

Conclusions and Recommendations

Biodiversity for Poverty Alleviation

Organized by:

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Workshop Conclusions and Recommendations

Introduction

1. Poverty eradication should form "the first and overriding priority"¹ of mankind. It should be emphasized that poverty does not include only monetary poverty - it also includes hunger, malnutrition, social and political exclusion, discrimination and violence, and loss of cultural and spiritual values. Conversely, poverty eradication must ensure security of access to adequate food, livelihoods and conditions of health and well-being.
2. Many conventional approaches to poverty eradication and biodiversity conservation, including lack of interdepartmental coordination, have lead to further impoverishment and the destruction of the biodiversity upon which the poor depend.

Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

3. In all the processes involved in implementing the CBD, the vital rights, needs, and responsibilities of the poor should be highlighted, and especially of those people directly dependent on biodiversity, including women, Indigenous Peoples and farmers. This approach should be strengthened during the COP5 process and beyond. To facilitate this, in the following section, linkages to relevant COP5 Agenda Items are made where appropriate

The Ecosystem Approach (Agenda Item 17.1)

4. There is a need to fully integrate human development issues, including poverty and the economic systems which create it, in the definition and consideration of the ecosystem approach.
5. The full economic, ecological, and social values of ecosystems, and the understanding of biodiversity as not only a conglomeration of taxa but a complex system of inter-relationships, need to be considered in all development processes.
6. Moving away from conventional models of development and mono-cultural approaches to addressing poverty, towards holistic and integrated paradigms, is essential to integrate poverty eradication and biodiversity conservation more effectively.

¹ Convention on Biodiversity preamble and article 24

7. A greater recognition is needed, particularly amongst decision-makers (financial institutions and national governments), that the global economy is a subsystem of the global ecological system. Ways in which the scale of the former has an impact on the latter, need to be recognized and dealt with. Patterns of overconsumption, which are part of this global economy and form a major cause of both biodiversity loss and impoverishment, need to be urgently understood and changed.
8. Land, water and resource rights and tenurial security, including for women, Indigenous Peoples and farmers, must be central components of development and conservation policies and programmes. Equitable redistribution of existing agricultural land keeping in mind these objectives, should be undertaken.
9. Common Property Regimes (CPRs) are dynamic and informal systems by which communities manage, use, and enhance biological resources. The ecosystem approach must take CPRs into account while evolving strategies for implementing the CBD.
10. The ecosystem approach should also recognise that there may be contradictory land uses depending on the priorities of different sectors and vested interests, and that resolving these contradictions would require strategies of rural livelihood diversification, appropriate public investments, and improvement in Integrated Conservation and Development Programme concepts.

Financial and Economic Aspects (Agenda Item 18.1)

11. Experience shows that the poorly considered approaches of financial institutions and large corporations can actually contribute to both impoverishment and biological loss. Poverty eradication programmes can create cultural, social, and biological degradation. Hence, these entities need to reassess their entire portfolio with a view to creating more sensitive strategies, programmes and projects. Such reassessment is also needed at international fora such as WTO. Incentives for the private sector to undertake such re-orientation should be encouraged.
12. The synergy between biodiversity management and poverty eradication needs to be fully explored by financial institutions and funding flows accelerated in this direction.
13. Cutting edge and innovative programmes need to be designed by them to give expression to this synergy on the ground. There is already some progress in this area in some financial institutions, but considerable challenges and opportunities remain.
14. It is vital to address issues of corruption, and of lack of accountability and transparency.
15. When governments, financial institutions, NGOs and others engage in poverty eradication strategies, they must incorporate biodiversity conservation and sustainable use objectives and take into account the many monetary and non-monetary goods and services of biodiversity upon which the poor depend.
16. Innovative and flexible finance mechanisms, including small grants and micro-credit facilities, effective incentive schemes and trust funds need to be promoted by governments and international institutions.
17. Incentive systems need to directly reach the poorest, for failure to do so can turn them into disincentives.

