

**Response to Convention on Biological Diversity Notification  
(5 April and 5 May 2011)  
Decision X/16 on Technology transfer and cooperation**

Decision X/16 on technology transfer and cooperation was adopted at the 10<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and, in paragraph 2(a), invites Parties and other Governments as well as relevant international organisations “*to submit to the Executive Secretary information on activities currently being undertaken by international, regional or national organisations and initiatives, including sectoral organisations and initiatives, which support, facilitate, regulate or promote technology transfer and scientific and technical cooperation of relevance to the Convention, such as on:*

- i. Support for technology needs assessments and regulations, including capacity-building for technology assessments;*
  - ii. Pertinent capacity-building and training courses;*
  - iii. Pertinent seminars and symposia;*
  - iv. Information dissemination;*
  - v. Other implementation activities including match-making and catalysing or facilitating the establishment of research-centre networks, alliances or consortia, joint ventures, twinning arrangements, or other proven mechanisms, on technologies of relevance to the Convention.”*
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## **Summary**

The United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) provides expertise and guidance to a variety of stakeholders on a range of biodiversity and conservation issues. Much of UNEP-WCMC’s work aims to strengthen and improve access to biodiversity knowledge and information to support decision-making; to share expertise across stakeholders including Parties to the CBD and partner organisations; and to encourage collaboration and cooperation on data collection, reporting and use of information across all stakeholders.

UNEP-WCMC undertakes a range of activities and initiatives of relevance to the implementation of the CBD that are designed to support, facilitate, regulate and promote technology transfer and scientific and technical cooperation. The summary of activities and initiatives currently undertaken by UNEP-WCMC – mostly in partnership with others - include:

- Capacity building to support ecosystem-based mitigation (including REDD+), and ecosystem-based adaptation
- Support for tracking, monitoring and assessing biodiversity data and trends
- Facilitating implementation of multilateral environmental agreements
- Contributing to training in conservation leadership

## Capacity building to support ecosystem-based mitigation (including REDD+) and ecosystem-based adaptation

### **Planning for multiple benefits from ecosystem-based mitigation and ecosystem-based adaptation**

**Summary:** UNEP-WCMC is working with a range of developing country partners to provide technical support and training, including for spatial analyses, to support decision-makers in the planning for multiple-benefits from ecosystem-based mitigation and ecosystem-based adaptation.

UNEP-WCMC provides technical support and advice to help countries develop capacity and plan for achieving multiple benefits, such as the maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity and ecosystem services, from their ecosystem-based climate change mitigation activities. In particular, it has worked in partnership with a number of developing countries on using existing data to develop map-based overviews of the relationship between terrestrial carbon stocks, biodiversity, pressures that act on them and land management units, such as protected areas and forest concessions. By working in partnership with policy-makers and technical experts in Tanzania, China, Cambodia, Ecuador, Nigeria and other countries, this work has both built local capacity and provided key tools for visualising the potential for achieving benefits for biodiversity and ecosystem services from REDD+ activities. The results of the analyses have been made widely available in printed form and via the internet.

Some of this work has contributed directly to the UN-REDD Programme, the United Nations Collaborative Programme on REDD+, which assists developing countries to prepare and implement national REDD+ strategies. Other capacity-building activities under the UN-REDD Programme include the development of a toolkit on multiple benefits, which will contain a range of guidance documents and other materials to support the planning, implementation and monitoring of REDD+. UNEP-WCMC is also supporting the development of Social and Environmental Principles and Criteria for the UN-REDD Programme and is working in partnership with countries to review and test these. A Technical Consultation on Social and Environmental Safeguards for REDD+ in Nigeria built capacity on these issues amongst stakeholders including federal Ministry of Environment and Cross River State Forestry Commission. It also identified potential improvements in the country's draft REDD+ readiness programme.

UNEP-WCMC is helping advance knowledge of ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation (EBA) by providing analyses of EBA case studies to obtain good practice and lessons learnt and to assess the state of the evidence of the effectiveness of these approaches. We utilise publications and workshops to promote the exchange of knowledge and capacity building. UNEP-WCMC is also working with UNEP, UNDP and IUCN to provide technical support and build the capacity of Nepal, Uganda and Peru for the assessment and implementation of ecosystem-based adaptation pilot projects in mountain regions.

