

Conference Proceedings Biodiversity in European Development Cooperation

Paris, 19-21 september 2006



Supporting the sustainable development of partner countries

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Biodiversity in European
Development Cooperation

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IUCN – The World Conservation Union

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The Biodiversity in European Development Cooperation Conference

Paris, 19-21 september 2006

This document gathers the proceedings of the Biodiversity in European Development Cooperation (BEDC) Conference held in Paris in September 2006.

Specific objectives

The conference aimed specially to:

- Help developing countries, and the EU Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs), integrate protection of biodiversity into their development strategies.
- Help EU Member States and the European Commission to integrate biodiversity into their development cooperation strategies and programmes, and put in place a monitoring and reporting mechanism to monitor progress in the pursuit of the 2010 and 2015 targets.
- Promoting good governance of biodiversity, including securing the rights and roles of local communities and indigenous peoples in managing ecosystems and genetic resources;
- Addressing underlying causes of biodiversity loss, such as current incentive frameworks both within EU (including e.g. trade, fisheries, forestry and agriculture policies and strategies) and partner countries;
- Ensuring that the 10th European Development Fund (EDF) negotiations between ACP countries and the European Union include incentives for biodiversity and the sustainable use of natural resources;
- Encouraging active participation of civil society in decision making processes both in partner countries and in the European Union;
- Maximizing synergies and avoiding overlaps through improved exchange and networking between Member States, the European Commission and other relevant donors;
- Sharing and, when relevant, harmonizing tools and indicators for the monitoring and assessment of trends in biodiversity and related programmes and policies.

Objectives of the BEDC Conference and expected results

Global objectives

The aim of the BEDC Conference was to contribute to transforming political commitments into concrete actions by developing recommendations for the European Commission (EC) and European Union (EU) Member States on how to pro-actively address the integration of biodiversity concerns into development cooperation programmes and policies.

The BEDC Conference was not therefore an event by environmentalists for environmentalists, but rather aspired to bring together development cooperation representatives and environmentalists to jointly pave the way forward.

While the geographical scope of the conference was worldwide, it had been agreed that special emphasis would be placed on the countries of Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP), with particular emphasis on Africa, in order to implement the commitments to environmental issues stipulated in Article 32 of the Cotonou Agreement.

Expected results

The expected outcome of the BEDC Conference was a message from participants which would include some recommendations for the European Commission and the EU Member States, aimed at:

- Reinforcing political will and commitment to better recognise the importance of biodiversity in the sustainable development of partner countries, including building capacity to this effect;



Why was the Biodiversity in European Development Cooperation Conference held in September 2006?

The year 2006 offered excellent opportunities to translate political commitments into action:

- The publication of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) findings in 2005 provided a credible scientific basis and conceptual framework for drawing the links between healthy ecosystems and the attainment of social and economic goals. This report highlights the need for an unprecedented effort to achieve, by 2010, a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national levels, as a contribution to poverty alleviation.
- Several other influential reports had been released in the few months before the Conference that stressed the links between ecosystems and development. For example, *The Wealth of the Poor* (World Resources Institute, 2005) makes a compelling case that environmental income can act as fundamental stepping stone in the economic empowerment of the rural poor.
- 2006 was the first year of implementation of the European Consensus on Development. The Consensus aims at better addressing environmental sustainability in EU development cooperation and at strengthening coherence between the European Commission and EU Member States.
- A communication from the European Commission on Halting the loss of Biodiversity by 2010—and beyond had been issued on 22 May 2006.
- The Countdown 2010, which combines efforts to achieve the 2010 biodiversity commitments, had decided that development cooperation is a priority area for 2006.
- The 10th EDF, the main financial instrument of European development cooperation for the next five years, was being negotiated in 2006. Under the framework of the Cotonou Agreement, about 21 billion euros were at stake for the 77 ACP countries.

Methodology

Preparation of the BEDC Conference was led by an ad hoc Conference Secretariat based in the IUCN Regional Office for Europe, and supported by IUCN Headquarters. In addition, a Steering Committee, composed of representatives from EC Directorates General for Development, External Relations and Environment, EU Ministries of Foreign Affairs and/or development cooperation agencies, and environmental/development Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), was set up to oversee and provide input to the process.

Conference preparation also benefited from presentations and discussions held during two meetings of the Tropical Biodiversity Advisory Group (TBAG) (Brussels, January 2006 and Stockholm, June 2006). Finally, the consultation process involved numerous interactions with additional representatives of the European Commission, bilateral cooperation agencies and NGOs; and the circulation of a questionnaire¹ as part of an attempt to gather information in a more systematic manner.

1. Completed questionnaires were received from the governments of Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, The Netherlands and Sweden.

Acknowledgements

The Conference Secretariat wishes to express its gratitude to all members of the MCI team, who did an impressive work as the event organiser. Hostesses helped welcoming and registering participants with a much appreciated constant good mood. Several staff members of the International Conference Centre also contributed a lot of time and energy during the 3 days of the conference.

A number of IUCN staff members worked long hours during the conference and never balked at unrewarding but crucial tasks. Those whose names do not appear anywhere else in these proceedings are Tim Christophersen, Camille Gremez, Dirk Hendricks, Wiebke Herding, Catherine Quick, Chantal Van Ham and Janice Weatherley. Karen Hoyer and Agnès Schilling volunteered to help with most welcome enthusiasm and dedication.

Last, the IISD reporting services did an incredible job in producing real-time conference minutes, on which some parts of this document draw extensively. IISD team included Nienke Beintema, writer; Alice Bisiaux, writer/team leader; William McPherson, writer; and Diego Noguera, digital editor.

Foreword

The Paris Conference on Biodiversity in European Development Cooperation, organised under the initiative of the European Commission and the World Conservation Union, held on September 19 to 21, 2006 was ambitious in several aspects. Devised to favour a better handling of the matters linked to biodiversity in the development assistance of the European Commission and the Member States, it aimed at facilitating the dialogue between not only northern but southern environment and development communities as well. Finally, it came after a series of other conferences on similar topics, accompanied by declarations and messages that quite often remained as no more than dead letters.

This conference was conceived based on a relatively simple report: in spite of formal past commitments, in spite of an impressive series of policies, regulations, programmes, and initiatives, biodiversity continues to globally weather out and the ecosystems to wear away. The accomplishment of several Millennium Development Goals, whereof the fight against poverty, are threatened by this; More specifically, the European Development Cooperation, that represents more than half of the world's total assistance volume, may not only be driven to have a significant impact on its negative trends, but also reinforces them in a certain number of cases.

The Conference managed to assemble more than 450 participants representing 17 Member States, the Parliament and the Commission, 12 overseas regions and territories, as well as approximately forty partner countries, several regional and international organizations, NGOs and private firms. It marked the souls and allowed to tighten the bonds between the development and environment actors. Together, they insisted on the imperious need of going from theory to practice, from policies to action.

The Message from Paris adopted as an outcome of the Conference settles around four challenges to overcome through precise recommendations:

- To support the integration of biodiversity in partner countries;
- To improve governance;
- To reinforce the available instruments and the coherence between policies; and,
- To acknowledge the worldwide importance of biodiversity of overseas European countries and territories.

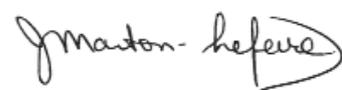
The acts of the Conference will allow keeping track of those passionate and fascinating debates. They show how the consensus on the Message from Paris was built jointly, whether in workshops or in plenary sessions. I believe they will also bring to realisation the renewed impulse that the Conference has inspired to the numerous energies that are mobilising every day for the preservation of biodiversity and the fight against poverty.

If it were necessary, this would be enough to confirm the great purpose of the Conference of Paris. Nevertheless, such an event will not remain a sincere success unless it has allowed for new actors to mobilise on its great causes, to modify their behaviours, to seize these objectives too often left in the hands of specialists.

The Finnish Presidency of the European Union has already done honour for the participants to commit to submit the Message from Paris to the Council of General Affairs and External Relations of December 2006. I only wish that this may only be an extremely encouraging first step in the brilliant destiny of the Message from Paris; and a new greater step towards the joint and efficient handling of issues that remain, more than ever, in the centre of the needs of our planet and its inhabitants.

I avail myself of this opportunity to thank my predecessor, Ibrahim Thiaw, who brilliantly assumed the heavy burden of animating this Conference by providing the vision of an African representative, an excellent connoisseur of sustainable development.

It is also necessary for me to thank our numerous colleagues from the IUCN, and first of all the Regional Office for Europe, who committed themselves to this formidable challenge: to make the actors of development and those of environment come together. I am sure they will all be mobilised by the carrying out of the Message from Paris.



Julia Marton-Lefèvre
Director General, IUCN

IUCN organised the Paris Conference on Biodiversity and European Development Cooperation from 19 to 21 September 2006, in partnership with the European Commission, Belgium, Finland (EU Presidency), France and Sweden. It was an important milestone in the European process to improve the mainstreaming of biodiversity and ecosystem services in development cooperation and drew on the combined expertise of IUCN's worldwide network.

This conference gave an overarching view of the status of biodiversity in European development cooperation. It assessed progress made, current trends, and highlighted the perception of these trends by all our partners, particularly those from countries receiving European aid.

The conference also reinforced and revitalised numerous initiatives taken in Europe over the last few years to integrate environmental protection and poverty alleviation objectives in development aid – both from the European Commission and from Member States.

Furthermore, the conference was an opportunity to gather advice and recommendations from a range of stakeholders in development cooperation, such as Ministries with responsibility for natural resources management; environment and development NGOs; and the private sector.

Lastly, it also achieved one of its main objectives which was to mobilise new stakeholders on biodiversity and poverty alleviation, beyond the somewhat narrow community that usually deals with such issues. It aimed to provide a forum to bridge communication between environment and development stakeholders.

The high attendance of key stakeholders from both communities, as well as a massive presence of partner countries, fed a deep and fruitful dialogue. This is evident by the Message from Paris, which represents a collective endeavour by conference participants.

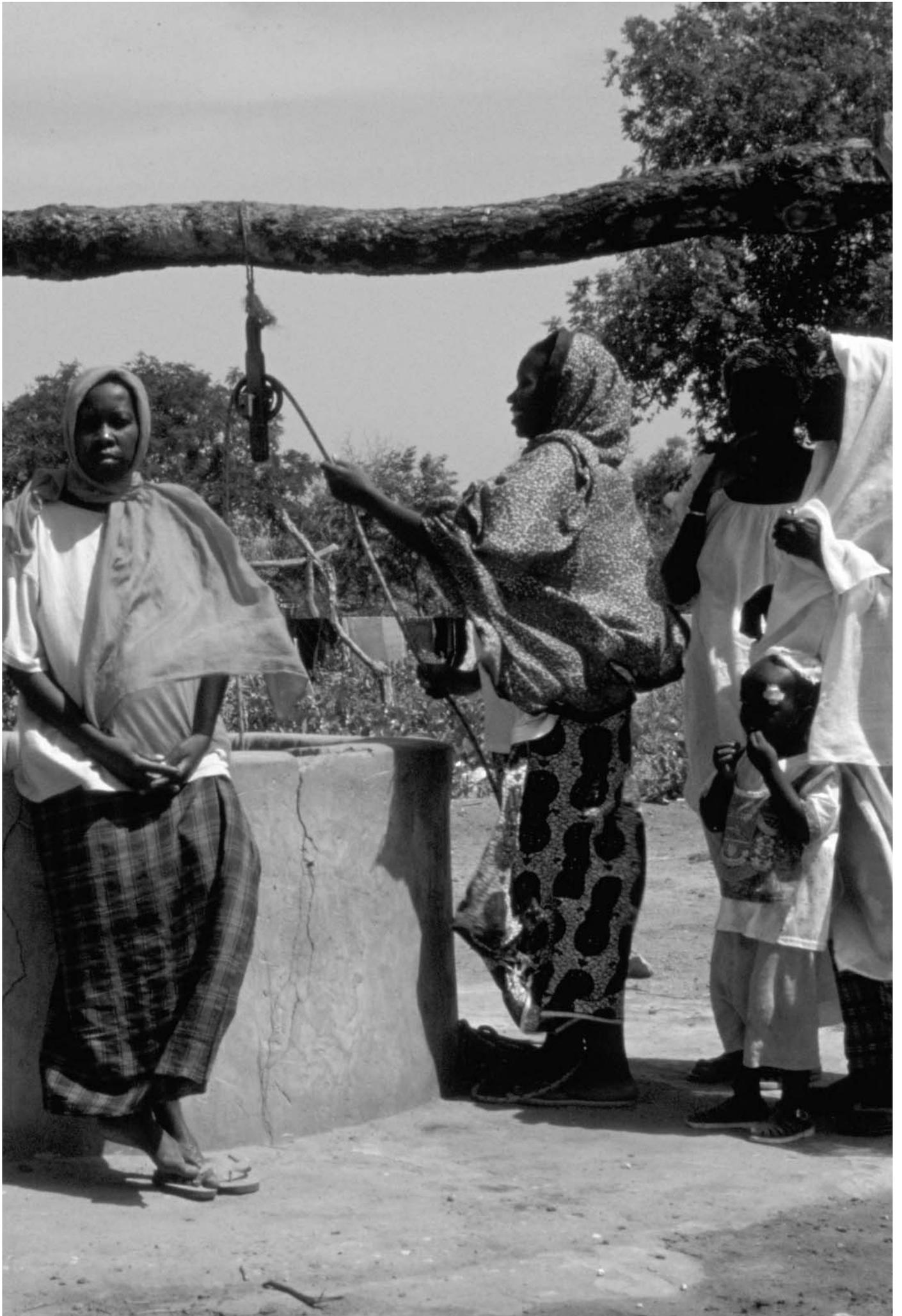
As underlined by IUCN Director General, it is now the duty of each participant to support this Message and to promote its implementation. Obviously, relevant services from the European Commission have a lead role to play. This effort will take several years but must start today. In this context, the European Commission will play a lead role alongside IUCN and the Member States in implementing the Message from Paris. A first assessment of this work will be presented at the 2008 IUCN World Conservation Congress by the French EU Presidency.



Louis MICHEL
European Commissioner for
Development and Humanitarian Aid



Stavros DIMAS
European Commissioner for
Environment



THE MESSAGE FROM PARIS

Integrating Biodiversity into European Development Cooperation

From the participants of the Conference on Biodiversity in European Development Cooperation Paris, 19-21 September 2006

From Commitments to Action

From 19-21 September, 2006, over 400 participants from governments and civil society gathered in Paris to consider how to better integrate biodiversity into EU Development Cooperation.

Participants expressed concern that the goods and services provided by ecosystems are in decline, putting at risk sustainable development and the livelihoods of the poor. The need to forge stronger links between biodiversity and sustainable development has been recognised by the international community, including the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity who noted the biodiversity target was to be achieved as a “contribution to poverty alleviation and to the benefit of all life on earth”.

The European Union provides over half the world’s development funds and has made considerable efforts to support action for biodiversity by proposing integration of this issue into different sectors. The most recent indication of the European Commission’s commitment to improving integration of biodiversity into European development cooperation can be found in the Communication “Halting the loss of biodiversity by 2010 – and beyond”. In 2006, both OECD Development and Environment Ministers and European Union institutions highlighted that they will support the efforts undertaken by partner countries to incorporate environmental considerations into development and PRSPs. While the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness in 2005 seeks to better integrate the environment in development at sector and national levels, mainstreaming of environmental concerns into development policies and trade has yet to be achieved.

Participants identified the following set of challenges and activities for common action on integrating biodiversity into EU development cooperation.

Challenge 1 – Supporting Mainstreaming in Partner Countries

EU development cooperation with partner countries plays a central role in delivering the goals of development and sustaining the environment. Efforts to improve the integration of environment and development should aim at strengthening policies and institutions that support rural poverty reduction.

Participants encourage the European Commission and Member States to support their partner countries to:

- Promote sustainable rural development using biodiversity as an asset for rural poverty reduction, thus minimising risk, improving food security, nutrition and health;
- Develop and support the use of innovative financial mechanisms for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and poverty reduction;
- Strengthen civil society, in particular local communities and indigenous peoples, in order to build the domestic constituency for the integration of environment and development;
- Integrate environmental issues in national planning strategies for poverty reduction and macroeconomic policy instruments (PRSPs), and monitor progress in turning policy into action.

Challenge 2 – Governance

Equitable, transparent and effective governance systems are essential for both poverty reduction and the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Governments alone cannot and should not set the governance framework. Governance operates at many levels from the international to the local. It is particularly important to empower poor people, local communities and indigenous peoples to have control over natural resources and environmental assets.

Participants encourage the European Commission and Member States to:

- Incorporate effective measures in Country Strategy Papers and sector policies to strengthen policies and institutions that support the formal recognition of rural and indigenous peoples' rights to manage natural resources and benefit from them;
- Systematically seek inputs and opinions from civil society, in particular the poor and indigenous peoples, as well as government viewpoints, in setting country-level priorities for aid programmes.

Challenge 3 - Instruments and Policy Coherence

Success in supporting sustainable development in developing countries will have direct positive impacts on key European domestic issues such as migration and security. Therefore, the EU needs to work for greater policy coherence in these areas.

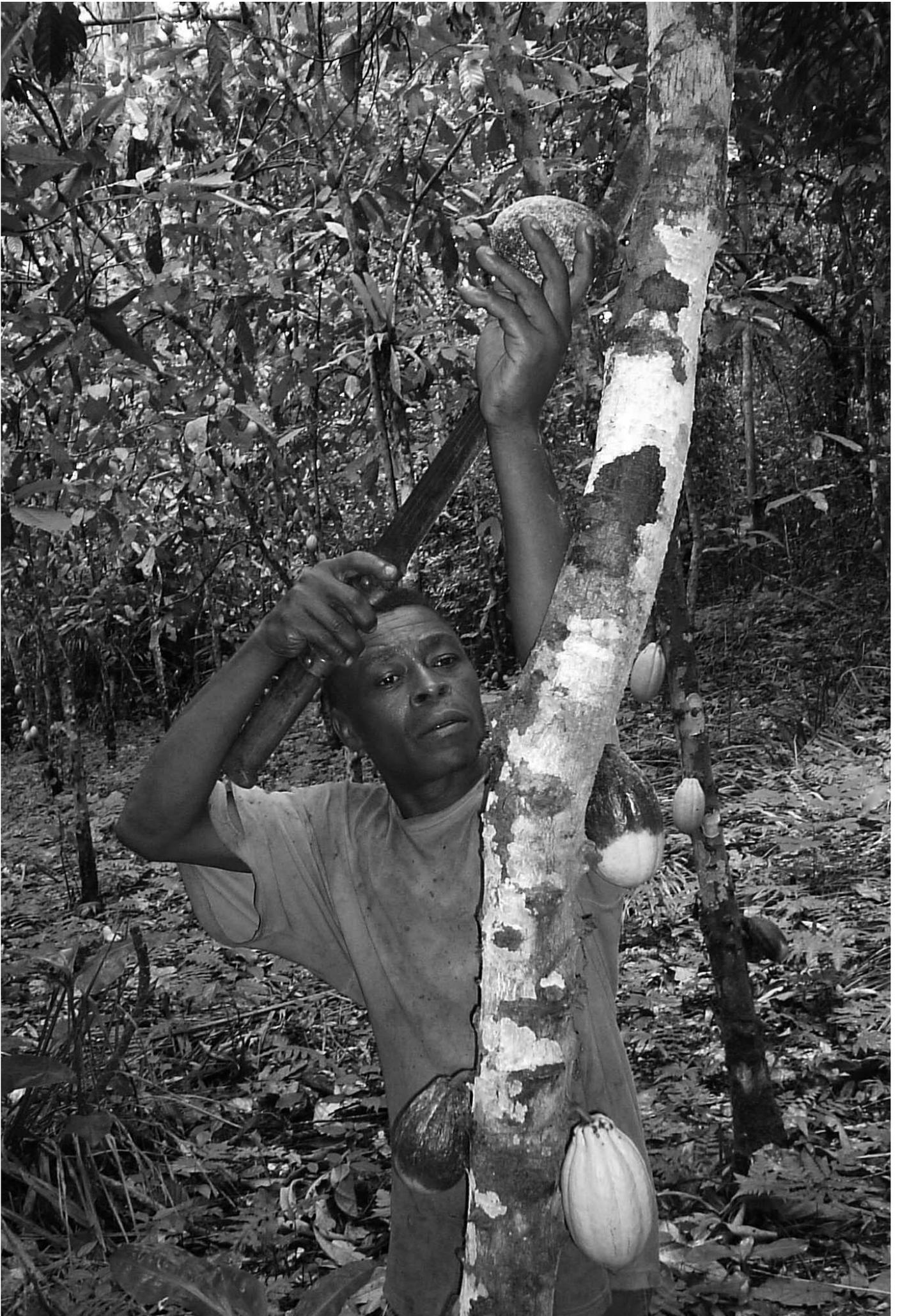
Participants encourage the European Commission and Member States to:

- Make full use of the opportunities presented by instruments such as budget support, SWAPs, etc, to advance the mainstreaming of environmental concerns in development, including through high level policy dialogue;
- Support the systematic use of strategic environmental assessments in support of mainstreaming;
- Improve coherence between EU policies and economic partnership agreements in relation to environment and development, trade, agriculture, fisheries, tourism, transport, and infrastructure;
- Provide leadership and means to support partner countries in creating a level playing field where sustainable business can be an effective partner in delivering conservation and development;
- Support knowledge development and participatory research;
- Act on the demand-side, especially by means of legislation, to reduce the ecological footprint of trade and European consumption on the world's forests and ocean resources;
- At international level, work with partner countries to reform global governance as well as strengthening UNEP, MEAs, and their enforcement mechanisms.

Challenge 4 – Recognition of biodiversity in Overseas Countries and Territories

Participants stressed the need to incorporate the 2010 biodiversity target into the MDG framework in order to promote mainstreaming of biodiversity in development cooperation. They also welcomed the commitment by the EU Finnish Presidency to submit the Message from Paris to the EU General Affairs and External Relations Council in December 2006.

Participants encouraged the European Council and Parliament to discuss and take a position on the Communication entitled “Halting the loss of biodiversity in 2010 - and beyond”. In conclusion, they expressed their gratitude to the sponsors and the host country for organising the Paris Conference, thus creating the space for dialogue between the environmental and development communities from North and South.



OUTCOMES FROM THE WORKSHOPS

Integrating biodiversity into European development cooperation

From the participants of the Conference on Biodiversity in European Development Cooperation Paris, 19-21 September 2006

From Commitments to Action

Participants endorsed the findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA)², in particular the fact that ecosystem services are in decline, thus putting at risk sustainable development and the livelihoods of the poor.

In April 2006³, OECD Development and Environment Ministers agreed that eradication of poverty and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals are closely linked to sound management of the environment at local, national and global levels.

The EU already provides over half the world's development funds and has made considerable efforts in supporting action for biodiversity by proposing integration of this issue into different sectors. The most recent indication of the EC commitment to improving integration of biodiversity into European development cooperation can be found in the Communication "Halting the loss of biodiversity by 2010 – and beyond"⁴.

Furthermore more, the 2006 European Consensus on Development⁵ highlighted that the EC will support the efforts undertaken by its partner countries to incorporate environmental considerations into development issues, and help increase their capacity to implement multilateral environmental agreements.

Participants, therefore, identified the following set of challenges and activities for common action on integrating biodiversity into EU development cooperation⁶.

2. Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, 2005.

3. Framework for Common Action Around Shared Goals.

4. COM(2006) 216 – Halting the Loss of Biodiversity by 2010 – and Beyond. Sustaining Ecosystem Services for Human Well-being.

5. (2006/C 46/01) The European Consensus on Development.

