

MEMORANDUM OF CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE SECRETARIAT
OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
AND THE WORLD BANK

May 2, 1997

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I. Introduction

The rapid development of the Convention on Biological Diversity (the Convention) reflects the importance attached to its goals of conservation, sustainable use and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the use of biodiversity. With the establishment of the major institutions of the Convention and the near universal ratification the Convention has become a key instrument for the addressing the maintenance of biodiversity. Implementation of the principles of the Convention will require the support and active participation of all those institutions whose activities have an impact on natural resources. In light of what is known about the global distribution of biodiversity and the fact that there are over 140 developing country Parties to the Convention the key challenge in translating the principles and goals of the Convention into concrete actions and deeds will be the development of relevant capacity in the developing country Parties to the Convention.

The World Bank Group (the Bank), in line with its fundamental commitment to poverty reduction and environmentally sustainable development, has a responsibility to its clients to acknowledge biodiversity conservation as a development objective and to include biodiversity concerns in their development programmes. The Bank's Biodiversity Assistance Strategy was presented to the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (the COP) in Jakarta in 1995. At the third meeting of the COP the Bank presented *Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Agricultural Development*, which represented a key policy and financial contribution to the discussion and outcomes of the thematic priorities of that meeting. The cumulative financial commitment for targeted biodiversity components in the Bank's lending portfolio totals nearly \$900 million and, with its ability to leverage additional funding sources, has totalled more than \$1.34 billion since 1988.

The Conference of the Parties to the Convention has adopted several decisions calling for co-operation between the Convention and other relevant international bodies. Decision III/21 of the third meeting of the COP, *inter alia*, requested the Executive Secretary to continue to co-ordinate with the relevant biological diversity-related institutions with a view to: facilitating the exchange of information and experience; exploring the possibility of co-ordinating their respective programmes of work; and consulting on how such bodies can contribute to the implementation of the provisions of the Convention. It also encouraged the further development of co-operative arrangements at the scientific and technical level with appropriate biological diversity-related institutions. Finally, Decision III/21 took note of document UNEP/CBD/COP/3/35 and invited the Executive Secretary to continue to investigate, in collaboration with, *inter alia*, relevant global institutions, modalities for co-operation and to report back to the COP at its fourth meeting in the light of the longer-term review of work.

This memorandum between the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (the Secretariat) and the Environment Department of the Bank is intended to facilitate collaboration and co-ordination between the World Bank and the Convention, thereby enhancing the important role

the Bank has in implementing the Convention, and to provide a mechanism for exploring opportunities for future co-operation.

The points of contact between the two organisations shall be Mr. Calestous Juma, Executive Secretary of the Convention and Mr Andrew Steer, Director of the Environment Department of the Bank.

--- H. -- Institutional Aspects of Co-operation

Aspects of institutional co-operation under discussion include:-

1. regular meetings between the relevant staff of the Secretariat and the Bank to facilitate exchange of relevant information on matters of mutual interest and concern;
2. development of links between the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention and the electronic networks of the Bank (including specific associated networks such as those developed by NGOs e.g. NESDA and the International Marine Biodiversity Network);
3. institutionalising a role for the Bank at the regular meetings of the COP by, for example, making room for a regular report on Bank activities which support the implementation of the Convention in line with Decision III/6;
4. joint notification of national level focal points for the Convention and the Bank and investigating ways and means that these focal points can operationalise co-ordination;
5. representation, where possible at relevant meetings of the two institutions, in particular, Bank representation in relevant liaison groups and/or expert meetings convened by the Secretariat, (as for example, the experts meeting on marine and coastal biodiversity held in March 1997); regional preparatory meetings for the COP; and the workshop on Article 8(j) (indigenous and local communities).
6. Bank expert and technical assistance, where appropriate, in areas of the work programme of the Convention, such as those identified by the Jakarta Mandate, including the global representative system of protected areas; issues to pursue include the Bank taking a lead agency role on appropriate issues, such as freshwater biodiversity issues;
7. exchange and/or short term secondment of staff, including interns, to address issues and problems of mutual interest and concern; and
8. collaboration with regard to the publications of both organisations. Both organisations will pursue ways in which, on the basis of reciprocity, each could assist the other in the development and review of their respective relevant papers and publications.

III. Programmatic Linkages

Areas which could provide an operational basis for developing the relationship between the Bank and the Secretariat include:-

1. Co-operation with regard to the development of relevant programmes of the Bank, such as involvement, where appropriate, of the Secretariat in the activities of: the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund Initiative; the Brazilian Rain Forest Trust Fund; the Global Overlay Programme; Regional Environmental Programmes; Forestry Market Transformation Initiative; and the Marine Market Transformation Initiative;
2. investigation of means and modalities by which support could be leveraged for capacity building at a national level to assist with the implementation of the Convention, for example, under the BIOCAP initiative, and by assistance with the work on public awareness required for the next COP; such assistance to include the utilisation of the programmes of the Economic Development Institute (EDI) on a range of relevant issues including the development of links between the CBD national focal points;
3. review of experience in the development of EA procedures as required for the fourth meeting of the COP;
4. collaboration over publications might include, on the part of the Secretariat, papers prepared for its meeting, and on the part of the Bank the updating of the Environmental Assessment Handbook and the development of the Natural Habitats and Ecosystem Management Handbook. In particular, the Global Biodiversity Outlook provides an opportunity to develop a significant joint publication which will demonstrate the opportunities and benefits of such co-operation. The Secretariat will undertake the preparation of the Outlook but will look for assistance from Bank staff with the development of ideas and concepts for the Outlook, including possible access to material under development within the Bank; in the review of draft chapters; and in the launch and distribution of the Outlook;
5. co-operation in work on incentives and leveraging general financial flows in support of the conservation of biological diversity, including discussion of the feasibility of a workshop on the possible suggestions to funding institutions to make their activities more supportive of the Convention (characteristics of biodiversity for ODA projects) identified in document UNEP/CBD/COP/3/7; there could also be investigation of ways in which technical support might be provided to the Secretariat in its work with the OECD's Development Assistance Committee on the development of accounting methods to highlight financial flows for biodiversity conservation in the DAC statistics;
6. continued co-operation on agriculture, to identify some aspects of the work programme of the Convention for which the Bank might take the lead responsibility for implementation

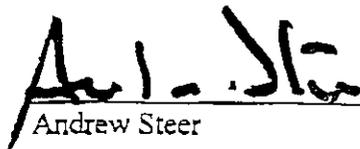
and also to develop a better understanding of a range of issues of common interest and concern including the relationship between trade and agriculture biodiversity (as required by Decision III/11, paragraph 24); and

- 7. joint co-operation on desertification in line with Decisions III/13 (paragraph 1) and III/21 (paragraph 4).



Calestous Juma

Date: May 2, 1997



Andrew Steer

Date: May 2 '97

