



Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

COMMUNIQUÉ

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Biodiversity and Climate Change

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING SIGNED BETWEEN THE CBD SECRETARIAT AND UNEP GRID-ARENDAL CENTRE

Montreal – 30 October 2007. A Memorandum of Understanding between the CBD Secretariat and the GRID-Arendal Centre of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was signed today in Trondheim, at the margins of the 2007 Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity.

The Memorandum, geared toward enhanced cooperation between the Secretariat and the Centre on issues of common interest relating to the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, calls for the Secretariat and the GRID-Arendal Centre to:

- Mutually support one another in the undertaking and promotion of activities and projects relevant to their respective mandates, in particular dealing with communication and outreach, tourism and biodiversity, Arctic biodiversity and implementation of the updated strategic plan of the clearing-house mechanism for the period 2005-2010;
- Exchange information regarding activities of relevance to their respective mandates and on joint activities undertaken within the framework of the Memorandum;
- Collaborate on:
 - The presentation and illustration of information on the status and trends of global biodiversity, including representations of the data for the set of indicators for the 2010 biodiversity target, for the information products relating to the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO-3);
 - The promotion and implementation of the Convention's Guidelines on Biodiversity and Tourism Development;
- Cooperate:
 - In partnership with global tourism-trade associations and private-sector leaders, UNEP and relevant non-governmental organizations, on research towards the establishment of a cooperative platform for enhancing the volume and efficiency of voluntary contributions from tourism revenues to conservation and to protected area management costs;



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- On activities related to the long-term monitoring of Arctic biodiversity, including, as appropriate, the 2010 Arctic Biodiversity Assessment led by the Working Group on the Conservation of Arctic Fauna and Flora of the Arctic Council.
- On activities related to the development of relevant regionally-based response scenarios with a view to facilitating evidence-based decision-making related to biodiversity and drivers of change affecting biodiversity;
- On the implementation of the strategic plan of the clearing-house mechanism with a particular focus on the exchange of biodiversity-related information in collaboration with relevant partners, and
- On issues designed to improve public awareness on biodiversity, including information targeted to specific groups and stakeholders. This will include collaboration on the presentation of data and the development of information products on trends in conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of genetic resources for use in awareness campaigns and relevant publications and may include information products to support the annual celebrations of the International Day for Biological Diversity and the International Year of Biological Diversity in 2010.

Mr. Ahmed Djoghla, Executive Secretary of the Convention, said, "This UNEP collaborative centre, which was established as a follow-up to the Brundtland report, has emerged as a centre of excellence for environmental-knowledge management and dissemination. Its motto "Environmental knowledge for change" is not just a slogan; it is a programme. The Secretariat is delighted to count on the support of this centre of excellence to promote the changes required to meet the challenges of the enhanced phase of implementation of the three objectives of the Convention." He added, "As the international community is actively engaged in the preparation of the International Year of Biological Diversity in 2010, the support of GRID-Arendal to disseminate knowledge to achieve the strategic target of substantially reducing the loss of biodiversity within the remaining two and a half years is essential."

Mr. Peter Prokosch, Director of GRID-Arendal stated, "This agreement demonstrates the value of building on existing strengths and capacity which exists within UNEP to support the Secretariat in raising awareness of the biodiversity issues compounded by climate change."

GRID-Arendal

The mission of GRID-Arendal is to provide environmental information, communications and capacity building services for information management and assessment. Established to strengthen the United Nations through its environment programme (UNEP), its focus is to make credible, science-based knowledge understandable to the public and to decision-making for sustainable development. GRID-Arendal is an official UNEP centre located in southern Norway, with out-posted offices in Geneva, Ottawa and Stockholm. Dedicated to make a difference, GRID Arendal explores how environmental information impacts on decision-making and the environment. Seeking to bridge the gap between science and politics, an increasing focus is given to environmental journalism and working with the media in general. GRID-Arendal provides analysis and supports communication on issues such as climate change, environment and poverty, environment and security, the urban environment and sustainable development through education. GRID-Arendal has become a world leader in environmental cartographic products impacting a highly improved understanding of key environmental issues and their consequences, among decision-makers and the general public. GRID-Arendal is organized around four main fields of competencies, implemented in various geographical areas: awareness-raising and outreach; capacity-building in environmental information management; environmental assessments; and environmental education. For further information, see <http://www.grida.no/About.aspx>.