6. The proceedings of the conference provide additional recommendations which should ideally be read in conjunction with this message. They can be found at www.countdown2010.net/paris2006

Challenge 1 – Mainstreaming

EU development cooperation with partner countries plays a key role in achieving development goals and environmental sustainability. Efforts to improve the integration of environment and development should aim at strengthening policies and institutions that support rural poverty reduction.

Participants encourage the European Commission and Member States to support their partner countries to:

- Promote sustainable rural development using biodiversity as an asset for rural poverty reduction, thus minimising risk, and improving food security, nutrition and health;
- Develop and support the use of innovative financial mechanisms for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, and poverty reduction, such as payment for ecosystem services, environmental trust funds, tax policy, environmental fiscal reform, debt for nature swaps, carbon markets and pilot projects to avoid deforestation;
- Build capacity so as to evaluate ecosystem services and their relevance in national planning frameworks and policies;
- Improve and/or develop indicators for environmental conditions and trends and of environmental mainstreaming, in order to inform and monitor national policy plans and strategies;
- Strengthen civil society, in particular local communities and indigenous peoples, in order to build domestic constituency for the integration of environment and development;
- Develop knowledge management systems to enhance decision making mechanisms so as to exchange expertise and lessons amongst countries in local languages;
- Build broad political commitment to integrate biodiversity in national development programmes, inter alia through environmental concerns in policy dialogues;
- Promote efforts within the United Nations system and International Financial Institutions to mainstream biodiversity into national planning;
- Integrate environmental issues in national planning for poverty reduction and macroeconomic policy instruments, such as Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers and sector strategies, and monitor progress of turning policy into action.

Challenge 2 – Governance

Equitable, transparent and effective governance systems are essential for both poverty reduction and the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Governance operates at many levels from international to local. It is particularly important to empower poor people, local communities and indigenous peoples to have control over natural resources and environmental assets.

The government alone cannot and should not set the governance framework. Broader society should participate in governance to ensure equitable sharing of benefits and costs.

Participants encourage the European Commission and Member States to:

- Incorporate effective measures in EC Country Strategy Papers and sector policies to strengthen policies and institutions that support the formal recognition of rural people's rights to manage natural resources and benefit from them;
- Systematically seek inputs and opinions from civil society, in particular the poor and indigenous peoples, as well as government viewpoints, in setting country-level priorities for aid programmes;
- Observe high standards of transparency and disclosure concerning development aid and other state-supported financial flows (e.g. export credit guarantees) to developing countries, including those that impact on natural resource dependent livelihoods and biodiversity;
- Work with national governments to stimulate the establishment and support of multi-stakeholder platforms;
- Prioritise investments that strengthen civil society;
- Assist partner countries to establish and better enforce solid and equitable regulatory frameworks that will support conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Challenge 3 – Instruments and Policy Coherence

The Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness in 2005 seeks to better integrate environment in development through strategic environmental assessments at sector and national levels. Mainstreaming of environmental concerns into development policies has yet to be achieved. Success in supporting sustainable development in developing countries will have direct positive impacts on key European domestic issues such as migration and security. Therefore, the EU needs to work for greater policy coherence in these areas.

In addition, there are a number of innovative finance mechanisms such as: payments for ecosystem services, establishment of environmental trust funds, debt for nature swaps, carbon emission trading, fiscal tools and other instruments which, if used effectively, should ensure a more sustainable financing for biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

Participants encourage the European Commission and Member States to:

- Make full use of the opportunities offered by instruments such as budget support, sector-wide approaches, etc., to advance the mainstreaming of environmental concerns in development, including through high level policy dialogue;
- Support the systematic use of strategic environmental assessments and similar instruments in order to mainstream biodiversity in sector plans and identify and mitigate potential adverse impacts from other sectors (agriculture, fisheries, tourism, transport and infrastructure), as well as in trade and economic partnership agreements;
- Improve coherence between EU policies and economic partnership agreements in relation to environment and development, trade, agriculture, fisheries, tourism, transport and infrastructure;
- Provide leadership and means to support partner countries in creating a level playing field where sustainable business can be an effective partner in delivering conservation and development;
- Invest part of development aid into a fund for each country so that civil society and governments can draw on to leverage additional funding, for conservation and sustainable development, from the private sector and other institutions;
- Support the development and implementation of innovative financial mechanisms to fulfil environmental and poverty reduction objectives, for example:
 - Leveraging private sector funding through a matching fund;
 - Market based instruments;
 - Endowment funds for long-term funding;
 - Taxes on international tourism and transportation;
- Invest substantially in a global system of protected areas as a foundation for life support as well as cultural and spiritual values;
- Establish principles, as well as binding control mechanisms, to ensure that forests and oceans resources put on the market are managed in a legal and sustainable manner;
- Consider developing, at regional and national level, capacity building and institutional support programmes that match the needs of partner governments and civil society;
- Support knowledge development and participatory research, in particular enhancing productivity in agricultural systems through increased use of biodiversity;
- Act throughout consumer demand, especially by means of legislation, to reduce the ecological footprint of trade and European consumption on the world's forest and ocean resources;
- Improve the environmental capacity of the EC and bilateral cooperation agencies;
- Support the development and implementation of approaches and tools for effective mainstreaming of environment and development in national development planning, for example through:
 - Systematic use of strategic environmental assessments as a critical element for aid distribution;
 - A common framework of indicators, for both donor and recipient countries;
 - Improving data collected by household budget surveys to capture the value of on-farm and off-farm biodiversity use, in order to inform national-level economic planning cycles;
 - Development and use of biodiversity evaluation tools from community to macroeconomic levels;
- Simplify donor administrative rules and procedures, for communities and civil society, to encourage projects that integrate environment and development at both field and policy levels;
- At international level, work with partner countries to reform global governance, revising international and bilateral trade rules, as well as strengthening UNEP, multilateral environmental agreements and their enforcement mechanisms.

Challenge 4 – Recognition of biodiversity in Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs)

While building the spirit of the 2006 OCT-EU Forum in Nuuk, (Greenland) and recognizing the global importance of their biodiversity as well as taking into consideration the special responsibility of the EU for its OCTs, and ORs:

Participants encourage the European Commission and Member States to:

- Develop a coherent framework for environment in OCTs, aiming, among others, towards a sustainable management of important biodiversity areas, and allowing joint efforts with Outermost Regions as they are the entities with the most similar stakes within the European Union;
- Ensure that adequate funding is given to environmental and biodiversity issues in the OCTs, including an outsourced small grants facility and improved access to European programmes for local bodies and NGOs in coordination with the local authorities;
- Develop joint research programmes focusing on the biodiversity of OCTs and ORs, and also strengthening joint efforts with regional partner countries;
- Strengthen both the OCTs and the EU positions in the international debate on climate change, by making use of the worldwide and diverse network of OCTs and ORs to evaluate the interactions between ecosystems, climate change and local communities.

The Way Forward

Participants called on future EU Presidencies in 2007 (Germany and Portugal) and 2008 (Slovenia and France) to promote implementation of the recommendations contained in this message.



OPENING SESSION

19th september 2006

Setting the stage

IBRAHIM THIAW

Acting Director General, IUCN

Mister and Madam Ministers,
Honourable Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yesterday, late in the evening, I received a telephone call from Kaloho, an old friend from a beautiful island in the Pacific Ocean. He was concerned by the fact that his government is paying little attention to the destruction of tropical forests by a foreign company, and that the international cooperation partners have remained inactive on the government's decision not to include environment within its development priorities. Knowing that this government had instead chosen infrastructure, National Treasury reform, and mining exploration as absolute priorities, Kaloho, desperate, turned to the IUCN for assistance or at least to share his grief on seeing the nature of his ancestors undergo such an irreparable transformation into dollars, a wealth that in the absence of good governance will undoubtedly end up in hidden accounts.

I therefore promised my Papuan friend that I would share his concerns with all the participants at the Paris Conference on Biodiversity in European Development Cooperation, because it is a request that has come to us at an important moment, to encourage us to act.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great honour to participate in the opening of this conference.

I would, of course, like to begin by welcoming you in the name of the

World Conservation Union – IUCN, which has co-organised this conference with the European Commission. This opportunity we have to unite so much talent, wisdom, and experience, is precious. We all share the great responsibility of making this conference a key step in global awareness of the role of biodiversity in development.

Why are we really meeting today ?

We are gathered because, I believe, we have changed our point of view. We once thought that nature should be tamed, transformed, and used as we pleased. We would transform forests into agriculture, wetlands into reservoirs, and drylands into irrigated areas. It was, we thought, a “big success”. Aside from the intolerable inequalities throughout the world, never before had humans possessed so much food, variety, and luxury. We had left our scrublands for concrete jungles, in which we no longer appreciated the beauty of nature except in parks, forests, or even on television. At that time conservation was focused on beauty, diversity, and the rescue of what was almost lost.

But in recent decades, we have started to wake up to what we have been doing. We have realized that nature is much more than a beautiful picture we can admire after a hard day at work.

The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment is the scientific expression of that

change in perspective. Sixteen out of twenty three ecosystem goods and services are overexploited or declining. The poor in Laos, El Salvador, or Mali bitterly experience this in different ways. Some see the productivity of their small pieces of land decrease; others, see their fishing territory transformed by dams and other fluvial planning structures; others observe as their access to firewood is limited or even lost. Many among you know of other examples of the ways in which the poor depend, at different levels, on natural resources. They depend on them for their survival, to try to make a living, or even to find opportunities to lead them out of poverty.

It is of little importance to talk about biodiversity, nature, or ecosystem goods and services. The fundamental thing that we have progressively learned, is why all life in our planet is important for our existence, and it is all the more true that the poor have never been so destitute, while the rich have never before accumulated so much wealth. Should we then be surprised by the massive migration waves that we are seeing in all continents, not only in Europe and in North-America, but also towards some southern, more prosperous countries? In examining this more closely, we will notice that the regions of origin are usually those where biodiversity has been severely damaged, for example the countries of the Sahel or Haiti. The zones of greatest departure also include conflict

regions, in which discord worsened by competition for access to natural resources.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am the first to admit it, even though we have a considerable number of examples illustrating the dependency of underprivileged rural communities on natural resources, it is far more difficult to quantifiably prove that conservation activities have sustainably reduced poverty. We know how to preserve nature and thereby guarantee bread and butter to these communities, but it is much more difficult to preserve nature whilst directly improving their living conditions.

Though economic evaluation methodologies have improved, we must acknowledge that we still lack sufficient solid economic data to demonstrate the positive impact of biodiversity conservation projects on human well-being.

It is for this reason that we are here today. We are here to help the European Union integrate conservation into its development policies. And we are here within the framework of reinforcing dialogue between the environment and development communities in order to learn from each other, to develop partnerships, and to find the means to reduce poverty through biodiversity conservation. The conservation of

nature is not a tax on development, nature is the source of life and its conservation must be the cornerstone of sustainable development.

The result of this conference, the Message from Paris, I hope will reflect our mutual commitment towards a world without poverty, a world that teams with life – our life and that of other species.

I would not know how to end my remarks without paying tribute to the European Commission and several of its Member States, especially Belgium, Finland, Sweden, and of course France, that warmly welcome us within this superb framework. Equally, I would like to deeply thank the Member States and NGOs of the Steering Committee of the conference that accepted the invitation to dedicate precious time in order to make this conference a true space for discussion among the environmental and development representatives. I would also like to express my gratitude for the important participation of representatives of European Union partner countries, without whom we would not have had a true dialogue on the role of biodiversity in development.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the stakes are high and the challenges are great, but with your support and your help, I have no doubt that this conference will be a success.

Thank you for your kind attention.

JESSICA ERIYO

Minister of State for Environment Uganda

Why is biodiversity important for
the development of partner countries?

The challenge of an African State

Honourable Delegates,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very grateful, on behalf of my Country, to the conveners of this important conference for inviting Uganda to make a key note statement at this important conference. I wish to thank France for hosting this meeting and for the hospitality accorded to me and the other participants to this conference since we arrived here. The theme of this conference "Biodiversity in European Development Cooperation" is very important to the development aspirations of Uganda and indeed the entire Africa.

Uganda has enjoyed generous development assistance from the EU in key government development priorities in the areas of infrastructure development, Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry, Wildlife, Health and Sanitation and the Democratisation process. The EU development assistance is channelled through direct government budget support and other projects prioritised in EU Development Strategy for Uganda. This funding modality provides EU Development Assistance opportunity to respond to Uganda's development priorities.

However, we find that it remains largely inflexible to respond to emerging issues and is not readily accessible by both government and other actors in biodiversity conservation mainly because of the complex procedures for documentation and reporting required by the EU.

However, Uganda, like many countries in the world, is struggling to achieve sustainable development. Therefore, Efforts are needed to strike the balance between the three pillars of sustainable development as articulated in Uganda's Poverty Eradication Action Plan.

With respect to the subject of this conference, Uganda has, for various reasons, including limited capacity and financial resources, not adequately mainstreamed biodiversity conservation in her development priorities and plans. This is in spite of the fact that in 1999-2000 Uganda, with financial support from Global Environment Facility and technical support from IUCN -The World Conservation Union developed a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan to guide the management of biodiversity in Uganda. The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan prioritizes the following actions to strengthen biodiversity conservation:

- a) mainstreaming of biodiversity in macro-economic and Sectoral policies,
- b) capacity for biodiversity conservation,
- c) ensuring representativeness of biodiversity management in all sectors of government and landscapes.

I am happy to note that the EU delegation in Uganda completed

preparation of the Country Environmental Profile for Uganda in late 2005 with the intention to use the

information therein, to inform the Development Assistance Strategy for Uganda. The Country Environmental Profile identifies the following main drivers for biodiversity loss: (i) habitat loss, over-use of natural resources, (ii) Management and Control of alien species, and (iii) pollution of waters among others. This is good enough but not all that can be addressed by EU in pursuant of biodiversity conservation needs, at country level as well as addressing the MDGs and other binding agreements under the EU.

Since the EU Development Assistance programme to Uganda is a key player, it has the greatest opportunity to take a lead role in mainstreaming biodiversity in the development assistance package. I would like to believe that there is room to strengthen the design and packaging of the development assistance to mainstream biodiversity concerns. In this regards, I am proposing the following priority actions for consideration.

- a) Integrate Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment as a requirement for the EU supported infrastructure and other socio-economic development programmes with the view to identify and addressing

implications and requirements for biodiversity concerns. Through this strategy, it is expected that the EU Development assistance will truly support the MGD number 7... and other binding agreements within the EU framework.

- b) Support the mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation in national development planning and Poverty Reduction Strategies
- c) Involve EU Development Assistance in policy reforms at Macro-economic and sectoral levels with the view to assist the country to strengthen macro-economic planning and budgeting so that biodiversity planning and actions are adequately catered for in national development policies and budgeting. Uganda needs support to effectively participate in international and regional processes where important decisions regarding biodiversity conservation and sustainable development are made. Further, I propose involvement of EU Development Assistance in strengthening biodiversity governance processes in the country, including cross-border governance.
- d) Review EU funding modalities to enable Government and other actors in biodiversity conservation such as NGOs and Private Sector access EU funding with relative ease. NGOs and Private Sector are key agents for biodiversity conservation. Presently,

they face difficulties in accessing EU funding because of their inability to meet the high standards of EU funding modalities.

My government looks forward to continued debates on these matters at international, regional and national levels so that the EU development assistance can respond to these issues and others that will be generated during this conference.

Lastly, permit me to once again thank the EU for the continued generous development assistance to Uganda. Uganda is grateful for this support. I also wish to thank the IUCN for her support to Uganda and for organising this important conference that brings us together to share views on how to mainstream biodiversity concerns in EU development assistance to the developing world. I also wish to thank the EC, Belgium, Finland, France, and Sweden for funding this meeting.

Have a successful conference, for God and my country!

HUGO BARRERA

Minister of Health and Natural Resources

El Salvador

The viewpoint of a meso-American State

My special thanks and congratulations to the European Commission and IUCN for organising this conference that will allow us to establish a political dialogue on the priorities and guidelines to be followed for European cooperation, in order to achieve the integration of conservation and the sustainable use of biodiversity, into development.

El Salvador, located in Mesoamerica, one of the five centres of mega diversity on the planet despite its small territory and high population density, maintains a significant biodiversity with good ecosystem and species representation, and genetic resources of regional and worldwide importance.

However, as is the case in many countries, we face common threats such as habitat reduction, deterioration and fragmentation and overexploitation of natural resources.

Acknowledging the great importance of our biodiversity and in view of the need to guarantee the sustainable provision of environmental goods and services that it provides us through ecosystems, El Salvador has formulated a national territorial development and zoning plan based, among other things, on the identification of areas in its territory that contain key ecosystems and areas of greatest diversity by establishing protected areas and biological corridors. With the purpose of guiding territorial development, the plan considers a system of areas of conservation and local sustainable development, which

include state and private natural areas, areas with productive activities, and areas with human settlements, which in turn has led us to the need to formulate innovative strategies to incorporate the different interest sectors and groups in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, particularly, local communities and the private sector.

In order to achieve these goals and objectives, our country is initiating the implementation of two great complementary projects for the conservation and sustainable use of Salvadorian biodiversity:

- A project to establish a system of collection and payments for environmental services system (ecoservices)
- And another project to consolidate the protected areas system (CNR/MARN)

Both projects will also help us consolidate and establish our regional commitments within the framework of the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor (MBC), an initiative driven by the Central American Commission of Environment and Development (CCAD), that seeks to bring sustainable development to the neediest peoples of the region based on the sustainable use of natural heritage and the connectivity of protected areas.

Up until now, the MNC initiative has been internalized in such a way among the environmental authorities of each

country of the isthmus, that we have jointly coordinated and made political and technical efforts to consolidate several strategic regional programmes: one on protected areas; another on connectivity; one on monitoring and evaluation of biodiversity; as well as formulating a regional strategy for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and a Central American forest strategy.

In the same way, we have worked to establish two regional agreements: the Central American Protocol on Access to Genetic and Biochemical Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge, and the Central American Agreement on the Safety of Modern Biotechnology. With all of these regional instruments, Central American countries have gone from a strict biodiversity and forest conservation approach, to another in which natural heritage is a stepping stone towards achieving sustainable development.

It is important to point out that, from this vision, El Salvador already possesses a normative framework in the theme of biodiversity and planning in this area, expressed in the national biological diversity strategy, in addition sectoral strategies, like the strategy for the inventory and monitoring of biodiversity, for the management of protected areas, for the use of wetlands; for the use of biodiversity information; as well as the strategy for the civil society participation natural protected areas management.

Moreover, we possess the proposal for a national framework on biotechnology security and are presently formulating a national strategy for the achievement of the Millennium goals and objectives by 2015, through a participatory process.

All of the above complemented by modern environmental law; a law on natural protected areas; and the law on wildlife conservation, makes us one of the countries that want to do things the right way, in terms of the environment.

Ladies and gentlemen we cannot ignore the fact that our interest of giving a greater boost to these topics is reflected in our recent acceptance as a Member of IUCN.

Finally, I wish to state that our country considers that in the search for sustainable development, poverty reduction, the facing of other global challenges, and the achievement of the Millennium Goals, 2015 must be a change of paradigm in the work on biodiversity.

We believe that we must consolidate this step from a phase concentrating exclusively on protection, to a phase of sustainable use of biodiversity, based on the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines and on the application of the ecosystems approach of the Convention on Biological Diversity, as well as the international commitment to achieve respect of the sovereignty of genetic resources and participation in the derived benefits from those resources.

This is to say, we must focus our framework of action on the application of the second and third objectives of the Convention, sustainable use and participation in the benefits, which will allow for local sustainable development, and thus the mitigation of poverty, a common indicator of our entire region. Of course, we must count on the commitment of international cooperation partners, mainly from developed countries, through sustainable financing and significant technical and scientific support, allowing access and technology transfer.

The breakthroughs that El Salvador has had on the implementation of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity were achieved by the support of international cooperation partners, particularly the Spanish Cooperation Agency, IUCN, the UK Darwin Initiative, the UNDP Small Grants Programme and, of course, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through their implementing agencies: UNDP, UNEP, IDB and the World Bank.

I cannot conclude without having first reiterated our gratitude on behalf of my government for the extraordinary welcome received from the government and people of France, and for allowing us to use this space to express our breakthroughs, needs, and vision for the role of biodiversity, in the search for the sustainable development of our peoples.

Thank you.

KIM SEAN YIN

Secretary of State for the Environment Cambodia

The situation in an Asian Country

Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour and pleasure to join you, honourable leaders of the European Countries and leaders of other countries from different part of the planet for conservation and development, at this Biodiversity in European Development Cooperation. On behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia, and myself, I would like to extend my appreciation for the efforts of the European Development Cooperation and especially IUCN for organizing this very important platform for development and cooperation through the biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

Indeed, preserving natural resources and environment is challenging and extensive in coverage, particularly in developing countries and Asia. In fact, there are no developments which use natural resources without impact on environment. In addition, from one day to another, natural resources and environment of our planet are constantly threatened; this factor has led to environmental and biodiversity imbalances, negative changes in weather patterns affecting economies and societies as well as the well-being of human kind in the national, regional and global framework.

Thus, indeed this conference is a very special opportunity for all of us to seek alternatives for better cooperation and collaboration in and between countries and continents which are the challenges for managing, preserving, conserving and using biodiversity for

sustainable development; and also to identify new approaches and measures to manage natural resources and preserve country, region and global in sustainable and continual manners.

Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The 1997 Socio-economic Survey of Cambodia indicated that 36% of the population lives below the poverty line based on the minimum need of 2,100 calories per person per day. The survey also indicated that the poverty index is 11% in Phnom Penh, 30% in other urban areas and 40% in rural area. Nearly 90% of the poor are farmers living in rural areas. The Royal Government of Cambodia is aware of the dire poverty currently prevailing in the country and considers poverty alleviation and the improvement of standards of living as the main priorities.

The Royal Government of Cambodia considers "Biodiversity Conservation and sustainable use is the necessary condition" to ensure sustainable economic and social development by enhancing equity and justice of natural resource use and natural environment services for the benefit of all people. Conserving biodiversity and sustainably using biological resources are fundamental to reduce poverty and improve the quality of life of all Cambodians.

The Royal Government of Cambodia is highly committed and has strict measures to eradicate illegal activities such as: illegal logging; including

ending the big scale forest exploitation, which led to cancellation of many forest concessions; forest land encroachment; land grabbing; making state owned land into private ownership; illegal fishing; illegal mining and so on.

Nature protection in Cambodia has been a constant concern of both the King and Government always realising the fragile nature of ecosystems owing to the socio-economic, physiogeographic and climatic conditions of the country. In modern times, the Kingdom's commitment to environmental protection has been demonstrated by a number of significant legal measures to prevent pollution, habitat damage and to protect wildlife, including the creation of a Environmental Secretariat in 1993, the enactment, in 1996, of the "Law on Environmental Protection and Natural Resource Management" creating a full fledged Ministry of Environment and the adoption of a National Environmental Action Plan in 1998. The National Assembly of Cambodia has also ratified several international conventions related to the environment including: the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), the World Heritage Convention, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Seas, International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL), the Agreement on the Cooperation for the Sustainable Development of the Mekong River Basin, etc.

The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan recognise existing constitutional and legislative responsibilities for biodiversity in Cambodia. It also emphasises the importance of intergovernmental and international cooperation to create the policy, management and research conditions necessary to advance ecological management. Cambodia has also pledged its commitment to implement the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), setting targets and indicators for several mutually reinforcing goals to halve world poverty by the year 2015. The progress towards one goal affects progress towards the other, this emphasizing the multi-dimensionality of poverty.

The Royal Government has incorporated natural resource management programme and environment protection into the “National Poverty Reduction Strategy” and “National Strategic Development Plan” as well as broadly opening up for participation to implement those actions from both domestic and international development partners. However, as our capacity and capability are limited, we acknowledge that majority of our achievements are also limited. Furthermore, we also recognise that poverty of the people in rural areas has forced them to make their daily living on exploitation of natural resources leading to its deterioration and affecting ecological system and natural environment. Moreover, the limited information technology coupling with people’s low level of knowledge regarding the importance of natural resources, pose difficulties for the

government and in particular for the concerned ministry to attain expected results in managing natural resources and environment.

