



Federal Ministry for the  
Environment, Nature Conservation  
and Nuclear Safety

# One nature · one world · our future

Results of the German CBD Presidency 2008 to 2010



## IMPRINT

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## FOREWORD

### Opportunities and challenges of the German CBD Presidency

Like climate change, the loss of biological diversity and its many services for mankind is one of the most pressing global challenges of our time. However, although we are aware of this and are committed to combating this loss at national, regional and international level, biodiversity – the wealth of our planet – is still disappearing worldwide at an alarming rate.

In 2010, what we have long suspected has been confirmed: we have not achieved the global biodiversity target which was set by heads of state and government, to significantly reduce the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010.

The answer to the question „what went wrong?“ is clear. One of the main reasons for the failure is that biodiversity is still not taken into adequate account in political measures, strategies and programmes, nor sufficiently addressed as a cross-sectoral issue. What is more, as yet there has been no serious action against the main causes of biodiversity loss – especially the destruction and over-exploitation of habitats and species, or environmental pollution. And finally, comprehensive and effective global biodiversity conservation still founders due to a lack of funding.

One thing is evident from this – we need a change of course as quickly as possible! A Herculean task for all, and particularly so for Germany as holder of the Presidency of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) from 2008 to 2010. The Convention is the key instrument of global biodiversity conservation. Rule number one in facing the challenge is that we must not be discouraged by the dreadful statistics on

the ongoing loss of habitats and species, but rather let them spur us on to greater efforts. I believe a change of course is possible if the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD in Japan in October 2010 (COP 10) can achieve crucial progress in some key processes. The fundamental aims of the negotiations are adopting a Protocol on access and benefit sharing in the use of genetic resources (ABS), deciding on an ambitious strategy for global biodiversity policy after 2010, and providing the necessary funds for its implementation.

We and the CBD as a whole have been tackling these pivotal issues for nearly two and a half years. For such decisions are not negotiated during a two-week conference, they must be prepared in coordination and participation processes over a number of years and at many levels in the course of several interim meetings. The close and constructive cooperation in this broad-based process between the German CBD Presidency, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity Ahmed Djoghlaif, the COP Bureau of the Convention, the Parties to the CBD and the next host country has played a vital role in smoothing the way for pioneering decisions to be taken at COP 10 in Japan.



In addition to our specific negotiation targets, we also worked to further raise the profile of global biodiversity policy and put it permanently on the agenda of the heads of state and government. We used the International Year of Biodiversity to integrate the issue into important political and social processes and to communicate the immense importance of biological diversity and its services for human well-being, global economic development and poverty reduction.

In recent years, and especially in the International Year of Biodiversity, the dedicated experts of the Convention on Biological Diversity and, increasingly, environment ministers and even heads of state and government, have been addressing the issues of biodiversity, the failure to achieve the international biodiversity target and the structure of a new political framework for global biodiversity conservation after 2010.



We are on the right path, but there can be no slowing down. In order to bring about the trend reversal needed, we must continue steadily along this road, intensifying our efforts in biodiversity conservation, sustainable use of nature and fair benefit sharing.

I am delighted that Germany had the opportunity to set the course for effective international biodiversity conservation, and am grateful for the trust shown us over the past two and a half years. All that now remains for me to do is to wish us all a very successful COP 10 in Nagoya and my successor all the very best for the next two years, after he takes over the Presidency of the CBD on 18 October 2010.

Naturally, the conservation of biological diversity will remain one of Germany's top priorities even when Germany's CBD Presidency has come to an end. For it is not just about conserving the beauty of nature, it is also a question of protecting the very basis of our lives and preventing an ecological crisis of a magnitude to put all economic and financial crises in the shade.

Dr. Norbert Röttgen  
Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety





## COP 9 in Bonn - a major step forward for biodiversity conservation

From 19 to 30 May 2008 the 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 9) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) took place in Bonn, attended by more than 6,000 participants from 191 countries. In the course of the two weeks, under the German CBD Presidency, the international community negotiated on measures to combat the ongoing destruction of nature. The main focus of COP 9 was on forest conservation, establishing and financing a global network of marine and terrestrial protected areas, forging closer links between the international climate protection process and the CBD and achieving progress in access to genetic resources and the equitable sharing of benefits (access and benefit sharing, ABS).

