



Convention on
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FIRST MEETING OF THE INFORMAL LIAISON
GROUP ON BIOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL
DIVERSITY FOR THE JOINT PROGRAMME
OF WORK ON BIOLOGICAL AND
CULTURAL DIVERSITY OF THE
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL
DIVERSITY AND UNESCO

First meeting
New York,
28 April – 29 April 2012

**REPORT OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE INFORMAL LIAISON GROUP ON
BIOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY FOR THE JOINT PROGRAMME OF WORK
ON BIOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL
DIVERSITY AND UNESCO**

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Joint UNESCO-SCBD Programme on the Links between Biological and Cultural Diversity was endorsed by the constituencies of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and welcomed by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its tenth meeting, held in October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan (refer to decision X/20). The decision recognized the Joint Programme as a ‘useful coordination mechanism to advance the implementation of the Convention and deepen global awareness of the interlinkages between cultural and biological diversity’. State Parties and other relevant stakeholders were invited to contribute to and support the implementation of this joint programme.

2. Further to this, and thanks to the generous contribution from the Government of Japan, the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Assistant- Director General for Natural Sciences of UNESCO jointly convened an informal Liaison Group on Biological and Cultural Diversity (DLG) composed of experts working on biological and cultural diversity issues, along with funders and potential donors (refer to notification 2012-050). The Liaison Group on Biological and Cultural Diversity met at the UNESCO Liaison Office in New York on 28-29 April 2012.

Liaison Group on Biological and Cultural Diversity - Terms of Reference

3. The main objective of the informal Liaison Group on Biological and Cultural Diversity (DLG) is to provide technical advice in view of assisting the Secretariats of CBD and UNESCO in advancing the Joint Programme, assessing the progress made and providing guidance for next steps.

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4. The members of the DLG were invited to participate in the liaison group by UNESCO and SCBD, based on expertise, ability to contribute to the deeper understanding of the interface between biological and cultural diversity, taking into account gender considerations and geographic balance. The group is expected to meet on an ad-hoc basis, subject to the availability of funding, as well as electronically. The current composition of the group is presented in annex I.

Objectives of the first meeting of the informal Liaison Group on Biological and Cultural Diversity

5. The objective of the first meeting was to allow members of the DLG to assess advances made since the launch of the Joint Programme in October 2010 and to provide advice on possible steps forward.

6. In particular, the DLG has provided comments, suggestions, ideas and guidance on:

(a) Priority focus areas for the Joint Programme and possible deliverables for the eleventh meeting of the CBD Conference of the Parties (CBD COP 11) to be held in India in October 2012 and beyond;

(b) Conceptual framework for and structure and content of the online platform for resources and knowledge generation and sharing: Global Knowledge Platform on the Links between Biological and Cultural Diversity to be launched at CBD COP 11;

(c) Key messages on the links between biological and cultural diversity to be widely communicated through communication/awareness-raising campaign;

(d) Consideration of the development of a diversity guide for policymakers and other practical tools;

(e) Opportunities for highlighting the links between biological and cultural diversity at the UNCSD (Rio+20) and other major international conferences and meetings taking place in 2012 and beyond;

(f) Fund raising opportunities/strategy.

7. The following section provides a summary of discussions and recommendations of the meeting. The list of participants is available in annex II.

II. SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS AND KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE POSSIBLE NEXT STEPS

A. *Priority focus areas for the UNESCO-SCBD Joint Programme on the Links between Biological and Cultural Diversity*

8. In order to provide guidance on the priority areas to be considered by the Joint Programme, the members of the DLG presented a brief overview of the key initiatives, programmes and projects they have been involved in since 2010.

9. Their respective experiences demonstrated the critical need to integrate the links between biological and cultural diversity in the design and implementation of strategies for addressing key environmental, social and economic issues, including, *inter alia*: erosion and loss of biological and cultural diversity, including linguistic diversity, traditional knowledge, practices and lifestyles; adaptation to climate change; ensuring food security and sustainable agriculture; eradicating poverty; and promoting sustainable livelihoods, social integrity, and cultural identity.

10. The resulting DLG discussion highlighted the importance of the links between biological and cultural diversity in building resilience of complex socio-ecological systems; adapting to ecological, economic, social, and cultural changes and countering possible adverse effects of such changes; valuing

biocultural landscapes and associated heritage, including the traditional agricultural practices, and increasing their productivity; promoting sustainable customary use of biodiversity; and assessing environmental knowledge by building bridges between traditional and scientific knowledge systems.