In Cambodia, an overwhelming majority depends upon agriculture, fishery and forestry as major source of livelihood with most local farmers reliant upon subsistence farming and foraging. The average rural household obtains food and generates income through a combination of activities such as farming, hunting, fishing and gathering wood and non-forest products. Other supplemental sources of livelihood are livestock raising; primary processing of agricultural, forestry and fishery products; odd jobs and vending. It is estimated that crop, livestock, fisheries and forestry production accounted for 40.1% of Cambodia's GDP in 1999. Despite the continuous efforts of the Royal Government of Cambodia to conserve and protect the environment and the natural resource base, there are serious cases of resources depletion and degradation. In the agricultural sector, inappropriate use of pesticides is leading to the contamination of waters and fish habitats, and degradation of other aquatic resources. Over harvesting of wildlife has led to the near extinction of valuable food sources including several species of wild animals and plants. Construction of dams and other water management infrastructure is a constant menace to the integrity of fish habitats. Industrial and urban pollution is threatening the quality of life of the human population. We actually have no doubt that in securing a sustainable development we must ensure a permanent use of natural

resources for every need by not severely affecting the natural environment and the needs of generations to come.

Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia, I would like to take this opportunity to highly appreciate ASEAN countries, United Nation, European Commission, and International Organizations for contributing and well cooperating with the Royal Government of Cambodia as well as Asian countries to promote conservation and sustainable development which are the pro-poor support for people. Once again, I would like to highly thank and gratitude to IUCN and European Development Cooperation that put a lot of efforts to organise this important conference that bring Asia and Europe for biodiversity and sustainable use through the cooperation and collaboration.

Lastly, I wish, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, let us put our shoulders together in the cause of a sustainable better world, particularly Asia and Europe. By working together, we will certainly prosper together. I thank you all for your kind attention.

Thank you.

BRIGITTE GIRARDIN

Minister for Cooperation, Development and the Francophonie - France

How can biodiversity be addressed through development cooperation?

Mobilising Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services to fight poverty

Honoured guests, Ministers, Members
of Parliament,
Mr Director-General of the World
Conservation Union,
Ladies and gentlemen,
Dear friends,

"Our house is burning down and we're
blind to it. Nature, mutilated and
overexploited, can no longer regenerate
and we refuse to admit it. Humanity is
suffering. It is suffering from poor
development, in both the North and the
South, and we stand indifferent. The
earth and humankind are in danger and
we are all responsible". These are the
words spoken by the President of the
Republic, Jacques Chirac, at the World
Summit on Sustainable Development in
Johannesburg in 2002.

Have we stopped turning a blind eye
since 2002?

The latest United Nations reports on
the Millennium Development Goals or
the assessment of the millennium for
ecosystems, confirm that there has
been an alarming loss of biodiversity.
Since 2002, deforestation has affected
an area the size of Costa Rica. Every
year, 13,000,000 hectares of forest to
give way to cultivated land. The
disappearance of a primeval forest
contributes to global warming, and with
it we lose all the species that sheltered
within it. It no longer fulfils its role in
regulating the water cycle and thus
opens the way to erosion and
desertification. In the end, this
increases the poverty of all the people
living in the vicinity.

How many times must it be said that at
the current rate, between a quarter and

half of all species will have disappeared
between now and the end of the
century?

We know the disastrous consequences
this will have for humanity. The
overexploitation of marine resources,
wildlife or water resources is having a
more and more profound effect on
people's lives. The recent report of the
World Bank on the Wealth of Nations
shows that a quarter of the gross
national product of developing
countries without oil resources depends
on natural resources. The message
could not be clearer.

Our responsibility is huge and making
commitments is no longer enough. We
will be judged according to our actions
by future generations. For this reason,
development aid provided by the
French government continues to grow.
In 2007, it will amount to 9 billion euros,
or 0.5% of gross national product. And
of course, the environment will benefit
from this growth.

The French Global Environment Facility
has thus been replenished and will
stand at 70 million euros for the coming
years. For France, it constitutes an
instrument of bilateral cooperation,
largely devoted to supporting projects
in favour of biodiversity. The Global
Environment Facility, as the financial
instrument of the United Nations
Convention on Biological Diversity, has
also been replenished for four years.
France is its fifth largest contributor,
providing an amount of 154 million
euros.

France has also responded to the
urgent appeal launched by Central

African heads of state in Brazzaville in
February 2005, for their debt to be
cancelled in order to save the forest.
The Cameroon Contract on Debt Relief
and Development, which I recently
signed, therefore provides 20 million
euros for the protection and sustainable
management of the forest. Since 2005,
France has also provided facilitation to
the Congo Basin Forest Partnership.
More generally, France is pursuing its
policy of cooperation on the basis of
the Partnership's Framework
Documents, defined with partner
countries in the priority joint action
zone, which essentially comprise
African countries. In almost a third of
those documents, the environment and
the protection of biodiversity represent
one of the three areas on which the
bilateral French aid provided by the
French Development Agency is
concentrated.

Finally, we have also strengthened our
partnership with the World
Conservation Union by seconding a
number of technical assistants, which
will enable even more effective action
to be taken for the protection of
biodiversity, particularly in Africa.

We must certainly increase the finance
we provide, but above all it must be
allocated and coordinated more
effectively. We must also develop
genuine worldwide scientific expertise
on every environmental question.

The lack of interest shown in
biodiversity in comparison to other
challenges such as climate change, is
very regrettable. Yet the accelerating
collapse of biological diversity is indeed
a major environmental crisis, one which

is just as worrying as global warming. Everyone here is convinced of this.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change played a key role in increasing awareness about the reality of global warming, which was far from being accepted by everybody only a few years ago. In January 2005, the Biodiversity, Science and Governance Conference took place at the headquarters of UNESCO in Paris, and the President of the Republic proposed that a mechanism be set up to spread the message of the scientific community on the subject of biodiversity, and to convince public opinion, the media and politicians of the urgency of action. We are now waiting for the conclusions of the international consultation on the feasibility of an international mechanism of scientific expertise on biodiversity.

For a long time, the European Union, by its actions, has also shown a willingness to shoulder its responsibilities where international solidarity is concerned. The aid it provides has increased in accordance with its commitments. However, it now only devotes 0.7% of that aid to biodiversity.

The efforts in favour of solidarity made by the European Union and its Member States must therefore be targeted now on the three challenges of the 21st century: the eradication of poverty, climate change and the protection of biodiversity.

The target of devoting 5% of European aid to the environment and the protection of worldwide biodiversity, which has been mentioned on a number of occasions, appears to be reasonable.

It is consistent with the necessary scaling up of the actions that we take.

In conclusion, I would like to extend my remarks to cover the fundamental question of international governance of the environment.

It is time for an institutional framework to be created for environmental matters, comparable to the other pillars of sustainable development, namely economics and social matters. Our current system is based on a heterogeneous set of more than 500 environmental conventions. Apart from its cost, this system lacks consistency and efficiency.

For this reason, France has proposed the setting up of a genuine United Nations Environmental Organisation. This body would have the necessary authority to mobilise scientific expertise, to alert public opinion to damage to the environment, to influence all players on the international scene, and finally to mobilise increased resources for the benefit of southern hemisphere countries.

We need your active support for this ambitious project. Joint action by governments, by non-governmental organisations and by scientists in favour of such an organisation will influence the current debate on the necessary reform of the United Nations in the area of the environment.

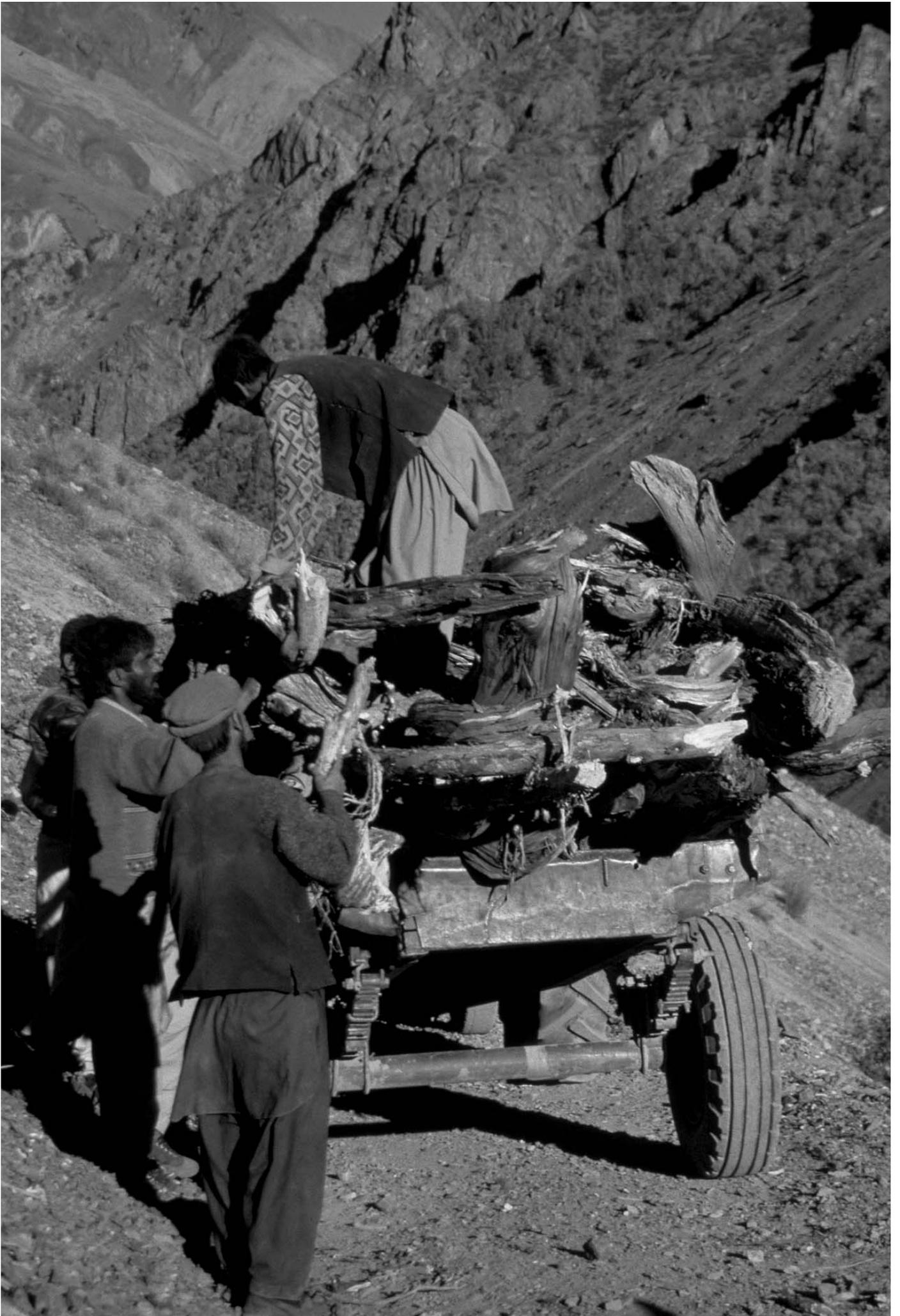
Ladies and gentlemen,

I am delighted that the World Conservation Union continues to demonstrate the important role that it

has to play today. Since its creation in France in 1948, it has succeeded in raising awareness among international opinion, advising politicians and promoting initiatives on the ground in favour of the preservation of worldwide biodiversity. Its role as a catalyst of international reflection can clearly be seen today in the organisation of this conference.

Your attendance here in such numbers shows the growing importance that the authorities in your countries attached to this collective challenge of the 21st century, to reduce the erosion of worldwide biodiversity. Your accounts, your thoughts and your proposals will assist the European Commission, the Member States and their partner countries to meet this challenge together.

I wish you continued success in your excellent work, and assure you that France will pay the greatest attention to your recommendations.



BRIDGING THE GAPS

Chair :
Achim Steiner, Executive Director, UNEP

Achim Steiner, Executive Director, UNEP, refuted the myth that partner countries have no interest in biodiversity, especially within the development cooperation context. He added that biodiversity should be protected both in its own right and

for what it brings: the link between conservation and social/economic policy needs to be strengthened. Biodiversity should be mainstreamed in sustainable development by building bridges with policies on climate change, infrastructure

development, etc., using financial instruments such as green taxation, and orienting markets and trade.

HILLARY MASUNDIRE

University of Botswana

Chair, IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management

Which place for biodiversity in EU development cooperation?

Based on the presentation below, Hillary Masundire summarized the conference background document⁷. He noted the importance of ecosystem services for human well-being as well as the intrinsic value of biodiversity, and supported the eight areas of action proposed by the document.

Stressing the need to address causes of poverty rather than its effects, he highlighted biodiversity conservation as a route to poverty alleviation as well as the reverse. He confronted claims that development programmes that ignore environmental factors are not true development programmes. He also underlined that protected areas, in some cases, may threaten biodiversity by confining protection to parks. Finally, he questioned whether the concept of “non-environmental development projects and policies” is appropriate when there is hardly any project or policy that is non-environmental in the sense that they often cause the most damage to the environment.



Which place for Biodiversity in EU Development Cooperation?

Hillary M Masundire
Chair, IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management. University of Botswana

Biodiversity in European Development Cooperation, Paris, 2006

Background paper

- the primary and overarching objective of EU development cooperation is the eradication of poverty in the context of sustainable development
- European Union has special responsibilities towards biodiversity in development cooperation
 - a global leader on environmental issues
 - one of the main economic partners of ODA beneficiary countries
 - one of the main donors of ODA
 - the EU Overseas Countries and Territories are home to globally significant biodiversity
- The EU and developing countries are 'ecological partners'

Biodiversity in European Development Cooperation, Paris, 2006

Is development without biodiversity conservation an option?

- Evidence gathered from around the world clearly shows it is not.
- Development, and in particular rural development, needs biodiversity and related ecosystem services if it is to be sustainable, and postponing biodiversity protection to a hypothetical brighter future makes that future less likely. ”
- Mohammed Valli Moosa, President, The World Conservation Union (IUCN)

Biodiversity in European Development Cooperation, Paris, 2006

Millennium Ecosystem Assessment

- a credible scientific re-affirmation of the links between ecosystem services and human well-being
- Provisioning services – food, fiber, water, shelter
- Regulating services - climate, nutrients, disease control, flood mitigation, etc
- Cultural & Amenity services – heritage values,
- Supporting services - productivity

Biodiversity in European Development Cooperation, Paris, 2006

7. Billé, R. (ed.), 2006, Biodiversity in European Development Cooperation: Supporting the Sustainable Development of Partner Countries. IUCN, Gland, 140 p. <http://www.countdown2010.net/paris2006/>

Millennium Ecosystem Assessment: biodiversity trends

- Biodiversity underlies all ecosystem services
- A large proportion of the world's terrestrial biodiversity is concentrated in the Neotropics and Afrotropics
- With regard to human livelihoods, local extinctions are more critical than global extinctions
- Increased rate of loss of biodiversity to highest rate ever recorded
- *"An unprecedented effort will be needed to achieve a significant reduction in the rate of biodiversity loss at all levels by 2010"*

Biodiversity in European Development Cooperation, Paris, 2006

Chapter 1: Biodiversity and ecosystem services

- biodiversity matters directly to poor people
 - food security and health
 - income generation and livelihoods
 - reduced vulnerability to shocks
 - cultural and spiritual values
- Is biodiversity conservation a route to poverty alleviation?
- Is poverty alleviation a route to better biodiversity conservation?
- What is the role of "good governance" in poverty alleviation and biodiversity conservation?

Biodiversity in European Development Cooperation, Paris, 2006

Key questions for the EU

- With the preceding in mind the paper highlights 3 questions
- How efficiently do EU-funded biodiversity projects, programmes and policies – whose primary objective is biodiversity conservation – contribute to their formal goal?
- How well do EU-funded non-biodiversity development projects, programmes and policies – which do not have primarily biodiversity-related objectives but may have an impact on them – deal with biodiversity issues?
- How do European non-development policies – which do not have development as a primary objective but may have an impact on development and biodiversity in partner countries – deal with biodiversity?

Biodiversity in European Development Cooperation, Paris, 2006

Chapter 2: global commitments

- Conventions: CBD, Ramsar, CITES, UNFCCC, UNCCD, CITES, etc.
- Johannesburg Plan of Implementation
- Millennium Development Goals – and not only MDG 7. E.g.:
 - MDG 1: Livelihood and food security of the poor often depend directly on functioning ecosystems and the diversity of goods and ecological services they provide
 - MDG 2: Time that children, especially girls, spend collecting water and fuel wood can reduce study time
 - MDG 4: Improved management of local watersheds can reduce child mortality related to water-borne disease

Biodiversity in European Development Cooperation, Paris, 2006

Main messages

- Biodiversity and ecosystem services are the foundations for sustainable development – Chap 1
- The EU has committed both globally and regionally to protect biodiversity as evidenced by the numerous MEAs – Chap 2
- The EU does have instruments and tools available to address biodiversity issues in EU development cooperation – Chap 3
- Given the above and noting especially failures to adequately address/mainstream biodiversity in EU development Aid, what could be done to improve the performance of EU aid on biodiversity conservation? Chap 4.

Biodiversity in European Development Cooperation, Paris, 2006

Chapter 2: specific commitments

- Biodiversity Action Plan for Economic and Development Cooperation (2001)
- Gothenburg Council (2001): halt loss of biodiversity by 2010
- Message from Malahide (2004) on 'Halting the decline of biodiversity – Priority objectives and targets for 2010'
- Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (2005)
- European Consensus on Development (2006 – "delivering more and better aid")
- Communication from the European Commission on "Halting the loss of Biodiversity by 2010 – and beyond" (2006)

Biodiversity in European Development Cooperation, Paris, 2006

Chapter 3. Tackling the challenge

- Numerous policies, regulations, tools and instruments exist that may allow biodiversity to be both directly supported and mainstreamed in E C development cooperation
- Significant resources are allocated to this objective
- The same applies to a majority of EU Member States
- Some trends in the type of aid delivered can be outlined:
 - increasing weight of sustainable use approaches
 - implementation of projects through international NGOs
 - support to strengthen OCTs' regional integration
 - increasing number of projects/programmes on which Member States join forces

Biodiversity in European Development Cooperation, Paris, 2006

Chapter 4: where to now?

5. Improve coherence with non -development policies, especially trade
6. Increase complementarity between development cooperation from Member States and the European Commission
7. Pay more attention to European Overseas Countries and Territories
8. Develop tools for reporting on, and monitoring, biodiversity in European development cooperation

Biodiversity in European Development Cooperation, Paris, 2006

Chapter 4: yesterday today and tomorrow?

- several successes have been recorded
- There is gap between rhetoric, policy and practice ”.
- The gap between rhetoric, policy and practice is widening as environmental trends continue to worsen ”.

Biodiversity in European Development Cooperation, Paris, 2006

But ...

- What is poverty?
- What causes poverty?
- How to alleviate/reduce poverty?
- Should we aim to reduce or to remove poverty?
- Do we look at results or causes to alleviate poverty?

Biodiversity in European Development Cooperation, Paris, 2006

Chapter 4: where to now?

1. Intensify and upscale initiatives with biodiversity as a primary or secondary objective
2. Find more 'breathing space' for biodiversity activities through dialogue with partner countries
3. Improve mainstreaming of biodiversity by partner countries, especially in national development and poverty reduction strategies
4. Improve mainstreaming of biodiversity by the European Union, especially in the programming cycle

Biodiversity in European Development Cooperation, Paris, 2006

No cash economy

biodiversity ↔ people

Biodiversity in European Development Cooperation, Paris, 2006

Cash economy

biodiversity \longleftrightarrow people \rightleftarrows markets

Biodiversity in European Development Cooperation, Paris, 2006

Finally ...

- The paper and indeed most of us talk of “non-environmental projects”....
- Is there really any project, development or activity that is “non-environmental”?
- Most “damage” to the environment comes from the so-called “non-environmental” activities e.g. agriculture, transport & communications, military

Biodiversity in European Development Cooperation, Paris, 2006

And ...

- Is biodiversity conservation a route to poverty alleviation?
- Is poverty alleviation a route to better biodiversity conservation?
- Are beneficiary countries “ready”?
- the policies & practices of the aid recipients are critical/crucial to the success of the EU development aid.

Biodiversity in European Development Cooperation, Paris, 2006

Challenges for EU aid recipients

- **Capacity issues**
 - Education and training
 - Quantity and quality
- **Politics**
 - Entry into service or
 - Exit from poverty?
- **Good Governance**
 - Accountability
 - Appropriate skills for job to be done

Biodiversity in European Development Cooperation, Paris, 2006

TERESA SIRICIO IRO
State Minister for Environment &
Physical Development (MEPD)
Government of National Unity (GONU)
Sudan

My thanks and gratitude to IUCN – The World Conservation Union for the invitation to attend the conference on Biodiversity and European Development Cooperation, and my thanks for the warm welcome accorded to me since my arrival to this beautiful city of Paris. I bring you greetings from the people of Sudan and it gives me great pleasure to address this conference on the issues of biodiversity conservation. Sudan commends the formidable attitude of European Union on the various environmental concerns. The deep rooted history of the Sudan - European Union relationship is mutual in all fields of life. This is well exhibited in the role the European Union plays in development and reconstruction of post-conflict Sudan after signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA).

At the outset let me start by touching upon Sudan's experience in biodiversity and environment conservation. Sudan has a good track record in environment protection, hence amassed a good experience dating back to the onset of the British colonisation era (1898). In this respect Sudan has outstripped many developing countries, and it particularly excelled in the fields of forestry, wildlife, rangeland, urban environment, desertification, national resources and soil conservation.

Despite this wealth of experience and natural endowment, Sudan has experienced accelerated environmental degradation during the course of its political and economic development coupled with calamities of famine, floods, desertification and land degradation, and consequently abject poverty. The underlying cause behind this degradation lies not only in the

absence of coherent policies and integrated approach to address environmental issues but also in the long drawn out civil strife in the South and the subsequent wars in Darfur and the East.

However, the war in the South and Darfur have successfully been concluded, following the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and Darfur Peace Agreement respectively. Both agreements underscore environment protection and charge the country with formidable task of rehabilitation and development to address environmental issues at all level to enhance sustainable development.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is remarkable that Sudan has exerted considerable efforts in mainstreaming environment into sustainable development. To this end it attended the UN Conference on Environment and Development in 1992, ratified the related conventions and became committed to Agenda 21 principles.

In this context, it has initiated and put in place a range of domestic measures including policies, strategies, programmes as well as legal and institutional reforms, setting up institutional and legal frameworks that culminated in establishment of the Ministry of Environment & Physical Development (MEPD). The said Ministry has currently set to work in earnest to launch the National Environmental Strategy and Action Plan in October 2006; thus setting the stage for the integration of environmental safeguards into national development

strategies as well as their mainstreaming into international development cooperation.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Sudan is a party to the Biodiversity Convention, as well as to many multilateral, bilateral and regional agreements such as those on climate change, desertification, the Montreal protocol, the Jeddah Convention, the Nile Basin Initiative, etc. It has developed national / sectoral Strategies and Action Plans and committed considerable resources to meet its commitments. Sudan's efforts in biodiversity conservation and addressing the interlinked issues such as poverty, desertification and food security were centred on extension and awareness raising among various users and stakeholders, particularly pastoralists and farmers to avoid conflicts and ensure equitable use of biodiversity resources. Programmes executed include integrated forest resources management plans, flood plains utilisation, water harvesting, etc. Synergies established with development programmes in regional development initiatives in NEPAD and Bali Strategy will augment our efforts in tackling desertification, poverty and biodiversity loss.

