

Rationale: German Technical Co-operation's efforts towards CBD implementation

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Official development co-operation in Germany comprises Technical Co-operation, Financial Co-operation, manpower assistance and multilateral co-operation. Technical Co-operation is carried out by the GTZ (*Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit*). GTZ's mission is capacity development of people and organisations. For that purpose GTZ co-operates with partners in different projects and programmes in more than 130 countries. Through this broad geographical experience, with a multitude of project approaches GTZ offers integrated solutions to complex problems as they are dealt with under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The **GTZ Convention Project „Implementing the Biodiversity Convention (BIODIV)“** plays a leading role in biodiversity-related activities of Germany's international co-operation. It was set up in 1994 to help speed the implementation of the Convention in development co-operation areas in which Germany is involved, and to promote the further development of the Convention itself, its instruments and bodies. Moreover, BIODIV supports developing countries in their efforts to implement the Convention at the national level. More than 25 bilateral pilot projects are presently being planned or implemented.

BIODIV activities are reaching beyond “classical” environment topics and nature conservation measures, incorporating development-oriented cross-cutting issues. When establishing protected areas the acceptance of the local population is absolutely necessary to achieve a participatory management. Innovative approaches and strategies in the sectors of (eco-)tourism, biodiversity research, game management, medicinal plants, etc. are being linked with the development and the application of participative management methods to achieve an equitable benefit sharing (pilot projects in Guinea, Côte d’Ivoire and Peru).

In this context securing *Traditional Knowledge* and *Access to Biological and Genetic Resources* is of paramount importance for local stakeholders. The BIODIV project supports indigenous groups in implementing article 8j of the CBD, e.g. in issues regarding the consequences of bioprospection (pilot project in The Philippines) or in the elaboration of project applications (pilot project in the Amazon Region/Brazil). Ensuring that modern biotechnological methods must not endanger biological diversity, the Cartagena Protocol on *Biosafety* represents new challenges. The BIODIV project provided advisory work during the negotiation process of the Protocol and contributes now to its implementation. Priority activities are capacity and institution building as well as counselling in policy matters.

Furthermore, the BIODIV project focuses on the co-operation with other environmental agreements, particularly with the so called “Rio Conventions”. But also in the context of a *Global Structural Policy* the BIODIV project endeavours to achieve more coherence with other

agreements, like e.g. the TRIPS (Trade-Related aspects of Intellectual Property Rights) agreement of the WTO. The unsolved problem regarding property of and knowledge on genetic resources leads to a substantial demand for consultancy.

All activities are accompanied by a concerted domestic work of all GTZ "convention projects", targeting on an improved co-ordination with other political departments (e.g. environment, agriculture, foreign affairs) and Non-Governmental Organisations. A reinforcement of public relation activities in Germany and abroad as e.g. the Biodiversity Day 2001 in Colombia and Germany supports these efforts. In September 2000 the BIODIV project entered its third phase. The overall budget of the BIODIV project since 1994 is about 7.5 million €

Regarding larger scale and regional projects GTZ sees an increasing potential in co-operation with the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and its implementing agencies. Joint project and programme planning with GEF is considered, so that co-financing of projects by GEF and GTZ would be possible.

Further information can be obtained under: www.gtz.de/biodiv and www.gtz.de/agrobiodiv.