10. In this context, the DLG recommended that the Joint Programme should build on the strengths, long-standing experience and technical expertise of UNESCO and SCBD and focus on further exploring, documenting and raising awareness of the value added of incorporating the links between biological and cultural diversity in the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and UNESCO's Conventions and Programmes dealing with cultural diversity (e.g. 1972 World Heritage Convention, 2003 Intangible Heritage Convention and 2005 Convention on the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, Man and the Biosphere Programme, LINKS Programme).

11. The DLG further recommended that the Programme's deliverables should primarily respond to the needs of policy and decision makers and should provide relevant policy and management advice based on lessons learned from grass-root initiatives and on-the-ground experiences. In addition, they concurred that the Programme should provide a platform for strengthening the dialogue between policy and decisions makers, experts and practitioners and for linking local experiences to national and international priorities and vice versa. Finally, they reiterated the importance of education and awareness raising activities targeting all relevant stakeholders, including the general public.

12. Acknowledging the increasing number of international, national and local initiatives on the interface between biological and cultural diversity, and the growing amount of examples, case-studies, reports and other resources in this area, the DLG recommended focusing the efforts of the Joint Programme on the following:

(a) Compiling relevant existing resources and communicating good examples and success stories;

(b) Raising awareness of the value added of integration of the links between biological and cultural diversity in the implementation of the relevant internationally agreed goals and targets and in particular CBD and the relevant UNESCO's Conventions and Programmes;

(c) Providing decision- and policymakers with better tools to integrate the links between biological and cultural diversity in the design and implementation of sustainable development strategies and addressing key environmental, social and economic challenges;

(d) Strengthening the dialogue between policy makers, experts, practitioners, local communities and indigenous peoples on the links between biological and cultural diversity, and providing further guidance for integrating the links between biological and cultural diversity in the management of internationally designated sites (e.g. World Heritage sites, Biosphere Reserves and Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems);

(e) Fostering the creation of a Global Partnership for Biological and Cultural Diversity.

13. Finally, the DLG highlighted the key role of the partners of the Joint Programme and recommended that all the relevant partners be actively involved and acknowledged in both the design and implementation of the Programme.

B. Conceptual framework for and structure and content of the online platform for resources and knowledge generation and sharing: "Global Knowledge Platform on the Links between Biological and Cultural Diversity"

14. The DLG agreed that the establishment of an online platform for resources and knowledge generation and sharing is an important tool for achieving the objectives of the Joint Programme, as

highlighted above. In this regard, the DLG formulated the following recommendations on the conceptual framework, structure and content of the online knowledge sharing platform:

(a) The aim of the platform is to become the reference point and the lead ‘go-to’ hub for knowledge and resources on the links between biological and cultural diversity and on their integration in the relevant policy and management processes at local, national, regional and international levels;

(b) The platform should provide policymakers with better tools to integrate the links between biological and cultural diversity in the design and implementation of strategies and policies addressing key environmental, social and economic challenges, particularly those related to the loss and erosion of the world’s biological and cultural diversity; i.e. Convention on Biological Diversity, World Heritage Convention, Intangible Heritage Convention and Convention on the Diversity of Cultural Expressions;

(c) The platform should therefore be designed as a collaborative partnership between experts, practitioners and researchers that collect and share information, knowledge, experiences and resources on the links between biological and cultural diversity with the focus on:

- (i) Providing concise information on the relevance of the links between biological and cultural diversity for the implementation of the internationally agreed instruments and goals, in particular those dealing with biological and cultural diversity;
- (ii) Providing examples of and further guidance for integrating the links between biological and cultural diversity in the management of internationally designated sites, in particular in the World Heritage sites, Biosphere Reserves and Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems;
- (iii) Showcasing grass-root initiatives and on-the-ground activities, including the relevant education programmes, with particular emphasis on success stories, including analysis of key underpinning processes, challenges, and opportunities relating to the integration of the links between biological and cultural diversity in the design and implementation of these initiatives;
- (iv) Providing access to core resources, including official documents, major reports, academic articles, community resources and practical tools, as well as links to key programmes, initiatives and projects;
- (v) Providing access to relevant contact information and promoting exchange of information and discussions between experts and policy makers on key and emerging issues.

