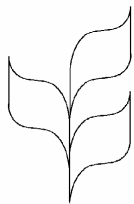




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**CONVENTION ON
BIOLOGICAL
DIVERSITY**

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**SECOND MEETING OF THE STEERING
COMMITTEE OF THE CONSORTIUM OF
SCIENTIFIC PARTNERS ON BIODIVERSITY**

Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle de France, Paris, France, 17 October 2007

**SECOND MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE CONSORTIUM OF
SCIENTIFIC PARTNERS ON BIODIVERSITY**

Report of the meeting

I. INTRODUCTION AND OPENING OF THE MEETING

1. Following the first meeting of the Steering Committee of the Consortium of Scientific Partners on Biodiversity held at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, United Kingdom, on 8-9 September 2006, Mr. Bertrand-Pierre Galey generously offered to hold the second meeting at the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, in Paris on 17 October 2007.
2. The meeting took place in the room Magny from 2 to 6 p.m. All Consortium partners were present, except the National Commission for Wildlife Conservation and Development from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (See Annex 1 for the list of participants). Ms. Joanne DiCosimo, President and CEO of the Canadian Museum of Nature, and Dr. Okajima Tokutake, Director of the Higashiyama Botanical Garden, attended the meeting as observers.
3. The meeting was opened by Ms. Myriam Né Chad on behalf of Mr. Bertrand-Pierre Galey who was attending a Board meeting and came briefly to express his apologies for his absence. Jo Mulongoy then welcomed the participants on behalf of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
4. Before the adoption of the agenda, Mr. Horst Korn requested clarification whether item 6 of the agenda on access and benefit sharing was part of the mandate of the Consortium. The participants agreed to consider this question later when the item would be under discussion. Ms. Eimear Nic Lughadha requested that successes and lessons learnt during the intersessional period be reviewed. It was noted that this review was included under agenda item 2. The agenda was then adopted as presented.
5. Dr. Okajima Tokutake thanked the chair and the members of the Consortium for the opportunity to attend the meeting as an observer. He introduced himself as the Director of the Higashiyama Botanical Gardens and the President of the Japan Association of Botanical Gardens (JABG). Dr. Tokutake distributed documents on the Higashiyama Botanical Gardens and made a PowerPoint presentation of the Gardens, with translation by Mr. Ryo Kohsaka. After the brief introduction of the City of Nagoya, Dr. Tobutake conveyed the message of the mayor that the City of Nagoya was fully committed to host COP-

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10. He then presented conservation activities of indigenous plants in the botanical garden such as *Eriocaulon nudicuspe* and *Habenaria radiate*. Other activities included marsh and landscape restoration. At the end of the presentation, Dr. Tobutake described the organizational structure of the JABG. The presentation was followed by a short session of questions and answers.

6. The Consortium agreed that Dr. Okajima Tokutake should continue to attend the meeting of the Steering Committee as an observer until the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP-9), pending final decision of the Steering Committee on membership. Foreseeing that many other museums might be interested in joining the Consortium, the Steering Committee discussed the idea of having a 3-tiered operational arrangement with: (i) the Executive Bureau consisting of the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History and the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle of France; (ii) a broader Steering Committee assembly consisting of all signatories of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU); and (iii) associate or affiliate members. The Executive Bureau was tasked to prepare criteria for selection of future members for the next meeting and to have preliminary discussions by email. Possible criteria were proposed by Mr. Cristián Samper, Ms. Eimear Nic Lughadha and Mr. Jean-Patrick Le Duc.

II. REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU), INCLUDING THE DECISIONS ADOPTED AT THE FIRST MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE CONSORTIUM

Background information

7. Each member of the Consortium and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity made a presentation on their intersessional activities against the plans proposed in the report of the first meeting and in the MOU (Annex 2 – As of the time of release of this report, only one document of the intersessional activities has been received). In addition, Mr. Jean-Patrick Le Duc reported on the training workshop and other activities coordinated by the French Museum prior to the twelfth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-12), held in Paris from 2 to 6 July 2007.

8. In summary:

(a) Many relevant activities were carried out intersessionally, including related to capacity building programmes, the celebration of the International Day for Biological Diversity 2007, Communication Education and Public Awareness activities, Countdown2010, collections, digitization of data, web posting of information and publications.

(b) Most activities involved only individual organizations. It was therefore strongly suggested that efforts should be made to promote joint activities as stated in the MOU.

(c) There was a need to identify systematic criteria for assessing the success of the activities not only quantitatively, as it was suggested in the report of the first meeting, through the number of focal points trained, number of participants in workshops, number of training kits/manuals distributed, number of schools/students benefiting from education training programmes of the Consortium, but also qualitatively.

9. With regard to the activities organized on 1 July 2007 prior to SBSTTA-12, the members noted that:

(a) A lot of positive comments were made by participants from both developing and developed countries and from organizations (even though only few organizations participated).

