



## Convention on Biological Diversity

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INFORMAL MEETING OF THE CONSORTIUM OF  
SCIENTIFIC AND OTHER PARTNERS  
Special meeting for the International Year of Biodiversity

20 January 2010, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, France

### REPORT OF THE MEETING

1. The meeting included the participation of Mr Ahmed Djoghlaif, the Executive Secretary to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Mr. Bertrand-Pierre Galey, Director General of the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Jean-Partick LeDuc and Johanne Landry of the same institution, Ms. Eimear Nic Lughadha, the Head of Science Operations of Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, Ms. Anne Franklin, IYB coordinator of the Royal Belgian Institute for Natural Sciences, Mr. Horst Korn, Head of Biodiversity Unit, Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), Mr. Kazutoki Funahasi, Director, Higashiyama Botanical Gardens, and Mr. Gerald Dick, Executive Director of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA).
2. The provisional agenda for the meeting was adopted.
3. Under Agenda Item One, the Director General of the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle welcomed the participants to the Muséum. He reiterated the goals of the International Year of Biodiversity and indicated that the Museum was fully prepared to contribute to these goals. He indicated that his colleagues would provide an outline of the activities that the Museum has planned for the year. He noted particularly that the Museum would be hosting a concert and a reception as a contribution to the high level event of UNESCO.
4. Under Agenda Item Two, the Executive Secretary to the Convention on Biological Diversity thanked Mr. Galey for his remarks as well as for the partnership. He recalled the first meeting of the Consortium and the training that the members offered. In this spirit, the Executive Secretary reminded the participants that the International Year of Biodiversity (IYB) was about partnership and collaboration for the sake of life on earth. He acknowledged and thanked new partners to the Consortium, noting in particular the presence of WAZA.
5. Speaking about the Strategic Plan of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the International Year of Biodiversity, the Executive Secretary indicated that this is the first time that the United Nations has declared an international year that provides support to a political process.
6. The Executive Secretary also mentioned a number of other important initiatives for the Year within the framework of the CBD that would take biodiversity to new heights. In particular, he noted the global partnership for Cities and Biodiversity and its newest member, London. He

also mentioned the negotiations for an international regime on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of genetic resources which were to be concluded this year. He also mentioned the release of Global Biodiversity Outlook 3, which was based on a unique combination of scientific advice and national reports.

7. The Executive Secretary noted the tremendous profile of the Year that has already been established. Citing the high level events in Berlin and Paris, the European Conference in Madrid, the Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity, the UNEP Global Ministerial Environmental Forum in Bali, and others. He welcomed the tremendous support provided from various actors at the beginning of the year.
8. He reminded participants of the special High-Level Segment of the United Nations General Assembly in September featuring three panels: one on climate change and biodiversity, one on biodiversity and the Millennium Development Goals and one on the strategic plan of the CBD and the post-2010 target. For these panels, invited speakers include Achim Steiner, Rajendra Pachauri, Helen Clark, Thomas Lovejoy and Yvo deBoer.
9. Finally, the Executive Secretary talked about the role of Canadian explorer Jean Lemire in the activities. Mr Lemire will embark on a voyage on his sailing vessel, the Sedna, for two years, with the final destination being the Rio + 20 Conference in June 2012. His sailing vessel would be in the port of Nagoya for the closure of the event and a reception is planned for this.
10. Under Agenda Item Three, the participants began to outline their plans for celebrating the IYB. Dr Horst Korn of the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) spoke and noted the main contributions for the IYB. A conference on communicating the benefits of biodiversity for climate change would be organised. A number of interdisciplinary meetings for scientists relating to biodiversity and its benefits for human well-being were also to be held. BfN intended to support a number of local and national activities.
11. Dr Korn then mentioned the joint Biodiversity Day activity planned collaboratively by the Ministry of the Environment (BMU), the BfN, and the German Ministry for Development Cooperation (BMZ) along with Geo Magazine. As many as 35 countries will be involved in a biodiversity monitoring activity that is planned to be held on 22 May 2010. Dr Korn then showed a promotional film of the activity to the members of the Consortium. The Executive Secretary thanked Dr Korn and mentioned that the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is also involved in the International Day for Biological Diversity and their field offices were planning activities to mark the day.
12. Jean Patrick LeDuc, representing the Museum of Natural History of Paris, mentioned that the Museum is a partner to the UNESCO events taking place over the next week, and is supporting the opening reception and a number of other activities. The Museum is also supporting a number of other symposiums around the world including an international conference in Gabon.
13. He spoke of renovations to the facilities of the Museum that are scheduled for the year. This included the renovation of the greenhouses in February including rewriting of the interpretive panels to emphasize the links to humans and biodiversity. In the month of June, the children's gallery will be opened and it will include material on urban ecology and tropical forests. In the month of September, renovations of the Botanical School will be complete and it will re-open with new pedagogical labelling.
14. A number of exhibitions relating to biodiversity will be held during the year. In February, an exhibition on sharks and dinosaurs will be launched. In April, three exhibitions related to the inventories of biodiversity will be launched. Inventories in Madagascar and Mozambique, the Mercantour Park and le Jardin des plantes. For the latter, a multimedia website will be opened.