This opens a venue for regional and trans-boundary cooperation in terms of technology transfer, capacity building and reconstruction of post-conflict Sudan, thus paving the path for compliance with Agenda 21 to achieve sustainability.

In this connection, the following donor-sponsored regional cooperation

initiatives were implemented:

- Regional convention for the conservation of the Red sea and Gulf of Eden;
- Nile Transboundary Environmental Action Plan.

Both initiatives deal with environmental protection issues with emphasis on equitable use of the resource base in respective countries, poverty reduction, wetland and biodiversity protection in water ecosystems. Also in the field of biosphere protection, the Dindir Park Management Plan was formulated underlining the involvement of local communities and stakeholders. Sudd wetland in the South is declared as a wetland biosphere reserve within the framework of the Ramsar convention.

Past efforts in desert control include extension and awareness programmes, rehabilitation of the gum Arabic belt, establishment of shelterbelts around the major irrigated and rain fed agricultural lands, refugees programmes, fuel wood development projects, sustainable management of fragile ecosystems, etc. Recently Sudan acceded to Desertification Convention. Monitoring activities conducted resulted in defining 12 States as being most affected by desertification.

States committees and environmental councils were established and commissioned with drafting desertification control programmes in the respective States. Eventually the national strategy and action plan for desertification were formulated.

Other interconnected issues such as poverty reduction and food security were addressed within the "National

Strategy towards Sustainable Development" and Sudan Joint Assessment Mission with the view to support livelihood and ensure environmental sustainability during the post-conflict rehabilitation and development endeavours.

However implementation of Poverty Reduction and Desertification strategies and action plans were constrained by inadequacy of resources.

As all agreements deal with interconnected issues deemed mutually reinforcing, it is imperative to avail funds for the implementation of desertification and poverty programmes and make use of the synergies with other development plans.

At this juncture, I note that Biodiversity and ecosystem conservation is intricately linked with issues of desertification, poverty, food security and social justice and peace. These interlocked issues underscore integrated approach to attain sustainable development and ensure equitable use of resources to avoid conflicts.

This is quite evident in the case of impoverished, drought-prone and fragile ecosystems across the country, where the utilization of natural resources and hence biodiversity have become a contentious issue triggering serious communal conflicts that contributed immensely to the current war in Darfur and elsewhere.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In conclusion, I would like to submit the following recommendations for consideration as the way forward.

Sudan, being one of the least developed countries, is blessed with biodiversity riches and abundance of natural resources comprising water, forestry, wildlife, minerals and motivated citizens. However the country is vulnerable to drought and desertification and prone to natural disasters and poverty related issues which constantly put the said riches under threat. Hence the post-conflict endeavours should adequately address these issues if resources sustainability is to be attained. Equally important, the donor organisation and development partners are asked to deliver on their pledges to reinforce the national efforts and meet the special needs of the country:

- Establishment of improved international and regional cooperation to enhance information, technology transfer, capacity building and awareness.
- Assistance from the international community including IUCN for promoting the sustainability of biodiversity in terms of training, technical assistance, institutional capacity building, disaster management and research.
- Improved relationship with key financial institutions (including GEF & World Bank) and ensure that a proper mechanism be put in place to mobilize resources for poverty reduction, food security and desertification control.
- Adopt prompt measures to respond to special needs of post-conflict Sudan, in particular removal of sanctions and trade barriers, vulnerability to impacts of globalisation and trade liberalisation and access to international markets, external debt relief and support to ongoing peace process.

These are indispensable measures toward achieving stability, poverty reduction and environmental sustainability. That is a shared objective and therefore, I call upon development partners to demonstrate genuine commitment and support post-conflict Sudan and other least developed countries to achieve sustainable development.

Thank you.

ABEL MAMANI

Minister of Water

Bolivia

Thank you very much; I would like to begin my participation by congratulating those who have organised this great event.

In Bolivia, from the moment we found out about the existence of this initiative, it caught our attention that it is not only us who are concerned about taking care of nature and the balance of our biodiversity.

It pleases me to know that this awareness exists in developed countries such as those within the European Union, which today is demonstrated by this great event.

I am the Minister of Water, from a ministry that was recently created during the administration of the President of Bolivia, my colleague Evo Morales. This ministry has its roots at the demands of the population, regarding access to basic rights.

I am speaking of the right to live with basic conditions being met, the right to have water, work, a preserved environment, a natural area nearby in a fully conserved state.

This reality can not only be found in underdeveloped countries, but also in developed ones. Problems exist in every country in the world, but some have more than others.

We have serious problems in Bolivia and we lack the resources to solve them. Where I go I find there are a great number of demands that I consider to be essentially justified. During my participation at the 4th World Water Forum in March, in Mexico, I spoke of the human right to have access to water, in other words, the right to live.

Today, thanks to this congress and your participation in it, I know that you are aware of these rights. We are not talking solely of the right to life for human beings, but of the right to have access to water for all living beings, animals, plants and nature. I believe that water is the balance of life and biodiversity. I cannot imagine a balanced and shared nature among all without water. This is why the Ministry of Water was created, a ministry that does not only have responsibilities with regards to water, but that also covers a great part of basic needs: sanitation, drinking water, waste, environment, pollution, etc. This last one, pollution, is being perpetrated by all of us, by a lack of education or awareness.

I will set a few examples before you, of the alarming pollution problems that we have. The highest lake of the world, Lake Titicaca, on the high plateau between Peru and Bolivia, is being contaminated by nearby cities.

By destroying the fish's ecosystems, we have reduced the means of survival of communities that live near the lake, taking away their right to have a source of work.

Another example is the Pilcomayo River, shared by Argentina, Paraguay and Bolivia that used to be very rich in aquaculture of which nothing is left today. The reason lies in waters dumped by large mining industries. In Bolivia, the San Cristobal mine is going to be exploited, which will probably be one of the greatest investments to be carried out in the near future. It is a large investment but we believe it is reasonable to have foreign investment, if it is responsible private investment.

What we cannot do is create industries against the interests of the population, since enormous quantities of freshwater and underground water are going to be used for the exploitation of those mining resources.

There are many examples like these in Bolivia. That is why we are celebrating the Constituent Assembly, because in this new government we believe there is a need to change the country towards a new political constitution of the state.

The Ministry of Water, with all the powers I have mentioned, will influence this new political constitution: firstly, by guaranteeing the population and other living beings the right to have access to water, through the search for necessary instruments.

We do not want the State to have to subsidise, but once beneficiaries exist, they will obviously have responsibilities.

We are also preparing the General Water Act as the latter is dated 1906 and we cannot manage our resources with such an old act.

One of the principles of this act must be that of putting the interests of human beings before any other use, and therefore, the interest of agriculture, since this obviously leads to the balance we are all seeking.

Thank you very much. I wanted to explain you how we are working in Bolivia.

We have a development plan that will make way for some objectives for this first five-year period of government management. In the future, we will seek to achieve the Millennium Goals and we believe that with joint work, we will move forward. This is a task for all, not only those of us that need support. We believe that with jointly coordinated tasks to save what belongs to all of us, we will succeed.

Thank you.

WALTER KENNES
Head of Sector Environment
and Natural Resources
Directorate General for Development,
European Commission

Mr. Kennes first highlighted the November 2005 European Consensus on Development. This crucial milestone explicitly recognises environment as both a priority area of its own, and a mainstreaming area in European development cooperation.

Mr. Kennes then pointed out that the European Union is increasing considerably its financial commitment to development cooperation in order to reach collectively the target of ODA to be 0.7 % of GDP in 2015. There is also an important intermediate target of 0.56% by 2010. This means that an additional 20 billion euros will become available for ODA in the next four years – a rise that amounts to more than 40 % of the current allocation. Environment in general and biodiversity in particular can obtain a significant share of these additional resources. But the case will have to be made for good projects and programmes within the programming dialogue with the development partners. This is not an automatic process. The principle of ownership of the development partners has to apply.

At the level of the development cooperation managed by the European Commission, the efforts to include environmental considerations in poverty reduction and equivalent strategies and to promote pro-poor environment-related initiatives and policies will be stepped up.

The new Environment and Natural Resources Thematic Programme will become operational in 2007 and will comprise funds earmarked for biodiversity issues.

The EU is also committed to assist developing countries in implementing the Multilateral Environmental Agreements.

Finally, Mr. Kennes noted that a number of aspects about the relationship between poverty alleviation and biodiversity conservation remain unknown. It is necessary to further explore and operationalise this relationship, because poverty alleviation is the overarching development objective. He called for an enhanced capacity building effort on such issues.

SHRI J.C. KALA

Director General of Forestry India

Dr. Achim Steiner,
Other dignitaries on the dais,
fellow participants,
ladies and gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to be part of this important Conference on Biodiversity organised by IUCN and other sponsors. I congratulate the IUCN in bringing out a befitting background document that would help the Conference in selecting the desired course of action.

Way back in early seventies when the World Conservation Strategy was launched as a result of the Stockholm Conference, it was stated that: "Earth is the only planet known to sustain life. Yet, human actions are progressively reducing its life support capacity. The combined destructive impact of a large majority of population which is struggling to stay alive and a few who are consuming the world's most of the resources are undermining the very means by which all can survive and flourish.

Humanity's relationship with bio-sphere will continue to deteriorate unless a new International Economic Order is established (perhaps that is why we are here), population stabilises and sustainable modes of development become the way of life rather than exception".

Friends, conservation of natural resources is pre-requisite to sustainable development, enunciated in the MDGs. For operationalising this, one has to ensure:

- Maintenance of essential eco-systems;
- Preservation of genetic diversity; and
- Sustainable utilisation of species.

How do we achieve it despite severe population and development pressure is our ingenuity.

Turning back home – one out of six persons on the globe stands in India. It has 18% of global livestock population and all this housed in 1/40th of World's geographical area.

Despite this enormous pressure, India has set apart one fourth of it's landmass under forests. The National Forest Policy envisages increasing the forest and tree cover of the country to 33% of land area by 2012. India is one of the 17 mega biodiversity countries of the world with 8% of planet's total biodiversity. Constituting 4% of Nation's geographic area in to Sanctuaries and National park has contributed immensely in conserving the biodiversity.

About 70% of India lives in rural areas. Nearly one million poor enter Indian forests everyday to meet their requirement of firewood, fodder, small timber, grazing, fibre, flosses and other non-timber forest products. It is estimated that this removal annually amounts to US \$ 6000 million which does not figure in Gross Domestic Product of the Nation (GDP). Realising the enormous challenge of protection of forests and its biodiversity, India moved from policing to participation mode.

A massive movement is on in India to involve people in biodiversity conservation through sharing of benefits from forests. Over 1,00,000 Joint Forest Management Committees have been constituted. Community development and employment generation activities for forest dependents were undertaken to solicit support and ease pressure on the forests.

Water harvesting activities in catchment forests in the vicinity of villages have paid immediate dividends. Water table in village wells was seen rising by 10% - 12%, as a result more than one crop is raised by farmers where there was scope for one hitherto, thatched houses were being converted in to tiled ones and there was good sign of overall economic development.

The Agency responsible for conserving biodiversity viz. the Indian Forest Department rose in the priority of villages. From 12th place it moved on to 3rd. So far 1,10,000 forest fringe villages have been covered under Joint Forest Management/Eco-development programme. Barren hillocks have started rejuvenating.

The following two questions raised by people got the straight answer:

- What do I get if I conserve forest and its biodiversity?
- What do I lose if I don't?

People found more benefit in conservation rather than degrading. Forest Department and its work, through people voice attracted attention of people in power and brought Biodiversity conservation high on Political agenda of Government.

I thought to share this experience of my country with you all. The call for Biodiversity Conservation would click if it clicks politically; clicks implementer wise and clicks peoples wise.

To sum up biodiversity Conservation can succeed if through its beneficiaries viz. the people one could convert it in votes.

Thanks for your attention.

SIMON BROOKS

Vice President, European Investment Bank

One of my responsibilities as a Vice President of the European Investment Bank (EIB) is the Bank's approach to environmental and sustainability issues. I'm very pleased to be here today to sign this MoU on behalf of the EIB with Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, the Acting Director General of the IUCN.

It is particularly fortunate that we are able to do this today, when so many specialists are together to discuss ways to ensure that sustaining biodiversity and development can go hand in hand. We all owe the IUCN thanks for organising this excellent conference and to the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs for providing an excellent venue. Today's MoU expresses the determination of two very different organisations to cooperate to optimize their contribution to biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. While there is no need to introduce IUCN, you may be less familiar with the EIB, which is the EU's long-term financing institution supporting the implementation of EU policy objectives through the financing of capital investment.

The EIB helps to finance investment projects within the EU and its neighbours and also in the developing world. Often infrastructural projects directly improve the environment – helping to provide safe drinking water in Mozambique is a good example.

But we need to face up to the fact that projects could have unwelcome environmental downsides either permanently or temporarily during the construction phase unless the project promoters take proper care.

We want to ensure that we contribute to sustainable development, and the

environmental aspects are something we consider in relation to every project we finance. The Bank's environmental and social policies and practices are based on the EU approach to environmental sustainability, and in respect of nature conservation, the Habitats and Birds Directives, the EIA Directive, and "Natura 2000" are key elements.

We assess the environmental impact of all projects we finance and aim to ensure maximum environmental benefits and minimum environmental costs through screening, mitigation and compensation measures. All projects – whether in the EU or elsewhere – must be assessed to establish whether there are any relevant nature conservation issues.

We know that to get the best possible outcome from our work, we at the EIB need to listen to and learn from others including conservation NGOs. We consider IUCN, with its global network of specialists, to be a unique partner.

At the EIB we view this MoU as a practical instrument for cooperation. This will be expertise-focused, in particular allowing the Bank to seek additional professional consultation and advice from IUCN specialists on its activities, policies and strategies impacting biodiversity. We anticipate that input from IUCN experts will cover the general development of EIB policy towards biodiversity, reviews of the Bank's guidelines on its project due diligence, expert advice on particular biodiversity issues, and assistance to appraise and monitor specific EIB financed projects. We also intend to draw on IUCN's expertise in our internal training and awareness-building on

impact assessment and the integration of biodiversity concerns into proposed projects.

The MoU will allow both parties to express opinions on and act individually in respect of issues covered by it. Our organizations will meet annually to review progress.

Today's signing ceremony represents a milestone for the EIB. This is the first MoU the Bank has signed with an NGO – which, in itself, underscores the importance the Bank attributes to biodiversity and sustainability.

MESSAGE FROM PETER BRIDGEWATER⁸

Secretary General, Ramsar Convention

Firstly, let me congratulate the organisers and sponsors for arranging this meeting – it is indeed timely! At its last Conference of the Parties, held in November 2005 in Kampala, Uganda, there were several issues high on the agenda; including the way the Convention can respond to natural phenomena, and its role in reducing Poverty.

This marked a clear point at which the Convention, while retaining its strong conservation base, firmly stated its role as a partner in the International Development Agenda.

Furthermore, in adopting a strategic framework for 2006 – 2008 it noted that the framework would contribute to, inter alia, the Millennium Development Goals and the 2010 biodiversity targets: a clear indication of the Convention's thinking in terms of development. Because not all may know the full remit and work of the Convention let me briefly state its mission which is:

"Conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local, regional and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world."

The Convention stresses that it is essential to integrate conservation of wetlands and sustainable use as a contribution to the health and well-being of people through sustainable development everywhere. While the Convention develops thus global resolutions, their implementation, like many MEAs, is at national and local level.

The Convention is unusual as the oldest of the global MEAs on the environment,

and it is still the only one dealing with a specific ecosystem – wetlands. Its definition of wetlands is broader than some imagine, ranging from alpine lakes to coral reefs – very much encompassing the needs for integrated water resources management, especially in the critical region of the coast, which co-incidentally has the most pressure on biodiversity. Its work focuses on the ecosystem level, and it is interesting that although the concept of ecosystem, as defined by Sir Arthur Tansley, is 71 years old; only in this century have we come to grips with what ecosystems are and how they function.

The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment has built us a comprehensive framework for understanding ecosystems and their function, including an awareness of the concept of ecosystem services. This framework allows a more interesting understanding of what ecosystems can deliver for people, and in turn how people need to respond to ecosystems to ensure they are able to cater for nature and people. The State of Ecosystem health given by the Assessment leaves absolutely no room for complacency however, and should alert us all that we have perhaps a decade to re-orient our approaches to environmental management to avoid future catastrophic scenarios.

The Convention has adopted ecosystem management approaches for much of its work, including developing management plans for its network of over 1600 Wetlands of International Importance. This site network is at the heart of its focus on wise use of wetlands everywhere, and bears on the need for international co-operation across borders for the conservation of wetland biodiversity.

Here it is worth briefly reflecting that biodiversity, as defined by the CBD, is a hierarchical concept, embracing genes, species and ecosystems. We too frequently think of biodiversity simply as meaning species – and areas rich in species tend to receive development finance focus.

But such areas may, or frequently may not, have high ecosystem and genetic diversity, and this is an area needing much more attention – certainly from the science community. So I make a plea for our development agency colleagues to think carefully about this issue before committing funds to projects or assistance:

- Is this project dealing with the full hierarchy of biodiversity?
- Will it help the maintenance or enhancement of ecosystem service delivery?

We will be particularly interested in any new or innovative financing mechanism which may emerge from the brainstorming or workshops at this meeting, and stand ready to help the development community implement projects and support in our legitimate area of competence and concern.

8. For practical reason, this message could not be delivered during the session.

OLIVIER CONSOLO

Director

Confederation of European NGOs for Relief and Development (CONCORD)

It is hard to be the last speaker during an afternoon in which much has already been said. It is hard to give one point of view from several civil societies, after the opinions of governments and institutions. I am not an expert on biodiversity. Actually, I am not an expert at all. I am here in the name of the European NGO Confederation for Relief and Development that represents more than 1600 NGOs in the 25 Member States of the European Union.

I am going to answer the invitation of the President of our round table, Mr. Achim Steiner. I will therefore be provocative. The theme of our round table is « Bridging the Gaps ». I suggest referring to 4 « gaps ».

Gap n°1 :

The first “gap” was mentioned by Achim in his introduction: we - NGOs, institutions, governments, and experts, have isolated our knowledge. We have locked our expertise up in boxes. Such as in western medicine, we have the best specialists for each of the pathologies the world is suffering. However, we no longer know how to make a synthesis, suggest a global and integrated vision as, incidentally, is done in traditional medicines.

From the point of view of a population or a family at a local level, to compartmentalise problems into being environmental, social, economic, or even relating to security or democracy is completely artificial.

It is our responsibility to breakdown those boxes and for that purpose the topic of this international conference is very interesting. I sincerely hope that these two days will allow us to weave more strategic ties between development and environment actors.

For that matter, CONCORD is trying in Brussels, to reinforce its ties with the large family of environmental NGOs.

Gap n°2 :

We must acknowledge that the institutional framework at a European level has been reinforced with regard to taking environmental questions into account in development cooperation policies. Notably, 2005 was an important year:

- A new European strategy was adopted;
- The EU took up an initiative in terms of coherence between different European policies;
- At a national level, it is now mandatory to elaborate an Environmental Profile by country;
- Finally, the EU has recommitted itself to the intended objectives of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG).

However, there is a gap... an enormous “gap” between speeches, good documents, and reality. Two examples:

- The assistance report elaborated in 2005 by European NGOs shows that an important part of the increase in the aid given by certain Member States corresponds to the annulment of the debt of Iraq or Nigeria.
- Yesterday, in Brussels, the so-called “trilogue” negotiations began between the European Commission, Council, and Parliament. These negotiations refer to the Development Cooperation Instrument and decisions about the mechanisms and financial grants for the next budgetary period of the EU. In spite of good intentions, there is great reluctance towards promising precise envelopes relating to the MDGs or the social or environmental sectors.

The NGOs of the world, reunited in the Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP), also known by the symbol of a white band, say: “stop talking – time for action”.

Moreover, CONCORD has committed itself to monitoring the commitments of our European governments and institutions in the following years. The citizens and media have the right to know what is being done concretely. Furthermore, I would like to suggest that the IUCN reorganises such a conference in 3 or 4 years, not to exchange or debate, but to evaluate what was accomplished in the field by our responsible policies and institutions.

Gap n°3 :

Participation of civil society!

The diagnosis is less than encouraging, not only in Europe, but in partner countries as well. The participation of civil society is not a gadget. It is a serious matter. Political will is lacking everywhere, yet there are many good reasons to take this matter very seriously:

1. The foundation of a good public administration is when local people take up solutions that are proposed to them.
2. The problems that we seek to solve demand long term action. With all due respect, allow me to say that the normal cycle of political (in democracy) or diplomatic periods do not allow for the continuity of long term policies.

The active implications of civil society organisations are a key element to the continuity of the actions taken in the field.

3. The participation of civil society is also linked to the efficiency of the assistance... Goals that all European and OECD countries had recommitted to achieving in 2005:
 - Coordination among actors, including civil society and NGOs;
 - Pool and exchange of expertise;
 - Comparisons of cost / efficiency ratios according to the different actors;
 - Recognition of specific situations in which civil society has demonstrated its added value.
4. "Accountability" – This great democratic concept that we translate in French as "the responsibility of political men and women and of the institutions to answer for their actions relating to citizens, the media, civil society organizations". Europe still has much to do in this area, especially relating to the EU's foreign affairs and cooperation policies with the rest of the world.
5. The Western model for representative and electoral democracy has not been proven to work across the planet. At a time when globalisation and new technologies have reduced the distance between economic actors, the distance between the "governors" and the "governed" is still great. Participative democracy (in a complimentary and not substitutive approach) is one of the answers to this challenge. Participative democracy is built with citizens and with civil society organizations.
6. Finally, innovation is another area in which civil society plays an important role. It is no secret that donors and cooperation institutions are more and more unwilling to take risks, especially for reasons of management or financial control.

However, there is no innovation without risk. Civil society organisations have showed on many occasions their capacity for innovation. In time, some innovations have even become "institutional" policies. Such is the case of micro-credit or fair trade.

Gap n°4

Governance and its link to conditionalities.

The recent initiative of the European Union on "good governance" has had a guarded acceptance by CONCORD.

These topics are very complex and since one of tomorrow's round tables will deal specifically with this problem, I deliver here some provocative questions that we have identified with my environmental NGO colleagues. Let's hope they will stimulate debate:

- Should we consider that the EU imposes conditionalities on its partners by incorporating environmental standards in its aid policies?
- When partner countries have signed multilateral environmental agreements, is the EU imposing conditions or simply respecting international law? How do you, as partner countries, perceive this?
- Is it the role of the EU (or of the donors) to put pressure in favour of environmental criteria, or is it the role of the civil society in each concerned country?

Bad governance is one of the elements greatly responsible for environmental degradation.

- But who establishes the criteria for good governance?

- Do they also apply to donor countries?
- Shouldn't they be a result of joint efforts and discussion?

Climatic changes have dramatic repercussions on environment and development:

- Whose responsibility is it?
- What are we to say of the role of European enterprises and financial institutions regarding the exploitation of natural resources and the plundering of biodiversity?
- What are we to say about trade and fisheries agreements imposed by the EU?

The work carried out by some environmental NGOs (especially WWF) on the ecological footprint of Europe articulates these matters well.

If Europe sincerely believes that transparency and participation are important for the good governance of natural resources, then it should apply the same constraints on itself and at the same time give civil society (in Europe and in the South) the necessary information and instruments to monitor the policies of European and partner countries.



WORKSHOPS⁹

20th september 2006

This section of the Conference Proceedings provides a summary of the different presentations and speeches by participants in the workshops that took place on 20th of September 2006. Discussions and debates were organised according to eight themes:

Workshop 1: Ecosystem services contributions to the Millennium Development Goals

Purpose: Mobilise existing assets for rural poverty eradication.

Workshop 2: Ecosystem services in national development and poverty reduction strategies

Purpose: Better integrate biodiversity and ecosystem services in development programmes.

