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Integration for Biodiversity in Germany

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1. Introduction

Germany report[1] that the inclusion of biodiversity aspects in other areas of environmental policy and many more policy areas is a prerequisite for their integration in society und for sustainable development. The model of sustainable development links the idea of quality of life with the call for equity and a global, cross-generation perspective. Thus the principle of sustainable development links different policy areas and makes it a guiding principle of political activity to take account of their many and various interactions. This means that today, paying attention to ecological requirements is a necessity of economic sense, forward-looking settlement and traffic policy, or future-oriented strategies in the energy and agricultural sectors. Conversely, nature conservation and the maintenance of biological diversity have to face the challenges of economic dynamics, social demands and both national and international interests. Maintenance and sustainable use of biological diversity, economic efficiency and social responsibility need to be brought together in a manner which ensures that decisions are viable in the long term from all three points of view.

For this reason the protection of biological diversity and the national biodiversity strategy are essential building blocks of the German government's National Sustainability Strategy. The sustainability strategy also addresses important interactions between fields such as climate change, raw materials industry, land take and biodiversity and relevant interfaces of policy areas such as environmental, food, health and development policy.

2. Individual policy areas

Agricultural policy

Intact nature can only be maintained and protected successfully by taking account of biodiversity aspects over the total area. More than half the area of Germany is used for agricultural purposes. Accordingly, agriculture bears a special responsibility for biological diversity.

The EU agricultural reform of 2003 took important steps to key the agricultural sector more closely to the market under the Common Agricultural Policy (first pillar of the CAP) and to tie the provision of agricultural subsidies to compliance with various standards.

These include the "basic operational management requirements", which comprise the most important rules from a total of 18 legal acts relevant to farmers, of which five relate to compliance with environmental guidelines. Under the rules on the maintaining agricultural land in a good agricultural and ecological state and making sustainable use of it, other binding and optional standards have to be observed, e.g. in the fields of erosion control, conservation of organic material in the soil, minimum maintenance of land, and conservation of water bodies.

[1] Germany (2009). Fourth National Report under the Convention on Biological Diversity, 30 March 2010, 96 pp.

Germany has opted for an implementation model which places grassland and landscape elements on an equal footing with arable land as far as direct payments are concerned and thereby takes greater account of biodiversity interests. Assistance measures under the second pillar of the CAP (assistance for regional rural development) and from the joint federal/Länder task "Improving agricultural structures and coastal protection" are also important for biological diversity. These also include funding facilities for environmentally sound agriculture and the maintenance of genetic resources in the agricultural sector.

The so-called "health check", a review of the Common Agricultural Policy of the EU in 2008, set out to review the agricultural reform of 2003 and, by strengthening regional rural policy, to put farmers in Europe in a position to get to grips with the new challenges. In addition to measures for restructuring the milk sector, these include measures in the fields of climate protection, soil, biodiversity improvement, water resources management and renewable energy sources. It was decided to step up the reallocation of agricultural funds from the first to the second pillar of the CAP. The decisions on "Cross Compliance", which include tying direct payments to environmental requirements, make it necessary to observe other standards in the field of water conservation and also contain simplifications without any cuts in services for the environment. Moreover, the Member States will continue to have the necessary flexibility to retain meaningful arrangements.

Rural development policy

Rural areas in Germany face major challenges in future, such as demographic change, globalisation of markets, climate change, threats to biological diversity. But they display marked variations in their natural and economic structure and resources. For example, there are a number of rural regions, especially in the vicinity of urban agglomerations, but also in scenically attractive surroundings far from urban centres, which are well developed economically and which with their relatively high standard of living and their considerable economic prosperity represent attractive regions for residents and industry with favourable prospects for the future. But there are also many regions which have structural problems to contend with. These include the coastal regions in particular.

Nature and landscape offer great potential for rural regions. If used appropriately, this can help to offset existing structural deficits and improve the quality of life. Examples of economic interest include the use of renewable energy from biomass, direct marketing of sustainably produced food, or nature-friendly tourism (e.g. farm holidays). Here nature can do much to foster innovations and create jobs.

