (c) *Monitoring of the threats to biodiversity and biodiversity-based livelihoods in the Arctic of likely climate-change impacts and response*

17. Under this item, participants will be invited to consider ways and means of monitoring climate-change impact and response activities, including possible threats. This item will inform the following discussion of possible indicators. In small groups, participants will consider how potential indicators could be applied, and who could possibly perform these functions and collate the results and report back to plenary.

- (d) *Indicators or predictions of the effects on ecosystems of climate-change impacts or response activities*

18. Based on previous discussions, participants will again work in small groups to identify and refine potential indicators and/or predictions of climate-change response activities on ecosystems and report back to plenary. Discussions may also suggest ways and means that traditional and local knowledge can be combined with scientific climate data. The results will be communicated by the Secretariat to the World Meteorological Organization as a contribution to the preparation of the Third World Climate Conference to take place in 2009.

### **3.4 *Observed and potential impacts of the measures on biodiversity-related traditional knowledge and indigenous and local communities in the Arctic region: The risks and consequences of climate change, mitigation and adaptation solutions on ecosystem services and human well-being;***

19. Under this item, indigenous and expert participants will report to plenary on their personal observations and those of other indigenous and local communities and experts of climate change in the Arctic, as well as measures to address climate change.

## **ITEM 4. THE WAY FORWARD:**

### **4.1 *Critical knowledge and capacity-building needed to support implementation, including inter alia, scientific research, availability of data, appropriate measurement and monitoring techniques, technology and traditional knowledge***

20. Under this agenda item, the discussion is expected to focus on capacity-building needs and building partnerships between traditional knowledge and science to address climate change and response activities. To assist the discussions under this agenda item, the UNEP report *Global Environment*

*Outlook-GEO4- Environment for Development-Summary for Decision Makers* has been included for consideration.

**4.2. The ecosystem-approach principles and guidance and the precautionary approach.**

21. The plenary will consider the ecosystem approach and the precautionary approach and how these can be applied to the issue of climate change and response activities for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. Discussions will also consider guidelines for the practical implementation of the concepts and linkages outlined in CBD Technical Series reports No 10 and 25 given the particular vulnerabilities of Arctic ecosystems and communities.

**ITEM 5. OTHER MATTERS**

22. Under this item, participants may propose for discussion other matters related to the subject matter of the meeting.

**ITEM 6. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT (CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS)**

23. Participants will be invited to adopt the conclusions and recommendations of the meeting, which will be submitted to the consideration of the Conference of the parties at its ninth meeting.

**ITEM 7. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

24. The expert meeting is expected to be closed at 5 p.m. on Friday, 28 March 2008.

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*Annex I*

**DOCUMENTS FOR THE INTERNATIONAL EXPERT MEETING ON RESPONSES TO CLIMATE CHANGE FOR INDIGENOUS AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND THE IMPACT ON THEIR TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE RELATED TO BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY - THE ARCTIC REGION -**

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
<b>A. Working documents</b>	
UNEP/CBD/EM.CC-ILC/1/Rev.1	Revised provisional agenda
UNEP/CBD/EM.CC-ILC/1/Add.1	Annotated provisional agenda
UNEP/CBD/EM.CC-ILC/2	Fact sheet on climate change: note prepared by the Secretariat
UNEP/CBD/EM.CC-ILC/3	Compilation of case-studies on climate-change and biodiversity considerations in the Arctic
<b>B. Other documents of relevance prepared for other meetings</b>	
UNEP/CBD/WG8J/5/INF/18	Report on indigenous and local communities highly vulnerable to climate change, <i>inter alia</i> , of the Arctic, small island States and high altitudes, with a focus on causes and solutions
E/C.19/2008/CRP.2	United Nations Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples Issues – Collated Agencies’ paper on Climate Change and Indigenous Peoples – overview of related activities in the international system (Prepared for discussion at the seventh session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, to be held in April 2008)
<b>C. Other background documents</b>	
<i>Guidance for Promoting Synergy among Activities Addressing Biological Diversity, Desertification, Land Degradation and Climate Change</i> (CBD Technical Series No. 25)- <a href="http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-25.pdf">http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-25.pdf</a>	
<i>Interlinkages between Biological Diversity and Climate Change</i> (CBD Technical Series No. 10) <a href="http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-10.pdf">http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-10.pdf</a>	
<i>Global Environment Outlook—GEO4—Environment for Development—Summary for Decision Makers</i> (UNEP)	

*Annex II*

**PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK**

	<i>Plenary</i>	<i>Working Groups</i>
Tuesday 25 March 2008 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.	<p><i>Items:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Opening of the meeting.</li> <li>2. Organizational matters:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.1 Officers;</li> <li>2.2 Adoption of the agenda;</li> <li>2.3 Organization of work.</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. Substantive matters:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3.1. The observed and potential/predicted impacts of climate change in the Arctic region: the most vulnerable components of biodiversity.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	
2 – 5 p.m.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3.2. Measures taken in the Arctic and elsewhere: overview of the work of the United Nations system on climate change and indigenous and local communities and an overview of various mitigation and adaptation strategies: presentations by the Chair of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues and presentations by other participants working on the issue.</li> </ol>	
Wednesday 26 March 2008  9 a.m. to 1 p.m.		<p>In small groups participants will discuss the following issues and report back to plenary.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3.3. Observed and potential impacts of these measures on biodiversity in the Arctic region.               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Analysis of potential benefits and threats mitigation and adaptation strategies, including, but not limited, to issues of carbon trading, biofuels and mono-cropping, infrastructure development, support for traditional livelihoods/occupations;</li> <li>(b) Possible opportunities: climate change mitigation and adaptation solutions may</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

	<i>Plenary</i>	<i>Working Groups</i>
		provide for the conservation of biodiversity and its sustainable use.  (c) Monitoring of the threats to biodiversity and biodiversity-based livelihoods in the Arctic of likely climate-change impacts and response activities.
2 – 5 p.m.	3.3. Report on working group discussions to plenary.	(d) Indicators or predictions of the effects on ecosystems of climate-change impacts or response activities.
Thursday 27 March 2008  9 a.m. to 1 p.m.	3.4. Observed and potential impacts of the measures on biodiversity-related traditional knowledge and indigenous and local communities in the Arctic region	
2 p.m. to 5 p.m.	4. The way forward.  4.1. Critical knowledge and a capacity building needed to support implementation, including inter alia, the scientific research, availability of data, appropriate measurement and monitoring techniques, technology and traditional knowledge.  4.2. The ecosystem approach, principles and guidance and the precautionary approach.	
Friday 28 March 2008  10 a.m. to 1 p.m.	4.2. The ecosystem approach, principles and guidance and the precautionary approach ( <i>continued</i> ).  5. Other matters.	
2 p.m. to 5 p.m.	6. Adoption of the report (recommendations and conclusions).  7. Closure of the meeting.	