During the last three days of the meeting, the environment ministers of the Parties met for the high-level segment of the negotiations in order to reach agreement on key issues. They also adopted the “Bonn Agenda on Global Bio-

logical Diversity”, which identified thematic areas in which progress before the next COP is felt to be particularly important.

At the end of the two-week negotiations a comprehensive package of decisions and actions was adopted unanimously. In Bonn it was also agreed that Japan would host the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 10) in 2010.

## Post-COP is always pre-COP

The work of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) really began in earnest after the successful conclusion of COP 9. On the first day of the meeting Germany took over the Presidency of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD Presidency) until the next COP in October 2010 in Japan. Germany thus also took on a major responsibility for ensuring that the decisions made in Bonn are implemented fully and in good time.

A number of meetings and sessions of the different subsidiary bodies of the CBD have taken place under the German Presidency during the inter-sessional period between the two COPs. These include the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), Working Groups on

the review of implementation of the Convention, on access and benefit sharing and on the rights of indigenous and local communities. In complex coordination and participation processes, the Working Group sessions draw up recommendations for decisions to be taken at the following COP.



## What was accomplished under the German CBD Presidency?

At first sight, the CBD's numerous key issues can appear rather overwhelming. Even so, most of them are highly significant politically, and are increasingly attracting the interest of the public. The following pages describe in more detail the key thematic areas for policymakers which were laid down by the ministers in the "Bonn Agenda on Global Biological Diversity", and the progress – in some cases considerable – achieved in these areas over the past two and a half years.

### Negotiating an ABS Protocol

The 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD in 2010 in Japan is expected to adopt an ABS Protocol – an internationally binding agreement on the fair distribution of the benefits and profits arising from the use of genetic resources.



ABS stands for *access and benefit sharing*, and means that access to the genetic resources of a country is regulated by law and that the countries of origin of such resources have a fair share in any profits earned by the user (e.g. from the development of medicines).

The 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD in Bonn laid down the relevant procedural steps. Under the German CBD Presidency, the Working Group on ABS then had the delicate task of drawing up a precise and comprehensive legal text for the ABS Protocol. This working group has now convened five times between the Bonn and Nagoya COPs in order to negotiate the text of the ABS Protocol to a point where it can be unanimously adopted in Japan in October 2010. Considering the understandably diverse positions among the negotiating partners, this is no easy undertaking. Until the Protocol has been adopted in Nagoya, therefore, all sides must continue to be very open to compromise, so that the remaining points of dispute can be finally eliminated.

The German CBD Presidency supports the ABS negotiating process by paying the costs of travel to the negotiations for representatives from developing countries, covering the cost of meetings and financing a CBD liaison officer in the UN city of Bonn.

Furthermore, Germany has successfully developed its initiative to bolster African countries in their fight against biopiracy, and supported an important African ministers' conference in Namibia. The purpose of this conference was to prepare content and develop the positions of African ministers in the run-up to the negotiations on the ABS Protocol ([www.abs-africa.info](http://www.abs-africa.info))

To generate acceptance for the ABS regulations in Germany, the BMU organises regular round table discussions with the German user sectors and industrial associations.

## Negotiations on an international strategy for biodiversity

This year's review of the status of the global 2010 biodiversity target found that in spite of many successes at sectoral, regional, national and local level, all in all the goal of significantly reducing the global loss of biodiversity has not been attained.

In light of this failure, and building on lessons learnt, at COP 10 in Japan the international community must decide on the objectives of global biodiversity policy after 2010 and adopt a new Strategic Plan for the CBD.

One of the main aims of the German CBD Presidency was to promote an intensive international debate, at various levels and involving all stakeholders, on the direction of post-2010 global biodiversity policy and on the new Strategic Plan. This was to ensure the broadest possible acceptance for the new target and to establish it as an overarching objective for various conventions.



The German CBD Presidency therefore warmly welcomed the invitation issued at COP 9 by the President of the UN General Assembly to attend a high-level meeting on biological diversity in September 2010. The German Presidency also proposed a UN-wide discussion process on the issue.