## Building resilience to climate change for protected areas in West Africa

### **Protected Areas Resilient to Climate Change (PARCC) West Africa Project**

**Summary:** UNEP-WCMC is working to develop science-based national and regional-scale tools to support West Africa countries in improving management of protected area systems and building resilience to climate and other change impacts.

UNEP-WCMC is managing a full-size GEF project focusing on climate change and protected areas, officially known as the 'Evolution of Protected Area Systems with Regard to Climate Change in the West Africa Region'. The aim of the project is to develop science-based national and regional-scale tools to support improved management of protected area systems in response to climate and other change impacts. The tools developed under this project will assist the West Africa region build the resilience of its protected areas to climate change at a regional scale. To achieve these aims, the project will require significant support from all its local, regional, and international partners.

The project covers 5 pilot countries in West Africa: Chad, Gambia, Mali, Sierra Leone, and Togo. An additional 3 countries will participate in preparatory activities relating to transboundary conservation (Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana). The project will run until 2015. There are four key components of this project:

1. Vulnerability assessment and risk reduction strategies for protected area systems
2. Gap analysis/studies and spatial planning
3. Support and implementation, pilot projects and training
4. Knowledge management, communication, monitoring and evaluation

This project is an excellent example of technology transfer and technological cooperation as its implementation is reliant on building strong and effective partnerships between stakeholders to transfer skills and experience to build technical and scientific capacity to respond to and plan for the management of climate change impacts.

The implementation of the project will require research to develop new protected area management tools and approaches, and training to enable stakeholders to use these tools. A communication strategy has been developed as part of this project to keep national, regional and international partners up-to-date with activities. All knowledge, information and outputs generated by the project will be made available on the project website and data portal - the data portal will be the central point for data management and analysis activities. It will also include a mapping application, allowing users to easily put together a wide range of outputs based on the information collected.

## Building capacity for sub-global assessments

### **Sub-global assessments network**

**Summary:** UNEP-WCMC is providing the secretariat for the SGA Network, and is developing a common platform for practitioners (individuals and organisations) involved in ecosystem assessments at the sub-global levels (regional, sub-regional, national, sub-national) and build their capacity to undertake and use assessments through training, information exchange and sharing of expertise.

UNEP-WCMC has a range of initiatives underway to improve information and knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystems for use by decision-makers. One initiative that is particularly useful in promoting technology transfer and scientific cooperation is the sub-global assessment (SGA) network, which seeks to create a common platform for practitioners (individuals and organisations) involved in ecosystem assessments at the sub-global levels (regional, sub-regional, national, sub-national). A focus of this work is to build capacity to undertake and use assessments. This involves offering opportunities for training in specific tools and approaches related to ecosystem assessments (e.g. capacity-building workshops on valuation, scenarios, mainstreaming etc.); capturing, synthesising and disseminating examples of best practices and lessons learnt in undertaking ecosystem assessments; developing e-learning tools which are of interest to ecosystem assessment practitioners; encouraging and supporting ongoing exchanges between and amongst SGAs, either through virtual or face-to-face means (e.g. sharing of expertise); establishing and maintaining a website devoted to the SGA network which will allow access to relevant materials and information; and linking SGAs to the scientific community and to relevant information and data sources which are useful for undertaking ecosystem assessment work. The initiative builds on the process and outcomes from the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment.

## Support for tracking, monitoring and assessing biodiversity data and trends

### **National Biodiversity Indicators Partnership**

**Summary:** UNEP-WCMC is working with other members of the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership to facilitate regional capacity building workshops and produce guidance materials, web pages and technical support tools for national agencies involved in NBSAP updating to help countries develop indicators that respond to national priorities.

The Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (BIP) was established by UNEP-WCMC in collaboration with the CBD as a global initiative to further develop and promote indicators for the consistent monitoring and assessment of biodiversity. The Partnership brings together a host of international organisations working at the forefront of indicator development, to provide the best available information on biodiversity trends to the global community. UNEP-WCMC is the official Secretariat of the BIP.

UNEP-WCMC, as part of the BIP and with the support of UNEP and the EC, is continuing to conduct and plan regional capacity building workshops, guidance materials, web pages and technical support for national agencies involved in National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAP) updating. These activities will help countries develop indicators that respond to national priorities, in support of national target setting under the new framework of the CBD Aichi targets. It will assist countries in understanding the targets and how a flexible framework can be utilized to establish country-specific indicators to track progress towards the targets. The project will embed capacity at the regional level to provide sustained technical support to countries. It will also draw on the expertise of the 40+ global BIP partners, enhancing multi-scale global network of biodiversity indicator developers and users and providing online resources and opportunities for lesson-sharing.

In order to share the Partnership's extensive knowledge and experience in national indicator development the 2010 BIP has created the National Biodiversity Indicators Portal. This Portal, a companion site to the 2010 BIP, is designed to be a comprehensive resource for nations and

regions looking to select and develop biodiversity indicators. As well as providing guidance and support through both online material and resources for download, the Portal is a resource where nations share their experiences and lessons learnt from indicator development. The National Biodiversity Indicators Portal is the leading resource for information on national biodiversity indicators. It provides guidance and examples to support the development and effective use of biodiversity indicators. These capacity building resources are the product of more than five years of experience by UNEP-WCMC and the BIP. It is designed principally to support biodiversity indicators at the national level, but it is relevant for working from the local to global scales. The portal is a companion website to the 2010 BIP, which provides indicator information at the global level.

## Improve access to data, information and knowledge

### Conservation Commons

**Summary:** UNEP-WCMC is working with the Conservation Commons to promote access to and the sharing of biodiversity data, information and knowledge by non-governmental organisations, international and multilateral organisations, governments, academia, the private sector, and individuals to strengthen biodiversity conservation.

The 'Conservation Commons' was created at the 3rd IUCN World Conservation Congress in 2004 as a global, collaborative effort to improve open access to data, information, and knowledge related to the conservation of biodiversity. UNEP-WCMC supports the principles of and provides the Secretariat to the Friends of the Conservation Commons.

The initiative encourages the release of biodiversity data by non-governmental organisations, international and multilateral organisations, governments, academia, the private sector, and individuals in order to facilitate biodiversity conservation. It does this by establishing three fundamental Principles which relevant organisations are then invited to endorse by formal signature. As of January 2009 more than 96 have done so. The principles are:

- *Open Access:* The Conservation Commons promotes free and open access to data, information and knowledge for conservation purposes.
- *Mutual Benefit:* The Conservation Commons welcomes and encourages participants both to use resources and to contribute data, information and knowledge.
- *Rights and Responsibilities:* Contributors to the Conservation Commons have full right to attribution for any uses of their data, information, or knowledge, and the right to ensure that the original integrity of their contribution to the Commons is preserved. Users of the Conservation Commons are expected to comply, in good faith, with terms of uses specified by contributors and in accordance with these Principles.

In order to provide additional impetus to the work of the Conservation Commons, UNEP-WCMC is currently preparing a paper on the barriers to data access, and will use this as a basis for helping the Conservation Commons to be more proactive in addressing these barriers. This is directly relevant to a range of international processes including both the CBD and the evolving Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.

## Facilitating implementation of multilateral environmental agreements

### **Facilitating national reporting to the Rio Conventions**

**Summary:** UNEP-WCMC is working with six governments on a pilot project to strengthen integrated processes and approaches to national reporting, data collection/analysis and information management to support decision-making and implementation of the three Rio Conventions at the national level.

UNEP-WCMC is working to build capacity for technology transfer and scientific cooperation for implementation of the Rio Conventions. For example, the Centre is executing a GEF funded, UNEP implemented project to 'Pilot Integrated Processes and Approaches to Facilitate National Reporting to Rio Conventions'. The objective of the project is to pilot nationally-driven integrated processes and approaches to reporting to the three Rio Conventions (CBD, UNCCD and UNFCCC).