C. *Key Messages on the Links between Biological and Cultural Diversity to be Communicated through Communication/Awareness-Raising Campaign*

15. The members of the DLG discussed at length the key messages on the links between biological and cultural diversity that need to be broadly communicated to different audiences. Summarized below are some of the messages which were highlighted by the DLG as a result of their discussions:

- (a) The greatest wealth of our planet is the rich diversity of its life forms and ways of life;
- (b) Biodiversity and cultural diversity are coevolved and inextricably linked and together hold the key to sustainability;
- (c) Exploring, testing and using the creative power of the links between biological and cultural diversity will be critical for building resilience to change and finding innovative solutions for addressing environmental, social and economic challenges of today and tomorrow;

(d) The links between cultural and biological diversity are the cornerstones of all cultures. They form a dynamic base which secures long term well-being and resilience in the face of continual change in both rural and urban settings;

(e) Cultural practices depend upon specific elements of biodiversity for their existence and expression. At the same time, ensembles of biodiversity are created, maintained and managed by cultural groups;

(f) Traditional knowledge and resource management generate and sustain biological and landscape diversity. With the world's richest biodiversity maintained in the lands managed by indigenous and local communities, their knowledge, innovations and practices, as well as their languages and lifestyles have to be protected and promoted, for their loss will result in an invaluable and irreversible loss of biological diversity and the associated cultural diversity;

(g) Integration of traditional knowledge in the analysis of and responses to today's challenges is the way to the future not a return to the past;

(h) Building on the diversity of concepts, knowledge and worldviews through interdisciplinary, intergenerational and intercultural dialogue and education is a critical step we must take on our path to a more sustainable future.

D. Consideration of the development of a diversity guide for policymakers and other practical communication tools

16. In parallel with the establishment of the online knowledge platform and in order to advance the implementation of the key objectives of the Joint Programme, the DLG recommended the development of the following communication and awareness raising tools as a matter of priority:

(a) Fact/issue briefs and analysis papers summarizing the key concepts and explaining the links between biological and cultural diversity as well as their importance in addressing key environmental, social and economic challenges, particularly those related to the loss and erosion of the world's biological and cultural diversity. These papers should be regularly compiled in 'diversity guides' for policymakers at appropriate levels and scales;

(b) Specific issues dedicated to the links between biological and cultural diversity of the already existing technical series (e.g. the CBD Technical Series, the World Heritage Review Series, the World Heritage Paper Series, Biosphere Reserves – Technical notes, UNESCO Knowledges of Nature series and Local & Indigenous Knowledge series, UNESCO-SCOPE-UNEP Policy Briefs Series);

(c) Special editions on biological and cultural diversity of popular magazines such as National Geographic, GEO and others;

(d) Education kit on the links between biological and cultural diversity to be developed in collaboration with and under the umbrella of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development.

17. The DLG further highlighted the critical importance of visual and graphic identity for the Joint Programme. It thus recommended development of appropriate graphic elements, such as an apposite logo and a key message/tagline/catchphrase, to be associated with all the outputs of the Joint Programme, including with all the communication and awareness raising materials developed under the umbrella of the Joint Programme.

E. Possible deliverables for COP 11 and other opportunities for highlighting the links between biological and cultural diversity in 2012 and beyond

18. Regarding the deliverables for the CBD COP 11, the DLG recommended the following:

- (a) Development of the visual identity for the Joint Programme and finalization of the brochure of the Joint Programme;
- (b) Launch of the online Global Knowledge Platform on the Links between Biological and Cultural Diversity;
- (c) Possible launch of the Issue Brief Series on the Links between Biological and Cultural Diversity;
- (d) Other side events organized by partners.

19. In addition to the CBD COP 11, the DLG exchanged ideas and proposals for highlighting the links between biological and cultural diversity and presenting and promoting the Joint Programme in 2012 at the upcoming key international meetings and conferences, including: the 11th session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (New York, 7 -18 May); Division 9 Conference of the International Union of Forest Research Organization (Sarajevo, 9-11 May); 13th Congress of the International Society of Ethnobiology (Montpellier, 20-25 May); the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development – Rio+20 (20-22 June); the IUCN World Conservation Congress (Jeju, 6-15 September); 7th Session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (Grenada 25-30 November 2012).

F. Fund raising opportunities/strategy

20. The DLG noted the critical need for additional human and financial resources required to implement the Joint Programme and development materials and activities recommended above. The Group provided suggestions for possible donors, including interested Governments, foundations and private institutions. Possibilities for secondment of students and professional staff from universities were also explored. Based on the recommendations provided by the DLG, a fund-raising strategy will be finalized by UNESCO and SCBD.