(b) There were a lot of interest and good attendance (total of 140 participants) for the training workshops, the seminars and the special workshops.

(c) There was also a good participation of Consortium members.

10. However, due to the fact that the workshop venue was not the same as for SBSTTA-12 and due to the late travel arrangements, caused by delayed support funds, some participants encountered difficulties to attend the training workshops. Moreover, the preparation was done mainly at the last minutes as resource persons were identified late and the draft teaching materials were shared with them late. As a consequence, some presentations were different in French and English, and some presenters did not have enough time to own the presentations. Finally, presentations were not posted on the website as promised and a written report was still due at the time of this meeting.

11. It was agreed that the CBD Secretariat will carry out an assessment of the effectiveness of the Paris training workshop by sending out an evaluation questionnaire to all the participants, including resource persons. In the future, such assessment will have to be carried out immediately after the meeting for which the training workshop would be organized so that participants can assess whether and how much the training workshop contributed to their understanding and scientific discussions of the issues. The Consortium decided that, in the future, the training activities will be limited to the main topics selected and approved by the Steering Committee, pursuant to the *modus operandi*, and the preparatory activities should be started as early as possible to also allow all members of the Consortium to contribute to the teaching materials.

12. The total additional funding required for the training workshop was US\$ 11339, in addition to the funds needed to support developing countries participants in the SBSTTA-12 meeting. The Muséum provided the rooms free of charge, as well as staff for registration and assistance to participants. The Muséum had to pay for a technician for the training workshop, which cost 500 € (US\$ 685 at the July 2007 rate of 1Euro=US\$ 1.37) and for the cleaning of the lunch room, which cost 200 € (US\$ 274 at the July 2007 rate of 1Euro=US\$ 1.37). None of the resource persons were paid and their travel was taken in charge by members of the consortium (for those who did not participate to the SBSTTA meeting). The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity paid for the lunch, which cost US\$ 1000 and for the extra Daily Substance Allowance for 28 eligible participants, which came to US\$ 9380.

13. In its report, the CBD Secretariat noted insufficient number of responses to the requests made by the Executive Secretary, including the requests: (i) for comments from members of the Consortium on the preferred type of webpage to use for the Consortium on the CBD website; (ii) to provide a list of activities of each of the partners for posting on the CBD website; and (iii) for the articles to be published in the fourth Gincana on Partnerships.

Action needed

14. The Consortium members agreed to take the following actions:

(a) Mr. Jean-Patrick Le Duc to provide presentations of the SBSTTA-12 training workshops to the Secretariat for posting on the internet and finalize the report.

(b) The CBD Secretariat to draft an evaluation questionnaire to assess the effectiveness of the training workshops and send it to the workshop participants at SBSTTA-12 as soon as possible.

(c) The CBD Secretariat to inform the Consortium members about the level and sources of additional funding required for the training workshops.

(d) The CBD Secretariat to resend the requests, along with revised deadlines, to the Consortium members for their inputs regarding the Consortium webpage hosted on the CBD website, the list of activities of each Consortium partner, and the articles for the publication of Gincana on Partnerships.

III. ACTIVITIES TO BE UNDERTAKEN IN 2008, INCLUDING ON THE OCCASION OF THE NINTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Second meeting of the Working Group on Protected Areas (WGPA-2) and SBSTTA-13 in February 2008 in Rome

15. The Consortium agreed to organize two sets of training workshops, one prior to the WGPA-2 on protected areas on 10 February 2008, and the other one prior to SBSTTA-13 on 17 February 2008 focusing on agricultural and forest biodiversity, which are the two main themes for the in-depth review. The training workshops should consist of 4 sessions and be held in half a day.

16. The CBD Secretariat offered to coordinate the preparation of the training workshops at the margins of the WGPAs-2 and SBSTTA-13. It will thus propose a programme to the Steering Committee including the titles of topics to be covered during the workshops and names of possible resource persons. The CBD Secretariat was also asked to notify the Parties and organizations as soon as possible about these training workshops so that potential participants can start planning early and take advantage of interesting air fares.

17. The Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle de France and the Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y uso de la biodiversidad de México (CONABIO) were requested to assist the Secretariat to explore ways to run sessions in French and Spanish in parallel to the workshop to be held in English. The possibility to recruit interpreters was also mentioned to avoid having parallel sessions in all languages.

18. The Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History promised to explore the possibility of funding the participation of two resource persons: one expert on pollinators (possibly Mr. Scott Miller) and one expert on forest biodiversity (possibly Mr. Stuart David). Other members of the Consortium were invited to also consider sponsoring some resource persons.

