



Convention on Biological Diversity

Secretariat

Ref.: SCBD/STTM//MGta/va/44235

7 July 2004

Dear Sir/Madam:

In paragraph 20 of decision VII/15 on biodiversity and climate change, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention requested the Executive Secretary to gather, in collaboration with relevant organizations, relevant material for promoting synergy between climate-change mitigation and adaptation activities and the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, drawing upon case-studies and existing relevant tools, and within the broader context of sustainable development both at the national and regional level. In paragraph 7 of the same decision, the Conference of the Parties also noted that there are opportunities to implement climate change mitigation and adaptation activities in ways that are mutually beneficial and synergistic, and that contribute simultaneously to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Kyoto Protocol, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and other international agreements.

To this end, the Secretariat is requesting the submission of case studies that illustrate the role of biodiversity in mitigating and adapting to global climate change, including lessons learned from these experiences. The recent report of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on biodiversity and climate change to the Convention (CBD Technical Series no. 10 available at <http://www.biodiv.org/doc/publications/cbd-ts-10.pdf>) concludes that there is significant potential for enhancing the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity while implementing activities aimed at mitigating and/or adapting to climate change. Preliminary information on this issue is contained in chapter 6 of the report where selected case studies on mitigation and adaptation activities to climate change include biodiversity considerations which range from local to landscape-wide levels.

In general terms, the case studies to be submitted should briefly explain the objectives of the project, key features related to biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, tools and monitoring processes used, and lessons learned. The case studies will provide input to the work of the Secretariat on guidance for promoting synergy among activities that address climate change including activities to combat desertification and land degradation, and the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, pursuant to paragraph 14 of decision VII/15.

We invite you to submit the information to the Secretariat, as per the format indicated in the annex, as soon as possible but no later than **1 November 2004**.

I wish to thank you for your support to the work of the Convention.

Yours sincerely,
[signed]

Hamdallah Zedan
Executive Secretary

To: National Focal Points of CBD, UNFCCC and UNCCD



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Annex

Format for the submission of case studies on the role of biodiversity in mitigation and adaptation activities to climate change

General information

- Title
- Country of location
- Status (planned, ongoing, completed)
- Starting date, completion date
- Agency name leading the project and type of agency (governmental, United Nations, Inter-governmental, non-governmental).
- Goals and objectives of the project
- Stakeholders involved (government, policy makers, civil society, indigenous and local communities).
- Level of action (regional, national, local)
- Biophysical context (forest, grassland, marine and coastal, montane, agriculture, inland waters, dry and sub-humid lands).

Specific information

- Description of type of activity(ies) implemented (e.g., afforestation, reforestation, ecological restoration/revegetation, bioenergy, infrastructure, hydropower, wind power).
- Mechanism used under the Kyoto Protocol (e.g., Clean Development Mechanism, Joint Implementation, Emissions Trading).
- Description of positive project outcomes on the ecosystem (e.g., recovery of native fauna and flora, conservation/diversification of genetic resources, conservation of threatened populations, minimization of habitat fragmentation, reduction of sedimentation rates).
- Description of negative project outcomes on the ecosystem (e.g., competitive displacement of native fauna and flora, increased soil erosion, increased abundance of invasive alien species, reduction of water flows and water table).
- Description of tools and instruments applied to assess the environmental impacts of the project (e.g. Environmental Impact Assessment, Strategic Environmental Assessment).
- Description of application of decision analytic frameworks prior to project implementation (decision analysis, cost-benefit analysis, cost-effectiveness analysis).
- Description of tools and approaches applied for monitoring biodiversity impacts and degree of ecosystem degradation and its recovery (e.g., criteria and indicators).
- Description of mechanisms for ensuring the participation of indigenous and local communities in the design and implementation of the project.
- Description of links and/or benefits with conservation and sustainable use and improvement of community well-being.