



Convention on Biological Diversity



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REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON BIODIVERSITY AND FINANCE IN SUPPORT OF THE NAGOYA OUTCOME

First meeting
Cairo, 29-30 November 2010

LIFEWEB: PARTNERSHIPS FOR FINANCING PROTECTED AREAS

Note by the Executive Secretary

1. The LifeWeb Initiative was launched in May 2008 during the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, in Bonn, Germany. Decision IX/18 on Protected Areas welcomed the efforts of the LifeWeb Initiative and noted the opportunities Parties and other organizations have to participate in this Initiative.

2. This short note provides brief information on the LifeWeb Initiative. Participants of the Workshop are invited to promote participation in the LifeWeb Initiative at the national and regional levels.

A. Global Coordination Office

3. With the financial support of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, within the framework of the International Climate Initiative, a Coordination Office was established at the Secretariat in June 2009, to:

- Manage a web-based information clearing-house to profile protected area needs articulated by Contracting Parties to the CBD as well as indigenous and local communities;
- Strengthen the LifeWeb donor base to support these needs;
- Facilitate funding partnerships among donors and recipients;

Improve understanding of the contributions of protected areas to (i) livelihoods; (ii) solutions to the climate crisis; (iii) enable their integration into sustainable development planning, climate mitigation and adaptation strategies.

B. Financing Cooperation Round Tables

4. A number of countries have undertaken comprehensive protected area system planning processes and attempt to integrate these plans with those of other sectors, as called for in the CBD programme of work on protected areas. US\$ 9.2 million in GEF Early Action Grants managed by the UNDP,

complimented by US 4\$ million have fuelled this planning in over 50 countries. A set of regional workshops and technical clinics have reached policy makers and technical clinics in over 110 countries to help conduct this planning, in collaboration with a team of international support organizations. Capacity for integration of protected areas into national development and climate change strategies will be further strengthened through further workshops, technical clinics, and online curriculum.

5. To build on this solid based of planning and use it to ensure effective financing and implementation, recipients need to share these priorities and their relevance to address climate change and secure livelihoods in a digestible manner. Similarly, donors require the opportunity to consider these priorities and implications for their respective support and coordination.

Objectives of roundtables

6. Roundtable meetings, co-convened by governments and the CBD Secretariat's LifeWeb, provide a forum for focused and coordinated discussions on international cooperation for protected area systems and the wealth of benefits they provide. These roundtables serve as a means:

for host country(s) to:

communicate their protected area priorities based on National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans for implementing the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas;

invite financial support from the international community to help address their funding gap.

for donor partners to:

gain information and help align their cooperation focus consistent with recipient priorities;

identify opportunities, consistent with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, for coordination and counterpart funding among international cooperation partners.

7. "Readiness Factors" for organizing roundtable meetings include:

a vision for national protected area priorities, based on National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, in particular, for implementing the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas;

a submission made to CBD LifeWeb clearing house inviting international cooperation based on national priorities;

political will and demonstrated commitment by host government(s) to strengthen funding from domestic sources.

Example of Columbia

8. The ultimate goal of this round table is to create 9 new protected areas, and strengthen the management of the 56 already established within Colombia's national protected areas system. The first meeting on 16 June 2010 and served to communicate Colombia's ecological, management effectiveness, and financial priorities. The second meeting was held on 7 October 2010 to identify priority gaps and overlaps in international cooperation based on Colombia's stated priorities, and define specific opportunities for international cooperation.

9. Meetings were held on 16 June 2010 and 7 October 2010, which were hosted by Colombia's Presidential Agency for International Cooperation, Parques Colombia, and CBD LifeWeb. International cooperation participants included Germany, Japan, Netherlands, Inter-American

Development Bank, World Bank, United Nations Development Programme, Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, and Walton Family Foundation.

Example of Mexico

10. Based on the results of comprehensive ecological, capacity and financial gaps analyses, the government of Mexico and CBD LifeWeb co-convened the first meeting of a roundtable to coordinate and strengthen financing for Mexico's protected areas system. The government of Mexico has invited partners to engage in a next stage of this round table process, to jointly define the set of strategies and mechanisms that will be employed to meet the financial gap for the protected area system.

11. The meeting was held on 7 October 2010, which was hosted by Mexico's National Commission for Protected Areas, and CBD LifeWeb. International cooperation participants included over 30 domestic and international donor partners, representing governments, intergovernmental organizations and private foundations.

Example of Amazon Conservation Vision

12. Directors of the National Protected Areas Authorities from the Amazon basin and international cooperation partners met in Lima 25 August 2010 to discuss an action plan for implementation of the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas in the Amazon biome. This regional effort aims to build on national actions and develop a vision to protect 330 million hectares of forest in the region, for the life-giving goods and services these areas provide. The meeting was hosted by Peru's Ministry of Environment, RedParques, and international cooperation participants included National Protected Areas Authorities of countries in the region, Finland, Japan, France, Netherlands, United States of America, and CBD LifeWeb.

C. Donor partners of Life Web

13. Since the launch of the LifeWeb Initiative in May 2008, the Government of Germany has provided financial support to 27 projects in partner countries totaling over €80 million Euros, including funding the operations of the LifeWeb Coordination Office. Germany will considerably increase its support for conservation of biodiversity in the coming years and target needs of partner countries profiled through the LifeWeb Initiative clearing-house.

