



Achieving the
2010
Biodiversity
Target

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity



CBD

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HEADS OF AGENCIES TASK FORCE ON
THE 2010 BIODIVERSITY TARGET
First meeting
Gland, 15 September 2006

REPORT

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

1. The meeting was opened by the Chair, Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, Acting Director General, IUCN – The World Conservation Union. After welcoming the participants he reported on his recent meetings in New York with the President of the UN General Assembly and a number of delegations, including on the Secretary General's proposal to incorporate the 2010 Biodiversity Target as a new target under Goal 7 of the Millennium Development Goals. He encouraged a joint approach among the agencies participating in the meeting to support the proposal. Moreover, he said that independently of the outcomes of this proposal, major efforts would be required from everyone to contribute to the achievement of the 2010 Biodiversity Target.

2. Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director of UNEP, said that the adoption of the 2010 Biodiversity Target and its subsequent endorsement by the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the United Nations General Assembly had helped to provide a focus for the environmental agenda. It had also helped to realize the need for collective efforts among agencies. Nevertheless, unlike climate change the concept of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity was not well understood and was difficult to communicate. He therefore called agencies to reach beyond their usual constituencies and to use a variety of tools to engage the public and decision makers. He referred to the Countdown 2010 Initiative as a successful campaign on which to build in order to lift biodiversity "out of the basement vault" and to create the necessary publicity. Concerning the difficulties of assessing and communicating progress, Mr. Steiner made reference to the 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership coordinated by UNEP-WCMC and said that a credible framework for measuring progress was within reach. He was optimistic that significant progress can be made because the relevant partnerships had been established, the urgency had been realized and resources were being made available.

3. Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the CBD, thanked IUCN for hosting this meeting. He expressed his gratitude to all participants for accepting the invitation to this first meeting of the Heads of Agency Task Force. On behalf of the CBD he paid tribute to Mr. Steiner and to the contribution of UNEP. He referred to the commitment of Heads of State to the 2010 Biodiversity Target and the challenge this presented at all levels, including the United Nations system and civil society. He acknowledged the significant contribution of the Countdown 2010 Initiative to raising awareness about the 2010 Biodiversity Target and referred to the findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and of Global Biodiversity Outlook 2 in identifying key activities needed to achieve the target. He concluded that while Governments need to make additional efforts the same was true for the agencies, who would need to demonstrate their ability to coordinate activities and to collaborate.



4. The agenda for the meeting was adopted. A list of participants is contained in Annex 1 to this report.

ITEM 2. OVERVIEW OF AGENCIES ACTIVITIES FOR ACHIEVING THE 2010 BIODIVERSITY TARGET

5. Mr. Bridgewater reported on the outcomes of the Fifth meeting of the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-Related Conventions, which was hosted by the Ramsar Convention the previous day (Gland, 14 September 2006). He said that this meeting had been the most effective and detailed of the Liaison Group meetings held to date. He reported that discussions had centred on the achievement of the 2010 Biodiversity Target and the need to better engage the public by improving the conventions' outreach activities both individually and collectively. It had also been agreed to embark on a collective planning process for the decade beyond 2010. Other subjects discussed included the assessment of progress towards the 2010 Biodiversity Target; the applicability of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines on Sustainable Use; progress made in the implementation of the programme of work on protected areas; cooperation among the scientific bodies of the conventions; knowledge management and capacity development and technical assistance for achieving the 2010 Biodiversity Target. He also reported on the preparations of the 2007 International Biodiversity Day under the theme of "climate change and biodiversity".

6. Mr. Djoghlaif informed the meeting about the proposal, expected to be submitted to the UN General Assembly, to declare 2010 as the International Year on Biodiversity. He urged participants to support this idea among their constituencies. He reported on a meeting of museums, botanic gardens and scientific institutions, held the previous week (Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, Richmond, UK, 9 September 2006), at which major scientific institutions had agreed to prepare exhibits and educational material which can be made shared to promote a sense of urgency vis-à-vis the 2010 Biodiversity Target.

7. Mr. Thiaw alluded to the importance of using the appropriate language and tools to address the public and relevant stakeholders and the need to link messages to experiences from the daily life. He then invited the agencies to provide a brief overview of current and planned activities to support achievement of the 2010 Biodiversity Target.

