

Biodiversity for Development Newsletter



Convention on
Biological Diversity

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WELCOME TO THE INAUGURAL BIODIVERSITY FOR DEVELOPMENT NEWSLETTER!

This newsletter will be used to distribute information between network members on the subject of integrating biodiversity considerations into development strategies and programs. This initial issue describes the objectives and methods of this network, recently established by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD).

ANOTHER NETWORK, ANOTHER INITIATIVE?

Due to its expertise and ability to widely disseminate information, the SCBD is in a unique position to establish a network that specifically demonstrates the benefits of biodiversity to various development sectors and economic activities.

SCBD staff is specialized in a variety of fields through the CBD thematic programmes of work and cross-cutting issues, and focuses on different aspects of the clear linkages between biodiversity and human well-being within the framework of the **Millennium Development Goals and the 2010 Biodiversity Target**.

However, the SCBD currently lacks specific examples from the field. To address this lack of knowledge and experience sharing, the objective of this network is to gather and disseminate case-studies, good practices and lessons learned on the integration of biodiversity and development. We feel it is important to collect information about practical actions that are already being carried out around the world, not only in order to widely distribute this information, but also to encourage the parties to the Convention to better understand the close links between biodiversity, poverty alleviation and development and to take the development dimension into account in their **National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)**.



The structure of the SCBD, including its contact with focal points in all member countries and its Clearing-House Mechanism, enables information sharing at a large scale. This exchange

of experiences and ideas between development professionals and biodiversity specialists will also serve as a basis to develop and publish training material on this issue. Therefore, this initiative will not only benefit the members of the network, but also a much wider array of stakeholders.



We do not want to compete with other already existing networks and initiatives that address related issues, such as the Poverty and Environment Initiative, the Poverty and Environment Partnership or the Poverty and Conservation Learning Group. In contrast, we hope to collaborate with these initiatives by specifically highlighting the three objectives of the Convention rather than environment as a whole.

WHO IS INVOLVED IN THE NETWORK?

We hope not only to work with environment professionals and organizations already focused on biodiversity issues. Rather, we would like to involve development professionals working at the international, regional, and, if possible, local levels in order to provide them with the necessary information and support to implement biodiversity concerns into their development strategies and programs.

At the international level, multi-lateral and bi-lateral development agencies will be involved, including professionals from both their headquarters and from regional offices, as well as other United Nations agencies, Development Banks, the OECD, and the European Union, the IUCN and environmental and development NGOs.

At the regional level, partners will mainly include the UN Regional Economic and Social Commissions, and institutions or organizations focused on a specific development sector and gathering multiple stakeholders (governments, professional organizations and civil society), particularly those supported by the multi-lateral and bi-lateral development agencies involved in the network.



WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED OUTCOMES OF THIS INITIATIVE?

Based on material supplied by network members, the SCBD will develop a range of activities such as participation in and organization of events, publication of educational material, online distribution of information, etc. The expected outcomes for the following months are listed below:

- **The publication of an informational brochure** on the importance of biodiversity for poverty alleviation and development. This brochure has already been completed, and will be distributed at the Conference of the Parties (COP-9) in Bonn, Germany, in May 2008.
- **The conception of a mobile educational exhibit**, designed to provide clear, attractive and easily accessible information regarding the important linkages between biodiversity, poverty alleviation and development. This exhibit will initially be displayed at the COP-9 in May 2008, and will then be available for any network members (as well as other organizations) who wish to borrow and display it for educational purposes.
- **The organization of side events at various conferences**, beginning with COP-9 in May 2008, with the support of network members.
- **The organization of an international workshop** on the subject of biodiversity for poverty alleviation and development, with the support of UNEP and the UNDP.
- **The establishment of additional training modules** for NBSAPs on two development sectors (forestry and fisheries).
- **The compilation of already existing material** related to the integration of biodiversity into development policies and programmes (including publications, pamphlets, posters, computer presentations, videos, audio documents, etc.) with the goal of developing a bank of material on the subject, which will be made available online.
- **The development of a specific webpage** on the CBD website.
- **The development of a database** of good practices and case-studies from around the world, which will serve as examples of the integration of biodiversity conservation into poverty alleviation and development strategies.
- And evidently... **the publication of a newsletter** for network members, produced periodically rather than on a regular basis. Each newsletter will focus on a specific theme, either a particular development sector, or according to requests from network members.



For additional information, please contact:

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Achieving the 2010
Biodiversity Target

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