

# Biodiversity for Development



Convention on  
Biological Diversity

## Newsletter

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**The ninth Conference of the Parties (COP 9) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was held from 19-30 May 2008, in Bonn. More than 4000 participants attended the meeting during which 37 Decisions were adopted. This edition of the newsletter covers the main aspects of the decisions that capture the theme of biodiversity for development and poverty alleviation.**

### **COP 9 Decisions and further linkages to the Millennium Development Goals and Poverty Alleviation**

The recent creation of the Biodiversity for Development Unit is a new step toward articulating more concretely the aspects of the COP 9 decisions that deal with linkages between poverty, development and biodiversity. The work of this unit will reflect more closely the links between poverty alleviation and development issues with biodiversity. **Bringing biodiversity into the global dialogue on poverty alleviation and development is an important way of moving forward towards achieving existing global development commitments and national goals.** The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the Multilateral Environmental Agreements represent some of the existing essential information and suggestions currently available on these topics.

Biodiversity loss and poverty reduction are inter-linked challenges. In numerous cases, biodiversity can provide



basic income generating activities that contribute toward various sectors of development. The inter-linkages between biodiversity for development and biodiversity for poverty



alleviation need to be more visible and an enhanced understanding of the conservation/poverty nexus needs to be constantly reinforced and highlighted to decision-makers. This concern, which falls in line with the MDGs and other development strategies, has been captured by numerous CBD decisions and initiatives. Through a closer look at the new COP 9 Decisions, this newsletter offers a short analysis with regard to the poverty/development and biodiversity conservation dimensions. The methodology focused on a review of all the decisions looking for relevant references to this topic. While certain decisions did not mention the above key words explicitly they remain as well of critical importance towards achieving our development goals. However, the focus on the role biodiversity played in meeting the poverty dimensions within the MDGs remained the main objective of the current exercise.

A direct reference to biodiversity and its linkages to poverty and the MDGs has been found in the following decisions:



**IX/1 In-depth review of the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity**

**IX/2 Agricultural biodiversity: biofuels and biodiversity**

**IX/3 Global strategy for plant conservation**

**IX/4 In-depth review of ongoing work on alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species**

**IX/5 Forest biodiversity**

**IX/6 Incentive measures (Article 11)**

**IX/7 Ecosystem approach**

**IX/8 Review of implementation of goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan**

**IX/9 Process for the revision of the Strategic Plan**

**IX/11 Review of implementation of Articles 20 and 21**

**IX/12 Access and benefit-sharing**

**IX/13 Article 8(j) and related provisions**

**IX/14 Technology transfer and cooperation**

**IX/15 Follow-up to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment**

**IX/16 Biodiversity and climate change**

**IX/17 Biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands**

**IX/18 Protected areas**

**IX/21 Island biodiversity**

**IX/25 South-South cooperation on biodiversity for development**

**IX/31 Financial resources and the financial mechanism and guidance to the financial mechanism**

- Biodiversity loss is harshest on the poor (IX/11)
- Recognizing the high rates of poverty within dry and sub humid lands (IX/17)
- Degradation of ecosystem services posing a significant barrier towards achieving the MDGs (IX/11)
- Increasing efforts in the implementation of the island biodiversity programme of work (IX/21)
- Recognizing that economic and social development and poverty eradication are the first and overriding priorities of developing countries (IX/31)



#### FUNDING RELATED ISSUES

- Lack of Funding (IX/11)
- Need to mobilize resources, identifying biodiversity related financial mechanisms, incentive measures (IX/11, IX/16, IX/18)
- Increasing Official Development Assistance where biodiversity is identified as a priority (IX/11)
- Directing benefits towards sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity (IX/12)

#### POLICY ISSUES

- Existing programmes and measures related to forest biodiversity should also include poverty aspects (IX/5)
- Including the ecosystem approach in policy to achieve poverty reduction (IX/7)
- Mainstreaming biodiversity into national and poverty strategies (IX/8, IX/11)
- Mainstreaming biodiversity considerations into national development and poverty reduction plans/strategies (IX/3, IX/11, IX/16)
- Mainstreaming biodiversity considerations into development cooperation planning (IX/8, IX/11)
- Mainstreaming protected areas planning and management within the development agenda (IX/18)

#### STRENGTHENING COOPERATION

- Promoting South-South cooperation (IX/25)
- Promoting cooperation at all levels for the application of the



The main poverty and MDGs related elements identified in the above set of decisions are captured below:

#### STATING MAIN POVERTY/MDG RELATED CONCERNS

- Noting a lack of human and technical resources (IX/6)



ecosystem approach (IX/7, IX/25)

- Developing countries to prepare a multi-year plan of action on biodiversity for development, based on the framework for South-South cooperation (IX/25)
- Inviting Parties and other governments, regional and international organizations to support the organization of a South-South cooperation forum on biodiversity for development (IX/25)

#### **APPLYING BIODIVERSITY RELATED APPROACHES AND THEMES**

- Maintaining capacity of ecosystems to deliver goods and services (IX/1)
- Enhancing the value of agricultural biodiversity (IX/1)
- Best management practices in agricultural biodiversity (IX/1)
- Sustainable production of biofuels (IX/2)
- Working on the prevention, introduction and mitigation of invasive alien species (IX/4)
- Working on non-timber forest products for sustainable forest management (IX/5)
- Securing that biodiversity conservation should not harm the livelihoods of the poor (IX/9)
- Working on biodiversity indicators (IX/13)
- Taking into consideration the principles and conceptual framework of the millennium ecosystem assessment (IX/15)
- Developing activities relative to payment for ecosystem services, economic valuation of ecosystem services (IX/17)
- Taking into consideration adaptation to climate change (IX/16)

