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15 January 2013

NOTIFICATION

Seventh Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity on

“Ecology and Economy for a Sustainable Society”, Trondheim, Norway 27-31 May 2013

Dear Madam/Sir,

The purpose of this notification is to draw your attention to the seventh Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity, entitled “Ecology and Economy for a Sustainable Society”, which will be held on 27-31 May 2013 in Trondheim, Norway. The conference will be hosted by the Norwegian Government in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Since their inception in 1993, the Trondheim Conferences have aimed to advance a scientifically informed dialogue on critical issues on the agenda of the Convention on Biological Diversity. In 2013, the Conference will focus on the implementation of Strategic Goal A of the CBD’s Strategic plan. The Strategic Goal A, with the 4 first Aichi targets, commits countries to address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society, and represents a potentially cost-effective and sustainable development oriented approach to achieving the mission of the Strategic plan. Like the initial Conference, the forthcoming one takes place after Rio. It aims at contributing to the ecological dimension of the agenda set out in the Rio+20 declaration “The future we want” and the emerging post-2015 development agenda. The Conference will explore how to cut development pathways towards a sustainable society by aligning policy, business, economy and ecology across borders, scales and systems.

The Norwegian Minister of Environment, Mr. Bård Vegar Solhjell, and the Norwegian Minister of International Development, Mr. Heikki Eidsvoll Holmås, invite all member states of the United Nations to attend this seventh Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity. A copy of the draft Conference programme is attached herewith. Invitations are also being sent to relevant UN entities and to selected international organizations and institutions that are involved in supporting the implementation of the CBD. The Conference will be conducted in English.

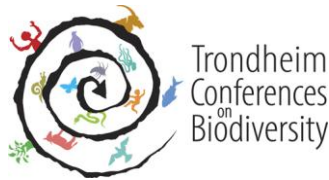
CBD Focal Points



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Conference Programme

Draft as of 14 January 2012

Ecology and Economy for a Sustainable Society

The seventh Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity

Trondheim, Norway, 27–31 May 2013

Since the first Trondheim Conference held in 1993, the world population has grown by 25 %, the total GDP by 75 % and world trade has tripled. Despite positive achievements, loss of biodiversity along with global warming is undermining human wellbeing, especially that of the poor and vulnerable. The Trondheim Conference in 2013 will explore how to cut development pathways towards a sustainable society by aligning policy, business, economy and ecology across borders, scales and systems.

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is the key instrument to halt the loss of biodiversity and maintain the resilience of ecosystems and their provision of essential services for humanity. The Trondheim conferences aim to advance a scientifically informed dialogue on critical issues on the agenda of the CBD.

The seventh Conference, which comes at a time of high debt and sluggish growth in many advanced parts of the world economy, will focus on the implementation of Strategic Goal A of the CBD's Strategic plan and its Aichi targets. The Goal commits countries to address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society. It represents a potentially cost-effective and sustainable development oriented pathway towards the mission of the strategic plan. Like the initial conference, the current one takes place after Rio. It will contribute to the ecological dimension of the agenda set out in the Rio declaration *The future we want* and the emerging post-2015 development agenda.

Decision-makers in public service, business and households are informed by economics when day to day trade-offs are made between different concerns. A challenge in the mainstreaming of biodiversity across government and society is that many ecosystem services that enable long term human well-being have low economic visibility. As with other potentially under-rated enabling factors there is a need for policies and measurements of societal progress which goes beyond Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as called for in Rio+20.

The Conference starts with a consideration of how the values of biodiversity contribute to the sustainable development agenda. It will then go on to compare and contrast concepts and experiences related to questions of interest to the biodiversity and economic planning communities as well as civil society and business, such as:

- How do we integrate values of biodiversity into national planning, poverty reduction, accounting and reporting, and what can we learn from current economic theory and practice?
- What alignments can be undertaken between policy, business and safe ecological limits across scales in a polycentric governance system and what lessons have we learned so far from key sectors?
- What steps do we need to take today and what trajectories do we need to follow in order to have implemented Aichi targets 1, 2, 3 and 4 by 2020?

The Conference will be informed by two background papers: 1) on economics and ecosystem services; 2) the ecological foundation the development of the sustainable development goals (SDGs) and of measurements for societal progress beyond GDP. It will result in a Report by the Co-Chairs, Conference Proceedings and material reflected on the conference web-site www.trondheimconference.org.

The Conference is by invitation only and will bring together some 450 experts. Each country will be invited to send two experts, one from the biodiversity and one from the economic planning side. Travel support for national experts from eligible countries will be provided.

The Conference is hosted by the Norwegian Government in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the Secretariat of the CBD, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and with invaluable support also from other international organizations. In Norway the Ministry of the Environment is working in close cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food and the Ministry of Fisheries and Coastal Affairs and the Directorate for Nature Management is organizing the Conference. The conference programme is being prepared in consultation with international organizations and with inputs from a network of leading national experts.

Please note that the structure and titles are at a draft stage. The names of the speakers will be published at a later stage.

