

Cooperation with other conventions, organizations, local authorities and other stakeholders (Agenda Item 4.13)

Ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP9), Bonn, Germany, 19-30 May 2008

Recommendations

IUCN urges COP9 to:

- √ **Adopt** the decision along the lines suggested in document UNEP/CBD/COP/9/21/Rev.1, Part V (paragraph 61) in order to maximize synergies and further strengthen cooperation of the CBD with other conventions, international and regional organizations and initiatives;
- √ **Encourage and invite** other governing bodies of relevant MEAs and agreements, including the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, UN Convention to Combat Desertification, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species, Convention on Migratory Species, International Treaty for the Protection of Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and UN Convention on the Law of the Sea make the promotion of synergies a permanent agenda item in their work;
- √ **Endorse** SBSTTA Recommendation XIII/6 to establish an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change with a mandate to develop advice on biodiversity, relevant to the UNFCCC decision on the Bali Action Plan (1/CP.13) as well as the UNFCCC Nairobi work programme and to remove the brackets around para. 23 (b) and (c);
- √ **Urge** Parties to adopt an ecosystem approach that integrates efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and degradation, in coherence with both the CBD and the UNFCCC;
- √ **Call** on the Secretariat of the CBD to work with the Secretariat of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to seek ways of enhancing collaboration on issues of mutual interest and concern; and
- √ **Call** on Parties to use, give continuous support to and further improve existing and effective tools that promote synergies among MEAs.

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Introduction

The importance of cooperation and synergy with relevant organizations, conventions, initiatives and processes, as well as with stakeholders in all major groups, in the achievement of the objectives of the CBD has been reiterated in numerous occasions by COP decisions (including decisions VI/26, VIII/16) and put into practice through subsequent activities led by the CBD Secretariat in conjunction with the Secretariats of other multilateral environmental agreements, and in particular, biodiversity-related conventions. In particular, the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention) has already a Memorandum of Understanding with the Secretariat of the CBD, in recognition of their many common interests.

Establishing such synergies at the international level has helped to encourage integrated approaches at national and sub-national levels and to promote a synergistic implementation of the commitments derived under each convention and agreement. Integrated efforts at all levels, from the local community to the multilateral fora, have positively contributed to ensure that internationally agreed sustainable development objectives are achieved most efficiently.

At the international level, IUCN considers that:

- Improved processes and mechanisms are needed to respond to the realities of inter-linkages of different issues such as biodiversity and climate change, desertification, trade, wetland protection, water, the use and management of energy.
- Integration, synergies, and cooperation among multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) need to become a priority for all CBD Parties and stakeholders at all stages of the further implementation of the Convention's work.

IUCN welcomes the efforts made at the Secretariat level, through the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions (JLG) as well as the cooperation between the biodiversity-related conventions, and encourages all Parties, organizations and stakeholders to support these efforts. In this context, IUCN is pleased to see the developments related to the coordination of chairs of the advisory bodies of biodiversity-related conventions and is proud of the fact that the third meeting of the chairs will

be held during the 4th IUCN World Conservation Congress in Barcelona in October this year.

IUCN welcomes the useful information contained in the report of activities undertaken in the past biennium entitled "Cooperation with Other Conventions and Organizations and Initiatives and Engagement with Stakeholders."¹ IUCN would like to encourage the CBD Secretariat and Parties to the Convention to further the collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), given the importance of agriculture for climate change adaptation, food security, and poverty reduction.²

IUCN further welcomes recent initiatives to strengthen synergies and cooperation between the Ramsar Secretariat, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the Convention on Biological Diversity, which IUCN actively supports.

IUCN recommends that COP9:

- √ **Adopts** the decision along the lines suggested in document UNEP/CBD/COP/9/21/Rev.1, Part V (paragraph 61) in order to maximize synergies and further strengthen cooperation of the CBD with other conventions, international and regional organizations and initiatives;
- √ **Encourages and invites** other governing bodies of relevant MEAs and agreements, including the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, UN Convention to Combat Desertification, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species, Convention on Migratory Species, International Treaty for the Protection of Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and UN Convention on the Law of the Sea make the promotion of synergies a permanent agenda item in their work.