Many rural regions in Germany urgently need a boost to their economic strength and the creation of new jobs. Nature and environment – given sustainable use – represent an important economic potential in rural regions. A study commissioned by the Federal Environment Ministry is currently investigating important ecological markets of the future in rural regions and their potential.

Since rural development has many facets, close cooperation between various policy areas is important. For this reason, an inter-ministerial working group on "Development of Rural Regions" submitted an action concept for the ongoing development of rural regions, which was adopted by the Cabinet on 6

May 2009. Measures were also agreed for the maintenance and sustainable use of natural capital. For example, there are plans to develop a model project for exemplary implementation of the national biodiversity strategy. At the same time, greater attention is to be paid to social inputs in the fields of environment, nature conservation and climate in the context of the joint task of "Improving agricultural structures and coastal protection".

Forestry policy

Forests are an important retreat and refuge for many endangered and protected species, and are indispensable for maintaining biological diversity. The habitat requirements of the species must be taken into account in forestry management. The German government is therefore aiming for near-natural forest management on – as far as possible –the entire area covered by forest. It is possible to integrate numerous nature conservation goals here. At the same time, near-natural forests offer the best resistance to changes in environmental conditions, thanks to their variety and adaptability. Air pollution and climate change, and their resulting impacts, are a special challenge not only to nature conservation and species protection, but also to forestry.

To ensure long-term protection of forests against the effects of acidifying and eutrophying substance inputs, there is a need for further reductions in nitrogen emissions. There is also a need for further efforts to reduce the harmful effects of tropospheric ozone and the accumulation of heavy metal inputs. International and European instruments of air quality policy serve to protect ecosystems and hence biological diversity. The Multi-Component Protocol to the Geneva Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution, which runs out in 2010, is currently being revised. In 2008 the European Commission was to present a proposal for extending the EU National Emission Ceilings Directive. In addition, the share of total forest accounted for by near-natural forest is to reach 5% by 2020. This is a goal of the National Strategy on Biological Diversity. The term "forests with natural forest development" still needs to be defined in more concrete terms.

Certification of sustainable forest management is playing an increasingly important role in curbing illegal tree felling and non-sustainable, destructive use practices in the Earth's forests. Three certification systems are currently recognised in Germany. Approximately 66% of the land under forest (7.3 million ha) is certified according to PEFC criteria, 4.3% according to FSC criteria (0.48 million ha) and 0.5% according to Naturland criteria (0.05 million ha), though is should be noted that some areas are certified under more than one system. Since 2007 the German administration, in order to give a clear signal against destructive exploitation and illegal felling, has only been procuring timber products from proven legal and sustainable forest management in accordance with the rules of the Federal Government's Joint Decree of 17 January 2007 on the Procurement of Timber Products. Proof of the required environmentally sound, socially acceptable and economically viable management of the forests is to take the form of a certificate from the PEFC (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes), FSC (Forest Stewardship Council), or a comparable certificate or individual evidence in accordance with the requirements of the decree. The rule is initially limited to four years and will then

be reviewed. For information on the provision of additional funds by Germany for protecting the forests and other ecosystems.

Fisheries policy

The greatest burden on marine ecosystems – apart from climate change – continues to be due to fishing. The great pressure created by fishing has worldwide impacts even on those habitats and species which are not among the target species of the relevant fishing operations. Some of the fishing methods practised in drag-net fishing can present a threat to sensitive ecosystems in the German North Sea and Baltic Sea.

Fishing with unselective and destructive catching methods is also partly responsible worldwide for the decline in certain species and populations of bony fish, sharks and rays, seabirds, marine mammals, and bottom-dwelling animal and plant species and their habitats.

In the interests of a sustainable fishing industry that is environmentally sound and naturefriendly, the German government advocates that worldwide fish stocks be used on a sustainable basis and be preserved for future generations. An important aspect here is the protection of sensitive species and habitats from destructive fishing practices.

