



Convention on Biological Diversity

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SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

Fourteenth meeting
Nairobi, 10-21 May 2009
Item 3.2 of the provisional agenda*

THIRD EDITION OF THE GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY OUTLOOK: IMPLICATIONS FOR THE FUTURE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

Note by the Executive Secretary

1. In paragraph 11 of decision VIII/14 the Conference of the Parties decided that the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO-3) should be prepared for publication at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 2010 and that GBO-3 should serve as a basis for the review of the implementation of the Convention at that meeting. The scope and format, work plan, communication strategy and financial plan for the development of the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook were agreed through decision IX/10.
2. The Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the World Conservation Monitoring Centre of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP-WCMC), the partners of the 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, DIVERSITAS-International, members of the GBO-3 Advisory Group and scientific review panel, and interested organizations and stakeholders, and drawing on national reports, scientific literature and case-studies, has prepared the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO-3) which is being launched on 10 May 2010 in a number of cities around the globe.
3. The preparation of GBO-3 has been enabled through financial contributions from Canada, the European Commission, Germany, Japan, Spain and the United Kingdom as well as in-kind contributions from a number of partners.
4. The information and analyses presented in GBO-3 have undergone several rounds of peer-review including peer review for publication in scientific literature or equivalent quality control through the mechanisms of the 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, DIVERSITAS-International and UNEP-WCMC, or review in preparation of national reports, as well as peer-review of the draft extended version of GBO-3 from August to December 2009 and of the draft synthesis during November and December 2009, and review by a science panel (Montreal, 4-5 November 2009) and the SBSTTA Bureau.

* UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/1.

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5. In the course of 2010, the International Year of Biodiversity a range of ancillary products and technical documents will be published to complement the GBO-3 report.

6. The analyses of current biodiversity trends and implications of a range of policy options on future biodiversity trends provide evidence that, despite significant efforts made by Parties and other stakeholders to reduce biodiversity loss, the 2010 biodiversity target has not been reached, principally because the scale of the activities has not been sufficient to meet the challenges and in particular because of the failure to address underlying causes of biodiversity loss. This reflects limited capacity by countries to implement the Convention and limited integration of biodiversity issues into broader policies, strategies and programmes. These implications of these analyses have been taken into account in the proposed Strategic Plan of the Convention for the period 2011-2020.

7. GBO-3 will be released on 10 May 2010 with official launches planned in Nairobi and a number of other cities around the world. The launches will aim to garner the attention of the media with a video news release available for televised coverage. The successful orchestration of this media event requires that the report and its key messages remain embargoed until the launch date. For this reason, the executive summary of GBO-3 is not being circulated at the present time. Instead, it is being transmitted directly to focal points to enable them prepare for the fourteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the third meeting of the Ad hoc open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation with the plea not to distribute, quote or cite the material. It is also available to other stakeholders upon request.

SUGGESTED RECOMMENDATIONS

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice may wish to recommend that the Conference of the Parties adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Welcomes* the third edition of Global Biodiversity Outlook;
2. *Acknowledges* the contributions and support from the World Conservation Monitoring Centre of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP-WCMC), the partners of the 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, DIVERSITAS-International, members of the GBO-3 Advisory Group and scientific review panel, interested organizations, other stakeholders and reviewers;
3. *Also acknowledges* the financial contributions from Canada, the European Commission, Germany, Japan, Spain and the United Kingdom;
4. *Takes note* of the conclusions drawn in the third edition of Global Biodiversity Outlook, including:
 - (a) The target to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level as a contribution to poverty alleviation and to the benefit of all life on Earth has not been met;
 - (b) Action to implement the Convention has not been taken on a sufficient scale to address the pressures on biodiversity and there has been insufficient integration of biodiversity issues into broader policies, strategies and programmes, and as a consequence the underlying drivers of biodiversity loss have not been addressed significantly;
 - (c) Most future scenarios project continuing high levels of extinctions and loss of habitats throughout this century, with associated decline of some ecosystem services important to human

well-being. There are risks of large scale negative impacts on human-well-being if certain thresholds or “tipping points” are crossed;

(d) At the same time, there are greater opportunities than previously recognized to address the biodiversity crisis while contributing to other social objectives. Even though it will be extremely challenging to prevent further human-induced biodiversity loss for the near-term future, well-targeted policies focusing on critical areas, species and ecosystem services can help to avoid the most dangerous impacts on people and societies;

5. *Notes* that a strategy for reducing biodiversity loss requires action at multiple levels including:

(a) Mechanisms for addressing the underlying causes of biodiversity loss, including a recognition of the real benefits of biodiversity and their reflection within economic systems and markets;

(b) Urgent actions to curb the five pressures directly driving biodiversity loss (habitat change, overexploitation, pollution, invasive alien species and climate change) with a view to enhancing the resilience of ecosystems and to avoid that ecosystems are pushed beyond certain thresholds or tipping points;

(c) Direct conservation action to safeguard species, genetic diversity and ecosystems;

(d) Measures to enhance the benefits from biodiversity, contributing to local livelihoods and to climate change adaptation and mitigation;

(e) Enabling mechanisms in support of the above;

6. *Further notes* the need to place greater emphasis on the restoration of degraded terrestrial, inland water and marine ecosystems with a view to re-establish ecosystem functioning and the provision of valuable services, taking note of relevant guidance prepared by the Society for Ecological Restoration;

7. *Also notes* the opportunities that arise for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity where management aims to optimize outcomes for multiple ecosystem services instead of seeking to maximize single or few services;

8. *Agrees* to use the third edition of Global Biodiversity Outlook to guide the scientific and technical discussions on the updating of the Strategic Plan of the Convention.