Biodiversity and climate change

IUCN would like to underline that the establishment of an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on biodiversity and climate change as proposed at this meeting, would be a step further to enhance much needed synergies between the Convention on Biological Diversity

¹ UNEP/CBD/COP/9/21/Rev.1

² See IUCN Position Paper for CBD COP9 on Agriculture and Biodiversity, 2008

and the Framework Convention on Climate Change.³

The CBD should work closely with the UNFCCC to ensure that biodiversity and ecosystem considerations are well integrated into the REDD mechanism.

IUCN recommends that COP9:

- √ **Endorses** SBSTTA Recommendation XIII/6 to establish an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change with a mandate to develop advice on biodiversity, relevant to the UNFCCC decision on the Bali Action Plan (1/CP.13) as well as the UNFCCC Nairobi work programme;
- √ **Urges** Parties to adopt an ecosystem approach that integrates efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and degradation, in coherence with both the CBD and the UNFCCC.

Biodiversity and trade

The linkages between biodiversity and trade are various and complex. While IUCN welcomes consultations and work carried out with the World Trade Organization (WTO), we believe that more clarity is needed in terms of the relationship between international instruments designed for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use and agreements adopted under the umbrella of WTO. The Secretariat of the CBD could begin a dialogue with an options paper outlining the many links between trade and biodiversity that could be addressed through such cooperation.

In regards to invasive alien species, IUCN welcomes the consultations undertaken by the Secretariat of the CBD with the secretariats of WTO, FAO, the World Organization of Animal Health (OIE) and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) to address the lack of international standards covering invasive alien species (IAS), in particular animals that are not pests of plants under the IPPC. IUCN also welcomes the discussions on this topic during SBSTTA 13 and the resulting draft recommendations as well as the findings of the recent workshop on “Best Practices in Pre-Import Risk Screening for Species of Live

Animals in International Trade” held in 9-11 April, South Bend, Indiana, USA.⁴

IUCN recommends that the COP9:

- √ **Calls** on the Secretariat of the CBD to work with the Secretariat of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to seek ways of enhancing collaboration on issues of mutual interest and concern.

Synergies at national level

IUCN considers that, ultimately, synergies should serve to support appropriate implementation at national level, where conservation action occurs. In this respect, several existing tools may be useful in promoting such synergy.

For example, IUCN has supported the Tematea Issue-Based Modules <http://www.tematea.com>, developed under a joint IUCN – UNEP project. Tematea can facilitate synergies in international environmental commitments and capacity building for national implementation through rapid identification of common elements in reporting and implementation across the conventions included. The six Modules existing so far have been successfully used and tested in a number of national workshops.

Another tool is ECOLEX, the most comprehensive, global source of information on environmental law. ECOLEX “The Gateway to Environmental Law.” was developed and is operated jointly by FAO, UNEP and IUCN and it can be found at <http://www.ecolex.org/start.php>

IUCN encourages Parties to use these tools to promote synergies in developing and implementing the provisions of international agreements and other regulations as well as to promote coordination among ministries and other stakeholders at national level. IUCN would welcome continuing support to improve and implement these tools.

IUCN also strongly supports the proposed decision on cooperation with cities and local authorities with the view to empower authorities close to local communities to play an important role in biodiversity conservation and in the synergetic implementation of biodiversity-related agreements.

³ See IUCN Position Paper for CBD COP9 on Biodiversity and Climate Change, 2008

⁴ See IUCN Position Paper for CBD COP9 on Invasive Alien Species, 2008

IUCN equally supports the efforts made by the CBD to include representatives of the private sector as essential stakeholders in work related to implementation of the Convention. IUCN hopes that these initiatives will promote partnerships and joint activities at national level.

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