8. Mr. Wijnstekers provided an overview of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) and said it aimed at reducing biodiversity loss by ensuring the non-detrimental trade in species. He reported that the 2010 Biodiversity Target is not yet well embedded in the work of the Convention and that the only references made to the target are in decisions 13.1 and 13.2. He also said that the CITES constituency is not generally familiar with the Millennium Development Goals. For this reason, activities under the header of the 2010 Biodiversity Target are rather limited. To increase the engagement it would be important that the Convention be fully involved in developments until 2010 and plans beyond 2010. An opportunity for increasing the participation of CITES is presented by the ongoing work of the Strategic Plan Working Group, a subcommittee of the Standing Committee, which is tasked to develop a proposal for a Strategic Vision and Action Plan through 2013.

9. Mr. Hepworth said that the 2010 Biodiversity Target is central to the work under the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS). CMS COP-8 (November 2005) had been held under the slogan "on the move to 2010" and the CMS Strategic Plan 2006-2011 represents the Convention's planned contribution to achieving the 2010 target and seeks to ensure that the benefits of migratory species to ecosystems and human well-being will continue for present and future generations. Nevertheless, he felt that the concept of biodiversity is not well understood. Using an illustrated flow-chart he provided an overview of

CMS activities, and linking the Convention's programme directly to the attainment of the 2010 Biodiversity Targets. The Convention is focusing on charismatic species because the public can relate to them. CMS is currently preparing the Year of the Dolphin 2007 Campaign, which will involve significant media events and benefits from the collaboration with a major tour operator. Mr. Hepworth emphasized the need for small organizations with a limited budget like CMS to collaborate with partners. He said the focus on the 2010 Biodiversity Target and their possible incorporation into the Millennium Development Goals is an excellent opportunity for strengthen partnerships and collaborate to achieve a common objective.

10. Mr. Müller reported that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) had not signed the Memorandum of Understanding Between Agencies to Support the Achievement of the 2010 Biodiversity Target but is fully committed to its objectives. He drew attention to the links between conservation and sustainable use as the basis of food security and hence the need to fully consider biodiversity, including agricultural biodiversity, in the efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Activities would need to find a balance between protection and production. He reported that in its current biennium FAO had dedicated US\$ 19 million to activities contributing to the achievement of the 2010 Biodiversity Target and another US\$ 33 million with direct relevance to biodiversity. As an example, he referred to studies on the avian influenza in a globalized poultry industry and its impacts on local farmers and on biodiversity. He informed the meeting that FAO is a partner in the 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership and carries out projects aimed at achieving the 2010 Biodiversity Target.

11. Mr. Frison reaffirmed the commitment of the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI) to the objectives of the Memorandum of Understanding and the 2010 Biodiversity Target. He informed the meeting that, as of 1 December 2006, IPGRI would change its name to Bioversity International to reflect its focus beyond Plant Genetic Resources. He said IPGRI's work covers agricultural biodiversity in the broader sense and how it contributes to rural livelihoods. He reported that the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture provided a fundamental instrument for the centres of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research associated with the conservation of genetic resources. He informed the meeting about current activities including: the development, in collaboration with FAO, of a set of good practices and approaches to maintain on-farm crop diversity and to conserve crop wild relatives through appropriate ecosystem and habitat planning; GEF projects on sustainable use with a focus to combat pests and diseases while reducing the use of pesticides; work on underutilized plants to increase food security and improve health; support at the national level for the integration of policies to implement the Treaty and the CBD following the adoption within the Treaty of the standard material transfer agreement and the negotiations of an International Regime on Access and Benefit-sharing under the CBD; work, in collaboration with FAO and Botanic Gardens Conservation International on the implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation. He said the 2010 Biodiversity Target is embedded in the programme of work of IPGRI. He argued that agricultural biodiversity should be seen as a tool for conservation, not as its antagonist, and said the challenge is to intensify agriculture without reducing biodiversity and simplifying systems.

12. Mr. Bridgewater reported that it is a central objective of Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands to contribute to the achievement of the 2010 Biodiversity Target and other relevant provisions including the World Summit on Sustainable Development targets on water and sanitation, relevant provisions for the World Water Forum and the Millennium Development Goals. The wise use of wetlands is at the core of activities and sites designated as Ramsar Wetlands of International Importance can therefore be considered as protected areas in the wider sense. He argued that the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment conceptual framework and the focus on ecosystem services could provide a basis for marketing the role of biodiversity

as delivering ecosystem services. Mr. Davidson reported on the work on ecological outcome-oriented indicators for assessing the implementation effectiveness of the Ramsar Convention. He said that besides detecting biodiversity trends it is important to identify the individual drivers of change and to include success stories, for example where the introduction of a piece of legislation has had positive consequences for biodiversity conservation. In his experience, such story lines were particularly powerful because the public can relate to them. He also drew attention to the Ramsar Handbooks for the Wise Use of Wetlands (the Ramsar 'Toolkit') which include various guidelines that have been adopted by the Conference of the Contracting Parties to assist wetland managers, national authorities, and others in implementing the Convention's mission and objectives.