#### **PROVIDING TECHNICAL TOOLS AND STUDIES**

- Gathering information on the importance of protected areas in poverty eradication and in MDG achievement (IX/18)
- Compiling documentation of best practices and lessons learned and including them into national strategies (IX/11)
- Applying tools and measures including integrated spatial planning (IX/18)

- Conducting effective transfer of technologies (IX/14)
- Conducting regional and sub regional meetings to discuss NBSAPs related experience (IX/8)

#### **INCREASING AWARENESS**

- Highlighting the importance of biodiversity conservation in the achievement of the MDGs and poverty eradication (IX/9)
- Increasing the awareness of the public on the importance of protected areas in sustainable development and poverty eradication and the MDG (IX/18)

As seen through this brief analysis, the COP 9 Decisions continued to stress the benefits of conserving biodiversity and its linkages towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. This vital role played by biodiversity and ecosystem services continues however to be hampered by a lack of resources, a need for further awareness and capacity building activities as well as the necessity of promoting greener policy and development strategies. Taking these challenges into consideration, the new Biodiversity for Development Unit will seek to respond to these issues through tools and initiatives reinforcing our understanding of linkages between biodiversity, poverty alleviation and development



### **The Biodiversity for Development and Poverty Alleviation Unit Organises a High-Level Panel Discussion During COP 9**

A High-Level Panel Discussion on Biodiversity for Development and Poverty Alleviation took place on May 27th. The panel provided a platform for sharing approaches and experiences on “how to better integrate conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into poverty/development



strategies and programmes". A panel composed by high level governmental authorities (1 President, 2 Ambassadors, 2 Ministers, 1 Member of Parliament) and representatives from multi-lateral and non-governmental organizations (GEF, OECD, UNDP, UNEP, EC, Equator Initiative) offered examples of poverty and biodiversity conservation from the field level, the policy level as well as international development and cooperation. While enumerating the various threats and continuous pressures on the ecosystems of developing countries, the main message delivered can be summarized by the following sentence from the UNEP representative who stated: "Biodiversity and ecosystem services are the wealth of the poor".

This event was yet another opportunity to share further information on initiatives promoting responsible approaches to help integrate the environment into decision processes more clearly. Examples ranged from benefits linked to new concepts of more accessible protected areas, the valuation and quantification of ecosystem services, the importance of involving local communities in decision making, to broader approaches such as conducting Strategic Environmental Assessments. Beyond the environmental and poverty dimensions, aspects related to land rights and equitable sharing of resources were also brought to our attention by the representative of the Equator Initiative. From a policy perspective, the urgency of translating existing biodiversity and poverty reduction strategies and plans into concrete results was highlighted. This was coupled with the necessity of strengthening cooperation and funding mechanisms. In response to the latter issues, representatives from GEF, UNDP, OECD and other government agencies took this opportunity to describe some of their respective programme results and biodiversity related objectives towards alleviating poverty while stressing the need of increasing



From left to right Ms. Monique Barbut (CEO-GEF), Ms. Karin Kortmann (Parliamentarian State Secretary - Federal Ministry for Economic Development and Cooperation - Germany), Mr. Tommy Esang Remengesau (President of the Republic of Palau), Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif (Executive Secretary CBD), Ms. Veerle Vanderweerd (Director UNDP)

Official Development Assistance to reach the 0.7% of GNI by 2015. Finally, the event was also an opportunity to officially launch the new Biodiversity for Development Initiative recently established by the Secretariat with the support of the French and German governments, and for the CBD Executive Secretary, Ahmed Djoghlaif, to sign a memorandum of understanding between the CBD and UNDP, to help mainstream biodiversity into the development agenda.

**You can click on or copy the links below to download further material:**

**-Speeches from launching event:**

[www.cbd.int/doc/poverty/discussion-hlp-2008-05.zip](http://www.cbd.int/doc/poverty/discussion-hlp-2008-05.zip)

**-MDG&Poverty related Decisions**

[www.cbd.int/doc/poverty/cop9-decisions-en.doc](http://www.cbd.int/doc/poverty/cop9-decisions-en.doc)

**-Article about the High-Level Panel Discussion on Biodiversity for Development and Poverty Alleviation**

[www.iisd.ca/biodiv/cop9/enbots/pdf/enbots0918e.pdf](http://www.iisd.ca/biodiv/cop9/enbots/pdf/enbots0918e.pdf)

**-Web video of the High-Level Panel Discussion on Biodiversity for Development and Poverty Alleviation**

[http://unfccc.meta-fusion.com/kongresse/CBD2008\\_2/templ/ply\\_cbd.php?id\\_kongresssession=1124&player\\_mode=isdn\\_real](http://unfccc.meta-fusion.com/kongresse/CBD2008_2/templ/ply_cbd.php?id_kongresssession=1124&player_mode=isdn_real)

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Audience attending the High-Level Panel Discussion on Biodiversity for Development and Poverty Alleviation

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