



## Convention on Biological Diversity

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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE  
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Seventh meeting  
Kuala Lumpur, 9-20 and 27 February 2004  
Agenda item 20

**DECISION ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION  
ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AT ITS SEVENTH MEETING**

***VII/20. Further guidance to the financial mechanism***

*The Conference of the Parties*

*Recalling* the relevant provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its decisions I/2, II/6, III/5, III/8, IV/11, IV/13, V/12, V/13, VI/16 and VI/17,

*Taking note of* the report of the Global Environment Facility (UNEP/CBD/COP/7/9), as well as the compilation of past guidance to the financial mechanism (UNEP/CBD/COP/7/INF/1),

*Urges* the Council of the Global Environment Facility to ensure participation by all Council members in its meetings,

1. *Decides* that the report from the Council of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties should be made available three months prior to an ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties as well as with updates as appropriate, and in accordance with rules 28 and 54 of the Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Conference of the Parties, the Executive Secretary should make it available in all six United Nations languages;

2. *Decides* to provide the following additional guidance to the Global Environment Facility in the provision of financial resources, in accordance with Article 20 and Article 21, paragraph 1 of the Convention and in conformity with decisions I/2, II/6, III/5, IV/13, V/13 and VI/17 of the Conference of the Parties. In this regard, the Global Environment Facility shall provide financial resources to developing country Parties, taking into account the special needs of the least developed countries and the small island developing States amongst them, for country-driven activities and programmes, consistent with national priorities and objectives and in accordance with the mandate of the Global Environment Facility, recognizing that economic and social development and poverty eradication are the first and overriding priorities of developing countries, and taking fully into consideration all relevant decisions from the Conference of the Parties;

***Marine and coastal biological diversity***

3. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility, other funding institutions, and development agencies to provide financial support for the implementation of the elaborated programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity;

***Monitoring and indicators***

4. *Recognizes* that the development and use of indicators, particularly in the development phase, requires a financial and technical commitment from Parties, and therefore *requests* the financial mechanism and *encourages* bilateral and multilateral funding agencies to assist developing countries, in particular the least developed and small island developing States among them, and countries with economies in transition through the provision of financial assistance and training, as required and as appropriate, to develop and implement effective biodiversity indicators;

***Ecosystem approach***

5. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility, in accordance with its mandate, and other funding institutions and development agencies to provide financial support for the implementation of the ecosystem approach, in accordance with decision VII/11;

***Biological diversity and climate change***

6. *Requests* the financial mechanism, in accordance with its mandate, and *invites* other sources to provide financial support to developing country Parties, in particular the least developed and small island developing States among them, and countries with economies in transition, where appropriate, for:

(a) Country-driven activities, including pilot projects, aimed at projects related to ecosystem conservation, restoration of degraded lands and marine environments and overall ecosystem integrity that take into account impacts of climate change;

(b) Assistance in capacity-building with the aim of increasing the effectiveness in addressing environmental issues through their commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, *inter alia*, by applying the ecosystem approach;

(c) Assistance in developing synergy-oriented programmes to conserve and sustainably manage all ecosystems, such as forests, wetlands and marine environments, that also contribute to poverty eradication;

***Global Taxonomy Initiative***

7. *Invites* Parties, other Governments, regional and international organizations to take full account of the importance of taxonomic capacities in achieving the goals of the Convention, to support taxonomic activities to attain the 2010 target, and to provide all necessary support to national, and where appropriate regional, taxonomic centres of research and expertise; and *urges* the Parties, other Governments and the Global Environment Facility, in accordance with its mandate, and other relevant funding organizations to provide adequate and timely support to developing countries to assist in the implementation of the Global Taxonomy Initiative, and for integrating taxonomic capacity-building activities into thematic and cross-cutting programmes, including supporting activities and projects, such as, where appropriate, stand-alone capacity-building projects;

### ***Sustainable use***

8. *Invites* Parties and Governments, in collaboration with the Global Environment Facility and other relevant organizations, including the private sector, to develop and transfer technologies and provide financial support to assist in the implementation of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines at the national level to ensure that the use of biological diversity is sustainable;