13. Mr. Assunção conveyed the apologies of Dr. Supachai Panitchpakdi, Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), who had commitments at the UN General Assembly. He reported on UNCTAD's BioTrade Initiative as a concrete contribution to the achievement of the 2010 Biodiversity Target. Biotrade refers to activities of collection, production, transformation, and commercialization of goods and services derived from native biodiversity (genetic resources, species and ecosystems), under criteria of environmental, social and economic sustainability. Biotrade is therefore an attempt for trade to have positive impacts on biodiversity. The BioTrade Initiative provides an opportunity to strengthen the fragmented sector of small and medium-size producers and to mitigate the adverse effects of large businesses. Within the Initiative, UNCTAD works with Governments and applied research centres and seeks to ensure adequate remuneration for sustainable production. The Initiative is based on voluntary standards involving third party verification, but does not involve a certification/labelling scheme because this would exclude small producers. He said that for products to be marketable, the critical factor was not a competitive price but ensuring uniform and high quality and thereby acquiring a positive reputation. He reported that, based on this experience, UNCTAD is currently establishing a programme to assist multilateral environmental agreements on incentives, trade and the private sector partnerships. In the coming months UNCTAD intends to host an informal workshop to discuss challenges in the developing and implementing their respective programmes of work on biodiversity policy and the economy.

14. Ms. Giorgetta conveyed the apologies of Dr. Marcel Boisard, Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). Elaborating on comments regarding public awareness, she mentioned that during a recent fellowship programme on environmental law participants criticized UNITAR for dedicating too much time to biodiversity training. She said this demonstrates the lack of understanding about the importance of the subject and the need to raise awareness of decision makers about the vital significance of biodiversity. Although UNITAR's work programme does not explicitly refer to the 2010 Biodiversity Target, the Institute provided various substantive training activities on biodiversity-related issues. Since 1998 UNITAR organizes a series of workshops on the implementation of MEAs related to biodiversity. Ms. Giorgetta said participants were carefully selected to act as multipliers as the activities enshrine a training of trainers component. The CBD and Ramsar Secretariats have provided continuous support to the organization of the training activities in the Asia-Pacific region. Ms. Giorgetta also reported on a project being implemented in the Mahakam Delta, Indonesia where UNITAR is conducting capacity-building activities for local authorities and local communities, focusing on ecological rehabilitation – mangrove reforestation – and local economic development. She also mentioned a series of thematic workshops on integrated coastal management and water resource management. UNOSAT, a UNITAR operational programme, has been providing expertise to facilitate the implementation of the CBD using geographic information derived from satellite imagery. Several projects were jointly implemented with UNEP and UNDP, contributing to biodiversity assessment and monitoring in various countries. In addition to face-to-face training, UNITAR also implements distance-learning and in 2003

launched a web-based platform to deliver e-learning courses. Currently, UNITAR is discussing with the CBD Secretariat the development and implementation of an e-learning course for CBD National Focal Points, which may be followed by a series of hands-on workshops. UNITAR also implements training activities to strengthening the capacities of indigenous peoples. Indigenous representatives from around the world were trained on conflict analysis and negotiation and are applying this training to their involvement in the CBD process. CBD Programme Officers for Article 8(j) have been invited to participate in these training activities. All UNITAR projects are self-funded and funding is the major bottleneck to enlarging the scope of its activities.

15. Mr. Arico reported that the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) adheres to the 2010 Biodiversity Target although internal procedures have prevented the organization from joining the Memorandum of Understanding at this stage. Activities that directly contribute to the achievement of the 2010 Biodiversity Target or to assess the progress made include: initiatives on landscape level planning and marine spatial planning; contribution to the coordination of the International Scientific Assessment on Agricultural Science and Technology for Development; the contribution of UNESCO, Diversitas and others to the implementation of the GEO 2007-2009 work plan; contribution to a comprehensive and effectively-managed network of protected areas through the networks of World Heritage sites and Biosphere Reserves; activities under the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014); contribution to the Consultative process towards an International Mechanism of Scientific Expertise on Biodiversity (IMoSEB). Over the coming years the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization intends to strengthen activities related the interlinkages between biodiversity and other forms of diversity in the context of implementation of the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity and the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions adopted in 2005. Ethical questions related to biodiversity conservation, sustainable use and benefit-sharing are among the issues to be addressed in the coming years through UNESCO's Bioethics Programme.

