

COUNCIL ACTION PLAN FOR GMOS

(approved by the 66TH Meeting of Council, November 2006)

KNOWLEDGE

- Synthesize knowledge on impacts of various GMOs on biodiversity and health from the available information. The Secretariat will build on the existing IUCN background document and the current evaluation of the Global Environment Facility's Support to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (this evaluation will collect information on the more than 100 countries that received GEF support to develop National Biosafety Frameworks and reports from non-governmental organizations, civil society and scientists based specifically those based on field experiences)
- Recognise and compile information related to inadequacies of the Cartagena Protocol with regard to contamination by GMOs, formally submit them to the CBD secretariat with a proposal for a conference on a strategy beyond the Cartagena Protocol
- Develop in close collaboration with the relevant Commissions (CEESP, CEL, et al, technical papers on the impact of GMOs and the legislation governing their release and intellectual property related issues on farmers' livelihoods, food sovereignty and security. Issues of importance are seed laws, terminator seeds (GURTS), coexistence and contamination, etc.
- Undertake an analysis on the implications of GMOs on the management objectives of conserving biodiversity through protected areas
- Prepare a comprehensive overview of IUCN's work on GMOs for WCC4, within existing reporting mechanisms.

TOOLS, CAPACITY BUILDING

- Send copies of GMO paper and Cartagena Protocol book and other recently developed documents to Regional and Country Offices for further distribution and awareness raising among governmental agencies and members..
- Provide members with information on existing sources of information on GMOs (e.g. the Cartagena Protocol's Biosafety Clearing-House; FAO's Biotechnology website). Provide information on capacity building opportunities (e.g. GEF; UN University)
- Conduct seminars in Regional and Country Offices, to develop proposals for capacity building in implementing the Cartagena Protocol (in collaboration with GEF and others)
- Conduct workshops in Regions in collaboration with members to increase awareness regarding the impacts of GMOs on biodiversity, biosafety, food sovereignty and livelihoods.

COMMUNICATIONS, PUBLIC AWARENESS

- The Director General writes/communicates with all relevant UN and other intergovernmental agencies, governments, private enterprises, NGOs and other civil society groups informing them about the moratorium and its background. The communication will urge the recipients to act with their mandate to implement or take necessary measures for the implementation of the moratorium. Regular communication with updates on the issue will be communicated to all.
- When any violation such as illegal cultivation or release is reported to the Director General, the Director General will personally or through the Regional Directors send a letter to the responsible authorities, copied to all IUCN members in that country, reminding them of the IUCN policy and urging them to implement the moratorium, etc.
- The Secretariat will draft an issues based communications strategy. This will include press releases outlining available information on GMO impacts, current status of GMO use and suggestions for future investigation to clarify potential role (or not) of GMOs in biodiversity and human health issues.
- Distribute information products at target events including the launch of the GEF review report and the CBD/Cartagena MOP in Brazil in March 2006.
- Establish a mailing list of for interested IUCN members and non members, Commissions and staff to interact and exchange updates on the issue

- Distribute information products at relevant international and regional meetings. IUCN staff present in those meetings will make clear statements regarding the moratorium and reminding participants of its importance.
- Produce a pamphlet on GMOs and the relevant resolutions to be sent in all IUCN languages to all IUCN members, Commissions, offices and all IUCN's donors
- Assist interested IUCN members in defining and implementing a programme of communication for awareness raising on the problems of GMOs and on peoples' right to information and participation
- Include updates about what IUCN, its Commissions and its members are doing to implement this resolution in Conservation News and the IUCN Annual Report.
- Dedicate a special webpage to GMOs linked to the IUCN homepage will be developed and updated regularly by CEESP.
- Review and document farmers' experiences with GMOs using appropriate methods for democratic deliberation and inclusion and safeguarding proper means for credibility and transparency during this process.

PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT AND DELIVERY

- Develop guidelines to help component programmes to incorporate work on GMOs into their work plans, where relevant and appropriate.
- Review all IUCN projects related to GMOs and biosafety to ensure that they are not contradictory with the moratorium and its spirit.