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CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOP ON NETWORKING AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE FOR NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS AND INDIGENOUS AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN THE LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN REGION

Quito, 14-16 December 2006

REPORT OF THE CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOP ON NETWORKING AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE FOR NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS AND INDIGENOUS AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN THE LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN REGION

INTRODUCTION

A. Background

1. Under Article 8(j) of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Parties undertake to respect, preserve and maintain the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and promote their wider application with the approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge, innovations and practices.

2. As networking and information exchange are key factors in achieving of these goals, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, in paragraph 6 (a) of its decision VIII/5 D, requested the Executive Secretary “to convene, subject to the availability of financial resources, regional and sub-regional workshops on new information and web-based technologies to assist indigenous and local communities in their use and to facilitate the establishment of communication networks”.

3. Along the same lines, activity 1.1.1 of the strategic plan of the clearing-house mechanism (CHM) established pursuant to Article 18, paragraph 3 of the Convention (decision VIII/11, annex II), requests the Executive Secretary to “organize joint technical hands-on workshops with partners and international thematic focal points on new information and web-based technologies to assist in the implementation of the Convention, taking into account the special needs of indigenous and local communities”.

4. In accordance with these decisions, the Executive Secretary convened a Capacity-building Workshop on Networking and Information Exchange for National Focal Points and Indigenous and local Communities in the Latin America and the Caribbean Region, with the generous support of the Governments of Spain and the Netherlands. The purpose of the workshop was to improve the capacity of the countries in the region through the sharing of experiences in networking and information exchange, including new information and web-based technologies, with a focus on the special needs of indigenous and local communities. The workshop also provided countries of the region with an opportunity to discuss the development and implementation of initiatives by the clearing-house mechanism to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation at the national and regional levels with regard to the

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Convention's programme areas and cross-cutting issues, particularly the 2010 target, the transfer of technology and traditional knowledge, innovations and practices.

5. This workshop was held in Quito, Ecuador, from 14 to 16 December 2006. Parties and indigenous and local communities were invited by the Executive Secretary on 2 October 2006 through notification 2006-103, to nominate one participant for this meeting, preferably involved in the activities of the national clearing house-mechanism and/or familiar with the information needs of indigenous and local communities. Through notification 2006-118 of 13 November 2006, the Executive Secretary informed Parties of the list of participants for the Workshop.

6. A list of documents for the meeting is contained as annex II of the annotated agenda (UNEP/CBD/WS-CB/LAC/1/1/Add.1).

B. Attendance

7. A total of 20 government representatives, two representatives from international organizations (United Nations Development Programme, Global Environment Facility), 28 representatives of indigenous and local communities, and two representatives from non-governmental organizations. The complete list of participants is available as document UNEP/WS-CB/LAC/1/INF/6.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

8. The meeting was opened at 9 a.m. on Thursday, 14 December 2006, by the representative of the Government of Ecuador and national focal point, Mr. Antonio Matamoros. Mr. John Scott, on behalf of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Mr. Ahmed Djoghla, welcomed the participants to the meeting. He also thanked the Government of Ecuador for opening the meeting and the Governments of Spain and the Netherlands for their generous financial support.

9. Mr. Scott then provided an introduction to Article 8(j) and the clearing-house mechanism including a discussion of mutually supportive goals including the need for capacity-building, networking and information exchange, the use of new information and web-based technologies, the need to establish communication networks, and the development of new electronic tools in aid of these goals such as the Traditional Knowledge Information Portal.

10. After the opening of the meeting, the participants were asked to introduce themselves and outline their expectations of the Workshop.

ITEM 2. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

2.1. Agenda

11. Participants adopted, with some minor amendments, the provisional agenda prepared by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/WS-CB/LAC/1/1) and circulated in advance of the meeting. Items 5 and 7 were combined into a group discussion and took place on the afternoon of 14 December during the 2nd session, and presentations of national experiences (item 6) occurred at both the 3rd and 4th sessions, in the morning and afternoon of 15 December.

12. In addition, the clearing-house mechanism focal points took advantage of this meeting to make comments and suggestions for further developing the clearing-house mechanism. This advice is available in annex II below.