18. The Human Development Index approach of UNDP should be expanded to include linkages between poverty eradication and biodiversity conservation.
19. The financial value of biodiversity can be used as collateral in economic development processes. The income generating capacity of biodiversity, including through adding value to sustainably produced biodiversity-based products, should be further explored by governments, financial institutions, and NGOs.
20. The non-financial (including spiritual and cultural) values of biodiversity must be considered as critical in biodiversity valuation and conservation attempts.
21. Case studies in some areas indicate that micro-enterprise approaches based on biodiversity have the potential to assist in eliminating poverty and creating sustainable funding flows. However, challenges remain in creating policies that facilitate such approaches and in integrating biodiversity conservation objectives.

Access (COP Agenda Item 23)

22. Affluence and poverty are both manifestations of non-equitable access to, and sharing of benefits of, biodiversity. Thus, means of ensuring a just and equitable sharing of the benefits (including gender equity), when designing poverty eradication strategies, are important.

Education, Information and Communication (COP Agenda Item 18.5)

23. Considerable work is needed at the regional and national levels to further flesh out the issues and strategies for moving forward. Hence, regional and national workshops on these issues, fully involving the poor sections of society, should be convened by governments, NGOs, IPOs and international institutions.
24. Further documentation and research on the complex relationship between biodiversity and poverty is needed. Case studies demonstrating this relationship, in particular where there has been positive integration of poverty eradication and biodiversity conservation, need to be commissioned and disseminated. Such information must reach policy makers, investors and consumers in language they can easily understand.
25. Full access to, and the right to, information, should be guaranteed by all governments and financial institutions.
26. An information network (including through electronic means) on biodiversity and poverty eradication should be developed, perhaps at UNDP. In addition, all existing networks that are relevant, should be utilised fully and built upon.
27. The role of the media (electronic, print, and folk) is vital in highlighting these issues.
28. Education of all sectors, especially of decision-makers and financial institutions, is critical on these issues. This should be incorporated into relevant programmes and policies.

Gender/Wider Participation

29. There is a need for all institutions to emphasize capacity development (political, human, institutional) as a critical means to eliminate poverty and conserve biodiversity.
30. Evidence from case studies indicate that women have unique knowledge and role with reference to biodiversity. Their knowledge is an essential part of local biodiversity conservation as a contribution to poverty eradication. Hence mechanisms for empowering them and strengthening their participation are essential.
31. The empowerment and full participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, in poverty eradication and biodiversity conservation programmes, from conceptualisation to implementation and monitoring, must be mandatory.
32. The private sector should develop the capacity to understand and respond to four closely related issues: biodiversity, cultural diversity, climate change and poverty. Only by developing a holistic corporate engagement with these issues can companies place in the right context the related policies and activities they are implementing.
33. Governments, financial institutions, and others should bear in mind area specific needs and adopt a flexible approach in their policies and programmes.
34. CBD bodies must work with all other international conventions and fora (including WTO, human rights treaties, the World Summit on Social Development review process, the CSD, the proposed UNFF, the FCCC, the Ramsar Convention, the Desertification Convention and so on), to ensure integration of the above issues.

Instruments for Access and Benefit-Sharing from Genetic Resources

Organized by:

WRI, IPGRI, The Royal Botanic Gardens - Kew, IPBN, SPDA, AMAN, ANDES, WWF

The workshop on “Instruments for Access and Benefit Sharing from Genetic Resources and Related Traditional Knowledge Issues” explored issues related to the implementation of Article 15 (Access to Genetic Resources), Article 8(j) (Protection of traditional knowledge), and the linkages between them. Participants included representatives from governments, NGOs, indigenous organizations, research institutions, and inter-governmental institutions. An overriding theme of the workshop was the urgent need for the Parties to ensure that implementation of these two articles be fully coordinated and mutually supportive.

To that end, the workshop discussed strategies for the more effective implementation of Article 8(j) within the CBD process as well as at the national level; the priority agenda facing the Parties with respect to the development and effective implementation of access legislation and related measures; and the relationships of intellectual property rights regimes to the implementation of both Articles 15 and 8(j)

1. Priority Actions for Developing and Implementing Effective and Equitable Access and Benefit Sharing Measures (COP5 Agenda Item 23)