The introduction of multi-year management and restocking plans, the control of illegal fishing, and more effective controls and measures to reduce by-catches and discards are all central control instruments for sustainable management of fish stocks under the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) of the European Community. Eco-certification of fishing and fishery products also helps to achieve these goals. For example, the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), an independent non-profit organisation, awards eco-labels to fishing operations which are shown to have only slight impacts on the marine environment, are responsibly run and do not contribute to the problem of overfishing.

The designation of marine protected areas on nature conservation grounds is another suitable instrument for protecting sensitive ecosystems (e.g. reefs and sandbanks) and species from the destructive effects of fishing. Given appropriate management, such protected areas may also have favourable effects on the population situation of commercial fish species.

Settlement and traffic policy

In the interests of sustainable development, consideration of the many different claims to use of the land must be as balanced as possible. Economical, nature-friendly land use should be a main guiding principle here. In its national sustainability strategy, the German government set itself the target of reducing land take for new settlement and traffic areas to a maximum of 30 ha per day by 2020. To minimise land take for new areas, it is important to make use of all opportunities for converting and re-using waste land, mobilising empty sites, and increasing the density of existing areas.

Spaces with low urban sprawl, low fragmentation and low noise are very difficult to restore once they are lost. The German government therefore advocates restricting further fragmentation of our landscape to a minimum.

The German government is currently developing a nationwide re-networking concept. This concept is intended as a basis not only for creating facilities for game to cross traffic routes, but also for restoring networking opportunities for communities as a whole. It is already standard practice to take such aspects into account when building and developing federal highways. If the need for such facilities can be shown to exist, crossing aids such as green bridges or green tunnels are to be provided. Their location, design and integration in the landscape must be optimised from a sectoral point of view.

Traffic necessities and the preservation of our tree-lined country roads as valuable components of the biodiversity of landscapes and as important cultural landscape elements need not necessarily conflict. The total length of such avenues is currently put at around 23,000 km. The Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, at the request of the Federal Environment Ministry, has determined the conceptual framework conditions for the maintenance, care and development of avenues and rows of trees in a preliminary T+D study.

Nature-friendly expansion of renewable energy sources

The expansion of renewable energy involves impacts on nature and landscape. The Renewable Energy Sources Act (EEG) dating from 2004 therefore contains provisions designed to avoid or minimise adverse effects. For example, the construction of hydro power plants is linked to compliance with the requirements of the EEG regarding good ecological status of water bodies. Payments for electricity from photovoltaic systems on open spaces is confined to certain locations (e.g. sealed surfaces, or arable land converted to grassland).

The report presented by the German government in November 2007 on experience gained in connection with the EEG 2004 stated that these ecological requirements had on the whole had marked effects and that it had proved possible to minimise the negative impacts of the expansion on nature and landscape, although further technical potential was seen regarding the ecological impacts of hydro power plants. In addition to this generally positive outcome, there is also a need to observe whether undesirable trends occur. In the field of biofuels, the Biomass Electricity Sustainability Ordinance was enacted to safeguard the sustainability of power generation from biomass with the aid of verifiable criteria. As from 01.01.2010, proof that the biomass originates from sustainable production is a prerequisite for payment.

The establishment of sustainability criteria for biofuels has the utmost priority for the German government. In connection with the Renewable Energy Directive, pan-European sustainability criteria have been laid down for automotive biofuels and heating bioliquids. It is planned to transpose the sustainability criteria into national law as quickly as possible. Germany is also engaged in international initiatives for the sustainability of automotive biofuels, for example the G8 process “Global Bioenergy Partnership”.

Tourism, sport and health

As well as cultural and historical attractions, Germany offers a great diversity of natural and cultural landscapes which permit a wide variety of leisure pursuits, nature experiences and nature-oriented

recreation. The contribution made by nature conservation is to safeguard recreational spaces for exercise and nature-friendly, landscape-oriented sport, and rest and relaxation in nature. It thereby contributes to physical and mental well-being and to positive stress management.

