

Lunchtime workshop on financing for the implementation of Article 8(j)
5 February 2002

Summary of the Chair (Mr. Arthur Nogueira)

1. The meeting was opened by Arthur Nogueira at 1:30 p.m.. Mr. Nogueira introduced the panel for the presentation: Mario Ramos – GEF, Juan Martinez - World Bank, Kirstin Elliot – UNEP, John Hough – UNDP. He also asked for informal interpretation as most of the attendees were Spanish speakers. There were a few volunteers from the audience who sat with the Spanish-speaking delegates and provided impromptu translations.
2. In his opening remarks, Mr. Nogueira indicated that the workshop was intended to provide an opportunity for exchanging information and views on financing for the implementation of Article 8(j), and should be treated as an informal gathering. He provided an overview of the evolution of issues related to the implementation of Article 8(j), and of the status of funding. He provided the following examples of funding:
 - Agencia Española para la Cooperación Internacional (AECI): Spanish strategy for cooperation with indigenous peoples (1997), Indigenous Program
[<http://www.aeci.es/9-Proyectos/indigena/>]
 - Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA): partnership with indigenous peoples' organizations
[<http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/index.htm>]
 - Asian Development Bank: Policy on Indigenous Peoples (1998)
[http://www.adb.org/Documents/Policies/Indigenous_Peoples/ipp-001.asp]
 - Inter-American Development Bank: The Fund for the Development of the Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean (1992); Indigenous Peoples and Community Development Unit (1994); funded over 250 relevant projects since 1979
[http://www.iadb.org/sds/IND/index_ind_e.htm]
 - World Bank: OD 4.20; OP/BP 4.10
[<http://wbln0018.worldbank.org/essd/essd.nsf/Indigenous/home>]
 - UNDP: Indigenous Knowledge Programme and Partners in Development Programme, Capacity 21, Regional Programmes, Nationally Executed Programmes and Projects
[<http://www.undp.org/csopp/CSO/NewFiles/ipindex.html>]

He further suggested the following topics for discussion: message from the Convention to funding institutions and development agencies; what additional action GEF could pursue; sharing of funding information; innovative ways of financing

3. Mr. Ramos presented the overall picture of GEF support for the implementation of Article 8(j) and related provisions. As of FY 2001, GEF allocation to projects

involving indigenous groups exceeded US\$341 million to 56 projects in 39 countries. These projects involve more than 252 different ethnic and tribal populations. Activities supported included traditional practices for *in-situ* conservation; sustainable use including sustainable livelihoods; local capacity building; consultations, social surveys, needs assessment as inputs to Indigenous Peoples Development Plans; management plans, etc.. He further identified the following good practices:

- Policy environment: addressing root causes of biodiversity loss;
- Participation: funding and technical assistance to improve participation in project decision making, implementation, and evaluation;
- Integrated ecosystems management: more focus on local needs as they relate to different types of ecosystem services, including water management;
- Local capacity building: training, cross-site visits.

4. Mr. Hough first provided an overview of UNDP support for biodiversity activities and then focused on activities related to Article 8(j). For the period from 1991 –2001, UNDP provided US\$120 million from its core budgets to 1,500 projects in 140 countries. This funding, together with US\$350 million from GEF and US\$700 million from other sources, brought US\$1.1 billion in total to biodiversity activities with emphasis on capacity development. He mentioned that UNDP is developing a policy of engagement to foster an enabling environment for participation, co-existence and inclusion of indigenous peoples. An indigenous knowledge programme was specifically designed to increase effectiveness of indigenous peoples representatives in the CBD process. He identified the following key challenges: achieving win-win combinations of traditional and modern; enabling effective negotiations associated with governance, ownership, control, security, rights; expanding and sharing benefits.

5. Ms. Elliot pointed out that UNEP has been focused on environmental information generation, monitoring and assessments; development/demonstration of tools and methodologies; management for transboundary ecosystems. She discussed in more details UNEP-sponsored projects related to Article 8(j) and related provisions. For instance, Global Biodiversity Assessment projects studies cultural and spiritual values of biodiversity. The People, Land management and Environmental Change (PLEC) project attempted to develop participatory and sustainable models of biodiversity management based on farmers' technologies and knowledge within agricultural systems at the community landscape level. Other projects included: community-based management of on-farm plant genetic resources in arid and semi-arid areas of Southern Africa; Conservation of gramineae and associated arthropods for sustainable agricultural development in Africa; biodiversity conservation and integration of traditional knowledge on medicinal plants in national primary health care policy in Central America and Caribbean, etc.. UNEP was committed to testing methods for integrating traditional ecological knowledge of indigenous peoples into ecosystems management, and models for benefit sharing between indigenous peoples, governments and the private sector.

6. Mr. Martinez presented the experience of the World Bank in Latin America including the GEF projects. He first provided historical background of indigenous peoples issues within the World Bank interventions. The World Bank operational

manual statement 2.34 issued in 1982 addressed to needs of indigenous peoples. In 1991, the World Bank approved Indigenous Peoples Policy (OD 4.20). The recent work concerning indigenous peoples has been guided by the Strategic approach to Indigenous Peoples Development (1995-2001). This included supporting pre-investment operations; financing new and innovative projects in the fields of land regularization, natural resources management, GEF biodiversity conservation and community-based development; supporting existing networks and building new learning partnerships. He pointed out the following challenges of indigenous development initiatives:

- greater focus on social and economic needs of urban indigenous communities;
- strengthening of entrepreneurial capacity and competitiveness of indigenous economic enterprises and businesses;
- greater cooperation and co-ordination among donor agencies;
- increased learning and dissemination of indigenous development experiences among countries and between North, Central and South America.

7. The presentations were followed by discussions around the following issues:

Access to information

8. It was felt that indigenous peoples have only recently started to understand the role of the financial mechanism of the Convention. But GEF is still not well known amongst indigenous peoples. It is recommended that more information on GEF should be provided to indigenous peoples.

Full participation

9. It was felt that in most relevant projects indigenous peoples have been involved in consultations but not participated in implementation and evaluation. In particular, when projects are developed by governments, participation is often impossible.

10. Letter of endorsement by GEF focal points is difficult for indigenous peoples to obtain. The GEF should examine and address this requirement for projects developed by indigenous peoples.

11. It was suggested that a trust fund should be established to support the participation of indigenous peoples in the Convention process. Since indigenous peoples are a cross-cutting issue, participation of indigenous peoples in discussions of other thematic areas and cross-cutting issues should be promoted.

12. Capacity of indigenous peoples to participate should also be strengthened. Regional workshops including on Kyoto protocol and CCD should be considered.

13. Indigenous peoples should be included in the roster of experts, and considered for consultancy.

14. Indigenous peoples should be treated as players rather than as beneficiaries.

15. It was also suggested that indigenous peoples should be represented in decision-making bodies.

16. After the discussions, Mr. Ramos answered questions addressed to the GEF. He advised that the GEF is also an intergovernmental process, and thus subject to decisions from Governments and guidance from the COP. However, the GEF Secretariat will, as far as possible, strive to address all concerns of indigenous peoples.

17. The workshop was closed at 2:30 p.m., and Mr. Nogueira thanked the speakers and the participants.