- 1.1. As a matter of urgency, all Parties should designate a national focal point and/or competent national authority with a clear mandate to determine matters related to access and benefit sharing.
- 1.2. Access legislation in countries providing genetic resources should be flexible in order to avoid high transaction costs and implementation difficulties. Some 50 countries are currently developing such measures. To assist Parties in this regard, the Secretariat and other relevant bodies should be directed to undertake review of existing national measures, in order to identify successful approaches and potential problems.
- 1.3. As recognized by the Expert Panel on Access and Benefit-sharing, regulatory flexibility in countries providing genetic resources is directly related to the adoption of complementary measures in countries in which genetic resources are used. In particular, legal and other measures should ensure that genetic resources have been obtained in compliance with applicable access legislation of the providing country. Development of such measures is essential to facilitate cooperation between provider and user countries in the enforcement of ABS measures.
- 1.4. Access legislation and other measures should fully incorporate effective protection of the traditional knowledge of indigenous and local communities as mandated by Article 8(j) and related provisions.
- 1.5. As recognized by the CBD Expert Panel on Access and Benefit-sharing, Parties should take into account and allow for the development of a multilateral system to facilitate access

and benefit-sharing for plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in the process of developing ABS measures. In doing so, Parties' ABS measures should provide flexibility to remain members to join regional and/or crop-based systems of exchange.

- 1.6. In order to ensure that access legislation meets all objectives of the Convention and is consistent with Parties' national priorities, such legislation and other measures should be developed within the context of national biodiversity strategies and action plans.
- 1.7. In order to build the consensus and capacity required for effective ABS policies and measures—and to promote fairness and equity—development of ABS measures must systematically incorporate the participation of a wide range of stakeholders.
- 1.8. Parties should recognize the importance of non-binding measures complementary to legislation, such as mediation and dispute resolution mechanisms, codes of conduct, guidelines, model legislation and model contracts.
- 1.9. The COP should adopt and Parties should heed the conclusions and recommendations of the CBD Panel of Experts on Access to Genetic Resources, and should provide the mandate and funding for continued work by the Panel.

2. Priority Actions for Effective Implementation of Article 8(j) (COP5 Agenda Item 18.4)

The workshop participants urge the Parties to take concrete actions for the implementation of Article 8(j), taking into account the economic and cultural rights of the indigenous peoples, the link between access to genetic resources and the protection of traditional knowledge, and the importance of effective participation of indigenous peoples in this process. After many years of requesting action on these issues, the loss of traditional knowledge and biopiracy continue. This has to be stopped. The workshop therefore recommends the following:

- 2.1. The COP should adopt the report of the First meeting of the Ad-hoc Working Group on Traditional Knowledge which took place in Sevilla, Spain in March 2000.
- 2.2. Indigenous peoples and local communities should be included in all bodies and processes established under the CBD, including but not limited to expert panels, roster of experts, etc.
- 2.3. The COP should direct SBSTTA to integrate article 8(j) into all issues relevant to traditional knowledge (SBSTTA 5 recommendation 4.1). For effective integration of article 8(j) into SBSTTA work, representatives of the Ad-Hoc Working Group should have places on the SBSTTA Bureau.
- 2.4. To ensure the effective work of the ad-hoc Working Group on Traditional Knowledge, the COP should constitute a Working Group Bureau. The Bureau should be directed to focus and promote the further implementation of Article 8(j).
- 2.5. The COP should support the establishment of an indigenous clearinghouse mechanism that will interact with the CHM of the CBD.
- 2.6. The COP should recommend Parties to support the production of culturally appropriate documents on article 8(j) in indigenous languages.

- 2.7. The COP should provide adequate funding for the continuing work of the ad-hoc Working Group on Traditional Knowledge. A minimum of two Working Group inter-sessional meetings should take place before the next COP.
- 2.8. We note that indigenous and non indigenous parties differ strongly on values and economic issues related to access and benefits sharing. These differences present obstacles to the effective implementation of access and benefit sharing measures. To help resolve these differences, the COP should establish an indigenous expert panel on ABS and traditional knowledge, under the ad-hoc Working Group on Traditional Knowledge.
- 2.9. Effective measures should be taken in countries utilizing genetic resources to prevent commercial use of traditional knowledge and associated genetic resources that have been acquired in the territories of local and indigenous communities without their prior informed consent.
- 2.10. Parties should seriously consider and respond to indigenous peoples' calls for a moratorium on all bioprospecting activities in indigenous territories (as was stressed at COP3 and COP4) until appropriate measures for the protection of traditional knowledge are taken.