2.2. Organization of work

13. At the first session, on 14 December 2006, the proposed programme of work was approved as contained in the annotations to the provisional agenda (UNEP/CBD/WS-CB/LAC/1/1Add.1) with the amendments described in paragraph 11 above.

ITEM 3. OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

14. Mr. John Scott took the participants through the objectives of this capacity-building workshop in the context of decisions VIII/5 and VIII/11 of the Conference of the Parties. The main objective was to enhance the capacity of the Parties in networking and information exchange for the benefit of indigenous and local communities. By bringing together representatives of indigenous and local communities and people in charge of developing national clearing-house mechanisms, the Workshop would assist each side to develop a deeper understanding of their role and contribution.

15. In addition, the Workshop provided an opportunity to exchange relevant national and regional experiences within the Latin America and the Caribbean region. By seeing how others had addressed similar challenges, Parties and indigenous and local communities could learn new approaches, which could potentially become best practices. National presentations would be discussed under agenda item 6.

16. A major expected output of this workshop was a set of recommendations which are available in annex I. These recommendations will be communicated to the fifth meeting of the ad hoc open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions, scheduled for 17-21 September 2007 and the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting, to be held in Bonn, Germany, from 19 to 30 May 2008.

17. Also, given the fact that the Workshop was the first of a series, it would provide the Secretariat with advice to improve them in the future. In particular, government representatives from the Caribbean governments requested that consideration be given to holding similar workshops within the Latin American and Caribbean region in recognition of its diversity.

ITEM 4. STRATEGY FOR ARTICLE 8(j) AND THE CLEARING-HOUSE MECHANISM

18. Under this item, Mr. Oliver de Munck, the Secretariat's officer in charge of the clearing-house mechanism, made a presentation on the strategy for the clearing-house mechanism and Article 8(j). The presentation consisted of three parts. The first one was a general background on the clearing-house mechanism, its mission and the recent adoption of its updated strategic plan. The second part was an overview of the current status of the clearing-house mechanism network in each region. The last part provided strategic guidance for the development of national clearing-house mechanisms with a special focus on activities related to the implementation of the programme of work for Article 8(j).

19. In turn, the participants provided feedback and advice regarding how the strategy could be further refined. In particular, they discussed the usefulness and potential of certain elements of the strategy, and expressed the need for further capacity-building and financing for national projects.

ITEM 5. NEEDS ANALYSIS OF THE NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS AND INDIGENOUS AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES

20. Agenda item 5 was combined with agenda item 7 and took the format of group discussions by sub-regions (Caribbean, Central America, Northern-South America and Southern-South America). The issue of networking and information exchange was addressed through the following questions:

- (a) What are the needs?
- (b) What are the different actors and their roles?
- (c) Which activities should be carried out?

21. The subregional groups presented back to the plenary and the presentations were followed by a question and answer session. These presentations formed the basis of the draft recommendations.

ITEM 6. PRESENTATIONS OF NATIONAL EXPERIENCES

22. To facilitate the interchange of experiences, a total of 12 presentations were made, four by government representatives, six by indigenous and local community representatives and two by non-governmental organizations. The presentations covered a wide range of issues such as networking,

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electronic communication tools, other forms of communication including use of alternative and indigenous media, traditional tools, community radio and other forms of mass communication as well as advice regarding community education and awareness-raising.

23. The presenters agreed to provide a copy of their presentation for public use and all presentations were made available to the Secretariat for dissemination through the clearing-house mechanism. A list of presenters and presentations is attached in annex III.

ITEM 7. GROUP DISCUSSION ON THE ROLE OF THE CLEARING HOUSE MECHANISM IN THE PARTICIPATION OF INDIGENOUS AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES

24. As noted in paragraph 20 above, agenda items 5 and 7 were combined to make the most of limited discussion time and the four sub-regional groups provided practical advice regarding networking, communication and dialogue with indigenous and local communities, and the role of the clearing-house mechanism.