Monday 27 May

Conference program to start at 0900 hrs

Session 1 – Opening

- Artistic performance
- **Welcome to the Trondheim Conference**
- **Welcome to Trondheim**

Key note addresses:

- **Advancing the interplay between ecology, economy and society**
- **Ecology and economy in food security**
- **Ecology in the post 2012 and 2015 development agenda**
- **Advancing Strategic Goal A of the Aichi targets**

Session 2 – Introduction

- **Conference objectives and organisation** by the Co-Chairs

Session 3 – Trondheim+20 Perspectives

- **Ecology and human wellbeing** - The diversity of the biosphere is eroding: - what ecological infrastructures are needed to ensure that ecosystems continue to provide essential services?
- **Economy and human wellbeing** - The global economy is faced with inequities and uncertain prospects for growth and jobs: - how does short-run and long-run prosperity depend on a well-managed ecological infrastructure and what kinds of trade-offs are we faced with?
- **Lessons learned from the financial crisis** - What are the lessons learnt so far from efforts to tackle the current financial crisis, for instance in the area of green investments?
- **Aligning public and private sectors for sustainability** – The private sector contributes to some 60-70% of GDP: - what alignments between public and private sector are needed to achieve sustainability?
- **Trondheim+20 - a discourse for the 21st Century** - The Trondheim Conferences on biodiversity was initiated 20 years ago: - what have learned and what discourse is needed for the 21st Century?

Session 4 – Ecology and economy for a sustainable society

- **Plenary Panel Session** (possibly televised) With 8-10 panellists from the opening and the Trondheim+20 session

To discuss: The diversity of the biosphere is eroding and the global economy is faced with inequities and uncertain prospects for growth and jobs: - How can we increase the awareness across government and

society of the ecological infrastructures and services that are essential for enabling long term human well-being? How do we maintain ecological resilience and resilient economies and societies? How do we set goals and align public policies and business strategies across scales in a polycentric governance system?

Social Program

Tuesday 28 May

Session 5 – *Biodiversity in national planning, poverty reduction and accounting*

- ***Biodiversity and environmental economics***
- ***Macroeconomic policies for biodiversity***
- ***Biodiversity in poverty reduction and development plans***
- ***Biodiversity and the measurement of progress beyond GDP***
- ***Plenary Panel Session*** With 6-8 panellists including speakers from session 6

Decision-makers in public service, business and households are often informed by economics when trade-offs are made between different concerns. A sustainable society however also needs to take account of the impacts of such trade-offs on the social and natural capital. How do we approach this challenge and what have we learned so far?

Session 6 – *Roundtable discussions on implementation of Aichi targets 1¹ and 2²*

- Three breakout groups with roundtables to discuss how to implement Aichi target 1 and 2 – facilitators and rapporteurs to be appointed

Social Program

Wednesday 29 May

Session 7 – *Report from roundtable discussions on Aichi targets 1 and 2*

- *Report from roundtable discussions and question and comments*

Session 8 – *Aligning policies, incentives and business with safe ecological limits across scales*

- ***Systems ecology and the identification of safe ecological limits at different scales***
- ***Private sector perspectives on alignments and safe ecological limits***
- ***Industrial ecology in advancing plans for sustainable consumption and production***
- ***State of knowledge in the scenarios of the Global Biodiversity Outlook***
- ***Alignments of public policies and business strategies across sectors and scale***

¹ **Target 1:** By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably

² **Target 2:** By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems

Session 9 – *Parallel sector perspectives: alignment of policy mixes for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity across scale*

Parallel session 9a – *Forest management*

Parallel session 9b – *Agriculture and food security*

Parallel session 9c – *Fisheries and ocean management*

Social Program

Thursday 30 May

Session 10 – *Report from parallel sector perspectives*

- *Report from roundtable and discussions*

Session 11 – *Innovative financing within safe ecological limits*

- *Plenary panel session*

Session 12 – *Trajectories towards 2020*

- *The ecologic foundation for the development of the goals for sustainable development*
- *Biodiversity mainstreaming: - the case of Botswana*
- *Improving trade-offs for biodiversity: - the case of OECD*
- *UN system-wide support for Aichi targets capacities*
- *The role of the Intergovernmental panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)*

Session 13 – *Roundtable discussions on resource mobilisation and implementation of Aichi targets 3³ and 4⁴*

- Three breakout groups with roundtables to discuss how to implement Aichi target 3 and 4

Social Program

Friday 31 May

Session 14 – *Report from roundtable discussions on Aichi targets 3 and 4*

- *Report from roundtable discussions and question and comments*

Session 15 – *Communication in mainstreaming*

³ **Target 3:** By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio economic conditions.

⁴ **Target 4:** By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits

- ***The human quest*** Human society is part of, interacts with and depends on a biosphere with an eroding diversity: -. How do we communicate what is at stake?

Session 16 – ***Consideration of the draft Report by the Co-Chairs***

- ***Presentation of draft Report by the Co-Chairs, Conference Co-chairs***
- ***Discussion on the draft report by the Co-Chairs***

Session 17 – ***Closing session***

- ***Closing addresses***

Conference program to close at 1300 hrs



THE NORWEGIAN DIRECTORATE
FOR NATURE MANAGEMENT

The Conference will bring together up to 450 participants, and two representatives from each country may attend the Conference. As the Conference aims to foster a cross-sectoral exchange of ideas on the mainstreaming of biodiversity, governments are encouraged to designate one national expert from the biodiversity sector and one from the economic planning sector. The Norwegian Government is prepared to provide travel support for one participant from each of the two sectors to countries eligible for such support.

The deadline for electronic registration on the Conference webpage is set for 8 March 2013. Kindly note that all electronic registrations should be accompanied by a confirmation letter from the CBD National Focal Point. Further information on the Conference, including on how to register electronically and how to obtain visa, is available on the Conference webpage (<http://www.trondheimconference.org>) and can also be obtained by contacting the Conference Secretariat in the Directorate for Nature Management at trondheim.conference@dirnat.no.

The seventh Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity is expected to make an important contribution to the process preparing for the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP-12), in October 2014.

Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Bráulio Ferreira de Souza Dias
Executive Secretary