Workshop 3: Challenges for present aid modalities

Purpose: Better use of existing tools for a good integration of biodiversity into development cooperation programmes.

Workshop 4: Communication and education

Purpose: Close the gap between the understanding of environment and development cooperation. Inform the citizens about the importance of investments into environment for poverty eradication.

Workshop 5: Innovative financial mechanisms

Purpose: A call for change: from short-term project thinking to long-term programme investment, using ODA strategically to leverage additional funding.

Workshop 6: Trade and Economic Cooperation

Purpose: Identify ways by which trade and development policies become mutually supportive to enhance environmental stewardship.

Workshop 7: Governance and stakeholder engagement

Purpose: Explore how stakeholders can be mobilised and institutions strengthened in support of sustainable development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals

Workshop 8: Overseas Countries and Territories

Purpose: To get recognition for the importance of biodiversity as a key element in the sustainable development of OCTs. Building a European initiative for environment and sustainable development in the OCTs of Europe, in their regional context.

9. Most presentations made during the workshops are available at <http://www.countdown2010.net/paris2006/workshops.html>. Conclusions and recommendations are presented in the next chapter.

WORKSHOP 1

ECOSYSTEM SERVICES CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Chair: **Emile Frison, Director General, International Plant Genetic Resources Institute**

E. Frison reminded that the workshop aims to produce suggestions for investment decisions by governments and intergovernmental organizations.

Erastus Wahome, Head of the European Commission Division, Kenyan Ministry of Finance, discussed poverty issues that impact biodiversity such as housing and food security.

Christian Mersman, Director, Global Mechanism, UN Convention to Combat Desertification described deforestation in Africa.

Ruud Jansen, Chief Technical Advisor, Environment Support Programme, United Nations Development Programme, detailed a community-based natural resource management project in Botswana.

Javier Méndez, Community Technical Officer, Indigenous Peoples and Peasant Coordinating Association for Central American Community Agroforestry, listed a number of ecosystem services in Meso-America, including medical resources and eco-tourism.

Gill Shepherd, IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management, outlined some aspects of MDGs, including those on poverty, health and education, where biodiversity is involved.

Stewart Maginnis, Head, IUCN Forest Conservation Programme, discussed the value of natural resources in the rural economies of developing countries, and the need to address MDGs through biodiversity conservation.

In the ensuing discussion, participants stressed the need to ensure that rural development is included in national policies and strategies and called on development officials to regard biodiversity as a productive asset. They also supported empowering the poor by strengthening institutions and policies that give them greater control over natural resources.

Participants urged the workshop leaders to go beyond these general points and make specific recommendations for mainstreaming biodiversity goals in EU programmes relating to migration, climate change, and conflict prevention.

WORKSHOP 2

ECOSYSTEM SERVICES IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY REDUCTIONS STRATEGIES

Co-chairs: Princess Basma Bint Ali, Royal Marine Conservation Society of Jordan

Olav Kjørven, Director, Energy and Environment Group, UNDP

Moderator: William Jackson, Director, Global Programme, IUCN

Opening speeches were followed by a panel on national experiences and a discussion.

Princess Basma Bint Ali presented the specific objectives of the workshop, namely: identifying useful approaches for integration of sound environmental management in poverty reduction strategy papers; exploring the environmental and other challenges for the national development strategies called for in the Outcome Document of the 2005 World Summit; and considering the response options of the EU.

Aboubacry Demba, National Planning and Coordination with Regional Planning Director, Senegalese Ministry of Sustainable Development, stressed the importance of establishment of information systems, capacity building and awareness campaigns.

Leif John Fosse, Department for International Cooperation, Norwegian Ministry of Environment, underlined community conservation as particularly important in countries with poor governance and stressed that the MDGs are unattainable without local action.

Panel on national experiences on integrating ecosystem services in development and poverty reduction strategies

Blandina Ceche, Division of Poverty Eradication, Office of the Vice President of Tanzania, identified the need for: capacity building; research and analytic work on ecosystem services; and local awareness raising.

Valmir Ortega, Director of Ecosystems, Brazilian Institute of Environment and Natural Renewable Resources, highlighted economic benefits generated by ecotourism.

Jan-Peter Schemmel, German Cooperation Agency (GTZ), stated that strategic environmental assessments are suitable for local-level planning and achievement of strong ownership of stakeholders, and stressed the need for capacity building at the local level.

Abdullahi Majeed, Deputy Minister of Environment, Energy and Water of the Maldives, provided an overview of how his country is addressing biodiversity in the national development plan and across sectors.

Sally Nicholson, WWF European Policy Office, called for the 25 EU member States to adopt a harmonized approach to implementing the new guidelines on European cooperation.

In ensuing discussions, participants addressed: the importance of economic information on ecosystem services; pricing the impacts of environmental degradation; and the need to focus on the rural poor and the local level.

WORKSHOP 3

CHALLENGES FOR PRESENT AID MODALITIES

Moderator: Tony Long, Director of WWF European Policy Office

Three speakers' presentations and a country case study were followed by panel presentations and discussions.

Jean-Paul Ledant, Coordinator of the Environment Help Desk at the European Commission, updated the audience on the current situation of biodiversity in EC aid programming, highlighting recent progress made with regard to Country/Regional Environment Profiles and Strategic Environmental Assessments.

Remy Paris, from the Development Cooperation Directorate of OECD, focused on the challenge of tracking aid to biodiversity and introduced the DAC/CBD Rio markers as part of OECD's Credit Reporting System.

Iola Riesco, Coordinator for Development Cooperation with FERN, presented a retrospective of political commitments and related evaluations regarding biodiversity integration into European development cooperation, starting from the early 1980s.

The moderator underlined the apparent general agreement that action was now needed more than new tools, policies or instruments. A participant then asked an update on the implementation of new EC guidelines within the framework of the 10th EDF.

Chihneyo Mvori and Edmund Barrow, respectively Regional Focal Point for East Africa and Coordinator of Forest Conservation & Social Policy, IUCN Regional Office for Eastern Africa, Kenya, presented the case of the Somalian Country Environment Profile, coordinated by IUCN for the EC. They discussed the way this CEP was / will be taken into account in the Country Strategy Programme.

In the ensuing panel presentations, Hans Wessels, Head of the Natural Resources and Ecosystems Section, Dutch Ministry of Development Cooperation, discussed the way to provide breathing space for biodiversity in country programming in a context where civil society usually has limited influence. He also insisted on the need for greater coherence in European policies.

Maria Berlekom, Programme Coordinator at SwedBio, called for a more tactical approach on donors' side, playing on their main strength which is support to good governance.

Simon Le Grand, Administrator, DG Development, European Commission, recognized the persistent gap between EC policy and practice, and focused on *how to* reduce it, especially in a context where partner countries increasingly have their own procedures and rules in place.

Jean Paul Ledant highlighted that as of April 2006, more than 100 partner countries had their CEP ready, with the overall quality regularly increasing. The Environment Help Desk can not assess, however, how CEPs are integrated into CSPs.

For Juan Jose Echanove, Project Officer with the Delegation of the EC to the Philippines, funding for biodiversity is bound to continue decreasing as new aid modalities (Sector-Wide Approaches, etc.) develop. Therefore, the only way to find breathing space for biodiversity is to mainstream it in sectoral plans and to resort to thematic budget lines.

Aban Marker Kabraji, IUCN Regional Director for Asia, discussed the advantages and disadvantages of EC development cooperation as compared to other donors', calling for faster, less bureaucratic disbursement mechanisms.

Matti Nummelin, Environment Advisor to the Finish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, highlighted the key role of partner countries in harmonisation and donor coordination.

Ronnie Jumeau, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources of Seychelles, presented his country's situation and made the case for the specific challenges Small Island Developing States are facing, especially with regard to limited capacity and human resources. These challenges appeared to be similar in many aspects with the ones of OCTs, brought to the discussion by a representative from Saint Helena.

The ensuing discussion addressed the research and knowledge management issue; the way civil society can be effectively involved in aid implementation; the need for a biodiversity financial instrument within EC development cooperation; the lack of environmental capacity within EC Delegations; the opportunity of developing direct budget support for biodiversity; innovative funding mechanisms for longer term support to protected areas.

WORKSHOP 4

COMMUNICATION AND EDUCATION

Moderator: Gwen van Boven, IUCN Commission on Communication and Education

Brief introductions by panelists were followed by a discussion.

Identifying key aspects to communication and education, Nick Hanley, Head of Communication, DG Environment, EC, called for honesty and transparency.

Marie Tamoifo, Association Jeunesse Verte de Cameroun, recommended using understandable and effective terminology.

Michael Ginguld, World Education, said education should facilitate processes for biodiversity conservation while bringing out the content necessary to understand the relevant objectives.

Marco Vincio Cerezo, Fundaeco, suggested learning from mistakes, particularly communication problems with communities and non-conservation actors.

Sebastian Winkler, Head of the IUCN Countdown 2010 Secretariat, recommended keeping the message simple, creating hope, and motivating people.

Participants discussed ways to find common ground among the various stakeholders, noting that: the concept of biodiversity is almost incommunicable; political timeframes are often ill-suited to longer-term thinking; and conservation still has a negative image. They recommended stressing common benefits of, and the economic need for, conservation, and involving economists in the debate.

One participant called for a rights-based approach and said the challenge lies more in governance than in technology, while another underscored the importance of involving younger generations, stressing the applicability of conservation to everyday life, and suggested using alternative communication forms like music and theatre. Participants agreed upon the importance of: listening, rather than hammering down concepts; timely communication; getting the message across to communication and education professionals; starting at an entry point relevant to the stakeholders involved; promoting protected areas as a confluence for development and environmental objectives; and stressing mutual interests in the natural resources concerned. Participants also shared practical experiences, noting challenges regarding: reconciling local interests and political objectives; training new generations of educators; using local languages; integrating biodiversity concepts into "life skill education" in existing school curricula; and encouraging the incorporation of biodiversity concerns into demand-driven official development aid.

WORKSHOP 5

INNOVATIVE FINANCIAL MECHANISMS

Chair: Carlos Manuel Rodríguez, Vice President and Regional Director of Conservation International for Mexico and Central America, and former Minister for Environment, Water and Industry of Costa Rica

Moderator: Mattias von Bechtolsheim, Sector Specialist for Natural Resources and Agriculture, KfW Banking Group

Two country presentations were followed by panel presentations and discussion.

Leon Rajaobelina, Vice President, Conservation International - Madagascar, and Jean-Paul Paddack, West Indian Ocean Programme Officer, WWF Madagascar, presented the creation of a trust fund for protected areas and biodiversity in Madagascar.

Samuel Sangüenza, Executive Director, National Environment Fund of Ecuador, described the use of trust funds for financing national parks in Bolivia, Peru and Ecuador.

In the ensuing discussion, participants addressed: the EU's absence in endowment funds; funding for sustainable use; incentives for biodiversity conservation; debt swapping as a means to finance trust funds; and administrative costs of trust funds.

On bilateral aid, Denis Loyer, Head of Environment and Natural Resources Division, French Development Agency, suggested reintroducing loans to finance profitable projects, and stated that business plans give credibility and visibility to projects.

Noting that trust funds are not new mechanisms, Hans Wessels, Head, Natural Resources and Ecosystems Management, Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, called for innovative mechanisms that engage the private sector and the identification of clients to pay for ecosystem services.

Robert Tipmann, Coordinator of Policy Advisory Services, Ecoscurities, said an international regulatory framework under the CBD is needed to mobilize additional resources for ecosystem services payment schemes that are not restricted to piggybacking carbon projects or voluntary measures.

Duncan Marsh, The Nature Conservancy, supported carrying out pilot projects on linking avoided deforestation and climate change.

Tatiana van Lier, Netherlands Postcodelottery, explained that the Postcodelottery gives 50% of its profits to human rights and environmental charities.

Pablo Gutman, Senior Policy Officer, Macroeconomics for Sustainable Development Programme Office, WWF, called for bringing together the interests of the rural poor and of the conservation movement.

WORKSHOP 6

TRADE AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Chair: Alain Lipietz, Member of European Parliament

Alan Lipietz listed trade, development and environment as key issues for the European Parliament, with regulation regimes as a major focus for governments and civil society.

Kamal Gueye, Programme Manager, International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD), gave a keynote speech on behalf of Ricardo Melendez-Ortiz, ICTSD Director. He explained that ICTSD has analysed declining fisheries stocks and forest areas as biodiversity losses due to trade problems, and noted that only six out of 60 EU Country Strategy Papers had environmental analyses, and only three had strategic environmental assessments. He argued that public opinion strongly supports environmental analysis and said ICTSD recommends intervention modalities to: prevent and mitigate adverse environmental impacts of trade; reduce adverse impacts of environmental and safety measures on trade; and use trade measures and development cooperation to achieve environmental policy goals.

Sophie des Clers, University of London, stated that fisheries agreements in West Africa have not generally incorporated biodiversity concerns.

Papa Samba Diouf, WWF Senegal, noted the possible conflicts between World Trade Organization (WTO) rules and EU fisheries agreements with African coastal States, and discussed the biodiversity impacts of overfishing.

José Parajuá Aranda, Managing Director, Cluster of Fishing Companies in Third Countries, Spain, argued that salinity, climate change and pollution are as important as overfishing in causing the decline of fisheries stocks.

Saskia Ozinga, FERN, noted that biodiversity conservation rarely goes together with international cooperation because of weak legislation and governance, corruption, and lack of public participation and law enforcement.

Joaquim Machado, Director, Governmental Affairs on Biodiversity and Biotechnology, Syngenta, described farming practices in Brazil that address concerns related to soil and water losses, and deforestation.

Sebastien Risso, EU Policy Officer Forests and Trade, Greenpeace Europe, noted that EU policies have not always incorporated environmental protection, and called on the EU to reduce its ecological footprint by decreasing consumption.

Maria Fernanda Espinosa, IUCN Regional Director for South America, promoted multifunctionality as a key concept for biodiversity and urged the EU to maintain subsidies to conserve biodiversity for its ecosystem services.

Walter Kennes, EC Directorate General for Development, said the EC is now mainstreaming environment in development programmes, although their primary mission is poverty alleviation.

In the ensuing discussion, participants addressed: agricultural subsidies as distortions in both trade and development programmes; the need for ecosystem service analysis and internalising the externalities of production; the problems of restricting trade by certification; and asymmetries in trade negotiations between the EU and its trading partners.

WORKSHOP 7

GOVERNANCE AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Moderator: Mohammad Rafiq, Head of Business and Biodiversity Programme, IUCN

M. Rafiq started by raising the question: If you were Head of EU development cooperation, what is the one thing you would do for biodiversity conservation?

The audience discussed initial orientations such as earmarking part of the development aid budget for biodiversity; engaging the civil society more deeply to make sure biodiversity is mainstreamed in development cooperation; the global governance system that would be needed to harmonize donor approaches; support to organic farming.

Olivier Behra, Director, Man and the Environment, Madagascar, shared his NGO's experience of involving local people and the private sector in the management of experimental protected areas, where income generation is a priority.

Vladimir Bocharnikov, Information Officer, Project "Indigenous Peoples Network for Change" (IPNC), analysed the specific issue of indigenous peoples with the CBD framework. He presented a case study from Russia on the traditional indigenous knowledge in the arctic and boreal areas.

Rosalia Arteaga, Executive Secretary of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, Brazil, presented the case of the Amazon region and how local issues relate to regional and global ones in a rapidly changing context.

Paul Mitchell, Secretary General, International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM), insisted on the major role the mining industry can play in lifting people out of poverty while contributing to biodiversity conservation. The case of a recent Rio Tinto investment in South Madagascar was further discussed as a positive experience.

The ensuing discussion raised questions such as: the link between economic growth and good governance; when and under which conditions to bring all stakeholders around the table; the role of the private sector and the establishment of norms and standards against which to report.

WORKSHOP 8

OVERSEAS COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

Co-Chairs: Willem Ferwerda, IUCN Netherlands Committee

Jean-Marc Michel, Director of Nature and Landscape, French Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development

In a keynote address, Kalli de Meyer, Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance, highlighted that although the EU's Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) span all of the world's oceans and include many biological hotspots, they receive relatively little attention and funding. She called for: improved EU policy frameworks and legislation to address OCT-specific issues; mainstreaming OCTs in EU policies and existing EU projects; and increased finances for biodiversity conservation in OCTs, including through small grants.

Josianne Irissin-Mangata, Regional Council of Réunion Island, introduced the European Research Area Network (ERA-NET), a joint research programme on sustainable development in OCTs.

Mike Pienkowski, Chairman, UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum, highlighted Environmental Charters signed between the UK and some of its OCTs, which set out guiding principles and concrete undertakings by both parties to promote sustainability.

Pascale Joannot, French Natural History Museum, outlined efforts undertaken under the Coral Reef Initiative in the South Pacific to: establish marine protected areas; develop knowledge, protection, restoration and valuation of ecosystems; generate funding; and promote communication among stakeholders.

Asii Chemnitz Narup, Minister of Environment, Greenland, reminded that the OCTs had held their annual Ministerial Conference and Trilateral Forum (OCT's, EU Commission, and the 4 EU Member States, France, UK, Denmark and Netherlands) in Nuuk – Greenland in the beginning of September 2006. Climate change and its environmental effects were the main focus of the discussions. She highlighted two of the conclusions from Nuuk, which urged the Commission and 4 Member States to help the OCTs to:

- 1) Allow access to the EU environment programs like LIFE+;
- 2) Define an EU - OCT environmental action plan. She drew attention to the serious impact of climate change on Greenland's economy and culture, stressing the global consequences of its melting icecap, and highlighted indigenous peoples' concerns.

Corinne Desforges, Assistant-Director of Economic, Social and Cultural Affairs, French Ministry of Overseas Territories, outlined her country's efforts to establish national parks in its OCTs.

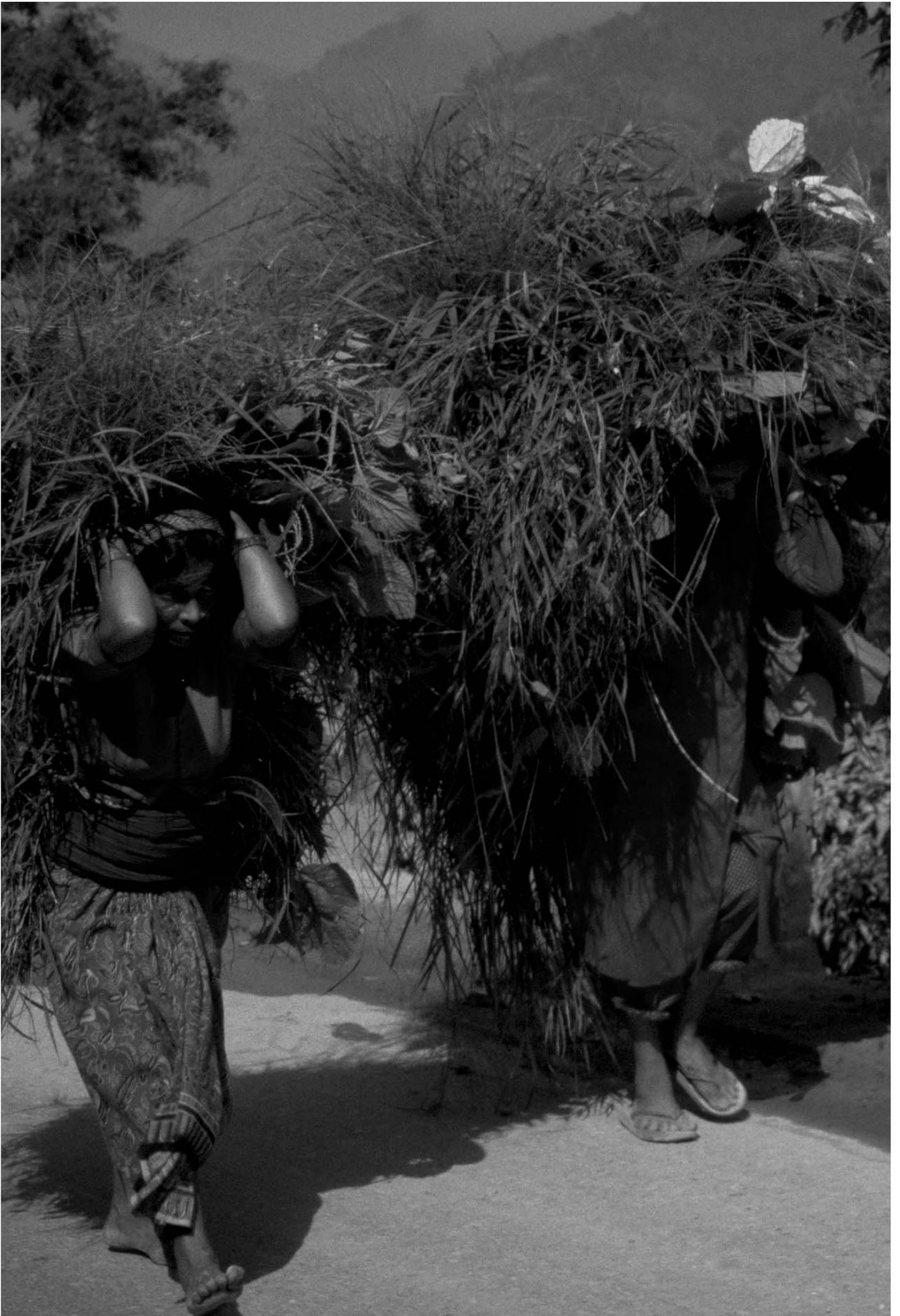
Régis Dick, WWF France, described WWF's OCT biodiversity awareness-raising programme.

Stéphane Verwilghen, DG Development, EC, outlined EC initiatives on OCTs, noting that EU legislation applies to Outermost Regions but not to OCTs. He announced the tenth phase of the European Development Fund (EDF, 2008-2014), highlighting the EC's commitment to cooperate with OCTs to better integrate OCT issues in actions under the EDF.

Etienne Coyette, DG Environment, EC, said OCTs' access to EC programmes remains under discussion, noting that all action has to be channelled through geographically coordinated programmes.

Georges Handerson, Minister of Sustainable Development of French Polynesia, called for increased funding for research programmes in the Pacific region and coordination to address transboundary environmental issues.

Participants stressed the need for: increased regional cooperation between different OCTs as well as between OCTs and international organisations; synergies between territorial and regional cooperation and between different EU policies; an improved political framework within the EC to address OCT issues; increased funding and research; mainstreaming policies for OCTs; and focus on ways to increase the EU's profile internationally through their OCTs.



FROM CONCERTATION TO ACTION

21st september 2006

Chair:

James P. Leape,
Director General, WWF International

Vice-Chairs:

Ronnie Jumeau, Minister of Environment and
Natural Resources, Seychelles

Robert Hepworth,
Executive Secretary,
Convention on Migratory Species

The outcomes of the workshops

This plenary session aimed to present the reports from each workshop to show how to go from dialogue to implementation. Each participant was therefore able to benefit from hearing the results of the discussions and debates that took place during all eight workshops on Wednesday 20th September 2006.

James P. Leape congratulated IUCN and the European Commission for the conference. He said it was of importance because of the subjects that had been covered and was also a model for engaging stakeholders. It had shown that biodiversity is fundamental for sustainable development and for achieving the MDGs. Much depends upon the EU in this cause as the EU is a leader in building biodiversity into development as well as being the global leader in providing development assistance. However, despite all of this good work they are still losing the battle and much more is required from all of us including the EC. It is clear that it is important to make sure all that all of the EU's policies assist in achieving these goals including fisheries and trade. One key opportunity is the new thematic strategy on environment which is critical to success, although it is hugely underfunded. Also important is the need to involve civil society which is uniquely positioned to link communities to markets. In 2010 we will know whether or not we are on track to reach the MDGs as they can measure whether biodiversity has been lost. If biodiversity is being lost then the MDGs are not being achieved.