ITEM 8. TRAINING SESSION ON NETWORKING AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE

25. Mr. Olivier de Munck of the Convention Secretariat convened a training session on networking and information exchange with a focus on the features available on the Traditional Knowledge Information Portal. Participants expressed particular interest in the interactive elements of the portal and provided advice as to their further development. The issue of content management was also discussed with a particular emphasis on the need for indigenous and local communities to be in control of information which would be disseminated through the portal.

ITEM 9. GROUP DISCUSSION ON BUILDING NETWORKS AND IMPROVING INFORMATION EXCHANGE

26. Under this agenda item, the participants worked in subregional groups and reported back to the plenary providing advice on existing networks that could be built upon by the clearing-house mechanism for increased effective dissemination of information. In particular, indigenous and local community participants expressed the need for a two-way flow of information and the need to be involved in the national reporting process.

ITEM 10. DEVELOPMENT OF RECOMMENDATIONS/GUIDELINES ON THE APPLICATION OF THE CLEARING HOUSE MECHANISM TO INDIGENOUS AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES

27. On Saturday, 16 December, at the 5th session of the Workshop, the Secretariat presented the participants with 35 draft recommendations that had been gleaned from the group discussions and presentations. The participants discussed and adopted them with amendments. In the sixth session of the workshop, a few additional recommendations were proposed and they were all adopted by consensus.

ITEM 11. OTHER MATTERS

28. Under this agenda item, the Secretariat provided an update on the programme of work for Article 8(j) and related provisions and opportunities for indigenous and local community participation in the work of the Convention. Indigenous and local community representatives stressed the need to ensure that only legitimate indigenous and local community organizations were able to place information in and use the Traditional Knowledge Information Portal. They suggested to address this issue through the establishment of a registration and accreditation process be put in place by the Secretariat in partnership with the Article 8(j) Indigenous and Local Community Advisory Group.

ITEM 12. CONCLUSIONS

29. An expected output of this workshop was a set of draft recommendations to enhance networking and information exchange between national focal points, clearing house mechanism focal points and indigenous and local communities, as a contribution to the achievement of the 2010 target. These recommendations cover general aspects of networking and information exchange, and topics related to the Traditional Knowledge Information Portal (TKIP), the clearing-house mechanism, as well as possible feedback for improving future similar workshops.

30. The representatives of the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity and the International Forum on Local Communities provided two declarations, which appear in annexes IV and V to the present report, respectively. An indigenous representative provided some words of thanks and a blessing to end the meeting.

ITEM 12. CLOSURE OF THE WORKSHOP

31. At 4 p.m. on Saturday, 16 December 2006, the representative of the Executive Secretary declared the meeting closed.

Annex I

**DRAFT RECOMENDATIONS OF THE CAPACITY -BUILDING WORKSHOP ON
NETWORKING AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE FOR NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS AND
INDIGENOUS AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN THE LATIN AMERICAN AND THE
CARIBBEAN REGION**

I. OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

1. To enhance and improve the capacity of the Parties in networking and information exchange, including through new information and web-based technologies, with a focus on the special needs of indigenous and local communities.
2. To exchange relevant national experiences, to learn new approaches and good practices.
3. To continue to improve and develop capacity-building workshops on networking and information exchange for national focal points (NFPs), clearing house mechanism focal points (CHM-FPs) and indigenous and local communities (ILCs).

**II. DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THE
AD HOC OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON ARTICLE 8(J) AND
RELATED PROVISIONS AND THE NINTH MEETING OF THE
CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES**

A. Finance and resources

The Conference of the Parties

(a) Will consider presenting the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and other funding and implementing bodies with a global strategy to activate all national clearing-house mechanisms to create a global information dissemination and exchange network in order to achieve the goals of the Convention and the 2010 Biodiversity Target, and especially objective 10 related to traditional knowledge;

(b) *Requests* the Secretariat of the Convention to identify potential donors and financial resource providers for regional, national and sub-national projects by governments, indigenous and local community organizations, including non-governmental organizations and to provide advice and contact information to national focal points and clearing-house mechanism focal points and indigenous and local communities regarding this matter through the clearing-house mechanism;

(c) *Encourages* Parties to allocate and manage financial resources to strengthen the capacities of indigenous and local organizations to raise awareness about the Convention and in particular matters related to Article 8(j);