16. Mr. Hutton said the World Conservation Monitoring Centre of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP-WCMC) is part of UNEP's Division of Early Warning and Assessment and provides technical support to many partners. He reported that UNEP-WCMC has an agreement with the CBD and had just agreed on a joint work plan that included activities related to the 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership. Within this Partnership, UNEP-WCMC supports the work of organizations that have taken the lead on indicators contained in the flexible framework for assessing progress towards the 2010 Biodiversity Target. He indicated that the support provided by the Global Environment Facility and funds available within the organizations is primarily used to develop the indicators that require substantive work. He was concerned that this means that there is insufficient support to improve those indicators that are already operational and argued that additional resources need to be mobilized to establish a credible system for monitoring progress towards the 2010 Biodiversity Target.

17. Mr. Hough reported on the efforts of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) since CBD COP-6 to ensure the alignment of the 2010 Biodiversity Target with the Millennium Development Goals and informed the meeting about the time table for discussing the Secretary General's proposal to incorporate the 2010 Biodiversity Target as a new target under Goal 7 of the Millennium Development Goals. He said UNDP's activities focus on support to national implementation. This includes support to countries to follow up on the targets adopted by the World Summit on Sustainable Development and to support implementation of national strategies for achieving the Millennium Development Goals including by ensuring that biodiversity is embedded in these strategies. Currently UNDP is providing around US\$ 1.4 billion in support to biodiversity projects in developing countries. He agreed that indicators for assessing biodiversity-outcomes are essential and was therefore concerned that while they exist globally

they do not generally do so at the national level. In designing national indicators it is important to embed data reporting in national statistical offices if biodiversity is to be mainstreamed because these provide the foundation for national development reporting.

18. Mr. Leape said it is difficult to list those aspects among the activities of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) that are particularly relevant to supporting the achievement of the 2010 Biodiversity Target because all projects and programmes of WWF family are dedicated to maintaining a living planet. However, he wanted to share three points in particular. Firstly, he said WWF's work focuses on ecoregions, i.e., large units of land or water including managed and protected areas. To support their conservation and sustainable management, WWF collaborates with and supports small and medium-size enterprises engaged in poverty alleviation with a focus on payment for ecosystem services. Within this context, WWF is developing a new US\$ 10 million initiative to support implementation of the CBD programme of work on protected areas in selected ecoregions. Secondly, he said WWF promotes global markets for conservation, including through certification schemes such as the Forest Stewardship Council and the Marine Stewardship Council, and more recently the development of best practices for specific agricultural and aquaculture products (oil palm, soybean, shrimps) and the production of biofuel. Thirdly, with regard to indicators WWF is actively engaged in the Conservation Measures Partnership and also participates in the 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership. The Living Planet Report – the 2006 version to be published shortly – provides an update on the state of the world's ecosystems using two main indicators which are also among the agreed indicators for assessing progress towards the 2010 Biodiversity Target.

19. Mr. Djoghlafl reported that the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) had entered in a phase of enhanced implementation. This involves a range of activities including the collaboration with UNEP-WCMC and UNITAR on training and capacity development and work with key scientific institutions on education and public awareness. It also provides a clear focus to the programmes of implementation agencies of the Global Environment Facility. He said that major challenges include the mainstreaming of biodiversity into national strategies and their integration into economic sectors and acknowledge the key role of UNDP in this field. To reach out and engage different segments of civil society, he has designated within the CBD Secretariat focal points for business, non-governmental organizations, local authorities, women, youth.

20. Mr. Steiner emphasized the need to increase interactions with private sector, including agriculture and trade. He recognized the multitude of initiatives relevant to the 2010 Biodiversity Target but observed that they appeared to have limited effects. He said that although we have recognized the problem and, in principle, know about the solutions the collective efforts to not add up to achieving a reduction in the rate of biodiversity loss. He outlined UNEP's role as orchestrating the elevation of individual programmes of work onto a common platform by improving the interface between institutions.