COP-9 in May 2008 in Germany

19. Germany is planning a lot of events and the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation will propose as soon as possible a list of activities and coordinate the activities of the Consortium (the Bonn event) taking into account the suggestions made at this meeting, including the following:

(a) Organize one capacity building workshop (but not for building scientific expertise) or a high-level outstanding workshop or side event;

(b) Consider appropriate dates for the activities, e.g. on Saturday prior to COP-9 meeting instead of Sunday when regional groups might be meeting and attendance can thus be low, or in the middle of the first week (for example on Tuesday evening).

(c) Possible topics (indicative):

- Science and biodiversity
- Key examples leading to the 2010 biodiversity target

- Role of taxonomy to raise awareness on the importance of science underpinning biodiversity conservation

IV. AREAS FOR POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTION OF THE CONSORTIUM TO THE CELEBRATION OF THE 2008 INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Background information

20. The CBD Secretariat circulated a list of types of materials that will be produced for the 2008 International Biodiversity Day (Annex 3). Members of the Consortium were requested to comment and provide further suggestions on their possible (collective) contribution, as soon as possible.

21. Some discussions took place concerning the most appropriate dates for the Museums to celebrate the 2008 International Biodiversity Day as this year 22 May is on a Thursday. For museums, Saturday could be a more appropriate day to reach many visitors. It was also noted that the International Day for Biological Diversity events could be spread over more than a day.

Action needed

22. The Consortium members agreed to provide comments and suggestions on the paper circulated by the Secretariat by 1 November 2007 and to inform the secretariat, as soon as possible, on their possible (collective) contribution for the 2008 International Day for Biological Diversity.

V. POSSIBLE CONTRIBUTION TO THE DRAFT STRATEGY FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE 2010 INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR BIODIVERSITY

Background information

23. The CBD Secretariat circulated an informal document describing some principles and preliminary strategy for the International Year for Biodiversity – 2010. Members of the Consortium were asked to provide comments. The issue will be discussed at the informal meeting to be held in Rome in February 2008.

24. Some discussions took place on the possible nature and size of the exhibition planned by the Consortium for 2010. The production of a light exhibit reproduced hundreds of times can be a successful way to attract the media (with possibly a world record in reproducing an exhibition for use at the global level). However, a light exhibition may not be impressive enough, and an impressive exhibition attracting attention may require a lot of money. In any case, current experience will help take a decision regarding the type of exhibition to prepare for 2010 (e.g. the permanent exhibition on biodiversity being set up in Montreal, or the exhibition on meso-American corridor that will travel in the region for 2 years). The Consortium also discussed the production of a basic exhibition (consisting for instance of a large curved poster, with a film projector and a few objects representing the region) to which each partner can add specific features characteristic of the region/country.

25. The question of cost for the exhibition will have to be considered as well as the role of each partner. The importance of attracting the media was emphasized.

Action needed

26. The Consortium members agreed to take the following actions:

(a) To provide comments on the preliminary strategy for the International Year for Biodiversity – 2010 as soon as possible (as of the release of this report, no contribution have been received).

(b) To brainstorm and send suggestions on the possible type of exhibition to be develop for the International Year for Biodiversity in 2010. The Consortium members will brainstorm and share their suggestions on the type of exhibition they would like to recommend with all the members. The Executive Bureau could then synthesize and streamline the proposals.

VI. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A REGIME ON ACCESS AND BENEFIT SHARING FOR THE PUBLIC SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTIONS

27. The Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle de France tabled a document entitled "CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY -- Art. 15 Access to genetic resources and Benefit-Sharing (ABS): The treatment of genetic resources used by research organisations in the context of the ABS proposal by the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle de France" for consideration by the Consortium. The members of the Consortium agreed that the topic is very important for museums but falls outside the mandate of the Consortium as described in the MOU. This item 6 was therefore not discussed.

VII. DATE AND VENUE OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE

28. It was agreed that the Consortium will meet: (i) informally in February 2008 at the margins of the W GPA-2 and SBSTTA-13 meetings (not with the full participation of the Steering Committee); and (ii) in May 2008 at the margins of COP-9. The CBD Secretariat can also organize a teleconference with the Executive Bureau if necessary.

29. The informal meeting in February 2008 was tentatively planned for 19 February 2008 from 8 p.m. and is intended to mainly discuss:

- The side event at COP-9, and
- Preparation of the 2010 International Year for Biodiversity, particularly the exhibition

VIII. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

30. On behalf of the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle de France, Ms. Myriam Nechad and Mr. Jean-Patrick Le Duc thanked everyone for their active participation. On behalf of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Mr. Jo Mulongoy thanked the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle de France for generously hosting the meeting and all the participants for their participation.