(d) *Encourages* lateral strengthening with other environmental treaties and bodies to promote more efficient use and harmonization of technical and financial resources to achieve mutual goals;

(e) *Encourages* Parties to promote a full and effective coordination between ministries regarding national policies for indigenous and local communities, biodiversity, environmental protection and sustainable development;

(f) *Requests* the Executive Secretary and the Parties to involve the private sector as a socially responsible ally and a potential donor;

(g) *Requests* the Executive Secretary to provide advice to the Parties on funding opportunities for the translation and dissemination of information in national and indigenous languages, in partnerships with indigenous and local communities, at the subnational level, and to publish it through the clearing-house mechanism;

(h) *Encourages* Parties to consider alternative mechanisms to the Web as a priority and, consequently, to allocate and manage financial resources to develop them and to allow the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities.

B. Capacity-building

The Conference of the Parties

(a) *Requests* the Executive Secretary to facilitate more capacity-building workshops on Article 8(j) and related matters;

(b) *Requests* the Executive Secretary to develop and continue to deliver regional and sub-regional capacity-building workshops for national focal points, clearing-house mechanism focal points and indigenous and local communities to build capacity in using web-based resources and alternative ways of disseminating information and promoting information exchange, based on their needs;

(c) *Requests* the Executive Secretary that the clearing-house mechanism of the Secretariat continues to provide practical and technical support to national clearing-house mechanisms based on needs analysis;

(d) *Encourages* Parties to recognize the importance of stability, continuity and consistency in the policy and support of all National focal points;

(e) *Encourages* Parties to consider appointing, with advice from indigenous and local communities, focal points for indigenous and local communities to work in partnership with national and clearing-house mechanism focal points to achieve the common goals of the Convention;

(f) *Encourages* Parties, the Executive Secretary and the national and clearing-house mechanism focal points to ensure the full and effective participation of women in the strengthening and capacity building process regarding communication and information, in the use of new technologies, related to the Convention on Biological Diversity;

(g) *Encourages* Parties to strengthen their capacity through South-South cooperation and exchange of experiences in the implementation of the clearing-house mechanism and of Article 8(j), with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, in cooperation with other sectors of civil society;

(h) *Encourages* Parties to develop and strengthen the infrastructure of indigenous and local communities regarding communication networks;

(i) *Requests* that the Executive Secretary and the Parties clarify the role of all actors (focal points, indigenous and local communities, etc.) and to inform of their existence through various communication means;

(j) *Requests* the Executive Secretary to promote awareness regarding the importance and role of national and clearing-house mechanism focal points.

C. Communication, education and public awareness

The Conference of the Parties

(a) *Recommends* that all Parties and Governments consider incorporating environmental science (awareness), the respect, protection and preservation of traditional knowledge, as well as cultural diversity, with the involvement and collective prior informed consent of indigenous and local communities as knowledge holders, into compulsory schooling curricula and public awareness;

(b) *Recommends* that Parties and other Governments promote the respect, the protection and the preservation of the rights of the owners of traditional knowledge, and of the owners themselves;

(c) *Recommends* that the clearing-house mechanism be used to promote information about good/best practices at national and subnational levels biodiversity to raise awareness about biodiversity and the environment, such as targeting programmes for youth, annual awareness raising events such as

International Biodiversity Day or appropriate national and local events (such as Mangofest in Antigua and Barbuda);

(d) *Recognizing* the limitations of web-based technologies, *encourages* Parties and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, through the Global Initiative on Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) and the clearing-house mechanism to develop and encourage the development by others parties, of alternative means of communication of public information, in plain language and diverse community friendly-formats such as videos, DVDs, tapes for community radio, songs, posters, theatre/drama, film, slogans to empower the public, including indigenous and local communities to change behaviour to environmentally friendly practices, in support of the goals of the Convention;

(e) *Requests* Parties to support the development by indigenous and local communities of their own media tools, regarding community-awareness strategies, dissemination of information and promotion of a discussion that respects and promotes traditional knowledge, biodiversity and environment;