The biodiversity trail in the garden will be re-opened and a trail devoted to animal biodiversity in urban areas will be opened. An exhibition on the Diversity of Wheat will also be opened.

15. La grande galerie de l'évolution, one of the feature pieces of the Museum, will have a number of changes including a new Marine Species section, and a gallery of extinct species featuring a specimen of the Dodo. Specific activities on endangered species will be held including a piece on the first and the last species. There will be a tribute to the great naturalist – Théodore Monod.
16. In April, the Museum will feature a pollinator observation activity in collaboration with the Nicolas Hulot Foundation. This will allow ordinary people to contribute to scientific monitoring, which is a way to close the gap in observation data. This activity will also be conducted on the subject of snails. These examples point to the growing agenda for citizen science.
17. Conferences and symposiums will be featured including a conference on the status of biodiversity in France in 2010 and a natural history of micro organisms. In October, a major symposium will be held on the theme: "Can Man Adapt to Himself."
18. The representative of Royal Botanical Gardens Kew, Ms. Eimear Nic Lughadha, then spoke and presented their programme for the IYB. She stated that given the focus of the gardens, every year is biodiversity year. However, they are supporting a number of activities. The garden generally provides support to research and policies, as well as encouraging actions for biodiversity by individuals. In this respect, they are carrying out the goals of the International Year. Their work also includes work with museums in South Africa.
19. Royal Botanical Gardens Kew will support a project to encourage students to discover plant biodiversity entitled "the hunt goes on." Building on last year's hunt, the hunt was redesigned so that it could be easily adapted to other countries. They are looking for partners to do the adaptation.
20. A specimen digitization project continues at the Gardens. The global collection of the Gardens will be digitized over the next four years. The collection is considerable, 10% of world's seeds species are banked now and 25% will be by 2020. They are also working on the "Millennium Seed Bank Partnership" which will allow them to build capacity in other areas. All of these activities are linked to their capital partnership which will also allow for the herbarium extension by late 2010.
21. Royal Botanical Gardens Kew will be hosting the meeting to finalise the GSPC in late January.
22. In particular, two landmarks to be celebrated in 2010. Royal Botanical Gardens Kew, with Species 2000, will make a statement at the fourteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) of the CBD and will release the working list by 2010. Also, they will release a sampled Red List Index in February. They will be disseminating a world overview of the picture of plants, a global assessment of plant diversity worldwide.
23. Gerald Dick, the Executive Director of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA), representing 300 partners worldwide, indicated that he was glad to join the participants and outlined the activities for the International Year of Biodiversity. WAZA is exploring creating a special logo for the year to represent all their specific work. They do have a 2010 biodiversity section on the website that includes presentations, a poster and other materials. They are also using UNEP's Species of the Day on the site. They have a biodiversity manual on their website which includes major biodiversity definitions which could be used for exhibition planning.

24. WAZA members will also contribute success stories on the theme – Building a future for wildlife. WAZA will also try to work more closely with museums and other projects. Japanese translation to be available of their aquarium guide.
25. Mr. Kazutoki Funahasi, the Director of the Higashiyama Botanical Gardens of Nagoya, Japan, then spoke. Last year, the botanical garden was refurbished in preparation for the IYB. The cherry blossom gallery, which shows the diversity of cherry trees, including 20 varieties from Edo era, which used to have 200 varieties, has young trees now but these will soon be much larger. There is also a display of all the plants in the Nagoya area. The garden has also restored the prairies exhibitions, where insects and butterflies and crickets can be found.
26. The garden has developed an extensive tour of an area that extends from Tokyo to Nagoya. It is important to note the UNESCO World Heritage monument in the region. The Garden has also tried to reconstitute the environment of the epoch. The work has tried to show close relationship of habitat and environment. They will show this at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD (COP 10).
27. Ms Anne Franklin, coordinator of the IYB programme at the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, presented the schedule of activities for the IYB. RBINS is playing an overall coordination role for the IYB in Belgium as chair of the national committee. Their campaign: “I give life to my planet,” was launched in November of 2009. It had 8300 members at the time of the meeting and has a target of 20,000 members worldwide. The website is [www.igivelifetomyplanet.be](http://www.igivelifetomyplanet.be) . The campaign places an emphasis on engaging into action through small gestures every day.
28. A guide of 366 tips in support of biodiversity was printed in French and Flemish. 48,000 copies were printed and have nearly all already been distributed. A plan to reproduce a smaller version of the guide in European languages is maturing.
29. A number of events are also planned. The BioGeoSafari, which encourages citizens to discover the biodiversity in Brussels through a form of treasure hunt will be held from 20 May to 31 August 2010. A “Bee Party” will be organised on 7 July 2010 which encourages the involvement of families. Through exhibitions, stands and the work of animators, the importance of pollinators will be explained. A focus on this issue for the countries of the south will be included.
30. An exhibition called “Science in the Royal Palace: of Animals and Men” will explore the relationship of humans and animals in different cultures and will include a masterpieces exhibition and the participation of 4 museums. Approximately 200,000 visitors are expected. A new Biodiversity Gallery will open on 9 December with a permanent exhibition on biodiversity in the city, for ages eight and higher will target up to 300,000 visitors a year.
31. Schools will be extensively involved. A touring exhibition entitled “BiodiverCity” will introduce children of ages 6 to 12 to the biodiversity of the city. An educational toolkit for secondary schools will be developed for September 2010. A great deal of existing material will be organised for the kit which will be online.
32. Activities will be carried out that address the subject of science and policy. Nesting falcons, who have taken up residence on the Saint Michael Cathedral in Brussels will be the subject of a webcam for April to May 2010, which will allow citizens to see first-hand some of the biodiversity of the city (<http://www.falconsforeveryone.be/>). The Belgian Species List, which is a taxonomic presentation of all registered species in Belgium will be released on 20 May 2010 ([www.species.be](http://www.species.be)). An expedition up the Congo River will take place from April - June 2010 involving the University of Kisangani and three Belgian institutions. The expedition links to an