Leisure activities in nature, such as tourism and sporting activities, are becoming increasingly popular. The Federal Environment Ministry has supported a range of projects concerned with nature-friendly use of nature and landscape for recreation, tourism and health:

• In 2006 the "Nature Park Year" campaign with numerous activities at federal, Land and nature park level advertised what the nature parks had to offer. Like national parks and biosphere reserves, they are attractive destinations in the tourist country Germany.

• Under the environmental umbrella brand "Viabono – naturally enjoying holidays" the web-based natural experience navigator was created in 2008 with assistance from the Federal Environment Ministry / Federal Agency for Nature Conservation. It provides a nationwide overview of attractive natural experience offerings. Zoomable maps allow users to find out about varied offerings in different regions.

• Comprehensive background information, literature, studies and also good-practice examples of resolving conflicts between nature conservation and sport are available from the Nature Sport Information System of the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation. On the one hand, the web-based information platform serves to support the exchange of knowledge between experts and nature sports enthusiasts. On the other, it assists those responsible with the design, control and monitoring of projects.

The farmyard holidays promoted by the Ministry of Agriculture (BMELV) as part of the joint task of "Improving agricultural structures and coastal protection" are a near-natural and environment friendly kind of holiday. They stand for short journeys, and with their holiday, health, riding, fishing and wine-growing farms they offer a wide range of opportunities for a relaxing "natural holiday" full of experiences.

3 Information about the extent to which biological diversity is integrated in the implementation of environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessments at the various levels

The following instruments laid down by law ensure the integration of biological diversity in planning and decision processes at both federal and Land level and in development cooperation programmes (here only SEA and EIA). The various assessment instruments differ in their allocation to the planning levels, their spatial relationships and the relevant protected assets, and also in their legal consequences. In some cases biodiversity explicitly belongs to the protected assets, while in others it is included in the assessment via other protected assets: flora and fauna species, habitats or natural regime. For the future it is particularly important to make further progress with operationalising biodiversity for planning purposes with the aid of clear criteria.

Strategic environmental assessment and environmental impact assessment

Since 1990 an environmental impact assessment (EIA) has been required by law for certain projects. The aim of the legislation is to ensure timely and comprehensive identification, description and assessment of the impacts of certain public and private projects on the environment. In addition to biological diversity, the protected assets include flora and fauna, human health, abiotic factors, and the interactions between the protected assets. The results are to be taken into account as early as possible in all official decisions on permits for projects.

Since 2005 a strategic environmental assessment (SEA) has also been prescribed by law for certain plans and programmes. Under federal law, these include regional policy plans (Land and regional level, EEZ), physical development plans (land use and local development plans) and flood control plans, programmes of measures under water legislation, air quality control and waste management plans.

Habitats Directive impact assessment

One instrument specifically designed to take account of biodiversity aspects in planning is the Habitats Directive impact assessment. The legal basis for this is the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), plus the Federal Nature Conservation Act and the Nature Conservation Acts of the Länder. This requires that projects which, either on their own or due to interactions with other projects or plans, are likely to have substantial adverse impacts on a protected area belonging to the European ecological network “Natura 2000”, must be assessed before authorisation or implementation to see whether they are compatible with the conservation objectives for the area in question. The conservation objectives relate to habitats and species covered by the Habitats Directive or the Birds Directive and hence to aspects of biological diversity.

Although the application of the Habitats Directive impact assessment is confined to environmental impacts on Natura 2000 areas, it can be regarded as one of the most powerful instruments relating to conservation of biological diversity. The reason is that if a project with substantial adverse effects continues to be pursued, it is first necessary to examine alternatives that are compatible with nature conservation. If no suitable alternatives are available, permission for the project cannot be given unless there is a compelling public interest in its implementation; in such cases, steps must be taken to ensure coherence.