3. Priority Actions for Clarifying the Relationship Between Intellectual Property Rights and Implementation of Articles 15 and 8(j)

There is a direct link between the adoption of ABS legislation, including user measures, and Intellectual Property Rights. The lack of consensus on this issue, as demonstrated in ISOC, the Expert Panel and the 8(j) Working group, highlights the need for clarification of the extent to which existing IPR systems affects the rights of source countries and holders of traditional knowledge. To this end, the COP should direct the Secretariat to conduct a systematic survey of Parties and all relevant biodiversity stakeholders, in order to identify information gaps and areas where there is lack of clarity with respect to the relationship between IPRs, access and benefit sharing, and the protection of traditional knowledge related to genetic resources. Based on the results of this survey, the Secretariat should work with relevant centers of IPR expertise to provide the Parties and other stakeholders with practical information and guidance concerning the relationship between IPRs, access and benefit sharing, and the protection of traditional knowledge related to genetic resources.

Agricultural Biodiversity and Sustainable Livelihoods: the Case of Dryland Ecosystems

Organized by:

ITDG, ELCI, RIOD, UNDP

Drylands are not wastelands:

- ❖ they are one of the most biodiverse areas of the world in terms of species per square metre;
- ❖ they provide local and national food security; large, sometimes the majority, production of key food items, such as meat; and a significant proportion of GDP; and
- ❖ they provide livelihoods and food security for large numbers of people.

Biodiversity policy is often silent on drylands - this COP should change that!

Our workshop concluded that there was a need for a major strategic shift required by decision makers on the development and transformation of subsistence and traditional agriculture. This sector, which already contributes significantly to national food security in most countries and is a dominant land use especially in drylands, should be developed on its own terms by seeking ways of integrating it into the market in ways which secure the livelihoods and aspirations of small-scale food producers. This sector draws on the knowledge, innovations and practices of billions of female and male farmers, herders and fisherfolk, and provides the underpinning of the food security of the whole world. It should not be subjected to unfettered challenge and transfer of technologies and systems from industrial, globalised agriculture.

This industrial agriculture, while productive in the short term, is turning prime land and water resources into biological diversity wastelands and polluted lagoons. In particular, key northern-based financial instruments highly destructive of biological diversity and unsupportive of sustainable agriculture, such as the Common Agriculture Policy of the European Union, and should be reviewed urgently. Policy should, rather, transform the negative practices and impacts of industrial agriculture, range management, forestry and fisheries towards practices of a sustainable agriculture, and strengthen the positive attributes of smaller-scale food production systems, as noted in Decision III/11 of this Convention.

We had three main conclusions:

1. **Agricultural Biodiversity has to be a major area for action by the Parties in implementing this Convention.** Agricultural Biodiversity must form a key dimension of any sustainable agriculture strategy and policy. Agriculture is the largest user of biodiversity and its components and farmers are the main ecosystem managers. Farming is based on agricultural biodiversity and it forms a large part of terrestrial biodiversity, not least in drylands. Agricultural biodiversity provides sustainable production of food, biological support to production, and ecosystem services. Therefore COP 5 needs to adopt strong operative programmes of work on agricultural biodiversity and drylands and seek productive collaboration with key implementing agencies such as FAO and Convention to Combat Desertification. .

Agricultural biodiversity is under immediate threat. Around 1.6 billion people depend on farm-saved seed, yet up to 75 per cent of varieties of some key crops have already been lost this century. The rate of loss may well increase as global trade rules, intellectual property rights regimes, the concentration of agricultural research and development on inappropriate technological 'solutions', and now the introduction and promotion of

genetically engineered products, all combine to erode local resources from the fields of smallholder farmers.

The Workshop urges the COP to reinforce its concerns over the development of Varietal Genetic Use restriction Technologies (V-GURTs or Terminator Technologies) as measures for limiting access to germplasm and raise serious questions over the ethical, moral, economic and environmental impacts of T-GURTs (Trait specific). Furthermore it should call for a balancing on research into modern biotechnology, in favour of a redirection of research and development resources into sustainable, environmentally-friendly technologies that sustain poor people's livelihoods, agricultural biodiversity and agro-ecosystem functions.