event marking 50 years of Congo Independence (<http://www.congo2010.be/>). Major media coverage is expected.

33. Belgium will hold the presidency of the European Community at the time of COP 10. As RBINS is the CBD, clearing-house mechanism (CHM), Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI), and SBSTTA Focal Point, it will use the opportunity to emphasise the science-policy interface. A high-level participatory meeting entitled "Positive visions for biodiversity" will also be held. Finally, it is important to note that RBINS is also assisting other Parties in organizing their IYB activities.
34. Under Agenda Item Four, training, the Executive Secretary to the CBD asked a number of questions. First, was the Consortium willing to offer training again in May in Nairobi at SBSTTA 14. Among the possible topics suggested included: the Global Biodiversity Outlook 3, climate change, and the strategic plan.
35. In response, a representative of the Museum of Natural History of Paris indicated that the Consortium could be supportive of a training at SBSTTA 14 in Nairobi and this might even be a better opportunity than COP 10. He notes that the training in Rome was perhaps more useful than Bonn. He supported the idea of training about communicating IYB. The Executive Secretary indicated that this idea had merit and that the Secretariat should send the GBO 3 document and see how it could be transmitted.
36. The representative of BfN indicated that they would be supportive of any topic but that the focus should be on one or two topics only. The representative of the Museum of Natural History of Paris indicated that timing and topics for the training sessions were important and they needed the advice of the Secretariat on how to best organise this. He reiterated that SBSTTA offered the opportunity to work with representatives of developing countries. The idea of asking delegates to come in advance of the SBSTTA was suggested, but the financial implications of this were noted as an impediment. The Executive Secretary commented that the success of the training was more closely related to publicity of the training.
37. The Executive Secretary indicated that at the SBSTTA Bureau meeting in Trondheim on the 4<sup>th</sup> of February would be an opportunity for additional feedback on this issue.
38. The representative of Kew asked the Secretariat to get feedback from delegates and to also find ways of showing successes that involved north and south partners. The Executive Secretary indicated that members of the Consortium should seek to expose people to the great work they are doing. He indicated that perhaps 23 May 2010 would be a good day for the training. After SBSTTA 14 and before Third meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention (WGRI 3), but after the celebrations of the International Day for Biological Diversity. The representative of RBNS indicates support for this and the topic. This was further supported.
39. Under Agenda Item Five, the Executive Secretary indicated that to preserve all the great work of the Consortium members and others who were creating materials for the IYB, a museum would be established where all Parties and partners would be asked to submit their activities for presentation at COP 10 and preservation beyond including as part of the report to the UNGA in 2011.
40. The meeting was adjourned.

**Annex I**  
**PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

**Informal Meeting of the CBD Consortium of Scientific Partners on Biodiversity and Other  
Relevant Partners**

**20 January 2010, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

*Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle*  
**(57, rue Cuvier, 75005 Paris, France)**

- 3.00 p.m. Welcome by Mr. Bertrand-Pierre Galey, Director General of the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle
- Opening remarks by Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the CBD, and presentation on activities for the International Year of Biodiversity (IYB)
- 3.20 p.m. Contribution of the members of the Scientific Consortium to the celebration of the International Year of Biodiversity
- Preparation of training workshop at the margins of COP-10
- 4.50 p.m. Adoption of the Consortium's plan to celebrate IYB and the 2011 International Year of Forests
- 5.00 p.m. Closure of meeting

**Annex II**  
***List of Participants***

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