21. Mr. Jackson said that achieving Goal 7 of the Millennium Development Goals (“ensure environmental sustainability”) is critical for achieving all other Goals and biodiversity is critical for achieving Goal 7. He identified the need to mobilize political and public support for the 2010 Biodiversity Target agenda. He indicated that the whole programme of IUCN contributes to the achievement of the 2010 Biodiversity Target. He cited the Countdown 2010 Initiative launched by IUCN as a useful approach. The Initiative has created a powerful network of some 100 active partners in Europe and, through simple and clear messages, has managed to get the buy-in from a wide range of actors. It would be important to expand this approach beyond Europe. He also referred to IUCN's work on the toolkit on education, communication and public awareness for National Focal Points of the CBD, which is under development and is expected to increase the ability to reach wider audiences within the countries. He saw the need to strengthen the link between biodiversity and the development agenda. The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment had

demonstrated that the consequences of biodiversity loss and ecosystem disruption are often harshest for the rural poor, who depend most immediately upon local ecosystem services and who are least able to afford or access substitutes. He therefore mentioned IUCN's Poverty and Conservation Initiative. He also emphasized the importance of science-based decision making. This could be supported by focusing on knowledge management and making data more widely accessible. He reported that IUCN, particularly the Species Survival Commission, is an active partner in the 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership. He also thought that there was a need to improve the set of indicators for assessing the progress made towards Goal 7 of the MDGs.

ITEM 3. MODUS OPERANDI OF THE TASK FORCE

22. The meeting agreed to regard the Heads of Agencies Task Force to Support the Achievement of the 2010 Biodiversity Target as separate from the Environmental Management Group of the United Nations.

23. The meeting further agreed that agencies have different strategies to achieve their objectives and that it is therefore not desirable to develop an overarching work programme but instead to operate in a flexible way using the agencies' different mandates to accentuate the 2010 Biodiversity Target and to achieve a common goal.

24. To facilitate intersessional work and discussions, the CBD Secretariat would maintain and moderate a listserv or equivalent. Each agency should nominate (a) focal point(s) for the intersessional work of the partnership.

25. It was agreed to prepare elements for a press release that each agency could use as part of their work to support the 2010 Biodiversity Target and their incorporation into the Millennium Development Goals. It was agreed that a coordinated release of messages from different agencies at an agreed date would likely receive the attention of the media.

ITEM 4. WORK PROGRAMME OF THE TASK FORCE

26. The meeting agreed to focus on three main issues:

- (a) Promoting the inclusion of 2010 Biodiversity Target in the Millennium Development Goals as a way of mainstreaming biodiversity into the broader sustainable development agenda and related work on indicators;
- (b) Communication, education, public awareness and outreach to increase understanding about biodiversity and the 2010 Biodiversity Target as a key component of capacity development; and
- (c) Increased interagency collaboration on specific issues in a flexible way.

27. On item (a) it was agreed that members of the task force will support the inclusion of the 2010 Biodiversity Target into the MDG framework as proposed in the report of the United Nations Secretary General to the 61st UN General Assembly. A strategy will be prepared to facilitate the activities of members of the task force in this regard, including any communication products needed.

28. On item (b) members of the task force agreed to identify focal points on communication to send their names to the CBD Secretariat and to IUCN by 22 September 2006. The group of communicators will develop a strategy, including common messages, that could be used with each agency's constituencies to profile the 2010 target, and will report back to the Task Force. The group will consider the possibility of developing a joint webpage as part of the strategy. The group was advised to draw when appropriate from the successful approaches undertaken by the IUCN Countdown 2010 Initiative.

29. On item (c) it was agreed that the meeting provided an excellent platform for identifying areas of common interest and specific activities that would benefit from bilateral or multilateral cooperation among the participating agencies.

ITEM 5. DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE TASK FORCE

30. The date for the next meeting was tentatively set for 14 September 2007, and would possibly be co-hosted by Ramsar and WWF.

ITEM 6. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

31. Following the customary exchange of courtesies the meeting closed at 4:15 pm on 15 September 2006.

*Annex 1***List of participants***Convention on Biological Diversity*

Ahmed Djoghlaif
Robert Höft
Jaime Webbe

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

Willem Wijnstekers

Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

Rob Hepworth
Paola Deda

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Alexander Müller

International Plant Genetic Resources Institute / Bioversity International

Emile Frison

IUCN – The World Conservation Union

Ibrahim Thiaw
Martha Chouchena-Rojas
Bill Jackson
Jeff McNeely
Sebastian Winkler
Tamás Marghescu
Sonia Peña Moreno
Sandra Tobler

Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

Peter Bridgewater
Nick Davidson
Margarita Astralaga

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Lucas Assunção
Rik Kutsch Lojenga

United Nations Development Programme

John Hough

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Salvatore Arico

United Nations Environment Programme
Achim Steiner

United Nations Institute for Training and Research
Sueli Giorgetta

World Conservation Monitoring Centre of the United Nations Environment Programme
Jon Hutton

World Wide Fund for Nature
James Leape
Gordon Shepherd