## Financing international nature conservation

Lack of funding is one of the main reasons for the continuing loss of biodiversity. This is especially true in the poorer countries of the South, which have the largest share of global biodiversity but do not have adequate means to secure its conservation and sustainable use.

At COP 9 in Bonn, Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel sent an important signal for increased funding for global biodiversity conservation. Building on existing international efforts, the German government will make an additional 500 million euros available up to 2012, and from 2013 provide 500 million euros per year for the protection and sustainable use of forests and other important ecosystems. This pledge stands and is being implemented. The German government has already increased its funding for global biodiversity conservation from 210 million euros in 2008 to over 260 million euros in 2009.



Furthermore, COP 9 initiated a process for the introduction of innovative financing instruments for international nature conservation in the framework of the CBD. Germany actively supports this process.

By using the revenues from the European emissions trading scheme to support climate-relevant biodiversity conservation, the BMU itself has launched an innovative instrument which is the first of its kind worldwide – the International Climate Initiative (ICI, [www.bmu-klimaschutzinitiative.de](http://www.bmu-klimaschutzinitiative.de)). Through this Initiative the BMU supports model climate protection projects in developing, newly industrialising and transition countries, including projects on the conservation and sustainable use of natural carbon sinks, especially forests and wetlands. These activities improve synergies between climate protection and biodiversity conservation.

Since 2008 ICI projects on climate-related biodiversity conservation have been approved to an amount of over 110 million euros. Besides projects on the conservation of climate-relevant biodiversity, innovative projects for building a climate-friendly economy and on adaptation to climate change are also funded.

The global discussion process received additional impetus from a CBD experts meeting on innovative funding instruments in January 2010.

In addition, in June 2009 the German CBD Presidency organised a Private Global Donor Forum to mobilise private capital for global nature conservation. Leading figures from politics and society were invited to Berlin to discuss the possibility of foundations and private individuals becoming involved in international nature conservation, thus gaining new partners for global biodiversity conservation.



### The network of life – LifeWeb Initiative

Establishing a global network of terrestrial and marine protected areas is a crucial instrument for conserving the world's biological diversity. In light of this, the German initiative "LifeWeb" was launched at COP 9 with the aim of promoting the creation of a global network of protected areas.

In July 2009, with Germany's support, a LifeWeb Coordination Office was established at the CBD Secretariat and a LifeWeb homepage set up as an interactive coordination platform ([www.cbd.int/lifeweb](http://www.cbd.int/lifeweb)). This platform enables countries wanting to improve their national protected area systems to present their funding needs and make contact with donors willing to financially support their efforts to build representative protected area networks.



This offer is being taken up enthusiastically. Potential recipient countries have already presented financing needs of nearly 300 million US dollars. It is now a question of intensifying endeavours to mobilise donors and initiate concrete cooperations.

Since 2008, Germany has approved over 30 LifeWeb projects with a total volume of more than 80 million euros. This money is made up of funds from the International Climate Initiative of the Federal Environment Ministry and pledges from the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Spain and Finland have now also joined the LifeWeb Initiative and new donors have signalled their interest in the project.



### **Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative - GOBI**

Despite the goal of setting up a global network of marine protected areas by 2012, so far hardly any protected areas have been designated outside national territorial waters. The adoption at COP 9 of the criteria for selecting areas of special ecological interest on the open oceans can therefore be considered a major success of the Bonn meeting. This is a first step towards identifying areas with a view to their possible future designation as marine protected areas.

In order to press forward with the selection of areas in need of protection on the open oceans and deep seas, and thus with the creation of a global network of marine protected areas, the German CBD Presidency and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) launched the Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative – GOBI ([www.gobi.org](http://www.gobi.org)) for the conservation of biodiversity in open ocean and deep sea regions. This unique international partnership has brought together a global network of scientific institutions to correlate and assess the available knowledge and data on the world's oceans and seas.

One of the goals of GOBI is to give support to countries and to regional and global organisations in the use of existing data and the collection of new information, aids and methodologies for identifying marine areas of special ecological interest beyond their national sovereign territory.