### ***Invasive alien species***

9. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility, in accordance with its mandate, other funding institutions and development agencies to provide financial support to developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States among them, and countries with economies in transition, to assist in the improved prevention, rapid response and management measures to address threats of alien invasive species;

### ***Protected areas***

10. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility, respecting national targets and priorities, to support the implementation of the programme of work, and in particular to:

(a) In collaboration with other donors, encourage increased support to address the long-term financial sustainability of protected areas, including through different mechanisms and instruments, to help achieve the target of securing, by 2008, sufficient resources to meet the costs to effectively implement and manage national and regional systems of protected areas;

(b) Further develop its portfolio on protected areas towards comprehensive, representative and effectively managed protected area systems addressing system wide needs; and

(c) Support country driven early action by continuing to streamline its procedures and the provision of fast disbursing resources through expedited means;

### ***Strategic Plan***

11. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility, in accordance with its mandate, to provide adequate and timely support to developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States among them, and Parties with economies in transition, as appropriate for the implementation of activities to achieve and monitor progress towards the goals and targets identified in the framework for evaluation of progress towards implementation of the Strategic Plan of the Convention, in accordance with decision VII/30;

### ***Technology transfer and cooperation***

12. Decides that based on needs and priorities identified by developing country Parties and countries with economies in transition, the Global Environment Facility, in accordance with its mandate and in collaboration with other interested funding agencies, shall, as appropriate, provide adequate and timely financial support for the implementation of the programme of work on technology transfer and technological and scientific cooperation, consistent with Articles 16 to 20 of the Convention, and in particular for:

(a) Building policy, legal, judicial and administrative capacity;

(b) Facilitating access to relevant proprietary technologies;

(c) Providing other financial and non-financial incentives for the diffusion of relevant technologies;

(d) Building capacities of, and empowering, indigenous and local communities and all relevant stakeholders with respect to access to and use of relevant technologies;

(e) Improving the capacity of national research institutions in developing countries and countries with economies in transition for the development of technologies, as well as for adaptation, diffusion and the further development of imported technologies consistent with their transfer agreement and international law including through fellowships and international exchange programmes;

(f) Supporting the development and operation of regional or international initiatives to assist technology transfer and cooperation as well as scientific and technical cooperation, including those initiatives designed to facilitate South-South cooperation and South-South joint development of new technologies and also such cooperation among countries with economies in transition;

### ***Millennium Development Goals***

13. *Urges* Parties, Governments, international financial institutions, donors, and relevant intergovernmental organizations, as a contribution towards the Millennium Development Goals, to implement development activities in ways that are consistent with, and do not compromise, the achievement of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the 2010 target, including by improving environmental policies in relevant development agencies and sectors such as through integrating concerns relating to biodiversity and the Millennium Development Goals more directly into environmental impact assessments, strategic environmental assessments and other such tools, including at the national level through the national strategies for sustainable development and the poverty reduction strategies and programmes, and *invites* the Global Environment Facility to support capacity-building activities in developing countries for this purpose;

### ***National reporting***

14. *Encourages* Parties, Governments, relevant bilateral, regional and multilateral organizations, and the Global Environment Facility to collaborate to strengthen the various capacities of Parties, particularly developing country Parties and countries with economies in transition, to prepare their future national and thematic reports;

15. *Further encourages* Parties, Governments, relevant bilateral, regional and multilateral organizations, and the Global Environment Facility, to analyse the progress of Parties, particularly developing country Parties and countries with economies in transition, in implementing the Convention, in relation to those areas identified as a priority by those countries, in order to *inter alia* assist them in the preparation of their future national reports;

16. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility to explore ways to expedite and simplify its procedures for allocating funds to the eligible countries to prepare their national reports to fulfil their reporting obligations under the Convention;

17. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility to provide the necessary financial support to facilitate the preparation of the third national reports by the Parties;

### ***Education and public awareness***

18. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility, in accordance with its mandate, and other donor organizations to provide funding to developing countries, particularly the least developed and small island developing States among them, and countries with economies in transition for the implementation of their national communication, education and public-awareness programmes and activities;