Chair James Leape reaffirmed that taking the 2010 target seriously is a prerequisite to achieving the MDGs. However, he noted that we are "in danger of losing the fight" unless the EU makes more effort to direct its development assistance towards biodiversity targets, and to ensure that all of its other policies and practices are in accordance with these targets. He said biodiversity conservation is still hugely under-funded, and noted the unique position of civil society to foster innovative solutions.

Robert Hepworth apologised for his late arrival which he said was due to his map being upside down. He said this could be seen as a metaphor for reaching the 2010 target, in that we are probably travelling in the wrong direction. Communication beyond the conservation community is key, and it is necessary to engage with development agencies and partner countries etc. He thanked the French Ministry, European Commission and IUCN for the conference. The European Commission's role in conservation is often positive and within the CMS they could not have created a global taskforce on avian flu without the EC's support. The EC is much maligned, however, we should instead recognise what it is doing for conservation.

Stressing the importance of clear communication, he lauded the EC's facilitating role in conservation, naming as an example its support of the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza.

Reports by workshop representatives

Workshop 1: Ecosystem services contributions to the MDGs

Emile Frison, General Director of IPGRI, insisted that the Millennium Development Goals are unlikely to be achieved across all regions without a renewed focus on rural development. Fortunately, there is ample scope for biodiversity interventions that contribute positively to small-scale rural production systems and thus to poverty reduction.

This provides the major opportunity for integrating conservation in current development efforts.

Highlighting general recommendations, he stressed the need to:

- Strengthen policies and institutions that support the formal recognition of rural people's rights to manage natural resources and benefit from them;
- Improve data collected by national household budget surveys to capture the value of on-farm and off-farm biodiversity use, in order to inform national-level economic planning cycles;
- Utilise genetic, species and ecosystem diversity as an asset for rural poverty reduction by enhancing its contribution to poor people's strategies to minimise risk, improve food security, nutrition and health, and increase resilience.

Emile Frison also noted that getting people out of extreme poverty, investing in sustainable rural development in developing countries can help the EU address major policy issues such as migration and security. He highlighted the following recommendations, directed specifically at the EU:

- Systematically seek inputs and opinions from civil society as well as government viewpoints in order to set country-level aid priorities;
- Support the development of valuation tools for biological assets at community and macroeconomic levels, and incorporate the output of biological assets valuations in country strategy papers;
- Support participatory research on enhancing productivity in agricultural systems while improving their resilience through the deployment of greater genetic-, species- and landscape-level diversity, through existing funding mechanisms such as the EDF, the budget line on food security and through the seventh EC research framework;
- Aim for greater policy coherence among its development aid, agricultural, economic, fisheries, migration and security policies.

The group further recommended the conservation community to:

- Pay more attention to the components of biodiversity that underpin production systems and design conservation interventions, including sustainable use, accordingly; and
- Form partnerships with research and development organisations in order to develop and test economic valuation tools and empower key stakeholders to use these.

Finally, national governments were suggested to:

- Direct their national statistics agencies to collect data on the value of on-farm and off-farm biodiversity use, and use this information in national economic planning; and
- Give higher priority in Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers to investments in pro-poor rural development that minimise risk, improve food security, nutrition and health, and increase resilience.

Workshop 3: Challenges for present aid modalities

Johanna Philipps, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), underlined the overall workshop focus on implementation - i.e. put the theory and tools into practice.

On a general note, workshop participants agreed on recommendations to:

- Use Direct Budget Support (DBS) and Sector-Wide Approaches (SWAPs) to open high level policy dialogue for mainstreaming biodiversity;
- Use more in-country expertise for CEPs to obtain greater buy-in and internalisation of issues.
- Raise concern, when appropriate, over poor reflection of environmental issues in CSPs;
- Include environment experts and indicators in DBS and SWAPs planning and follow up;
- Maintain EU leadership and support for biodiversity and protected areas;
- Adapt funding for greater flexibility, smaller amounts, new modalities, and OCTs access;
- Consider specific funding mechanisms to address biodiversity challenges;
- Better support regional issues;
- Appoint ombudsman/contact for partner countries to address constraints or problems with the aid delivery system.

J. Philipps then reported workshop participants' recommendations to the EU to:

- Complete the implementation manual by the end of 2006;
- Recognize the cost of mainstreaming biodiversity;
- Increase and improve internal environmental capacity;
- Systematically mainstream ecosystem services and biodiversity issues in support to productive sectors such as agriculture, fisheries, tourism, transport, and infrastructure, including through the use of strategic environmental assessments;

- Set up appropriate exchange platforms about Direct Budget Support and Sector-Wide Approaches to share EU donor knowledge and experience;
- Make country environmental profiles public and available;
- Improve coherence between EC DGs (too compartmentalised), between donors, between development and non-development policies and practices;
- Address overly bureaucratic rules and procedures – communicate this to chairs of Budget Committee and Budget control Committee;
- Strengthen reporting and tracking mechanisms for biodiversity, fully utilising OECD DAC/CBD Rio Markers;
- Develop indicators framework for the EC to monitor its own progress, from the country level to Brussels;
- Support partner countries to develop quantifiable indicators to monitor environmental conditions and ensure full integration with existing national economic and social indicators to inform national and sectoral policy planning.

She said workshop participants also called on:

- Partner countries to appropriate Country Environmental Profiles to help raise the profile of environmental and biodiversity issues and opportunities;
- Donors to enhance coherence of their activities at all levels;
- NGOs and donors to support the effective participation in policy and planning at relevant level of local communities whose livelihoods depend on biodiversity.

Workshop 2: Ecosystem services in national development and poverty reduction strategies

Olav Kjørven, Director, Energy and Environment Group, UNDP, presented the recommendations of the workshop participants, namely that the integration of environment into poverty reduction and development be supported through inter alia:

- Improved information systems and knowledge management about the links between environment and development, accessible at all levels;
- Greater support to approaches, experiences and tools that work;
- Greater recognition of the value of integrating environment and development at the local level, while also working to better integrate the environment in macroeconomic and fiscal policy at all appropriate levels;
- More friendly administrative rules and procedures of the EC and EU countries;
- Greater engagement from international and national development NGOs and the conservation community.

Workshop 4: Communication and education

Michael Ginguld, Programme Officer at World Education, said this workshop aimed to improve the role of communications and education in promoting environmental considerations in development cooperation programmes. He highlighted the group's recommendations, including the need to:

- Apply communication and learning approaches to remove the barriers between the environment, development and other sectors – “It is not about being right, it is about being effective”;
- Provide greater attention to capacity building and learning of young people, stakeholders and professionals to increase their capacity to deliver on sustainable development over the long term.

He said the EU was recommended to:

- Stimulate the creation of and support for multi-stakeholder platforms for dialogue and collaborative action in partnership between the development and environment community at various levels;
- Support individual and institutional capacity building for sustainable development, and support the integration of biodiversity conservation and environmental awareness into relevant education and training.

Workshop 5: Innovative financial mechanisms

Hans Friedrich, Head of Conservation Finance and Donor Relations, IUCN, noted the workshop's call for sustainable, innovative financing, stressing that a larger share of existing financing should be directed towards environmental and biodiversity objectives.

The workshop concluded on the need to:

- Explore options for ODA to contribute to environmental trust funds where these exist at national or regional level;
- Find out what is needed to maintain and increase support and contributions to existing financial mechanisms at international levels, such as the Global Environment Facility and other global trust funds;
- Mainstream conservation of nature resources in economic and rural development to enable ODA to be used (outside protected areas, sustainable land-use management, capacity building);
- Explore how the EU can help partner countries to develop and implement additional financial tools and innovative financial mechanisms for joint and flexible action, such as Payments for Ecosystem Services, Debt for Nature Swaps, etc.

Among recommendations, Hans Friedrich highlighted the need to:

- Promote the creation of environmental funds where possible, and explore the possibilities for ODA contributing to them;
- Mainstream environment in development cooperation, taking into account the other policy issues such as agriculture, trade, and fisheries, and make the connections between poverty reduction and conservation;

- Promote market-based instruments, and create successful public-private partnerships where recipient governments, ODA and business find synergy and opportunities for collaboration.

Workshop 6: Trade and Economic Cooperation

Alain Lipietz, Member of the European Parliament, summarised discussions on the various impacts of trade on biodiversity, and how to manage these, stressing the need to ensure coherence between trade, economic and development cooperation in support of sustainable development. He called for a clear division of responsibilities, noting that trade regulations are ineffective if there are loopholes and if enforcement is lacking.

On participation, capacities and information, workshop participants stressed that:

- Biodiversity can only be defended with active social participation;
- National capacity building is needed to promote sustainable development through trade;
- International trade can put excessive pressure on living resources or induce ecosystem change. Trade agreements must therefore be preceded and accompanied by integrated assessments and be compatible with the CBD.

On protecting and valuing biodiversity in trade, the following recommendations were made:

- Measures to protect biodiversity, such as quotas or prohibitions, must be accompanied by legal measures to ensure their enforcement;
- Certification should not be optional, and the public should be informed and involved in the standard-setting process;
- All subsidies that encourage production harmful to biodiversity should be eliminated;
- The non-market value of biodiversity should be recognised and eco-compatible uses, such as ecotourism, carbon sequestration, and community intellectual property rights, should be promoted;
- Global or inter-regional trade agreements should promote high environmental and social standards and avoid unfair competition.

Workshop 7: Governance and stakeholder engagement

Juan Marco Alvarez, Executive Director, Salva Natura, El Salvador, reported the overall workshop conclusion as being that stakeholder participation is essential in setting the aid governance framework as is harnessing indigenous knowledge and ensuring equitable benefits. More specific conclusions were that:

- The government alone cannot and should not set the governance framework. The broader society should participate to benefit from the collective wisdom of society and to ensure equitable sharing of benefits. In doing that we need to clearly define and institutionalise respective stakeholder's roles.
It would be more efficient for stakeholders to provide their differentiated input at specific times of the development process;
- Partnerships are not only important but necessary. But civil society is an unequal partner in the relationship. It is relatively small or non-existing in many places. In most cases it needs more resources and capacity;
- Effective participation of host communities and governments does make a difference and is inescapable for sustainable development. However, the fact remains that many countries receiving aid remain poor with their environment degrading. The failure of development aid to be effective is traced to conditional aid, delays, red tape from aid giving and receiving countries, lacking host government capacity, lack of post-project sustainability and lack of good governance. These issues remain under-investigated and much less understood.
- The private sector needs to be involved. Concerns remain around its environmental footprint. This calls for development of performance standards and ensuring compliance with them through voluntary (certification) as well as regulatory mechanisms.

Workshop participants consequently recommended the EU to:

- Invest in research in clarifying stakeholders roles and institutionalise these roles;
- Invest in expanding and strengthening the civil society in partner countries for them to be an equal partner;
- Demonstrate leadership in developing a better understanding of the causes of failures of the 'aid promise', develop clear and transparent rules for the allocation and use of development funds, and ensure necessary institutional capacity at both ends;
- Provide the leadership and means for partner countries to create a level playing field for business to be an effective partner in delivering conservation;
- Invest in strengthening civil society's understanding of business to enhance the prospects for public-private partnerships;
- Allocate part of its development aid in each region or country into a fund that civil society and governments can draw on to leverage additional funding for conservation and sustainable development from the private sector and other sources.

Workshop 8: Overseas countries and territories

Willem Ferwerda, IUCN Netherlands Committee Director, said the workshop concluded that:

- The EC and EU Member States should increase their efforts to assume their special responsibilities towards OCTs;
- OCTs harbour a significant amount of the world's biodiversity, and are of global importance in terms of the ecosystem services they provide, particularly in mitigating the effects of climate change;
- There is a dramatic lack of proper EU funding and strategy, while OCTs also lack access to global funds;
- OCTs provide a huge potential added value for research and action on climate change and biodiversity.

He said recommendations to the EC and Member States include to:

- Develop a coherent framework for environment in OCTs, aiming among others at a sustainable management of important biodiversity areas, and also allowing joint efforts with Outermost Regions (ORs) as they are the entities with the most similar stakes within the EU;
- Ensure that adequate funding is given to environment and biodiversity in the OCTs, including improved access to European programmes for local bodies and NGOs in coordination with the local authorities, and an outsourced small grants facility;
- Develop joint research programmes focusing on the biodiversity of OCTs and ORs, and also strengthen joint efforts with regional partner countries; and
- Strengthen both the OCTs and the EU positions in the international debate on climate change, by making use of the worldwide and diverse network of OCTs and ORs to evaluate the interactions between ecosystems, climate change and local communities.

Presentation of the Message of Paris

Following a discussion with the floor, an initial version of the Message from Paris, based on the outcomes of the eight workshops, was presented to the audience by **William Jackson**, Director of Global Programme, IUCN.

A specific EU
development challenge:
EU overseas countries
and territories in the
spotlight

Opening remarks were made by Ronnie Jumeau, Minister for Environment and Natural Resources, Seychelles. R. Jumeau related that when he arrived at the conference he felt isolated as a representative from a small island developing State, until he heard the OCTs speak out. Small islands are usually under-represented as it is difficult for them to get to such conferences. However, there is a direct link between e.g. Greenland and the small tropical islands in the sense that if Greenland melts, many small islands will drown. Ronnie Jumeau therefore sees the possibility of an alliance between OCTs and the independent small island developing States. Nobody can seriously talk about halting the loss of biodiversity globally without addressing specifically the situation of islands, especially the small ones. While the Amazon has been referred to as the “lung of the world”, small islands intend to be its conscience.

ASII CHEMNITZ NARUP

Minister of Health and Environment

Greenland

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

First of all I would like to thank the IUCN conference organisers for giving Greenland and the other OCTs an opportunity to address the IUCN Conference on Biodiversity in European Development Cooperation. Thank you to France for hosting the Conference and for your hospitality.

Partnership between Greenland and the European Union is a good opportunity to learn more about each other and develop our cooperation even further, especially because Greenland with its OCT status has a close association with the EU and can as such be regarded as the ultimate European frontier in the Arctic. Greenland is just the Arctic frontier; next to me is the French Polynesian Colleague, the EU's Pacific frontier.

It is Greenland's wish that this conference will contribute to further strengthening ties and cooperation between the OCT's and the European Union initiatives.

The Arctic Council of Ministers' recently published a comprehensive report about all Arctic Countries environmental status, the so called Arctic Climate Impact Assessment Report, where it is documented that the Arctic will experience the greatest and fastest climate changes, with changes that strongly will affect our traditional way of life, hunting and fishing society. The primary changes are:

- Glaciers melting and retreating. (this will result in global sea level rise);
- Permafrost thawing;
- Sea ice thinning, arriving late and breaking up early;

- Warm periods in winter (resulting in more of the icecap melting);
- Droughts and heavy rains in summer.

You need not be a scientist to notice these changes. Greenland hunters and fishermen readily register the effects as they have been unable to hunt and fish for months owing to rough weather.

With fishing as Greenland's key industry, marine and terrestrial animals as sources of its food and household applications, Greenland depends heavily on these animals and even though legislation is in place to ensure sustainable use of the resources, legislation alone can not influence on the fact that we experience climate change and its environmental effects. The socio economic effects are still to be seen, as Greenland depends heavily on the fishing industry. Greenland's economy is extremely vulnerable to changes in sea water temperatures, as our main export, shrimps' will migrate to cooler waters, however it does also have a opposite effect, that the cod is or might be returning to Greenland.

Greenland finds it vital to utilise our living resources based on sound biological advice – which today is done by our Greenland Institute of Natural Resources. The Parliament of Greenland has also regulated the protection of nature and natural resources. The basis of this legislation is the precautionary principle and mechanisms to assure sustainable use of all living resources and to protect special areas of concern.

Globalisation, climate change and social development all have deep impact on every society, while Greenland in the Arctic zone will

experience the greatest change of all. This makes Greenland the ideal research laboratory.

The Authorities in Greenland stress the importance of Greenlandic society being partners in research and to be involved in the global effort to minimise the effects of climate change and its environmental effects. Greenland believes that here is a great potential for OCT-EU initiatives in the matter of biodiversity and development in the OCTs. Here is a great potential for the European initiatives regarding biodiversity and development in the OCTs.

Knowledge about research and its role are prerequisites for understanding the society in which we live today; in Greenland more funding are being provided for by expanding and improving the educational sector to enhance skills and strengthen research. In the field of research, however, there are economic constraints as Greenland with its small population of about 57.000 people cannot bear the costs that such research programmes entail. Attracting growing numbers of international research activities to Greenland and increased international cooperation will be an important contribution to building skills and competence in the Arctic.

Therefore, I think here is a field where the existing environmental programmes within EU may offer its contribution to strengthen the European scientific activities in the Arctic, not least during the International Polar Year, which takes place from 2007-2008. It is also important to stress that the sea around Greenland offers huge areas which we regard as very important for biological

diversity – probably one of the most important areas.

International cooperation is taking place in Greenland at many levels amongst which are:

The OCTs have just accomplished their annual Ministerial Conference and Trilateral Forum with the Commission and 4 EU Member States, in Nuuk, Greenland from 4th to 8th September. Climate change and its environmental effects were the focus of the discussions with about 100 people in attendance at the conference.

The OCTs aim is to prioritise the oceans with the rising sea level and the heating of the oceans in the future trilateral work. We are facing the challenge right now as I am standing before you here today. Recent features from BBC News show that some of the land areas in Bangladesh are already submerged in water. So no matter how we view it, both the Arctic and the rest of the world are connected.

The OCTs are mostly islands, and are severely constrained by adverse factors such as small size and limited resources. All islands small or big have rich but fragile ecosystems, threatened by the climate changes. The OCTs therefore call for a sustained global initiative to combat climate change and to pay urgent attention to the special needs of the OCTs covering a full range of ecosystems, from the Tropics to the Polar Regions.

Participants at the Overseas Countries and Territories Ministerial Conference in Nuuk invite the European Union Institutions, concerned Member States and local authorities to:

1. Allow OCTs access to the EU environment programs (like LIFE+) which among other things would enable the OCTs to cooperate with European researchers in projects on issues of common concern.
2. Support the OCTs in their wish to be represented at international conferences such as those within the United Nations whereby OCTs can exchange knowledge and ideas in an international forum and create a foundation for a global cooperation on combating climate change.
3. Define an OCT – EU environmental action plan that takes into account the EU commitments to OCTs in both the OCT decisions and other international agreements.

Finally the OCTs made a reference to the recently published paper on EUs Maritime Policy, which states that; “Oceans and seas cannot be managed without cooperation with third countries and in multilateral fora. EU policy aimed at the oceans must be developed within that international context”.

With these recommendations, the OCTs hope to have given a flavour of the issues that concern them in the matter of climate change and its environmental effects.

Lastly, but not least it is important at this Conference to mention at the OCT Forum in Nuuk, the Commission underlined the fact that the OCTs and Europe share a history. It is Greenland's wish that this partnership rooted in history can be utilised by all parties to evolve a development policy with an environmental focus that takes into account the specific richness and fragility that characterise the overseas countries and territories ranging from the Polar Regions to the Tropics.

Thank you very much for your attention!

GEORGES HANDERSON

Minister of Sustainable Development French Polynesia

Mister and Madam Ministers,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
la ora na tatou pa'atoa

First and foremost, I warmly thank IUCN for taking the initiative to organise this conference. On behalf of French Polynesia, but also in the name of all our partner countries and overseas territories, I thank you for having this spotlight. It is about underlining an important part of the world's biodiversity, and particularly that of the European community.

We have gathered this week to debate biodiversity in the framework of European development cooperation. We are already rich in knowledge and sharing of experience. The Message from Paris will highlight the need for common action for which we have the duty to engage in an active fight.

Thank you, Madam Minister, for your testimony. You have richly expressed the planetary stakes of the polar ecosystems, of our common problems beyond particular or even extreme contexts.

As for myself, I wish to speak to you in detail about the challenge that biodiversity conservation represents for a little overseas tropical island country in the remote territories of the European Union: French Polynesia.

Tahiti is mostly well known: we willingly represent it as a little heavenly island... however, the postcard is incomplete because Tahiti is only one of our 118 islands (atolls or high islands) that constitute the 5 archipelagos of French Polynesia: the Windward Islands; the Leeward Islands; the Marquesas; the Tuamotus; Gambier, and the Austral

Islands, be it 3,900 square kilometres of emerged lands on 5.5 millions of km² of maritime space: a surface equally vast to that of Europe.

Our biodiversity, as that of our cousins from the South Pacific, is, as you know, exceptional and of worldwide importance. Indeed, French Polynesia is part of the biodiversity hotspot of Polynesia/Micronesia. The extreme isolation that characterises our islands favours an original, unique and high diversity of habitats. All types of geomorphological reefs are represented and, as for plants, more than 3,000 endemic species have been identified.

Despite strong economic development in the last few years, demographic growth in this limited space and the quick adoption of sometimes frantic modes of consumption, amplify the anthropogenic pressure and generate their share of pollution. Until recently, our attention regarding environmental matters focused on waste treatment and decontamination.

Thus, French Polynesia is the overseas country with, by far, the most disappearances among the overseas countries and territories collectively: 76 species' disappearances since 1600.

Next on this sad list is Reunion Island with 22 species' disappearances in the same period.

From the beginning of my mandate, we have wished to bring new energy to biodiversity protection of our Fenua.

At the end of 2005, Tahiti and its islands equipped themselves with a strategy for the protection and the evaluation of biodiversity, accompanied

by carrying out education and knowledge acquiring programmes. Of course, this Polynesian strategy can be fully integrated with the International Convention on Biological Diversity guidelines.

With all our determination, we are committed to an ambitious policy to protect natural sites of ecological interest particular to Polynesia. It will mean we go from 3% at present, to 20% of our territory benefiting from these measures within the next ten years.

Along with a demanding regulation and an operational structure - the natural and littoral areas conservatory - we have connected it to local communities and developed relay-partnerships of private organisations and associations. We are also paying particular attention to the protection and conservation of endemic or vulnerable or endangered native species in our region.

After launching actions to protect Polynesian bird fauna, and creating a sanctuary for marine mammals in Polynesian waters since 2003, this measure will spread owing to the recent signing of a Memorandum of Understanding for the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Pacific Ocean.

Starting in October, to honour the year of the marine turtle in the Pacific, the first in situ conservation programme will be carried out with the participation of the local population. It will contribute to sustainable economic development of the relevant islands.

Shark conservation has been in effect in French Polynesia since the beginning of the year. It follows an innovative

approach. We chose to take precautionary measures and prohibit the fishing of sharks, leaving the responsibility with those who practice it, to prove the innocence of their activity on the stocks of that species. A study of the impact of this prohibition is being developed. These tasks could be further expanded to our region in the framework of the next work agenda of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme.

This will has also been expressed in Polynesia by unprecedented financial support towards biodiversity conservation actions in French Polynesia, multiplying the amount granted until now by five. But this is not enough.

European cooperation seems to have found here a place for its expression and could give not only financial but also methodological support to the knowledge or the conservation of Polynesian and oceanic biodiversity, in this way participating in the sustainable development of our islands.

Given the fact that we only protect well that which we know, knowledge of biodiversity and how ecosystems work constitute the tools of sustainably managed development, for example, observatories of biodiversity and climate changes, environmental profiles, environmental surveillance networks, are indispensable to us.

This relay of information is the only proof of active and conscious participation by our citizens in this cause: better to be safe than sorry!

In this regard, an initiative which is coordinated by the Regional Council of

Reunion, deserves to be encouraged for its pioneer character. The NET-BIOME Programme illustrates a union in favour of biodiversity. Seven Outermost Regions (ORs) and almost all of the European Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) have collectively expressed their wish to develop their cooperation within the framework of tropical and subtropical biodiversity research programmes, owing to a regional ERA-NET project. We strongly count on this first example of a research proposal that largely associates all the tropical and subtropical overseas regions, to be realised. I therefore ask the European Community, to pay particular attention to it.