31. The meeting was closed at 6:30 p.m. on 17 October 2007.

Annex 1

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Annex 2

INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES OF MEMBERS

German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation

Capacity Building Activities of the International workshops/seminars, Vilm, Germany. April to December 2007

(Activities not carried out at Vilm are specifically mentioned)

1-4 April: Training Course for CEE and CIS: Negotiation skills for the CBD

10-14 April: Expert meeting in preparation for SBSTTA-12

20-23 April: Best Practise in Tourism Management in Protected Areas in the Baltic Region

9-13 May: The Future of Central Europe's World Natural Heritage and Cultural Landscapes - Part V: "Harmonisation of Tentative Lists of the World Natural Heritage in the Central European Region

13-16 May: Expert Workshop "Economic Valuation of Biological Diversity - Ecosystem Services"

4-9 May: UNEP-Course "Environmental Management"

13-17 June: Training Course: Sustainable Conservation Finance Mechanisms for Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) - Part V: Business Planning for Protected Areas

17-21 June: Workshop: "Regional Implementation of the CBD-Programme of Work on Protected Areas"

25-28 June: European Bison in Central European Landscapes - Experiences and perspectives

29 July-3 August: Financial instruments for conservation in the development cooperation

19-23 August: Strengthening the Capacity of Governments to Implement Priority Activities of the CBD PoWPA – Eastern Europe/Central Asia and Caucasus workshop

10-14 September: Functional coherence of Natura 2000 sites

17-21 September: UNEP Short course on conservation of biodiversity (preparing developing countries for COP-9)

8-12 October: Landscape Planning as a tool for the Preparation of a Biosphere Reserve in Ethiopia (location: Metu, Ethiopia)

10-14 October 2007: Tools for Nature Conservation and Sustainable Land Use (location: Yerevan, Armenia)

11-21 October: Introduction to Landscape Planning in the Caucasus Region (location: Tbilisi, Georgia)

18-22 October: Management plans for Ramsar sites in CEE and CIS, a contribution to the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas

31 October-4 November: Tourism Planning and Management for World Natural Heritage Sites in CEE

5-8 November: Linking Conservation and Poverty Reduction

9-11 November: Environmental Education, and Communication (location: Moscow, Russia)

22-26 November: Implementation of the International Standard for Sustainable Wild Collection of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (ISSC-MAP)

2-7 December: European Expert Meeting in Preparation for SBSTTA-13 and WGPA-2

*Annex 3***LIST OF PROPOSED INFORMATION PRODUCTS FOR THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY 2008**

1. IBD theme and Catch Phrase
 - a. The theme will be one of the following:
 - Biodiversity: the basis for our Breadbasket
 - Biodiversity: A Global Feast
 - Biodiversity: the bounty of the Earth
 - b. Beneath this theme, a number of sub themes will be repeated on all information products.
2. IBD Booklet
 - a. The Booklet will contain the outline, as attached in Appendix 1 below
3. IBD Poster
 - a. The Poster will contain the theme and images of all the themes:
 - Agricultural landscapes
 - Pollinators
 - Biofuels
 - Nutrition
4. IBD Fact Sheets (400-500 words each)
 - a. Initiative on Pollinators
 - b. Soil Biodiversity
 - c. Partnerships
 - d. Biofuels
 - e. Cross-cutting initiative on Food and Nutrition.
5. IBD Postcards (only about 50 characters per card).
 - a. Pollinators provide for plenty
 - b. Biodiversity is just below the surface
 - c. A diverse diet is good for you, and the planet.
 - d. Agricultural Biodiversity: Producing while preserving
6. IBD Bookmarks (only about 50-75 words per book mark – link to the website)
 - a. Pollinators
 - b. Soil biodiversity
 - c. Nutrition
 - d. GURT
 - e. Biofuels
 - f. Ecosystem Approach
 - g. Habitat loss
7. IBD School Kit
8. IBD Promotional video
9. Episodes in the Earth Report Series

Outline for the booklet for the International Day for Biological Diversity

1. Biodiversity is the basis for agriculture and for the food supply of the world
 - a. Genetic diversity
 - b. Species Diversity
 - c. Ecosystem Diversity
 - d. Pollinators
 - e. Soil Biodiversity
2. Agriculture has become one of the greatest drivers of biodiversity loss
 - a. Habitat transformation

- b. Pollution
- c. Climate change
- d. Monoculture
3. Feeding the World and Conserving biodiversity will be one of the biggest challenges of the 20th century
 - a. Growing population, growing food supply, shrinking land base.
 - i. Efficiencies
 - ii. Fertilizer use
 - iii. Climate Change
 - iv. Biofuels GURTS
4. The Convention has the Solutions: sustainable Agriculture is about managing Biological Diversity
 - i. Ecosystem Approach
 - ii. Integrated Pest Management
 - iii. Soil Conservation
 - iv. Mixed cropping and biodiverse landscapes.
 - v. Take livelihoods into account.
5. Working together in a Global Partnership
 - a. FAO
 - b. Bioersity, etc.