### ***Access to genetic resources and fair and equitable sharing of benefits***

19. *Reiterates* its guidance to the Global Environment Facility, as the institutional structure operating the financial mechanism of the Convention, to provide financial resources for country-driven projects based on national priorities that assist with the implementation of the Action Plan in support of the implementation of the Bonn Guidelines on Access to Genetic Resources and Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising out of their Utilization, and further requests the Global Environment Facility, in accordance with its mandate, to support capacity-building regarding the transfer of technologies which enables providers to fully appreciate and actively participate in benefit-sharing arrangements at the stage of granting access permits;

### ***Biosafety***

*Welcoming* the biosafety capacity-building initiatives of the Global Environment Facility and its implementing agencies,

*Recognizing* the need to ensure that guidance to the financial mechanism will support in a balanced manner the objectives of the Convention and its Protocol,

*Stressing* the need for mutual information, coordinated action and regular monitoring in order to avoid duplication and to identify gaps and possible synergies because of the multitude of different actors undertaking various capacity-building initiatives, and for an active role the Executive Secretary should play in promoting this process,

*Confirming* that the arrangements between the Conference of the Parties and the Council of the Global Environment Facility provided for in the Memorandum of Understanding adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its third meeting will apply, *mutatis mutandis*, for purposes of the Cartagena Protocol,

20. *Decides* to provide the following guidance to the Global Environment Facility to be implemented in a timely manner;

21. *Decides also* upon the following eligibility criteria for funding by the Global Environment Facility:

(a) All developing countries, in particular the least developed and small island developing States among them, and countries with economies in transition, including countries amongst these that are centres of origin and centres of genetic diversity, which are Parties to the Protocol, are eligible for funding by the Global Environment Facility in accordance with its mandate;

(b) All developing countries, in particular the least developed and small island developing States among them, and countries with economies in transition, including countries amongst these that are centres of origin and centres of genetic diversity, which are Parties to the Convention and provide a clear political commitment towards becoming Parties to the Protocol, shall also be eligible for funding by the Global Environment Facility for the development of national biosafety frameworks and the

development of national biosafety clearing-houses and other necessary institutional capabilities to enable a non-Party to become a Party. Evidence of such political commitment shall take the form of a written assurance to the Executive Secretary that the country intends to become a Party to the Protocol on completion of the activities to be funded;

22. *Stresses* that the provision of financial resources by the Global Environment Facility shall be for country-driven activities and programmes consistent with their national priorities and objectives;

23. *Invites* developed country Parties, Governments, the Global Environment Facility, other donor agencies and relevant organizations to provide financial support and other assistance to developing country Parties, in particular the least developed and the small island developing States among them, and Parties with economies in transition, including countries amongst these that are centres of origin and centres of genetic diversity, to develop and implement capacity-building activities, including organization of national, regional and inter-regional capacity building workshops and preparatory meetings;

24. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility to extend support for demonstration projects on implementation of the national biosafety frameworks to other eligible countries;

25. *Urges* the Global Environment Facility to ensure a rapid implementation of its initial strategy for assisting countries to prepare for the ratification and implementation of the Protocol, and to support capacity-building for the establishment of national components of the Biosafety Clearing-House in a flexible manner, and to provide additional support for the development and/or strengthening of existing national and regional centres for training; regulatory institutions; risk assessment and risk management; infrastructure for the detection, testing, identification and long-term monitoring of living modified organisms; legal advice; decision-making; handling of socio-economic considerations; awareness-raising and technology transfer for biosafety;

26. *Notes* that the role of the Global Environment Facility, in accordance with its mandate, in the Action Plan for Building Capacities for the Effective Implementation of the Protocol, adopted by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety at its first meeting, includes:

(a) Providing funding and other assistance to build necessary legislative and administrative frameworks, and for training in risk assessment and risk management;

(b) Deciding on further areas for financial support for capacity-building in accordance with the identified priority needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, responses to the questionnaires, the outcomes of inter-sessional workshops, and its previous pilot project on biosafety;

(c) Implementing the GEF Strategy to Assist Countries to Ratify and Implement the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;

(d) Facilitating the provision of technical support; and

(e) Facilitating the use of existing and developing regional networks.

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