(f) *Requests* Parties and the clearing-house mechanism, through various means, taking into account diverse national circumstances, to develop youth initiatives and to encourage young leaders to promote and disseminate information about the importance of the environment, biodiversity, and traditional knowledge;

(g) *Requests* Parties and the clearing-house mechanism to consider the use of celebrities and high-profile individuals, including religious leaders and churches, as good-will ambassadors and strategic partnerships for biodiversity and the environment;

(h) *Requests* the clearing-house mechanism to provide inputs on information and cooperation needs to Parties so that they make informed decisions about the biodiversity, environment, sustainable development, and the respect for the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities;

(i) *Requests* the Executive Secretary to work in partnerships with national focal points, clearing-house mechanism focal points, and indigenous and local communities to target and build partnerships with diverse and alternative media, including indigenous and local community media to raise awareness and engage their assistance and expertise in dissemination information about biodiversity and the environment;

(j) *Requests* the Executive Secretary to facilitate the preparation of documentation in United Nations languages in sufficient time to allow for national consultations where appropriate and the dissemination of information at the subnational level;

(k) *Recommends* that Parties and Governments include all interested parties, especially indigenous and local communities, in the elaboration of national reports and to disseminate the draft national reports, in order to gather inputs before its submission to the Secretariat;

(l) *Requests* the Secretariat and national focal points provide information on decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the various government agencies, to civil society and other interested parties, especially, to indigenous and local communities.

D. *Advice regarding the Convention's clearing-house mechanism website, the Article 8(j) homepage and the Traditional Knowledge Information Portal*

The Conference of the Parties

(a) *Requests* the clearing-house mechanism to structure the Convention's web pages so that navigation is simple and logical, and provided in the six United Nations languages, based on available resources;

(b) *Encourages* the clearing-house mechanism and the programme on CEPA to use plain accessible language and adapt it to each target audiences, as appropriate;

(c) *Requests* the clearing-house mechanism to make web pages available in the six United Nations languages, prioritizing languages depending on needs and available resources;

(d) *Requests* the Executive Secretary through such mechanisms as CEPA and the clearing-house mechanism to establish links with existing networks and in particular networks of indigenous and local communities to disseminate information and communication;

(e) *Requests* that the Traditional Knowledge Information Portal (TKIP) be used to support and encourage cultural diversity and to preserve and promote indigenous and local languages, distinct identities, and the respect of knowledge, innovations and practices relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of diversity, with pedagogical tools such as blogs, forums, interactive maps, etc.;

(f) *Requests* that the Traditional Knowledge Information Portal continue to adapt by taking into account regional and subregional differences and the respect for cultural diversity between and within local and indigenous communities;

(g) *Recommends* that the participation of indigenous and local communities in the portal be considered as an ongoing project, and that the Secretariat and the clearing-house mechanism establish a monitoring mechanism of positive and negative impacts of the implementation and use of the Portal.

*Annex II***COMMENTS AND ADVICE FOR STRENGTHENING THE CLEARING-HOUSE MECHANISM (CHM)*****Introduction***

This section summarizes the comments and suggestions made by some CHM National Focal Points during an informal coordination meeting held on 15 December 2006.

A. South-South cooperation

There is a potential for South-South cooperation between national clearing-house mechanisms of Latin American countries. For instance, Colombia has acquired a strong experience and is ready to share it with other countries in the region. Argentina is quite interested in organizing a national capacity-building workshop which could also be useful to other countries.

Another rationale for this willingness to collaborate is the existence of common needs and ecosystems. DarwinNet's successful experience as a bi-national clearing-house mechanism for Peru and Ecuador focusing on dry forest ecosystem is an excellent model which could be replicated for other ecosystems. Along these lines, there are on-going discussions on the possibility to develop a multinational clearing-house mechanism which would cover ecosystems shared by Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela. The next step could be the preparation of a project concept for this initiative.

In addition, Colombia recommends the creation of a regional directory of experts to facilitate the identification of specialists in certain fields whenever needed.

Regarding direct support to other national clearing-house mechanisms, Colombia has shared a lesson learned: support to the development of a national clearing-house is unlikely to be successful if there is no prior strong political willingness from the beneficiary country together with minimal sustainability conditions.