In Oceania, regional partnerships are already at work: the reintroduction of lorry with repopulation goals is being carried out between Polynesia and the Cook Islands. Furthermore, the fight against invasive species in Polynesia will benefit from support from countries and research organisations of the Pacific.

We already have to face different threats to biodiversity, such as overexploitation, habitat disappearance, and species threatening biodiversity. In order to respond to the more global worries, our means of action are very limited.

The impact of global warming and the rising of water levels will heavily affect our biodiversity and the future of all insular ecosystems. We do not only think about the future. The impacts of global warming are coming faster than expected: we are already experiencing them on a day to day basis. The risks are materialising, the melting of polar

ice-caps around our friends in Greenland, the rising of sea levels for us, an intensification of extreme natural events...

Overseas countries and territories contribute less to global warming yet are among those who are most threatened and will be most affected: erosion phenomena affecting coral reefs, cliffs, swells intensifying in force and frequency, seawater infiltration into freshwater duckweeds, more frequent floods.

In this regard, more than half of the emerged lands in the islands of Turks and Caicos can be found beneath or at sea level.

Lacking the ability to fight, we must adapt to the impacts of global warming. Stopping the loss of biodiversity by 2010 seems a rather difficult objective to reach for us.

However, I am certain that, as in all other regions of the world, regional cooperation is the most effective tool.

It is what we are trying to do among OCT's and ACP countries in Oceania. Associating the French collectivities of New Caledonia and Wallis and Futuna, the Polynesian initiative of a regional institute for sustainable development participates in this joint action with our Pacific neighbours.

The European Overseas Countries and Territories are a nodal element. As privileged partners in their regions, for the European community they represent the assurance of a commitment against the loss of biodiversity and the guarantee of expert and governance networks for overall dynamism.

Despite strong regional will, we may regret that joint ecosystem conservation or rehabilitation actions may too often be stopped by different conventional relationships with the European Union: for the ACP countries on one side and OCTs or ORs on the other.

I observe the will of the Commission to build footbridges and for themed projects to emerge beyond institutional contingencies or financial eligibility criteria within regional or sectoral reflections.

The environment is not an adjustment variable. It must not be an additional criteria, it is a standard to be promoted, respected, and taught in all areas of our development. The taking into account of an environmental reflex in European Union cooperation is to be welcomed.

The joint declaration with Greenland, and today, the Message from Paris are strong messages: for better or worse, we are all in this together!

Whatever our differences may be, we share the same planet. Our natural resources are the only platforms for our economies and our only sources of development. Each of our responsibilities is important, even if our resources are unequal, each commitment in favour of our biodiversity counts.

Know that beyond an intervention for my country and the representation of the European Overseas Countries and Territories along with Greenland, it is necessary for us to integrate the need for actions on tropical insular biodiversity, and particularly oceanic biodiversity.

On behalf of my government, I reiterate our determination to pursue; on behalf of my government, I reiterate our determination to reinforce the implication of French Polynesia in regional actions or with the overseas territories for the conservation of our common richness, the basis of the sustainable development of our communities.

Let's wager that this spotlight on French Polynesia, on European OCTs, on Oceania, and the stakes, as well as on those countries of yours, will not participate in accelerating the melting of Greenland's ice-caps, nor the rising of water in our lagoons!

Our expectations are enormous, the stakes critical and the hopes of responses from the European actors determining. I therefore hope that owing to the intervention of the European Union and to our determination, the spotlights may be quickly redirected towards this countdown.

Mauruuru, la ora na e Maeva

I thank you for your attention.

AHMED DJOGHLAF

Executive Secretary

Convention on Biological Diversity

Preparing for the future:

CBD COP-9, an Opportunity for Linking Biodiversity
to the Development Agenda?

Ladies and gentlemen,

At the entrance of this prestigious meeting room, the excellent exhibition biodiversity and humanity mounted by Noé Conservation said it all with frightening figures. The extinction of species is now 30 per cent higher than its natural rate. During the last 500 years, 1,000 species were lost annually; today, however, it is estimated that the annual loss has increased to between 15,000 and 50,000 species. Every hour three species disappear. Humanity stands on the eve of the most important mass extinction of species since the beginning of life on Earth. Species are disappearing at a rate not seen since the demise of the dinosaurs 65 million years ago; and their loss has serious consequences to the billions of people around the world who depend on natural resources for their well-being.

Human activity is putting a strain on the ability of the planet's ecosystems to support life on earth. The second edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook, released by the Convention on Biological Diversity earlier this year, echoed the findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment: two thirds of the crucial services provided by ecosystems, such as fisheries, fuel wood, fresh water and pollination are in decline, largely due to the actions of humans. However the Johannesburg target, adopted by 110 Heads of State and Government, of achieving a substantial reduction in the rate of biodiversity loss can be reached, provided that the international community redouble its efforts to conserve, sustainably use and promote the fair and equitable sharing of nature's goods and services and firmly commit

itself to the enhanced implementation of the threefold objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the convention on life on Earth.

This commitment to action was reflected in the 34 decisions adopted by the 4,000 participants at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, held in the green and vibrant city of Curitiba, Brazil. Parties to the Convention reiterated their commitment to the 2010 biodiversity target by moving the Convention to an enhanced phase of implementation. COP-8 was historic in the scope and scale of commitments and activities that demonstrated action towards achievement of the 2010 target. Curitiba saw the largest ever gathering of ministers responsible for biodiversity. More than 122 ministers and other heads of delegations attended the first ever inter-active dialogue under the Convention. For the first time, a ministerial dialogue with the chief executive officers of private companies was held, and the Conference of the Parties adopted its first decision on the engagement of the private sector to achieve the objectives of the Convention.

The 188 Parties to the Convention demonstrated progress in the coverage of protected areas – one of the crucial targets for 2010. The President of Brazil placed 6.4 million hectares of the Amazon rain forest under direct environmental protection. The President of Palau and the Vice-President of the Federated States of Micronesia launched the "Micronesia Challenge" which aims at placing 30% of the marine areas and 20% of the forest across Micronesia under environmental protection.

In Curitiba, policy makers and major research institutions also committed to redouble their efforts to achieve the 2010 target. The heads of 10 United Nations agencies committed to a task force to coordinate their efforts for achieving the target. Six of the largest scientific institutions, including the world largest botanical gardens, also made a commitment to mobilise their efforts for achievement of the target. These six institutions will shortly become ten as more partners join the efforts that are already underway.

At the Curitiba meeting, other bridges were built with major groups central to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. A network of women ministers was established, youth and children were mobilised to give their support to the Convention, business leaders met alongside with ministers to demonstrate their willingness to work towards achievement of the 2010 target.

In Curitiba, the Ministers reiterated their call to integrate biodiversity into economic sectors and as an integral part of the Millennium Development Goals. The Secretary-General of the United Nations in his report to the General Assembly which opened its session two days ago responded to this call by recommending the inclusion of the 2010 biodiversity target as part of goal seven of the Millennium Development Goals.

Indeed, any effective sustainable-development policy and poverty-reduction strategy needs to include the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and the equitable sharing of benefits as integral parts of its objectives. Biodiversity lies at the

heart of development processes. For example, 40 per cent of the GDP of the host of COP-8 is derived from natural resources. The loss of biodiversity will have far-reaching implications for development.

More than 1.6 billion people, including 1 billion poor people, depend on forests for their livelihoods. Forests are also home to 80 per cent of the remaining terrestrial biodiversity. They provide protection for water resources, and reduce the risk of natural disasters such as landslides. But, globally, 12-15 million hectares of forests are lost each year. Seventy percent of the world's poor live in rural areas where uncontrolled alterations of ecosystems, such as catchment areas, and poorly managed logging often reduce the buffer capacities of these ecosystems. When extreme weather hits, rural inhabitants pay the price with failed crops and disrupted water supplies. However, net loss in forest area in the period from 2000 to 2005 is estimated at 7.3 million hectares per year - an area about the size of Panama. The biodiversity challenge needs to be at the heart of international cooperation for sustainable development

In June this year, the European Commission responded to the Curitiba appeal by gathering 2,000 experts to discuss biodiversity at the European Green Week in Brussels. Next year the Commission will make a similar contribution by selecting the theme environment and business. Today's meeting on biodiversity in European development cooperation is the response of the European Union and its IUCN partners to address this challenge and to echo the Curitiba appeal. This is the first time that such a

conference is being convened. Let me therefore pay tribute to IUCN and its European partners for this historic meeting, which could not have found better venue than this historical conference centre of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, nor a better host than the Government of France, which has elevated the environment to become a constitutional right of its citizens. I would like to invite Bill of IUCN, who presented at the opening of the meeting the expected outputs and audiences of our meeting, to include the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, in Germany, among the target audience. The Paris Message on biodiversity and development to be adopted this afternoon needs to be addressed to the ministers attending the high level segment of COP-9.

In less than two years, Germany will host the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. This great European nation has been a strong advocate of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. Biodiversity has been included as a key area of its development cooperation for more than 20 years. This has resulted in the funding of more than 400 biodiversity-related projects with an average annual funding of 70 million euros. The next biodiversity assembly will offer a unique opportunity to respond to the call of the Executive Director of UNEP, Mr Achim Steiner, addressed at the opening of our meeting on the need to decompartmentalise environment and development, and to the motto of this meeting on bridging the gaps biodiversity and development.

Building on the unique experience of its host country in implementing the

Convention, COP-9 offers a new opportunity to consolidate the enhanced phase of implementation of the convention and the scaled-up engagement of its stakeholders. Looking ahead, COP-9 will offer a unique opportunity to strengthen the engagement of all stakeholders in the Convention.

Building on the experience of German development cooperation on issues related to transfer of technology, let us strengthen the dialogue between ministers and CEOs of major companies at COP-9. In doing so, we shall respond to the call of this meeting to bridge the gap between biodiversity and business.

With its 6,000 landscape reserves, representing an area amounting to a quarter of its area, and another 5,000 nature conservation areas, Germany will host the meeting which will review the results of the second meeting of the Working Group on Protected Areas scheduled to take place in early 2008. Let us take advantage of this opportunity to encourage the continuation of the commitments made in Curitiba.

Germany not only hosted the negotiations for the Bonn Guidelines on Access and Benefit sharing, but also promoted these Guidelines under its Pro-benefit and "BIODIV" programmes. It will now host the meeting that will review the results of the fifth and sixth meetings of the Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing aimed at finalizing before 2010 an international regime on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits from their use. Let us invite Ministers of trade and environment to

engage into dialogue at COP-9 to ensure that trade and biodiversity are mutually supportive. In doing so, we shall respond to the objective of this meeting in bridging the gap between trade and biodiversity.

In-depth reviews of the implementation of the programmes of work on forest and agricultural biodiversity will also take place at COP-9. For millennia, more than 7,000 plant species were used to respond to human needs. Today only 150 are used and most of us rely on less than 12 species. The biodiversity supporting our agricultural systems is disappearing. To alert public opinion on the need to stop this loss of biodiversity in this key economic sector, the review of the work programme on agro-biodiversity will coincide with the celebration of the International Day for Biodiversity in 2008, which will have agricultural biodiversity as its theme. It will be the first time in the history of the Convention that the International Day for Biodiversity will be celebrated in partnership with such a vast array of other agencies. FAO has accepted to join forces in the celebration of the Day together with the other sister biodiversity related conventions as well as the CBD Consortium of scientific institutions. Let us also invite a dialogue at COP-9 between the ministers of agriculture and the ministers of environment to ensure that agriculture is not the enemy of the biodiversity and that biodiversity is the natural ally of sustainable agriculture of tomorrow. In doing so, we shall respond to the motto of this meeting on bridging the gap between agriculture and biodiversity.

When COP-9 is convened in Germany, there will be only two years left to

achieve the 2010 biodiversity target. The meeting will therefore provide a unique opportunity to redouble the international community efforts for elevating this strategic target to the highest level of the political agenda. For the first time in the history of the Convention for life on Earth, the host of its Conference of the Parties will in 2008 preside over the G-8 Summit. It is my sincere hope that the President of COP-9 will put the protection of life on Earth on the agenda of the G-8, which will be headed by the first women Chancellor of Germany, who was also the first female environment minister of that country. In doing so, we shall also respond to the motto of this meeting for bridging the gap between Heads of State and their 2010 promise made in Johannesburg to the people of our planet and to their children for a future world endowed with a biodiversity as rich as the one we inherited from our parents.

I thank you for your attention.

JOCHEN FLASBARTH

Director General, Nature conservation and
sustainable use

Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature
Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMZ)
Germany

At the outset, allow me to express my sincere thanks to the organisers of this conference, for including this session in the programme and for giving me the opportunity to address this audience on behalf of the Germany as the host of CBD-COP-9. Sigmar Gabriel, Minister of Environment, Nature Protection and Nuclear Safety asked me to send his best wishes to this conference and to express his hope that a strong and ambitious message will be send out from Paris.

Germany feels greatly honoured to host COP-9 in 2008. We consider this event as a great challenge and opportunity to contribute actively to the further development and strengthening of this key multilateral environmental agreement. In our role as host of the conference, we also feel highly responsible for its outcomes and we are working hard to make it a success. And I want to insure you that we will do our best to support and assist our Brazilian friends having the presidency on the way to COP-9.

We are convinced of the importance of linking biodiversity to the development agenda (and of course: vice versa). None of both can be sustainable without the other. The German Chancellor Angela Merkel underlined recently that the CBD is not only the key instrument for the global protection of biodiversity, but that it is at the same time a key agreement for development policy!

This conference here in Paris has certainly contributed to stimulate political will and additional financial resources, two essential prerequisites for the achievement of the 2010 biodiversity target. It is our hope that other events like this one, as well as

COP-9 itself, could further interest ministerial agendas and gain political visibility in all countries. This can be done through a number of actions such as:

- Introducing the 2010 target in local plans and programmes;
- Raising the public awareness and thus a grass root reaction;
- Linking biodiversity issues to other environmental challenges especially the climate change agenda; but above all
- Emphasizing the links between environmental and development goals, and therefore between the 2010 biodiversity targets and all the Millennium Development Goals.

The MDGs are a powerful and ambitious political tool and a universally accepted framework of action-setting goals agreed on by the world community. Including the 2010 target among these goals will be a clear and sound message on the strong linkages between sustainable development and conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. The inclusion of 2010 in the MDGs "in its own right" will in my view be an important step to meet this target as it will be an additional strong commitment by the world family.

The 2010 target and its importance for development need also to be further widely communicated and understood. I will not elaborate on how communication and awareness could be enhanced at this stage. However, let me briefly mention that I believe that new solutions and alternatives have to be explored and found. Increased political will might increase resources available, but they will not be sufficient if the private sector is not fully involved in the achievement of 2010.

We have to stop preaching to the converted only, and start our outreach in different directions and sectors. This will lead to new commitments from the society as a whole.

In terms of progress on specific issues within the biodiversity agenda to be considered at COP-9 I am looking forward to substantial progress with regard to the global protected areas network:

Achim Steiner once wrote that the greatest challenge for conservation was to change the way we think about protected areas. In the past we have thought of them as islands of protection in an ocean of destruction. Now, we need to learn to see them as building blocks of biodiversity in an ocean of sustainable human development.

Colleagues, a new flexible vision needs to be developed with regard to the establishment of those areas, a common ground where development and conservation visions are not necessarily in contradiction, but they can on the contrary sustain each other. There are a lot of success stories of development projects, which support local development through nature protection.

Science and technology are essential to this end and, in this context, we consider IMOSEB as an important instrument that we fully support. And I want to thank our French friends for all the energy they put in the development of this approach.

A clear link between biodiversity and development is also the third objective of the CBD, which is Access and Benefit Sharing. It is my hope that the debate on ABS will make substantial progress before and at COP-9. The establishment of a regime to support this goal is an important development challenge. Indigenous and local communities whose livelihoods directly depend on biodiversity might find in a fair ABS regime a tool for better compensation for the use of the biodiversity under their management by outsiders. We trust this will bring them more in control of their development mechanism and achieve a more equitable society.

Forests are another important topic for COP-9. Forests are not only among the most biodiverse ecosystems on the planet, but are also home and resource base for hundreds of millions of people and countless indigenous and local communities and cultures. Even in industrialised countries, forest products and forest services are indispensable. Forests also play an extremely important role to meet the climate change challenge.

Ladies and gentlemen, Germany is among those industrialised countries whose "ecological footprint" far surpasses that of its own resource base. Hence, we see this as a commitment to reducing Germany's global environmental impact. Germany

has given and will continue to give substantial support to projects and initiatives that combine development and biodiversity conservation.

Dear Colleagues, COP-9 will be the last CBD-COP before 2010. In the middle of Germany's EU-Presidency next year, we will meet the date 1000 days before 2010. I think we are all aware in this room that we are still far away – to far away – to meet the target which honestly is still not a very tough one. So one might doubt how we could be successful to use a couple of days to change the wrong and destructive way of decades. But I am personally convinced that we have no right to give up. It is our today's duty to do everything possible to protect biodiversity for the needs of future generations. Let's focus our activities. Let's be ambitious! Let's be united for a living World!

Thank you!

Robert Hepworth commented that it was a question of using success stories to build a more positive platform to move towards the 2010 target. It is important to turn the map around. We tend to look at a mountain of problems but we need to instead recognise the big strides forward that have already been made as this message may be better received, especially by developing countries.

WALTER ERDELEN

Assistant Director General for Natural Sciences

UNESCO

Honourable Ministers,
Mr Ahmed Djohloff, Executive
Secretary, Convention on Biological
Diversity

Mr Jochen Flasbarth, Director General,
Nature Conservation and Sustainable
Use of Nature, German Federal Ministry
for the Environment

Esteemed colleagues,
Participants,
Ladies and gentlemen,

During the international Conference on
Biodiversity: Science and Governance
which was held in UNESCO in January
2005 under the high patronage of
Jacques Chirac, President of France,
an appeal by scientists in favour of
biodiversity was made, in addition to a
Paris Declaration on Biodiversity. Let
me just recall three main points made
during this Conference:

- Even if we still need to make major
effort to fill the gaps in knowledge,
there is already sufficient information
available for improved management
of ecosystems;
- Biodiversity must be integrated
without delay, based on existing
knowledge, into the criteria
considered in all economic and policy
decisions as well as in environmental
management;
- Governments, policy makers, and
citizens are urged to take the
necessary actions to support the
development of the scientific
knowledge, as well as the
conservation and the sustainable and
equitable use of biodiversity.

Last year's Conference recalled that
conservation and sustainable use of
biodiversity need to become an integral
component of social and economic
development by correcting past policy
and market failures, and that

biodiversity should be integrated
successfully into public and private
decision making.

The Conference organised by IUCN,
which I have the pleasure to attend
today, is also producing a message,
"The message from Paris".

How many more such messages do we
need to halt biodiversity loss? How
many more conferences such as last
year's, such as today's, do we need
before we can see things change in the
world we are living in?

These repeated messages and
conferences are useful to keep us
active and cooperative. I believe that
many positive actions are already
implemented at various scales, from
local to regional and international
levels, from sustainable local initiatives
to international commitments such as
the Convention on Biological Diversity
(CBD). Many stakeholders are getting
more and more conscious of the
importance of conserving and
sustainably using biodiversity, including
new actors, such as NGOs, civil
society, and the private sector which
previously were not participating
actively in biodiversity conservation and
sustainable use.

How can we make better linkages
between the message and the actions,
between the words and the
commitments? How can we find the
language adapted to the various
stakeholders involved? We have some
substantive basis to build on for the
future and today, I will focus on two
main aspects: sharing and dialogue.

Let me first start with sharing. In
Europe, governments have already

committed significant areas in their
countries for conservation of
biodiversity, through natural parks,
Natura 2000 sites and Biosphere
Reserves. Biosphere Reserves are
joined through the World Network of
Biosphere Reserves, under the Man
and the Biosphere programme of
UNESCO. The adoption of the Seville
Strategy and the Statutory Framework
of biosphere reserves by UNESCO in
1995 ideally suits Biosphere Reserves
as experimental sites for testing
policies and practices for sustainable
development at the landscape or
seascape level. Each biosphere reserve
is to serve conservation, development
and knowledge building and learning
functions. The integration of these three
functions is critical to sustainable
development trajectories at the
landscape level.

In 2006, the EuroMAB Network is rich
with 243 Biosphere Reserves located in
32 countries, including five
Transboundary Biosphere Reserves
such as Danube Delta (Romania and
Ukraine), East Carpathians
(Poland/Slovakia/Ukraine), Vosges du
Nord/Pfälzerwald (France and
Germany), Krkonoše/Karkonosze
(Czech Republic/Poland) and Tatra
(Poland/Slovakia).

Let me also mention the establishment of a Transboundary Biosphere Reserve and a Regional Ecological Network in Polesie, which involve Belarus, Poland and Ukraine, using international tools such as the ecological networks advocated by the CBD and especially of its European component, the Pan-European Ecological Network (PEEN), elaborated by the Council of Europe.

These 243 Biosphere Reserves represent 243 experiences and practices in Europe. They are 'evidence-based conservation practices' which bridge research and biodiversity management. These practices are fulfilling policy goals, in seeking to improve biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, by providing scientific evidence to conservation managers, thereby enabling formulation of evidence-based conservation strategies. Another key issue for which reflections should be better shared is the link between urban ecology and biodiversity in a highly urbanised Europe: how can we manage biodiversity in urban areas and how can we take biodiversity into consideration in urban planning and design? Many Biosphere Reserves are located near urban areas or even include cities, such as the recently designated Kristianstad Vattenriket Biosphere Reserve in Sweden. Biosphere reserves are created by governments in all the regions of the world since 30 years. Such integrated practices at local, national and regional scales (transboundary cooperation) need to be better analysed, shared and disseminated.

Establishing linkages between local, national and regional initiatives

concerning biodiversity research and management should be a priority. This 'sharing approach' will provide systematically reviewed scientific evidence to support decision-making in conservation management and be part of a real practice of adaptive management, involving experimentation.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Biodiversity conservation is not only a scientific challenge, or limited to certain well known stakeholders. We can see the emergence of numerous new categories of stakeholders, who all claim legitimacy and a role to play in the biodiversity debate. I refer here particularly to the increasing role of NGOs, the private sector, funding agencies, local communities and civil society in a broader sense. This increase in the number of stakeholders, their different interests and legitimacies, their interactions and relationships, have essential implications on conservation and the sustainable use of biodiversity, especially in the near future.

We need to establish the necessary conditions for a constructive and permanent dialogue, for sharing knowledge and know-how on biodiversity management, for reaching concerted decisions, through education, science, culture, communication and the support of innovative partnerships and cooperative programmes.

UNESCO has collaborated with the CBD since the latter's inception. In fact, UNESCO even participated in the work that led to the development and

acceptance of the text of the CBD in 1992. We have contributed to both the design and the implementation of the CBD programmes of work and programme activities related to cross-cutting issues including the 2010 Biodiversity Target, Traditional Knowledge, Climate Change, and themes such as marine and coastal biodiversity.

UNESCO is also working closely with IUCN's Commission of Ecosystems Management and its Business and Biodiversity Programmes, as well as other business and industry partners like the International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM) and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) to test landscape-level planning and decision making approaches that can aid sustainable development.

Honourable Ministers,
Mister Executive Secretary of the CBD,
Mister Director General of Nature
Conservation,
Colleagues,
Participants,

UNESCO will be hosting the twelfth session of the CBD Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) in July 2007, in preparation for the next Conference of the Parties (COP-9) of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

I believe that this is another chance for sharing, working together and translating into actions our commitments for the 2010 Biodiversity Target.

In this challenge to better share, to establish bridges between different worlds and sectors, to support platforms for dialogue between stakeholders, you can be sure that UNESCO will play its part in the fields of education, science, culture and communication and I look forward seeing you in UNESCO, next July.