Impact mitigation

The impact mitigation rule in Germany provides an instrument which serves to take account of biodiversity aspects and which has its legal basis in the Federal Nature Conservation Act and the nature conservation acts of the Länder. It lays down that those who cause encroachments on nature and landscape must be placed under an obligation to refrain from avoidable adverse impacts on nature and landscape. Unavoidable harmful impacts must be compensated in accordance with a graduated system. The encroachment must not be carried out in cases where avoidance, compensation or substitution of the harmful impacts is not possible and the interests of nature conservation and landscape maintenance take priority over other interests.

The assets protected by the impact mitigation rule, which applies nationwide, comprise the performance and functional capacity of the natural regime, which thus includes flora, fauna and biological diversity, and also the landscape. This instrument, established in 1976, has long been used in Germany to ensure systematic and successful compensation on the lines of "biodiversity offsets". For example, the species protection assessment is the most important test in road construction alongside the EIA and the Habitats Directive impact assessment. Since prohibitions under species protection legislation are strict law, they cannot be circumvented by processes that seek to balance interests. The statutory cascade must be complied with: avoidance – functionconserving measures/advance compensatory measures – exceptions accompanied by measures to maintain conservation status.

Political decisions

Assessment of the environmental impact of political decisions at federal level is to a certain extent laid down in the rules for participation in federal legislation. In particular, the federal ministries are required by Article 44 (1) of the Common Rules of Procedure to check in each individual case whether the impacts of their legislation projects are compatible with sustainable development.

4 Inclusion of biodiversity aspects in other convention processes

Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)

Apart from the destruction of habitats, the trade in endangered species is one of the greatest threats to the animal and plant world. To combat this, international trade in such species has been controlled since 1975 under the Convention on the International Trades in Endangered Species (CITES). In the EU countries this is implemented by the EC Regulation on Species Conservation. During its presidency of the EU Council, Germany marked the 14th Conference of the Parties to CITES in 2007 by supporting various initiatives for the sustainable use of biological resources in the spirit of Millennium Development Goal 7, and putting forward proposals of its own. Among these are the applications for the inclusion of dogfish and mackerel shark in Annex II to CITES.

Another German focus in the context of CITES concerns the efforts to list further tropical tree species in the CITES annexes and, for trees already listed, to demand measures to implement sustainability assessment and the labelling of the timber traded. At COP 14, in close collaboration with the countries of origin, a binding action plan was agreed for recording populations, distribution and the scale of trade. In the CITES scientific committees and at the international expert workshop in Cancun/ Mexico, Germany continued to work on the development of principles and criteria for the "non detriment finding", in order to put the sustainable use of wild fauna and flora on a firmer, scientifically sound footing. Germany has thus made important contributions to improving the sustainable use of biological resources within the meaning of Article 10 of the CBD. During its presidency of the EU Council, Germany also tabled a discussion paper on poverty alleviation with the title "CITES and Livelihoods", with the aim of ensuring that in future the CITES protection rules are applied in a way that takes account of the interests of poorer sections of the population in developing countries.

CMS (Bonn Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species)

The conservation of migratory species is an important contribution to the conservation of natural species diversity. Migratory species are primarily bird species, but also marine and terrestrial mammals, fish, turtles and insects. For the endangered species among them, it is particularly important to have international concepts and measures in place to halt the loss of habitats and resting places along their migration routes on a transboundary basis and to minimise other risk factors.

Germany is a party to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (Bonn Convention), and to the regional conventions adopted under its aegis for the conservation of seals in the Wadden Sea, small whales in the North and Baltic Seas (ASCOBANS), the European bat population (EUROBATS) and African-Eurasian waterbirds (AEWA). German is also a signatory to the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of the Middle-European Population of the Great Bustard, and to the Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for the Aquatic Warbler.

Germany also actively supports the development of new agreements and action plans for the benefit of species in Annex II to the Bonn Convention (e.g. African-Eurasian Raptors Agreement and ideas on the international conservation of migratory sharks).

In the field of nature conservation and species protection there is close cooperation in Germany between public authorities on the one hand and NGOs and voluntary organisations and individuals on the other. Numerous non-governmental organisations in Germany, with around 150,000 unpaid members, play an active part in the conservation of migratory species. As well as making donations, the largely voluntary workers participate in monitoring studies, research and the practical implementation of conservation measures. For example, some 5,000 voluntary ornithologists are involved in the German system for monitoring migratory and breeding birds.