In this context the workshop recognised the importance of farmer-derived Agricultural Biodiversity that includes the variety and variability of animals, plants and micro-organisms which are necessary to maintain the structure, processes and key functions of the agricultural ecosystem for, and in support of, food production and food security.

2. **The two Programmes of Work on Agricultural Biodiversity and Dry and Sub-Humid Lands must be farmer-centred.** COP must stress that in the implementation of these programmes, Parties ensure continuity of farmers' guardian role for a major part of global biodiversity. Thus, the Convention and its Parties should give full support to actions by farmers that conserve and sustainably use / maintain agricultural biodiversity and reflect such actions in their National Reports. The empowerment of farmers is crucial in counteracting the spread of unsustainable agriculture technologies and practices, that pose a major threat to agricultural biodiversity, by an increasingly powerful trans-national 'Life Industry' that is making multi-billion investments in technologies and inputs including genetic modification. Parties should work with the private sector to promote farmer-driven research and development. **This Convention must actively collaborate with farming communities and their institutions as key partners, in the further development of the programmes of work.**

The Parties to the Convention must send a strong message to FAO to rapidly complete the harmonisation of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources with this Convention to include forceful Articles on Farmers' Rights; a multilateral system of Access, outlawing proprietary ownership through patents and Plant Variety Protection of all designated materials and their derivatives; and Benefit Sharing related to end use i.e. food security.

The Workshop recognised that dryland ecosystems are under increasing pressure to support a growing population and that agriculture is dependent on water availability. Farmers in drylands have developed mechanisms for coping with water stress through migration with their livestock (nomadism and transhumance) and the use of drought-resistant crops and varieties and technologies for conserving rainwater. The Workshop emphasised the need to balance agricultural water requirements with those of ecosystems at water catchment levels in order to maintain the totality of biodiversity.

3. **The Parties to the Convention should support actions to raise consumer awareness to support sustainable farming, agricultural biodiversity and localised food systems** in all ecosystems particularly in drylands. By the promotion of improved markets, which add value locally, consumers can increase the transfer of resources to producers: e.g. support for niche markets, organic farming; increased access to national and international markets. The COP should recognise and facilitate this.

Workshop Recommendations:

Agricultural Biodiversity

The draft Decision supports the implementation of the four elements of the Programme of Work. The COP should develop these programme elements to reflect the need for the Programme of Work to be farmer-centred, if it is to be effective, as follows:

1. **Assessment.** Requests the Secretariat to carry out an assessment of farmer knowledge, innovations and practices in sustaining agricultural biodiversity and agroecosystem functions for, and in support of, food production and food security and report to COP 6. Major inputs should be solicited from local farmers and their communities.
2. **Adaptive management.** Requests the Secretariat to proactively seek inputs from farmers and their communities including local farming communities embodying traditional lifestyles, in the implementation of these activities.
3. **Capacity building.** Promote cooperation of farmers and their institutions in particular at the local level in actions to promote conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity.
4. **Mainstreaming.** Change the Operational Objective to read:

“To develop national plans and strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity and ensure their mainstreaming and integration in sectoral and cross-sectoral plans and programmes, in particular in national agricultural policies.”

Requests the Secretariat to carry out a study on the demands by farmers for support by governments of their action to conserve and sustainably use agricultural biodiversity. This study should be carried out in close consultation with farmers and their institutions and be submitted to COP 6.

Dry and Sub-Humid Lands Ecosystems

The COP should further develop its Programme of Work to include:

- ❖ **Assessment.** Requests the Secretariat to carry out an assessment of farmer knowledge, innovations and practices in sustaining dry and sub-humid lands ecosystems for, and in support of, food production and food security and report to COP 6. Major inputs should be solicited from local farmers and their communities.
- ❖ **Targeted actions.** The proposed programme of work should be expanded to include three new paragraphs, under Activity 8, as follows:
 - 8 (e) Adapting national development strategies to the needs of pastoralists in full consultation with them and other stakeholders;
 - 8 (f) Adopting measures for integrated management of catchments (including wetlands and forests), ensuring a balance between human and ecosystem needs of water;
 - 8 (g) Implementing biodiversity-friendly and equitable land tenure systems.