GOBI also assisted in a CBD expert workshop in September 2009 for the development of guidance in applying the criteria adopted in Bonn (co-financed by Canada and Germany).

## New science-policy interface for biodiversity

Germany has long supported the establishment of an intergovernmental science-policy interface in the field of biological diversity, comparable to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change IPCC. Such a panel is needed to facilitate better informed political decision-making on the conservation of global biodiversity. Setting up the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), as the new panel is called, was thus another particular focus of the German CBD Presidency ([www.ipbes.net](http://www.ipbes.net)).



COP 9 to the CBD in Bonn instigated an intergovernmental negotiation process for the founding of such a platform, to be led by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

IPBES has now been discussed at a number of important UNEP conferences. The third and final conference took place in Busan, South Korea in June 2010, and agreed on establishing a new science-policy mechanism. The UN General Assembly is expected to confirm this decision in autumn 2010 and mandate UNEP to guide the further process and set up the secretariat structures.

Germany has provided substantial financial support for the process and sent high level representatives to all the meetings to help bring the negotiations forward. Germany will be actively involved in organising this instrument.



## TEEB Study

In the framework of the German G8 Presidency, Germany and the European Commission launched the TEEB Study (The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity). The aim of the Study was to examine the economic value of the services of nature (e.g. provision of food, drinking water, medicines, construction materials, fuels, flood protection, CO<sub>2</sub> storage), and put a figure on the costs of the destruction of nature ([www.teebweb.org](http://www.teebweb.org)).

A first TEEB interim report was presented at COP 9 in Bonn. In its second phase the TEEB Study compiles four separate reports for different target groups, to be published successively. The TEEB for Policy Makers report was published in November 2009, the TEEB for Business report appeared in July 2010 and the report for Local and Regional Policy Makers in September 2010. Recommendations for Citizens and Consumers will follow by autumn 2010. These reports will assist the respective target groups in taking biodiversity aspects into consideration in their decision-making processes, and suggest cost-efficient options for the conservation of biological diversity. The final TEEB report will be presented at the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD in Japan in 2010.



At the end of 2008, an international TEEB Central Office was established in Bonn under the auspices of UNEP, to coordinate TEEB's worldwide work and organise the communication and implementation of the TEEB findings after October 2010. The aim is to inform as many countries as possible of the results, and support them in conducting their own national analyses and studies, and in developing individual, cost-effective options for the conservation of biological diversity and ecosystems. To ensure the broadest possible dissemination of the TEEB results and methods and to promote exchange between interested parties and TEEB, Germany is financing the extension of the TEEB project to the end of 2011.

### **Strengthening links between biodiversity conservation and climate protection**

Biodiversity conservation and climate protection are two sides of the same coin. Natural ecosystems such as forests and bogs store large quantities of CO<sub>2</sub>, but their destruction and conversion is responsible for around 20% of total anthropogenic greenhouse gases worldwide. For this reason, Germany supports various initiatives to promote synergies between biodiversity conservation and climate protection.

COP 9 in Bonn decided to strengthen the implementation of the forest biodiversity programme of work and to focus on "forests and climate change". In this context, Germany financed a workshop in South-East Asia in 2009 which addressed the impacts of climate change on forest biodiversity and looked at how to combat forest biodiversity loss. A corresponding workshop will be held in Africa before the end of 2010. Furthermore, Germany supported the creation of an additional post in the CBD secretariat for the implementation of the forest programme of work for the period 2009-2011. This will increase personnel capacity for biodiversity conservation and climate protection and strengthen links between the two areas.

The UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Center is currently mapping global occurrences of natural carbon and areas of high biodiversity. This work is supported by the BMU and carried out in close cooperation with partner countries. The atlas can serve as an important planning tool for linking climate protection and biodiversity conservation ([www.carbon-biodiversity.net](http://www.carbon-biodiversity.net)).

Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in developing countries (REDD) has been incorporated into the international climate negotiations since 2005. The aim is to set up a REDD mechanism which will simultaneously reduce emissions and protect forests. The REDD Partnership, launched in May 2010, is a voluntary alliance of over 50 countries. Prior to the establishment of the REDD mechanism, these countries already want to improve the coordination of measures for preventing emissions from deforestation and curbing destructive forest use in tropical countries, and secure better financing for these measures. Within the framework of its fast-start financing for international climate protection Germany will support global forest conservation with at least 350 million euro from 2010 to 2012.