Ramsar convention (Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat)

There are close connections between Ramsar and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), for example due to the closely related principles of the CBD ecosystem approach and the Ramsar concept of “wise use”. The Ramsar Convention acts as a leading partner of the CBD for the fields of inland wetlands and waters (Decision VIII.20).

As part of the work of the “Biodiversity Liaison Group” (BLG: its members are the global biodiversity-related conventions CBD, CMS, CITES and WHC), the heads of the secretariats meet once a year. At present the main purpose of these meetings is to harmonise the different reporting methods and thematic overlaps.

The concept of the convention, which was initially keyed very closely to wetlands for birds, has gradually moved closer to an ecosystem approach. Today there is a greater focus on the importance of wetlands and the ecosystem services they provide. With its sustainable use approach and the network of

protected areas, the Ramsar Convention can in the long term make an important contribution to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.

In November 2008 the Tenth Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention was held under the motto "Healthy Wetlands, Healthy People". It discussed the role of biological diversity and human health, integrating this hitherto missing aspect in the overall concept of the convention.

UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage

The implementation of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention (1972) in the field of natural heritage in Germany makes an important contribution to the implementation of the CBD, and especially of the work programme on protected areas. The identification of potential UNESCO world heritage sites in Germany (screening project) and the gradual processing of UNESCO world heritage nominations helps provide special protection for species and ecosystems for which Germany bears special responsibility.

At international level, Germany support the UNESCO World Heritage Convention through development cooperation measures, e.g. protected area projects in 12 countries, such as Mauretania, Peru and Vietnam.

Alpine Convention – Ecological Network

In implementing the Alpine Convention, Germany is particularly concerned to put into practice the Protocol on Conservation of Nature and Landscape Protection, especially Article 12, the creation of a national and cross-border ecological network.

This contributes to the implementation of the CBD work programme on protected areas (Decision VII/28; especially goals 1.1. and 1.3) and to the thematic programme on "Mountain Biodiversity". Germany is a major supporter of the activities to create an ecological network in the Alps. In addition to taking part in numerous activities, Germany chaired the Alpine Convention's "Ecological Network Platform" from March 2007 to March 2009.

The activities primarily include the measures set out in the work programme to provide scientific support for the establishment of the pan-Alpine ecological network of protected areas, project-oriented implementation, and communication and public relations measures. Contacts exist with initiatives in other mountainous regions (Carpathians, Caucasus) where there are plans to draft specific conventions on sustainable development modelled on the Alpine Convention.

UNFCCC

With a view to integrating biodiversity aspects in other international processes, the Ninth Conference of the Parties to the CBD passed a number of resolutions, e.g. on collaboration with the Rio Conventions, and especially on cooperation between CBD and UNFCCC with regard to the integration of biodiversity aspects in the climate process. It was decided to set up an expert group on this subject.

In the context of development cooperation, the interface between biodiversity and climate change is coming to play an increasingly important role. In 2009 the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation prepared a position paper on this topic.

5. Inclusion of biodiversity aspects in development policy

For the German government, the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity is an integral part of an economically, socially and ecologically sustainable development policy. It is also a contribution to implementing the UN Millennium Declaration adopted by the heads of state and government at the UN Millennium Summit in the year 2000, and to achieving the resulting Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In view of the many and varied uses of natural resources, the importance of biological diversity extends beyond the field of action "Protecting Our Common Environment" in the Millennium Declaration, and also beyond MDG 7 - "Ensure Environmental Sustainability". Indeed, conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity is also a basic precondition for achieving the overarching goal of the Millennium Declaration – safeguarding our global future – and the other MDGs, especially MDG1 with its aim of halving, by 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.

Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity therefore play an important role in German development policy. At the Ninth Conference of the Parties to the CBD, held in Bonn in 2008, German Chancellor Angela Merkel gave a further boost to the importance of this issue by promising an additional €500 million for the period 2009 to 2012 and €500million a year from 2013 onwards for the protection of forests and other ecosystems in partner countries.

This means that a total of €1.34 billion is available for international cooperation on conserving biological diversity during the period 2009 to 2012.

The basic principles and objectives of German development policy in the field of biodiversity are set out in the sectoral concept "Biological Diversity" (2008). They state that assisted projects must serve the interests of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, cater for the basic needs of the population concerned, and make a concrete contribution to poverty alleviation. In addition, they put forward recommendations on cross-sectoral integration of biodiversity conservation, for example policy coherence, which will result in greater attention being focused on biodiversity management issues in the policies, plans and programmes of the partner countries.

Germany gives developing countries bilateral assistance with discharging their obligations under the CBD. In 2008 Germany made a total of €210 million available for protecting biodiversity and rainforests. More than 260 million Euro was pledged in 2009. Germany is currently giving some 15 partner countries special help with their efforts to conserve and make sustainable use of biological diversity. At the same time, biodiversity projects are in progress in a further 20 countries with suitable starting points for cooperation this field. A large proportion of the assistance continues to concentrate on sustainable forestry and management of protected areas. This also includes developing peripheral zones of protected areas and preparing business plans. This is not merely a question of safeguarding protected areas in the long term, but also of improving the basis for the life and livelihood of the local people by

making sustainable use of natural resources. Another field of activity is promoting the sustainable use of agro-biodiversity. Increasing the value added by agro-biodiversity products generates income and fosters rural development. Another important area of German development cooperation is concerned with accompanying the negotiations on the international ABS regime. In this connection, the "Multi-Donor ABS Capacity Development Initiative for Africa", initiated by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation, has been successfully engaged in human, institutional and political capacity building for ABS in Africa since November 2006, by running regional workshops and training courses and creating working materials. The aim here is partly to help African states to develop and/or implement national legislation, and partly to assist the countries with the discussion and formulation of an "African position" in the ABS negotiations under the CBD.

The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation also supports the multilateral development policy in the field of biodiversity. In particular, this includes the regular contribution to the GEF, which in this sector comes to about €10 million a year. In 2003, to underline the outstanding role of indigenous peoples and local communities in the conservation of biological diversity, Germany joined the Equator Initiative. This is a partnership that brings together the United Nations, the Canadian and German governments, civil society and private-sector businesses. The aim of this alliance is to promote local communities which make a contribution to improving their own situation by making sustainable use of biological diversity. For example, the "Equator Prize" is awarded for outstanding community projects. The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation is also a member of the Poverty Environment Partnership, an international network of environmental and development organisations working in the field of poverty reduction and sustainable resource management.

Another important topic of German development cooperation is implementing the Cartagena Protocol in developing countries in the interests of biosafety.

In the interests of agro-biodiversity, Germany also supports Biodiversity International (formerly the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI)) and the international agricultural research centres (IARC) which have joined forces to form the Consulting Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), including their gene banks. It also contributes to the Global Crop Diversity Trust (GCDT). Moreover, Germany supports various initiatives for shaping and realising farmers' rights in relation to plant genetic resources.

These rights support the important concern of global food security and help to implement the human right to food.

Under bilateral and multilateral cooperation agreements on global food security, Germany currently provides nearly €95 million a year for direct measures to implement the CBD in partner countries. These and other projects in the field of rural development and resource management make a contribution to supporting the goals of the convention and of the ITPGRFA.

One goal of the National Strategy on Biological Diversity is to incorporate biodiversity aspects into the world trade system. In doing so the mandate of the Doha Round must be taken into account.

Furthermore, the German government aims to devote 0.7% of gross national income to public development cooperation by 2015. To this end it is necessary for innovative financing instruments to play a part in addition to budget funds and further debt relief.

The Ninth Conference of the Parties to the CBD approved a message to the International Conference on Financing for Development meeting in Doha in 2008.