More specifically, the project aims to (a) develop integrated approaches to data collection/analysis and information management of relevance to the three Rio Conventions at the national level; (b) increase synergies in the process of reporting to the three conventions without compromising relevant COP decisions; and (c) contribute to improved overall planning and decision-making processes at the country level related to the implementation of these three conventions. The project components focus on (1) situational analysis and reporting process design; (2) implementation of integrated reporting processes and experimenting options for report design; and (3) sharing of experience. The countries involved in this project are Afghanistan, Eritrea, Lao PDR, Liberia, Mauritius, and Palau. The project, which runs until the end of 2012, has produced analyses of the challenges to more integrated reporting processes in the pilot countries as well as options to address these challenges. The outputs include national manuals on integrated reporting.

## Capacity-building for monitoring progress in implementing the UNCCD

### **United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Performance Review and Assessment of Implementation System (PRAIS) project**

**Summary:** UNEP-WCMC has worked with UNCCD to build the capacity of Parties to monitor and assess progress in implementing the Convention by providing an online reporting portal to collect and collate national, sub-regional and regional data to produce performance indicators.

UNEP-WCMC has executed a major initiative to support the objectives of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) known as the 'Performance Review and Assessment of the Implementation System' (PRAIS) project. The UNEP/GEF PRAIS project aimed to build the capacity of the Convention and its Parties to effectively monitor and assess the progress made in achieving the poverty reduction and environmental sustainability objectives of the Convention and its 10-year Strategic Plan and Framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008-2018).

PRAIS consisted of three main components – capacity building, knowledge management and tools which were designed to deliver accurate and targeted national reporting on a set of performance indicators. The project has laid the foundations for a new comprehensive UNCCD monitoring and assessment process, providing the first step in evidence-based delivery of the 10-year Strategy to support poverty reduction and environmental sustainability in affected areas.



The PRAIS portal, the new online reporting portal of the UNCCD, allows collecting and collating national, sub-regional and regional data for the production of objective, quantifiable and comparable Performance Indicators, tracking and analysis of Financial Flows and dissemination of Best Practices on Sustainable Land Management. The portal is expected to be used by the Convention for national reporting on the UNCCD impact indicators.

## Contributing to training in conservation leadership

### **Masters in Conservation Leadership**

**Summary:** As a founding partner in the Cambridge Conservation Initiative, UNEP-WCMC has made substantial input into the development and delivery of course content for a Masters in Conservation Leadership, working in partnership with several university departments and other Cambridge-based organisations to help form the next generation of conservation decision-makers.

UNEP-WCMC plays an important role in training for conservation management and leadership. For example, the Centre makes a major contribution to the University of Cambridge Masters in Conservation Leadership, a full-time, one-year masters course aimed at graduates of leadership potential. The course is unique in that it is delivered by a partnership of several university departments and conservation organisations under the Cambridge Conservation Initiative (CCI), a collaboration between the University of Cambridge biodiversity conservation organisations in and around Cambridge, UK, including UNEP-WCMC. The course aims to place biodiversity knowledge at the centre of decision-making, bridge science and policy, and help form the next generation of conservation leaders.

The Masters in Conservation Leadership trains students to address the challenges of biodiversity conservation in an integrated and interdisciplinary manner, by focusing on an understanding of the root causes of ecosystem change and biodiversity loss. The goal is not only to develop conservationists with enhanced research skills and greater awareness of the complex drivers of biodiversity loss, but to develop the ability to act and lead effectively. The course is tailored to build the skills of mature graduates who already have experience of conservation work in government, NGOs or the private sector. The intention is that upon completion of the course they will return to their country of origin equipped to take on a leadership role in various conservation areas. Students from a range of countries around the world including Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Kenya, India, Iran and Zimbabwe have participated in the course since it was launched in 2010. UNEP-WCMC employs the Lecturer in Conservation Leadership who helps to run the course, and many staff have provided substantial input into the development and delivery of the course content.