



Scientific contributions to provide valuable information materials for the elaboration of a technical series on *The Interdependence of Biodiversity and Development under Global Change* (Cultural Chapter)

PURPOSE

The purpose of scientific contribution is to provide a solid academic manuscript to be included in the “Cultural Chapter” of the planned Technical Series volume entitled “*The Interdependence of Biodiversity and Development under Global Change*”, which the SCBD will produce in cooperation with scientific partners.

BACKGROUND

The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) has provided a comprehensive assessment of 24 Ecosystem services that make a direct contribution to human well-being, and has called for a worldwide agenda to overcome the irreversible degradation of ecosystems and biodiversity loss. There is an urgency to creatively resolve these challenges and establish global tasks in order to protect humankind against disasters with unprecedented consequences.

Yet the challenge of designing and operationalizing this global agenda requires further research, consultation and institutional reforms and arrangements to find the most appropriate way to move forward.

Complex systems find dynamic equilibrium through a well-balanced and continuous exchange of energy between their interdependent components. If this energy flow is interrupted or dramatically changed, the system will collapse.

The eco-system approach (system perspective) is increasingly understood and applied not only by most scientific disciplines, but also for operational purposes by public planners, politicians, private sector, NGOs and other institutions. All of them have to deal with the fact that Biodiversity and Development are two fundamental interdependent components of the same overall system.

The sustainable management of ecosystem goods and services (EGS) is one of the key strategies to prevent a global ecological collapse. But prevention needs more specific information and tools for informed decision-making and effective implementation at all levels.

Using an interdisciplinary system approach, the SCBD in collaboration with different partners among the scientific community will elaborate a technical series identifying some of the key challenges, crucial themes and global tasks that are necessary to face in order to establish a new, balanced relationship between our environment and development needs.



The technical series will be structured in four disciplinary chapters: a bio-physical, an institutional, an economic and a cultural chapter, each will analyze and describe open questions to get a better implementation and balance between biodiversity conservation and development.

The aim of the present scientific contribution is to facilitate through the systematization of relevant information and ongoing research and studies valuable inputs to the cultural chapter of the mentioned technical series.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The scientific contribution aim to identify and answer key questions related to the necessity of a constructive dialogue between local/traditional knowledge and modern science in order to achieve a more efficient biodiversity management and environment sustainability within development and poverty reduction processes.

Expected products of the scientific contribution:

A solid academic manuscript to be included in the “Cultural Chapter” of the planned Technical Series volume entitled “***The Interdependence of Biodiversity and Development under Global Change***”. The contents of the manuscript should include the following issues:

- Cultural and biological diversity (TEK, local knowledge)
- Integration of local knowledge in development processes
- Protection of local knowledge (IPR)
- Generating innovations through scientific and local knowledge
- Human rights: Access and benefit sharing to resources and ecosystem services

TIMEFRAME

A total timeframe of 6 months is envisaged for the delivery of the products and services specified above. The scientific contribution is expected to be concluded until February 2010.

How to apply

The application deadline for this contract is 11 September 2009 and all applications should be sent to secretariat@cbd.int