

MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION

Between

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

And

The United Nations Institute for Training and Research

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (hereinafter “the CBD Secretariat”) and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (hereinafter “UNITAR”),

Recalling Articles 12 and 13 of the Convention respectively addressing issues relating to research and training and public education and awareness,

Recalling also the Global Initiative on Communication, Education and Public Awareness adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention by its decision VI/19 as well as its implementation plan adopted by decision VIII/6,

Recalling further Goal 2 of the Strategic Plan of the Convention that seeks to improve, inter alia, the human, scientific and technical capacity of Parties to implement the Convention with a view to achieving a significant reduction in the current rate of biodiversity loss by 2010,

Recognizing the role, expertise and experience of UNITAR within the United Nations system in conducting training programmes in the fields of multilateral diplomacy and international affairs as well as social and economic development,

Noting the important contribution of UNITAR’s international environmental law programme in building capacities in environmental law at regional and national levels,

Aware of the role of training and education of key actors in the effective implementation of the Convention and the efforts towards the realization of the 2010 biodiversity target,

Have agreed as follows:

Article I

Objective

The objective of the present Memorandum of cooperation (hereinafter “the Memorandum”) is to enhance cooperation between the CBD Secretariat and UNITAR with a view to assisting Parties to the Convention respond to their capacity-building

needs within the framework of their efforts towards achieving the 2010 biodiversity target.

Article II

Joint Activities

1. UNITAR will assist the CBD Secretariat establish a biodiversity e-learning programme for the CBD focal points. The programme will also be available to other stakeholders, the academia and experts from the civil society. As a first step, it will focus on the international legal framework relating to biological diversity as well as relevant national legislation.
2. UNITAR will organize training workshops for CBD focal points and Government representatives on the margins of CBD meetings as well as stand-alone training sessions in collaboration with CBD scientific partners.
3. UNITAR and the CBD Secretariat will develop a training module on issues relevant to indigenous and local communities and organize training workshops for indigenous and local communities on the margins of the meetings of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8J and the Conferences of the Parties.
4. UNITAR and the CBD Secretariat will organize training workshops for officials of local authorities on issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, including best practices and lessons-learned.
5. In the Asia-Pacific region, UNITAR and the CBD Secretariat will continue their partnership in the context of the UNITAR Hiroshima Office annual Training Series in Kushiro, Japan for government officials, scholars and representatives of civil society from developing countries dealing with biological diversity in general and wetlands in particular. With the help of CBD Secretariat experts, the Series will further develop training modules for policy-makers to implement ecosystem and integrated water resource management schemas. The parties will seek cooperation with and support of leading international and academic institutions, scholars and donors working in the field, to develop a long-term capacity-building strategy.
6. UNITAR and CBD Secretariat will (a) jointly determine the focus of each training programme; and (b) regularly review and evaluate the effectiveness of the training programmes.

Article III

Focal Points

Each party will designate a focal point for the implementation of activities under this Memorandum.

Article IV

Financial Aspects

1. Joint activities under this Memorandum are subject to the availability of funding for that purpose.
2. The parties will undertake concerted fundraising initiatives for the implementation of activities under this Memorandum.

Article V

Reporting and Further Guidance

The CBD Secretariat and UNITAR will report to their respective governing bodies on progress made in the implementation of this Memorandum and seek further guidance from such bodies regarding new areas of cooperation.

Article VI

Settlement of Disputes

Any dispute between the CBD Secretariat and UNITAR arising out of the interpretation or execution of this Memorandum shall be settled by negotiation. If the parties are unable to reach agreement through such negotiation, the dispute shall be settled through arbitration in accordance with the Arbitration Rules of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) as at present in force.

Article VII

Entry into Force, Review and Termination

1. This Memorandum will enter into force upon signature by the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Executive Director of UNITAR and will remain in force up to 2010 unless earlier terminated in accordance with paragraph 3 below.
2. The CBD Secretariat and UNITAR may, by mutual agreement, review and amend this Memorandum.
3. This Memorandum may be terminated by either party giving a one-year written notice.

Signed this 28th day of March..... 2007 at Curitiba.

For and on behalf of the Secretariat of
the Convention on Biological Diversity



Ahmed Djoghlaif
Executive Secretary

For and on behalf of the United Nations
Institute for Training and Research



Carlos Lopes
Executive Director