B. Global clearing-house mechanism network

The participants support the proposal to group national clearing-house mechanisms under a common Internet domain called "chm-cbd.net" in order to strengthen the feeling of international network. This way, each national clearing-house mechanism could be identified by its ISO 3166-2 country code (eg.: cc.chm-cbd.net where cc is the country code).

This common domain can coexist with the web addresses of the national CHM already developed through alias names or mirror sites. It also allows transparent national web hosting by other countries, whenever necessary.

The main website of this new domain (www.chm-cbd.net) should offer the following information on national clearing-house mechanisms to exchange experiences and facilitate cooperation:

- Background, description, contacts, photos;
- Technical information on the infrastructure (hardware/software/network);
- Institutional information;
- General recommendations on how to establish or strengthen a national clearing-house mechanism, including suggested job descriptions for staff (coordinator, technical posts, etc.).

It is also recommended to develop the human network of the clearing-house mechanism in the following way:

- By maintaining contact information (including technical contacts);
- By mutual support and information exchange;
- By more contacts between the Secretariat and the staff of the national clearing-house mechanisms (coordinators and technical staff).

C. *Capacity-building for the clearing-house mechanism*

The clearing-house mechanism should provide more capacity-building information, such as:

- Options for strengthening national clearing-house mechanisms;
- Guidelines for web design, according to recent standards;
- Guidelines for facilitating the interoperability between national clearing-house mechanisms;
- Best practices or case-studies based on the experience of some national clearing-house mechanisms;
- A list of cooperation offers from institutions or countries to strengthen national clearing-house mechanisms, with contacts for further details.

This information should be included in a new version of the toolkit.

D. *Secretariat's website*

The participants support the initiative of the Convention Secretariat to redesign its website and recommend that the following elements be improved:

- Web site navigation;
- Information search;
- Consistency between sections;
- The language which should be more accessible to the general public;
- The introduction to biodiversity which should present descriptions and examples;
- Metadata associated to web pages and documents;
- Translation to make the website available at least in Spanish and French which are important languages for developing countries.

The clearing-house mechanism section of the website could be improved by:

- Revising its content;
- A focus on useful information as suggested in section C above;
- Standardizing the logo of the clearing-house mechanism (which could be based on the Colombian version).

Annex III

PRESENTERS AND PRESENTATIONS

Clearing-house mechanism/Governments

1. Ms. Carol-Faye George (Antigua and Barbuda), Environment Education & Information Officer: ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA'S CLEARING-HOUSE MECHANISM
2. Mr. Paulo Kageyama (Brazil), Director del Programa Nacional de Conservación de la Diversidad Biológica: PORTAL BRASILEÑO SOBRE BIODIVERSIDAD PUEBLOS Y COMUNIDADES LOCALES (Brazilian portal on biodiversity for indigenous peoples and local communities), Focal point for the clearing-house mechanism, Convention on Biological Diversity.
3. Ms. Ana María Hernández (Colombia), Oficina Asuntos Internacionales, Ministerio de Ambiente, Vivienda y Desarrollo Territorial: EXPERIENCIAS NACIONALES EN LA IMPLEMENTACIÓN DEL ARTÍCULO 8(j) y ARTICULOS RELACIONADOS DEL CONVENIO SOBRE DIVERSIDAD BIOLOGICA EN COLOMBIA, Y PROPUESTAS DE TRABAJO CON EL CHM (National experiences in the implementation of Article 8(j) and related provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Colombia, and proposals for collaboration with the clearing-house mechanism).
4. Ms. Pilar Galindo (Colombia), CHM- Colombia/ Instituto Alexander Von Humboldt: MECANISMO DE FACILITACIÓN COLOMBIA (Colombia clearing-house mechanism)

