



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING



Between

The Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History,

The Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle de France,

The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew,

The German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation

The Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences

**The National Commission for Wildlife Conservation and Development of the
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**

And

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

The Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle de France, the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, the National Commission for Wildlife Conservation and Development of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (hereinafter, "the Participants"),

Recalling the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (hereinafter "the Convention"), namely the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources,

Recalling also Articles 12, 13 and 18 of the Convention, respectively addressing issues relating to research and training, public education and awareness, and technical and scientific cooperation,

Recalling further the Global Initiative on Communication, Education and Public Awareness adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention through decision VI/19,

Recognizing that the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle de France, the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, and the National Commission for Wildlife Conservation and Development of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia are leading scientific and public service organizations committed to promoting research, scientific discovery and conservation, including through the development and dissemination of knowledge, and to facilitating better management of the Earth's environment by increasing the understanding of species and ecosystems - the basis of life on Earth - through, *inter alia*, the provision of education, advice and information to stakeholders and by

building the global capacity for studying and conserving biodiversity through collaborative partnerships and by training scientists from developing countries,

Conscious of the need to promote the implementation of the Convention and its Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (hereinafter “the Protocol”) through technical assistance and training and education of key actors in order to meet the challenges of the 2010 biodiversity target,

Declare the following:

1. Objective

The objective of the present Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter “the Memorandum”) is to promote the effective implementation of the Convention and its Protocol through the organization of training and education activities focusing on policy, technical and scientific issues relevant to the implementation of the Convention and the Protocol.

2. Joint Activities

1. The Participants intend to develop and implement training programmes on policy, scientific and technical issues relevant to the effective implementation of the Convention and the Protocol for selected participants at relevant meetings organized under the Convention process as well as at other relevant regional and international meetings.
2. Training on policy-related issues may be organized in conjunction with meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention as well as with other appropriate policy-related meetings. Similarly, training on scientific and technical issues, in particular on the thematic and cross-cutting programme areas, may be organized in conjunction with meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice as well as with other appropriate scientific-related meetings.
3. Such training may include hands-on seminars; interactive on-line training modules/courses; dissemination of training material; and discussion and exchange of views on lessons-learned and best practices.
4. Training programmes should be organized on a bi-annual basis, commencing in the biennium 2007-2008.

3. Steering Committee

1. The Participants to this Memorandum intend to establish a Steering Committee composed of their respective chief executives or their designated representatives to oversee its implementation.
2. The Steering Committee should (a) determine the focus of each training session, taking into account key issues for consideration by the Conference of the Parties and SBSTTA; (b) allocate responsibilities regarding the preparation, conduct and oversight of training programmes; and (c) review and evaluate the effectiveness of the training programmes.

3. The Steering Committee should generally work electronically.
4. The Steering Committee should organize teams for the implementation of each training session.

4. Financial Aspects

1. Joint activities under this Memorandum are subject to the availability of funding for that purpose.
2. The Participants intend to undertake concerted fundraising initiatives for the implementation of activities under this Memorandum.

5. Reporting

The Steering Committee should provide bi-annual reports on the implementation of this Memorandum.

6. Other Provisions

1. This Memorandum comes into effect upon signature by the representatives of the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle de France, the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, the National Commission for Wildlife Conservation and Development of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
2. Additional institutions may join this initiative upon decision by the Steering Committee and signature of the Memorandum of Understanding and will become Participants as new members of the Steering Committee.
3. This Memorandum may be reviewed and modified by the Participants by mutual decision.
4. This Memorandum may be terminated by any of the Participants giving a six-month written notice.

Signed this 27th day of March 2006 at Curitiba, Brazil

For and on behalf of the Smithsonian
National Museum of Natural History

Cristián Samper
Director

For and on behalf of the Muséum
National d'Histoire Naturelle

Bertrand-Pierre Galey
Directeur Général

For and on behalf of the Royal Botanic
Gardens, Kew

Jim Knight, MP
Minister for Rural Affairs, Landscape and
Biodiversity, UK Department of
Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

For and on behalf of the German Federal
Agency for Nature Conservation

Matthias Machnig
State Secretary
Federal Ministry for the Environment,
Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

For and on behalf of the Royal Belgian
Institute of Natural Sciences

Jackie Van Goethem
Deputy Director

For and on behalf of the National
Commission for Wildlife Conservation
and Development

H.R.H. Prince Turki Bin Nasser Bin
Abdullaziz Al-Saud
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

For and on behalf of the Secretariat of the
Convention on Biological Diversity

Ahmed Doghla
Executive Secretary