



Convention on Biological Diversity

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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Eleventh meeting

Hyderabad, India, 8-19 October 2012

Agenda item 13.8

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

XI/27. Biofuels and biodiversity

The Conference of the Parties

Recalling decisions IX/2 and X/37, in which the Conference of the Parties decided, *inter alia*, to consider ways and means to promote the positive and minimize or avoid the negative impacts of the production and use of biofuels on biodiversity,

Acknowledging concerns that the deployment of biofuel technologies may result in increased demand for biomass and aggravate drivers of biodiversity loss, such as land-use change, introduction of invasive alien species, bearing in mind paragraph 6 of decision X/38 of the Conference of the Parties, and resource over-consumption,

Acknowledging also the potential for biofuel technologies to make a positive contribution to mitigating climate change, another of the main drivers of biodiversity loss, and generating additional income, especially in rural areas,

Recalling the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),

Recognizing that consideration of the issues covered by decision X/37, paragraph 2, is important to achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets,

1. *Welcomes* the efforts of many Parties, relevant organizations and initiatives to develop and apply tools and approaches to promote the positive and minimize or avoid the negative impacts of biofuels on biodiversity and impacts on biodiversity that affect positively or negatively related socio-economic conditions, including food and energy security, as well as the consideration of land tenure and resource rights, including water, and *encourages* continuing efforts in these areas;

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2. *Invites* Parties to:
 - (a) Consider relevant biofuel matters, when and if appropriate, when updating and implementing their national and subnational biodiversity strategies and action plans and other relevant policies;
 - (b) Consider the use of various relevant voluntary tools regarding the impact of the production and use of biofuels on biodiversity, such as in strategic environment and socio-economic assessment and integrated land-use planning in accordance with national circumstances; and
 - (c) Recall the invitation to Parties, acknowledging different national conditions, other Governments and relevant organizations contained in decision X/37, paragraph 7;
3. *Welcomes* the current work being undertaken regarding decision X/37, paragraph 7 and *encourages* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to continue this work;
4. *Invites* Parties and other Governments to make information on progress in responding to paragraphs 2 (a), (b) and (c) widely available, and *invites* Parties to also report on this in their fifth national reports, where feasible;
5. *Recognizing* that some incentive measures can be significant drivers of biofuels expansion, in certain circumstances, *invites* Parties and other Governments to evaluate these measures using the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, in the context of the Convention's cross-cutting issue on incentive measures, taking into account national socio-economic conditions;
6. *Recognizing also* the rapidly developing technology associated with biofuels, *urges* Parties and other Governments to monitor these developments, and *recalls* decision IX/2, paragraph 3 (c) (i), which urged Parties and invited other Governments, *inter alia*, to apply the precautionary approach in accordance with the preamble of the Convention on Biological Diversity;
7. *Takes note* of the progress report by the Executive Secretary on his work in response to decision X/37, submitted to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/14), and *requests* the Executive Secretary to continue to compile information, *inter alia*, on gaps in available standards and methodologies identified in the work undertaken in accordance with paragraph 11 of decision X/37;
8. *Also takes note* of gaps in scientific knowledge of biofuels and in relevant tools and approaches, and remaining uncertainties, in particular the inherent difficulty of measuring and addressing indirect impacts of biofuels on biodiversity; and
9. *Further takes note* that many technical and scientific issues associated with biofuels are difficult to assess and that they are relevant to many programmes of work of the Convention, in particular the ecosystem approach, and that these may be addressed in a broader context;
10. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, as part of his ongoing work with regard to decision X/37, in collaboration with Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations, and considering ongoing work, to compile information on relevant definitions of relevant key terms to enable Parties to implement decisions IX/2 and X/37, and to report on progress to a meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice prior to the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
11. *Decides* to review progress on the implementation of decisions IX/2 and X/37 at its twelfth meeting.