



CBD

**CONVENTION ON  
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

Please Check Against Delivery

**STATEMENT BY**

**HAMDALLAH ZEDAN  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

**CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

**TO**

**WORKSHOP ON THE EUROPEAN BIODIVERSITY RESOURCING  
INITIATIVE**

**Geneva, Switzerland, 4 December 2001**

Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I regret that the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity cannot be represented at this important meeting due to our involvement in the meetings of the Global Environment Facility this week.

I would like however, to congratulate you all, in particular the Swiss Agency for Environment, Forests and Landscape, and the European Centre for Nature Conservation, on convening this workshop, and wish you all a successful meeting.

Dear Colleagues,

The European Biodiversity Resourcing Initiative is an important and timely idea. The second national reports received by the Secretariat from Parties to the Convention have demonstrated a strong correlation between the priority given to the Convention and availability of resources. Without an appropriate level of available resources, it is hard to imagine that adequate priority will be given to the Convention in most developing countries.

This finding is consistent with the provisions of the Convention. In its preamble, the Convention acknowledges that, “substantial investments are required to conserve biological diversity”. Articles 20 and 21 of the Convention refer to four categories of financial support: (i) national financial support and incentives; (ii) new and additional financial resources through the financial mechanism; (iii) financing through bilateral, regional and other multilateral channels; and (iv) financing by the private sector. Given the importance of this matter, financial resources and mechanism is a standing agenda item of meetings of the Conference of the Parties. The Conference of the Parties has already adopted a number of decisions on the subject covering issues ranging from the identification of additional financial resources to the monitoring of financial support, collaboration with financial institutions, as well as promotion of the involvement of the private sector.

As noted in the assessments conducted for this workshop, there is a need to advance the implementation of the financing provisions of the Convention. The note on additional financial resources prepared by our Secretariat for consideration of the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties has provided an overall view of the status of implementation of Articles 20 and 21, and made a number of recommendations for next steps. I am transmitting this document to you for your information, and hope you will find it helpful in your deliberations today.

Dear Colleagues,

The European Biodiversity Resourcing Initiative is important also because it is conceptualized in the context of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity

Strategy. As many of you may recall, the importance of regional cooperation in implementing the Convention has been highlighted in many previous meetings of the Convention, in particular during the review of the operations of the Convention in the past two years. The Open-ended Inter-sessional Meeting on the Strategic Plan, National Reports and the Implementation of the Convention held in Montreal two weeks ago proposed, for the first time in the draft elements for a decision by the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting, a section on regional and sub-regional mechanisms for implementation of the Convention. In that recommendation, it was proposed that the Conference of the Parties adopt a decision in which it would:

- *Acknowledge* the important role that regional and sub-regional mechanisms and networks such as the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy play in promoting the implementation of the Convention;
- *Request* the Executive Secretary, in consultation with Parties, to identify and assess the potential of existing regional and sub-regional instruments, institutions, networks and mechanisms in various regions as a basis for enhancing the implementation of the Convention, including as partners for capacity-building;
- *Encourage* Parties to strengthen regional and sub-regional cooperation, enhance the integration and promote synergies with relevant regional and sub-regional processes;
- *Invite* all donors and institutions in a position to do so to support the work of existing regional coordination mechanisms and the development of regional and sub-regional networks or processes, as appropriate; and
- *Invite* Parties, Governments, and relevant organizations to strengthen their existing regional and sub-regional mechanisms and initiatives for capacity-building and to contribute inputs regarding their experiences into the wider assessment process.

I am confident that this workshop will further add convincing evidence of how regional cooperation can make a significant contribution to the implementation of the Convention.

With these remarks, I wish you all a fruitful meeting and look forward to receiving the outcomes of the workshop.