## Biological Diversity and Development

The initiative Biodiversity for Development was launched during COP 9 in Bonn ([www.cbd.int/development](http://www.cbd.int/development)), and established within the CBD Secretariat. Financed by Germany and France, the initiative aims to assist in building and supporting extensive capacity and competence in governments, private industry and civil society throughout the world. Moreover, biodiversity conservation is to be made an integral part of policies and programmes for poverty alleviation. Biological diversity is a key factor for human development and its conservation and sustainable use can play a crucial role in reducing poverty.

Working in close cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Biodiversity for Development initiative has created a basis for integrating the three CBD objectives more firmly in national and regional development policies and plans. The

initiative provides practical guidelines for incorporating biodiversity issues into policies, aids for cross-sectoral planning and financing, and case studies. Biodiversity for Development has also helped put the focus of the CBD's Strategic Plan 2010 - 2020 on poverty reduction and economic development.



## Business & Biodiversity Initiative (B & B)

The Business and Biodiversity Initiative was founded during COP 9 in Bonn. The goal of this international initiative is to intensify private sector involvement in activities for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity ([www.business-and-biodiversity.de](http://www.business-and-biodiversity.de)).

Both biodiversity loss and biodiversity conservation are linked in various ways to the corporate activities of enterprises. A wide range of economic sectors directly profit from the conservation and sustainable use of ecosystems – for instance the food, cosmetics and tourism industries. Companies can therefore play a decisive role in preserving the Earth's natural wealth as an irreplaceable resource and the foundation for competitiveness and growth.

At COP 9 in Bonn 34 internationally known companies joined the initiative by signing a Leadership Declaration in which they pledged to integrate biodiversity into their management systems.



Since COP 9 the initiative has steadily attracted new members. A Corporate Biodiversity Management Handbook has also been developed and two travelling exhibitions are currently touring the member companies.

Alongside the continuation and further development of the initiative up to the next COP, the German CBD Presidency also aimed to support the networking of all international Business and Biodiversity initiatives, such as those of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the World Business Council on Sustainable Development (WBCSD), the CBD and the European Union, to ensure concerted action in advancing the common goal and to exploit synergy effects. The adoption of the Jakarta Charter on Business and Biodiversity at a conference in December 2009 was an important step in this direction.

## Other activities of the Presidency

### Opening event for the International Year of Biodiversity in Berlin

The United Nations General Assembly declared 2010 the International Year of Biodiversity. The aim was to raise political and public awareness for the importance of biodiversity and the consequences of its loss – including for human well-being and global economic development. For there will only be comprehensive and effective action to conserve biodiversity when policy-makers and civil society realise that the destruction of nature also entails serious economic and social risks.





On 11 January 2010, as part of the German CBD Presidency, Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel and Federal Environment Minister Norbert Röttgen hosted a ceremony at Berlin's Museum für Naturkunde to launch the International Year of Biodiversity.

Other speakers at the event included the Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme UNEP, the Yemeni environment minister and then President of the G77, the vice minister of the Japanese Ministry for Environmental Protection and host of the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD, and the Executive Secretary of the CBD.

## International Biodiversity Day 2010

To mark International Biodiversity Day on 22 May 2010, Germany, together with GEO Magazine and other partners, carried out simultaneous global action days in 37 countries addressing the theme "Biodiversity and Development" ([www.biodiversity-day.info](http://www.biodiversity-day.info)). Citizens from many areas of civil society, e.g. local authorities, schools, environmental associations and companies, each studied an ecosystem and observed the services it provides for human well-being.

The global action days for biodiversity and development significantly contributed to making the economic value of biodiversity tangible for the general public. People will only become actively committed to the conservation of biological diversity when they comprehend how much they actually rely on nature and its services.

A film and a brochure have been produced as a follow-up to the action days. Both the film and the brochure "Grasping life: Global Biodiversity Action Days. A worldwide expedition to the values of nature" describe and document, in many wonderful stories and pictures, the actions taken in the different countries.



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