14. The Finnish Government pledged half a million Euros for the LifeWeb Initiative at the 9th meeting of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Minister of Environment Paula Lehtomäki stated that "The LifeWeb Initiative will have a great impact worldwide. Losing biological diversity is a threat comparable to climate change and we must fight against it. Biologically diverse forests form a crucial piece of the solution in the battle against climate change and natural disasters. Preserving biological diversity is also a lifeline for local communities." In March 2010, the government of Finland stated that it will look for further opportunities to support nature conservation projects through the LifeWeb Initiative.

15. The government of Spain has committed €5 million to support the implementation of the CBD's Programme of Work on Protected Areas in 2010-11. Projects have been selected by the United Nations Environmental Programme.

16. Donors may find a number of attractive features of the LifeWeb, which can bring to their support to protected areas:

- Recognition of donor support and innovation for natural solutions

All financial support provided in association with LifeWeb is monitored by the CBD Secretariat. Donor commitment and innovation is actively profiled by the Secretariat and other international forums. In order to provide international guidance and inform policy debate, experience gained from concrete projects implemented in association with the LifeWeb will be drawn from.

- A user-friendly clearing house of Invitations for Support for viewing recipient priorities

Expressions of Interest are submitted to the LifeWeb clearing house by national governments. In accordance with the Secretariat's Programme of Work on Protected Areas, submissions are based on national priorities for ecological representation, management, and sectoral integration.

- Facilitation of funding matches

The LifeWeb Coordination Office helps generate Expressions of Interest that are consistent with recipient priorities as well as donors' geographic and thematic focus. It also identifies potential matches and brings these to the attention of donors.

- Counterpart funding

Opportunities are identified to cost share Expressions of Interest and are brought to the attention of donors for their consideration.

- Use and strengthening of existing financing mechanisms

Funding flows directly from donor to recipient through existing development cooperation mechanisms.

- Shaping of international guidance and policy debate

Lessons learned from project implementation are used to develop international guidance and policy debate associated with the Convention on Biological Diversity.

- Consistency with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness

Ownership: recipient governments profile their needs based on national priorities for natural solutions.

Alignment: donors enabled to align their support behind the priorities conveyed.

Harmonization: Open and simultaneous access to needs enables coordinated support.

Results: protected areas provide natural solutions to address climate change and livelihoods.

Mutual Accountability: the Programme of Work on Protected Areas enables reporting and tracking progress on results.

D. Recipient partners of LifeWeb

17. Nearly 70 requests have been made for funding through the LifeWeb, in the amount of over US\$ 1 billion. The LifeWeb provides the following to its recipient partners:

- A user-friendly platform to profile national priorities
- A mechanism to communicate funding needs to multiple donors simultaneously
- Support in co-convening donor coordination meetings

- Technical input for the design of compelling Expressions of Interest
- Resource materials and guidance about the value of protected areas

18. Developing countries and countries with economies in transition are invited to submit expressions of interest to invite financial support from development cooperation partners on a voluntary basis using existing mechanisms. Participation in the LifeWeb starts with a *LifeWeb Expression of Interest*, which is a project submission that provides an overview of a proposed protected area project. Expressions of Interest are submitted using the LifeWeb template, available for download on its website. Submissions which follow the required guidelines are profiled on the LifeWeb website.

19. Submissions should be made by the National Focal Points for the Convention or the Focal Points for the Convention's Programme of Work on Protected Areas. Submissions can also be made by Indigenous and Local Community groups, accompanied by an endorsement letter from a Focal Point. All Expressions of Interest submitted to the LifeWeb clearing house must:

- Focus on initiatives that will advance implementation of the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas.
- Be consistent with priorities defined in national protected areas planning in accordance with the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas.
- Be submitted by the national CBD-National Focal Points or Focal Points for the Programme of Work on Protected Areas.

E. Benefits of Protected Areas

20. Protected areas are cornerstones for biodiversity conservation and are both powerful tools for addressing climate change, and providing sustainable economic development. Protected areas address climate change through ecosystem-based adaptation and as a means of maximizing carbon sequestration and minimizing further losses of stored carbon. Examples of protected areas benefits include:

- 12% of global greenhouse gas emissions result from deforestation and forest degradation;
- Protected areas provide a critical wealth of ecosystem services, including freshwater and food security, storm protection, regulating spread of diseases, cultural and spiritual access, and others;
- Nearly 1.1 billion people depend on forest protected areas for their livelihoods;
- Potential fishing benefits from healthy coral reefs are estimated to be US\$5.7 billion annually.

21. The fact that 12.2% of the earth's terrestrial surface is under some form of government designated protected area status is a significant cause for hope. This percentage has been estimated to be as high as 20%, if community conserved areas are included. However, only a fraction of these areas are being effectively managed and many habitat types are severely underrepresented, particularly freshwater and marine areas.

22. The cost of establishing and maintaining a global protected area system has been estimated at US\$30 billion per year while current expenditures are estimated at only US\$6.5 billion per year. A shocking portion of protected areas, often in high biodiversity regions, are essentially paper parks without any active regulation or management to ensure the wealth of services is intact and continues to benefit people.