Indigenous and local communities

5. Ms. Yolanda Hernandez (Guatemala), CIMA (Consejo Indígena de Mesoamerica): ANTECEDENTES HISTORICOS DEL CONSEJO INDÍGENA DE MESOAMÉRICA (CIMA) (Historical background to the Indigenous Council of Meso-America)
6. Ms. Maria Eugenia Choque (Bolivia), Centro de Estudios Multidisciplinarios Aymara: ESTRATEGIAS DE INFORMACIÓN Y DIFUSIÓN DESDE LOS PUEBLOS INDÍGENAS (Information and dissemination strategies from indigenous peoples)
7. Ms. Viviana Figueroa (Argentina), Asociación de la Juventud Indígena Argentina: EXPERIENCIAS NACIONALES ARGENTINA (National experiences of Argentina)
8. Ms. Daysi Cierra Anaya (El Salvador), Instituto para el rescate ancestral indígena (RAIS): ALGUNOS ASPECTOS DE LA BIODIVERSIDAD EN EL SALVADOR (Some aspects of biodiversity in El Salvador)
9. Mr. Marcos Terena – Presidente del Comitê Intertribal – Memoria e Ciência Indígena (ITC), miembro de FIBB: BRASIL INDIGENA (Indigenous Brazil)
10. Ms. Maria Clemencia Herrera Nemerayema, Asociación Indígena PANI

Non-governmental organizations

11. Mr. Fabián Rodas, Darwin Net: EL MECANISMO DE FACILITACIÓN DE INFORMACIÓN DE LOS BOSQUES SECOS DE ECUADOR Y PERU (The Peru – Ecuador Dry Forest Clearing-house Mechanism)

12. Mr. Jorge Garcia, Iberoamerican Science and Technology Education Consortium (ISTEC): DE REDES INFORMALES A REDES FORMALES (From informal to formal networks)

Annex IV

INDIGENOUS DECLARATION

Declaration by the indigenous peoples

Quito, Ecuador

14–16 December 2006

[ORIGINAL: SPANISH]

The members of the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB) taking part in the Capacity-building Workshop on Networking and Information Exchange for National Focal Points and Indigenous and Local Communities in the Latin America and the Caribbean Region held in the city of Quito, Republic of Ecuador, from December 14 to 16 2006, declare:

Whereas the Traditional Knowledge Information Portal should be a tool to facilitate information on the Convention on Biological Diversity for the benefit of indigenous peoples, and for the purpose of strengthening and promoting their rights over Traditional Knowledge,

Whereas the IIFB's role, as an advisory group of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, is to monitor and evaluate the use of the portal to prevent any improper use or the appropriation of traditional knowledge by other stakeholders,

Whereas, during the Workshop, there was not enough time for in-depth examination and discussion of issues of direct concern and interest to indigenous peoples,

Whereas indigenous participants are concerned about the Parties' scant participation,

Therefore, in the spirit of moving forward and improving coordination and communication among the Parties, the Secretariat and indigenous peoples, *we recommend the following:*

1. Portal information and content should be controlled by the indigenous peoples, as the holders of traditional knowledge.
2. Prior access to working documents and information documents for the meetings and workshops of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
3. We encourage the Secretariat to support alternate means of communication that are accessible to indigenous peoples, in addition to the portal,
4. The Secretariat, in coordination with the IIFB, should develop a format to enable indigenous peoples to express their interests and concerns in accordance with Article 8j.
5. All information management in relation to the portal is the responsibility of the IIFB, in order to safeguard the rights of indigenous peoples.
6. The Secretariat should support the IIFB in holding a regional workshop in 2007, aimed at further examining the issue of communication and the clearing-house mechanism (CHM) from the point of view of indigenous peoples.

Annex V

LOCAL COMMUNITY DECLARATION

Declaration by local communities participating in the Workshop

[ORIGINAL: SPANISH]

I, Edna, in my capacity as Coordinator of the Convention on Biological Diversity's International Forum on Local Communities, request concrete, pre-established workshops (set up by a working group) aimed at creating networks that present experiences and the epistemological, theoretical and practical processes for network development, and that take into account the experience and needs of the indigenous peoples and local communities of South America and the Caribbean. We therefore require the Secretariat to coordinate and facilitate a process for establishing an advisory group to coordinate the said workshops.

We furthermore want this meeting to generate a plan to carry out the necessary work to build the network and share information gained through experience.