Annex I

MEMBERS OF THE INFORMAL LIAISON GROUP ON BIOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY

1. Mr Gonzalo Oviedo, IUCN;
2. Mr Gleb Raygorodetsky, UNU TK Centre ;
3. Ms Anne McDonald, UNU IAS;
4. Ms Luisa Maffi, Terralingua (International);
5. Ms Thodora Zamudio, Prodiversatis LAC region (Argentina);
6. Mr Francisco Rosado-May, Mayan Intercultural University (Mexico);
7. Mr John Parotta International Union of Forest Research Organizations (International);
8. Mr Mauro Agnoletti, University of Florence (Italy);
9. Mr Parviz Koohafkan FAO;
10. Ms Joji Carino, Tebtebba Foundation (Philippines);
11. Mr Pablo Eyzaguirre, Bioersity International;
12. Mr Kazuhiko Takemoto, Satoyama Initiative, (Japan/International);
13. Ms Thora Herrmann, University of Montreal (Canada);
14. Mr Balakrishna Pisupati, National Biodiversity Authority (India);
15. Ms Barbara Lasen, GIZ – African Region, (Germany)
16. Ms Johanna Von Braun, Natural Justice, (South Africa)
17. Mr Leonard-Fabrice Odambo Bakoya, IPACC (Gabon, Africa)
18. Mr Jeffrey Y Campbell, Christensen Fund (International)
19. Mr David M. Braun, National Geographic (International) ;
20. Ms Eileen de Ravin, Equator Initiative, UNDP;
21. Mr Terence Hay-Edie, UNDP Small Grants Programme;
22. Ms Pernilla Malmer, Swedbio (Sweden);
23. Mr Sean Southey, Media Impact (International);
24. Mr Nigel Crawall, TILCEPA, IUCN;
25. Ms Maria Nogeroul, AEI, (Spain);
26. Ms Myrna Cunningham, UNPFII;
27. Ms. Antonella Cordone, IFAD;
28. Ms. Manuela Carneiro da Cunha, University of Chicago (USA) *

* As proposed by the Liaison Group on Biological and Cultural Diversity

29. Mr. Pier Luigi Petrillo, CUEIM University of Rome-La Sapienza (Italy)*;
30. Mr. Gary Martin, Global Diversity Foundation*;
31. Ms. Krystyna Swiderska, IIED*;
32. Ms. Grazia Borrini-Feyerabend, ICCA Consortium*;

Annex II

**PARTICIPANTS IN THE FIRST MEETING OF THE INFORMAL LIAISON GROUP ON
BIOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY**

1. Ms Luisa Maffi, Terralingua (International);
2. Ms Thodora Zamudio, Prodiversatis LAC region (Argentina);
3. Mr Francisco Rosado-May, Mayan Intercultural University (Mexico);
4. Mr John Parotta, International Union of Forest Research Organizations (International);
5. Mr Mauro Agnoletti, University of Florence,(Italy);
6. Ms Joji Carino, Tebtebba Foundation (Philippines);
7. Mr Pablo Eyzaguirre, Bioersity International;
8. Ms Barbara Lasen, GIZ – African Region, (Germany);
9. Ms Johanna Von Braun, Natural Justice, (South Africa) ;
10. Mr Jeffrey Y Campbell, Christensen Fund (International);
11. Ms Eileen de Ravin, Equator Initiative, UNDP;
12. Mr Terence Hay-Edie, UNDP Small Grant Programme;
13. Ms Pernilla Malmer, Swedbio (Sweden);
14. Mr Sean Southey, Media Impact International;
15. Mr. Bertie Xavier, Independent Expert, UNPFII;
16. Mr. Francisco Rosado-May, Rector/President, Universidad Intercultural Maya de Quintana Roo;
17. Mr. Ottavio Di Bella, Senior Expert, CUEIM Environment Area, Sapienza University of Rome.

Facilitators

18. Ms Gretchen Kalonji, Assistant Director General for Natural Sciences, UNESCO;
19. Ms. Ana Persic, Science Specialist, UNESCO Office in New York;
20. Ms. Laura Juliana Arciniegas Rojas UNESCO Office in New York;
21. Mr. John Scott, Programme Officer, Traditional Knowledge, SCBD.