I thank you for your attention.

Closing Remarks by the Chair

James Leap said the 2010 target should be considered achievable provided efforts are scaled up. He highlighted five crucial areas to work on:

- Policy coherence and delivery of recent European commitments;
- The need to shift from theory to practice on Strategic Environmental Assessments;
- Funding for an international initiative;
- Involvement of the civil society;
- Importance of OCTs and small island developing States for biodiversity.

The main message should be one of urgency, and the EU has an important role in taking it forward.



THE WAY FORWARD

21st september 2006

Master of Ceremony:
Ibrahim Thiaw, Acting Director General,
IUCN

AGNÈS VAN ARDENNE

Minister of Development Cooperation The Netherlands

Setting the scene: A vision beyond Paris

Introduction

Biodiversity is essential to mankind. Our societies depend on the resources that nature provides: timber, fish, agricultural products, vegetable oils, biomass for energy production, animal feed, to name but a few. We extract, grow and exploit these resources. But because we are so distant from the places where production takes place, we are often not aware of the impact of our consumption and production patterns. Or we conveniently close our eyes to it. The poor are in a very different position. They have a direct relationship with biodiversity and nature: they depend on them for their daily survival. As the World Resources Institute so aptly puts it: "biodiversity is the wealth of the poor".

Trends

Globalisation and the rapid development of international markets for natural resources are placing increasing pressure on regions with a high biodiversity. New markets are developing and new major players, such as China and India, are entering the field. We are all aware of the issues related to the production of palm oil in Indonesia and Malaysia, soy in Brazil, fishmeal in Peru and fisheries in West African waters. Competing claims on resources for food, energy, construction materials and animal feed force us to make choices. New markets create opportunities for developing countries, but at the same time we face the threats of over-exploitation and resource depletion, a negative impact on food security, destruction of the environment and further marginalisation of the poor. We all have seen that competition for natural resources could lead to very serious conflicts, like in Darfur.

A recent development, resulting from compliance with the Kyoto Protocol, is an increasing demand for biomass and biofuels. The consequences are important: the increased use of biological resources, such as vegetable oils and ethanol from sugar cane, will compete with food production and nature for increasingly scarce land, especially in developing countries.

There are also issues related to monocultures and pesticide use. Several countries, such as the UK, France and Japan, are looking to Brazil to supply biofuels. Brazil in turn is eager to develop ethanol production in African countries. But will these

countries be able to capitalise on these market opportunities in a sustainable way? How will this impact the environment and what will the socioeconomic effects be?

One of the main recommendations of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment was to integrate environmental considerations in economic decision-making. I believe this is essential for biodiversity conservation. With IUCN and other organisations, we have learned how to establish the economic value of environmental resources. But we still need to translate that economic value into monetary terms. We have to make sure that conservation pays. And even better: that it pays the poor who depend on these resources.

Action

I confront the challenges presented by globalisation, new markets and new insights into environmental protection in several ways. The Netherlands has been a strong supporter of integrated water management and sustainable forest management for a long time. Our participation in the Nile Basin and the Mekong River initiatives are evidence of my view that water is a basic element of national and trans-boundary ecosystem management. Our focus on illegal timber and the programmes implemented under our tropical rain forest policy contribute to the sustainable use and protection of forest resources.

With the Poverty Environment Partnership, an informal coalition of bilateral donor agencies and NGOs at the interface of environment and

poverty reduction, we are showing that investments in responsible management of natural resources, including biodiversity, can be efficient, can support growth and boost government revenues, and contributes – directly and indirectly – to poverty reduction.

Through UNCTAD and other programmes, we support the sustainable use and trade of forest products in several African and Latin American countries, including the Amazon region. We also support capacity development to capitalise on the emerging markets in environmental goods and services, such as emission credits through the Clean Development Mechanism. And we are facilitating deals between upstream, relatively poor watershed “managers” and beneficiaries of improved water quantity and quality downstream, such as Coca Cola in Guatemala.

But the challenges created by globalisation and increased demand for natural resources call for additional and different types of interventions. Collaboration between different actors and stakeholders targeting sustainable production, trade and consumption is a key element of innovative approaches. We therefore support and are active participants in the Round Table on Sustainable Palm Oil and the Round Table on Responsible Soy. Of course, the fact that Dutch multinationals are involved in the trade in major commodities provides us with a great opportunity for public-private partnerships. We partnered with the large Dutch animal feed company NUTRECO and IUCN to promote

sustainability in the fishmeal and fish oil chain. We have been able to unite stakeholders along the entire trade chain, from large producers in Peru and Chile to retailers, traders and investors in Europe. Together with local and international NGOs and the government of Peru we have been able to address ecological and socioeconomic issues. Together with the International Fishmeal and Fish Oil Organisation, IFFO, the partnership is instrumental in developing the round table on sustainable fish feed.

As far as biofuels are concerned, we are at the forefront of developing sustainability criteria for inclusion in legislation and other policy instruments. A major report on import criteria has just been finalised. We support coherent policies and therefore a level playing field for sustainable production of biofuels in the North and the South. We work with the Global Reporting Initiative on sustainability indicators, and we are discussing a biodiversity covenant with the industry.

Messages to the EU

Obviously the task is enormous: reaching the Millennium Development Goals, stopping biodiversity loss by 2010 as we all agreed in Johannesburg in 2002, eradicating poverty and promoting sustainable use of natural resources for the benefit of all. And this in an ever more complex international setting. But we need to move from words to action. I mentioned a number of key issues and several of my policy directions: coherence, partnerships and integration of environment in poverty reduction strategies. And I have some specific challenges for the EU.

Environmental issues need to be an integral part of poverty reduction strategies. Mainstreaming environment into Country Strategy Papers could be even more important for sustainability than the creation or extension of special programmes such as the Programme for National Resources including Energy. The recent report of the European Court of Auditors (July 2006) concluded that the Commission’s manual for the integration of environmental aspects should be finalised and be implemented. The Netherlands insists on compliance with the existing environmental provisions in the common framework. Moreover specific action is needed to improve mainstreaming of environment in EDF 10. This needs to be clearly reflected in Country Strategy Papers. Natural resources, and the way we manage them, cannot be an afterthought in strategy development. They are the very foundation of our existence.

In the EU there is an ongoing discussion on how to implement policy coherence for development. We need policy coherence for sustainable energy production.

Compliance with Kyoto is an important objective which we can partly achieve by increasing the use of biomass and biofuels.

But are we using sustainability to increase economic growth and to secure our energy at the cost of the environment and poor people in developing countries?

Or are we really going to use this opportunity to boost economic growth in developing countries, secure environmental protection and reduce poverty?

Policy coherence for development means supporting opportunities for developing countries to enter this market and reducing negative impacts. The OECD made an important step with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness based on the five overarching principles of ownership, alignment, harmonisation, managing for development results and mutual accountability. In order to facilitate mainstreaming of environment into development, we need to earmark the necessary funds in the context of budget support. The Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers should be systematically subject to Strategic Environmental Assessments in providing the basis for such budget support.

Political commitment for the integration of environmental aspects into development has been achieved at the highest levels, both nationally and internationally. But policy coherence between environment and development alone is not enough. Trade and economic affairs ministers should participate in conferences on development cooperation and environment. We need to make sure that in WTO negotiations and agreements, poverty reduction and environmental are integral aspects.

Conclusion

Ladies and gentlemen, every day the impact of our actions is painfully visible. Just last week, we were informed that the ice on the North Pole is melting, even in winter. The scientists' joy over the discovery of dozens of new species in the waters near Papua New Guinea is tempered by the fact that they had to be labelled "threatened with extinction" the very moment they were discovered. "An inconvenient truth" as Al Gore has aptly named his book and movie on climate change.

I think we are well aware of the challenges lying ahead of us. And we know we need each other to confront the issues and find the solutions. We need to take steps from words to action. Not alone, but together.

CHARLES SYLVAIN RABOTOARISON

Minister of Environment, Water and Forestry Madagascar

Panel Discussion - From words to action: implementing the Message from Paris

Chair: Laurence Tubiana, Director, Institute of Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI)

In these last few years, parties at numerous international conventions have unceasingly reiterated their recognition of biodiversity as a worldwide environmental problem, as well its importance in sustainable development.

Throughout the two days we have spent here, the need to go from words to action has been acutely felt. I would like to contribute to this through some of our experiences in Madagascar. There is no need here to remind you of the importance of biodiversity in Madagascar, a country often qualified as “megadiverse”. This potential, not only terrestrial, but also marine and coastal, is disappearing. Neither is there any need to remind you of the importance of the dependency of our mostly rural populations on natural resources.

We must nowadays confront economic objectives that seek to reduce poverty but translate into different forms of unsustainable uses of biodiversity resources (clearing, stubble-burning, agricultural practices that have fatal effects on ecosystems).

Though, for a long time we separated biodiversity management from economic and social development in Madagascar, in the last ten years, we have convinced ourselves to search for the ways and means to reconcile biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

Indeed we have engaged into a long term process aiming to turn around the tendency for environmental degradation by putting in motion an environmental programme, which is presently, in its third and last phase, and of which the

main results are on the taking up of actions taken by local and civil society actors.

Throughout the different steps there was indeed a progressive raising in awareness that biodiversity is a fundamental element for development. This can be seen from the elaboration of the environmental policy, which presently has a double objective: on the one hand, that of establishing and adopting methods for sustainably managing natural resources by populations in areas where we intervene; and on the other, making management sustainable at a national level.

Biodiversity and environmental protection are an integral part of our national vision, the “Naturally Madagascar vision”, which is orientated towards reinforcing environmental commitments. This is also mentioned in the Madagascar Action Plan (MAP), a five year plan the seventh objective of which is dedicated to the environment. Among the many priority actions, I would like to mention here the extension of protected areas, more specifically the tripling of their extent, with the technical support of IUCN.

From now on, we will use the 6 Protected Areas categories that are open and consider governance and economic development aspects. New and often forgotten actors such as local communities and the private sector, will be involved in this process.

There are also other, more elaborate, tools that allow us to better manage biodiversity and better reconcile conservation and sustainable development, including:

- Transfer of management to local communities that favour the direct involvement of local actors in decision-making that concerns them;
- Environmental impact studies, which are an obligation for all enterprises of a certain size;
- Tourism development in certain protected areas allows local resident communities to benefit from half of the entry rights, in order to undertake small development projects.
- A protection mechanism of natural resource access rights is in conception. It must protect local communities and private operators exploiting those resources.
- In order to overcome the current energy deficit, the reforestation of species that both protect against erosion and can be used for biofuel, is beginning.

In terms of long-term finance, we have established a foundation for the management of protected areas destined to reinforce actions taken. Our international NGO friends (CI and WWF) uncovered the basics of this yesterday. I would like to acknowledge here, the support that some have signified on this occasion.

Madagascar shares the same global concerns and deploys all of its efforts to contribute to international challenges on biodiversity, namely achievement of the 2010 objectives, in close relation to the Millennium Development Goals. How should we maintain the ecological integrity of the remaining ecosystems (forests, lakes, reefs, etc.) in the long term in order to ensure essential services to communities, to countries? Our challenges are even more difficult insofar as that in our developing countries, it is first necessary to provide

for the needs of a large and mostly poor population.

It is important to involve all actors of development, to apply the principle of participation in decision-making as well as biodiversity resources management. Tourism, fishing, the establishment of economic and social infrastructure, and mine exploitation are all sectors in which the impacts on biodiversity are real and to which we must pay particular attention.

The environmental services provided by biodiversity conservation are matters which need greater awareness. We must prove their contribution and economic value in development. I would like to say a few words on the importance of exchange and partnerships. We cannot only solve problems of biodiversity loss, of which the causes are complex. Partnerships and complementary elements in the Indian Ocean, Africa, at an international level, must be prioritized. Those exchanges, with the support of the scientific community, should help us in our search for innovative approaches. We must give concrete guidance to article 32 of the Cotonou Agreement of the ACP countries on natural resources management. Environment protection and biodiversity integration should be a condition of every project financed by donor agencies of knowledge, among which is the European Union and its Member States, as specified in paragraph a) of that agreement.

I would not be able to finish my intervention without thanking the organisers of this important Conference that has reached a commitment from all of us to integrate biodiversity in sustainable development; the

appropriate term would be “a half-grown sustainable development strategy”, to quote one of our colleagues present here yesterday. I thank the IUCN, the European Commission. I would also like to salute France, the host country.

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you all for your kind attention.

SAMUEL NGUIFFO
Director
Environment and Development Centre
Cameroon

At this moment during the work of this Paris Conference on Biodiversity in Development Cooperation, I cannot help thinking about a recent account that summarises my feelings towards the totality of the work and challenges that we have all faced. Cameroon saw, at the beginning of the decade in 2000, a boom in the volume of imports of frozen chicken, essentially coming from Europe.

This phenomenon was a direct consequence of free trade. It resulted in the loss of approximately 100,000 direct employment spots in Cameroon in the line of poultry and fresh product commerce. It also had a disastrous sanitary impact because of the difficulties faced by merchants in ensuring the management of the cold chain.

We therefore found in the Cameroonian markets, unsustainable European chicken that would replace local chicken (bred in better ecological conditions).

Older local poultry farmers had searched for alternatives for their survival; and in a difficult economic context, some fell back on the exploitation of nature, contributing, for example, to increased poaching. I must remind you that the management of certain protected areas is ensured by European Union funding. In brief, the European Union was one of the essential actors in the debates taking place at that time on the poverty reduction strategies in Cameroon.

However, we had action by private European companies that resulted in negative impacts on two of the most important sectors of European action in the country.

Following this account, I believe that Paris has been the occasion for a certain step forward, and I share the call to action on some matters that I now would like to point out:

1. A clear consensus was reaffirmed at the Paris Conference on acknowledging the existence of a link between poverty and ecosystem conservation.

Yet we may question the capacity of the named measures in the Paris Declaration to curb the threat of the erosion of biodiversity in an efficient and quick way.

Indeed the measures envisaged seem to be recorded following those carried out up until now with the mitigated results we all have seen. The Message from Paris seems far more ambitious, and we must rejoice in this. But it is still weak as to the precise conditions in order to succeed.

We have talked about the “why”, but have not actually talked about the “how”.

2. Governance was expressed as being an essential condition, an indispensable step towards sustainability.

We contemplate it at a local, national, and global level. Nevertheless, we can regret that the conference has not been very prolific when it comes to “reaching improved governance”.

3. As for public participation, a decisive step has been reached in Paris, where we have admitted that participation is an essential element for setting policies in motion. Equally, the means of participation are still awaited and we hope that the Council will define, in a participative manner, precise outlines on this subject.

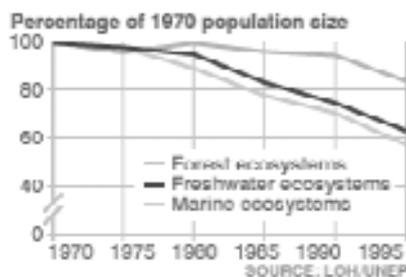
4. The need for integrated ecosystems management is confirmed, but we suggest going even further by integrating concerns linked to biodiversity protection as per international trade, and in law and policies that concern direct foreign investments.

JEAN-LUC ROUX

Director of Political Department, Greenpeace

The heart of this afternoon's debate is "from words to action". I also ask you to show leadership and determination for ambitious political measures to result from this conference in order to eradicate poverty and abate deforestation, the degradation of forest and ocean habitats, as well as the loss of biodiversity at a worldwide scale.

Both diagrams below give us an idea of, on the one hand, the erosion of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystems and, on the other hand, excessive growth of our global ecological footprint compared to what our planet can take.



In order to illustrate my words, I will begin by recalling four important points:

1. The current development of our societies is not sustainable because it is based on a quantitative economic growth that flouts natural resources limits. The market has proven incapable of integrating social and ecological costs. We also have the right to ask the following question: does the global economy need some adjustments to become sustainable, or does it need a radical change of paradigm?
2. After 11th September 2001, the international community showed its capacity to react in a joint manner faced with terrorist threats that bore upon national security. Why does it not react in the same way towards a much more important threat that bears upon ecological safety?
3. Our European lifestyle of over-consumption calls for even greater amounts of natural resources such as soya/meat, wood/paper supplies, fish/breeding, and those which depend on developing countries.

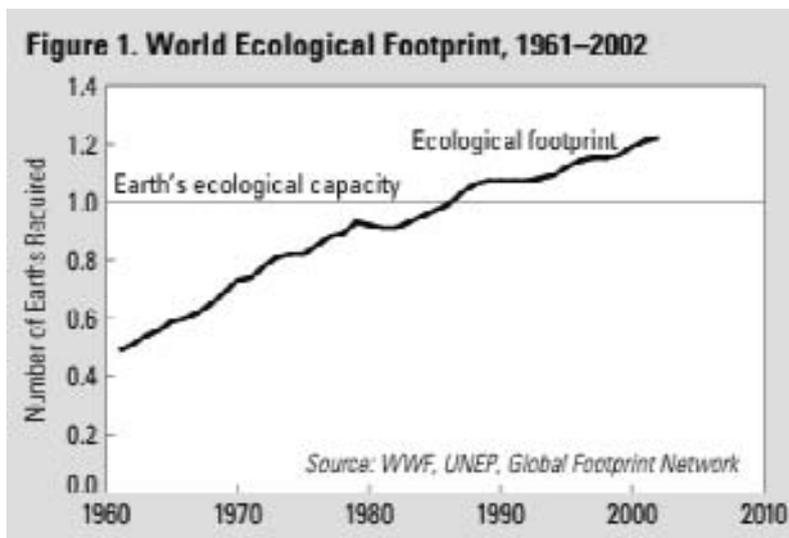
This form of consumption is encouraged on one side by the Common Agricultural Policy that financially supports intensive breeding, on the other by the Common Fisheries Policy that supports overcapacity of the fishing fleet, and finally by international trade regulations.

4. A hope... Certain countries, Brazil amongst others, have now become aware that the conversion of the high biodiversity land that is the Amazon through the expansion of soya, sugar cane, and in future biofuels, is less profitable for the country than sustainable management of those lands combined with strict conservation.

I must acknowledge that the EU is a part of this disaster in progress, given that it ignores the massive entry of products such as wood, soya, fish, etc. into its market from illegally exploited sources, without guarantees of sustainable management.

The EU must establish binding control mechanisms for these products and determine what is acceptable in its inner market and what is not, based on existing international treaties.

The EU must go beyond voluntary measures and initiatives and show forceful political action if it wants to live up to its international commitments concerning the reduction of biodiversity loss, poverty reduction, and climate change mitigation.



Greenpeace suggests the following urgent measures to the EU:

1. To legislate and sanction the relative criminality of the exploitation of natural resources:

- Illegal fishing, that represents a loss of several billions of dollars each year;
- Illegal exploitation of forests that increases between 10 and 15 billion dollars a year;
- Biopiracy: a few hundred billion dollars a year.

2. To quickly support the development of an international binding text (ABS regime) that will improve the national system and guarantee the protection of knowledge and fair sharing, especially among local communities and indigenous peoples, of the advantages linked to genetic resources.

This system is an essential element of the future financing of biodiversity protection and the fight against poverty.

3. To support the maintenance or establishment of a moratorium on forest exploitation and destructive fishing that is trawling in high seas, and to oppose the liberalisation and the increase of non-sustainable product exchange, whether concerning forests or fisheries, at a multilateral level (i.e. WTO-NAMA) as well as at a bilateral level (i.e. through Voluntary Partnership Agreements).

4. To accelerate the establishment of a worldwide network of marine reserves, parks, and protected forest areas in order to preserve high value sites that are still intact. These must become the framework of sustainable development and the preservation/restoration of biodiversity.

5. The EU must respect multifunctionality and contribute to the preservation and evaluation of a non-merchant space for forests and oceans, through innovative financing mechanisms.

We hope that the above proposals will contribute to stimulating ministerial discussions and result in European and international scale political initiatives, particularly on the eve of the 9th CBD Conference of the Parties, to be held in Germany in 2008.

I thank you for your attention.

PHILIP MIKOS
Head of Unit - Policies for Sustainable
Management of Natural Resources
DG Development
European Commission

Madame la Ministre Brigitte Girardin,
Excellencies,

Dear colleagues and participants,

On behalf of Director Bernard Petit, who unfortunately cannot be here today, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Government of France for hosting and supporting this Conference on Biodiversity in European Development Cooperation here in Paris. This appreciation also goes to the Governments of Belgium, Finland and Sweden, for their financial and technical support, and to the IUCN for organising this important event.

Two thirds of the rural population and the rural poor in developing countries live in risky production environments with variable rainfall and often poor soils. Over 500 million people live in dry lands without access to irrigation, and over 600 million live in mountainous regions, where considerable natural biodiversity still remains. It is precisely in these areas that food production must increase substantially over the next few decades. Low income rural people rely heavily on the consumption of wild foods, medicines and fuels to meet their nutritional and other needs. But equally disturbing is that one third of the rural population worldwide is living in the so-called breadbaskets of the world, but where ecosystems have already been so much altered that the ecosystem services have declined.

Over the last fifty years the world's population has tripled and we have used our eco-systems to meet the growing demand for food, fresh water, timber, fibre and fuel. Expected economic growth will further increase pressure on ecosystems with a risk of

more degradation. There are many examples where unsustainable use of natural resources including biodiversity becomes itself an obstacle to economic growth and therefore to poverty alleviation.

The links between ecosystem services and livelihoods of the rural poor are extensive and are well reflected in the policies of the European Commission and the Member States.

In November 2005 the European Consensus on Development was adopted. This was the first occasion where a common vision on development was endorsed by the three key European institutions: the Parliament, the Council and the Commission. This vision will guide EU action in development cooperation, at both Member States and Community levels.

The overarching objective of EU development cooperation is the eradication of poverty in the context of sustainable development, including pursuit of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Development remains a long-term commitment. The EU has adopted an ambitious timetable for overall assistance to achieve 0.7% of GNI by 2015, with an intermediate collective target of 0.56% by 2010. This commitment will see annual EU aid to increase by around ?20 billion to reach 66 billion euros in 2010.

The EU has committed itself to take systematic account of the environmental dimension in all areas of development cooperation, to support the inclusion of environmental

considerations in poverty reduction and equivalent development strategies and to promote pro-poor environment-related initiatives and policies.

Country, Regional and Thematic Strategy papers are the Commission's programming tools, which define the range of policies and support activities and ensure coherence between them. Environment and sustainable management of natural resources is one of the priority areas for Community development action described in the European Consensus. The Thematic Programme for Environment and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources including Energy, which was adopted this year, includes funds earmarked for biodiversity issues.

The EU is committed to assist developing countries in implementing the Multilateral Environmental Agreements, and will work to ensure that the capacities of developing countries are taken into account during negotiations.

In 2004, the European Commission took a specific commitment to prepare Country Environment Profiles as part of the programming process carried out with its development partners. The Commission is also promoting the implementation of Strategic Environmental Assessments, which will help highlight areas where proposed cooperation activities may encounter environmental constraints or conflicts, and identify the need for specific environmental mitigation measures or opportunities for win-win solutions. This tool becomes more important with the increased target for budget support. The Environmental Impact Assessments however remain the main

environmental integration tool for operations following the project approach.

Although it is widely accepted that integrating ecosystem services and biodiversity issues in development cooperation is an absolute necessity, and that in terms of policy statements everything is in place, in practice this integration is still not yet happening to the extent necessary and desirable.

It is essential to ensure that agricultural, forestry and fisheries policies in food insecure regions recognize the crucial role of biodiversity, and to amend biodiversity conservation policies in such regions to prioritise strategies that explicitly supporting poverty reduction efforts. This is a major challenge and requires a different approach of all stakeholders. The European Commission and the Member States are strongly committed to supporting ways of making biodiversity work for the poor and the world at large.

But developing countries have the prime responsibility for formulating and implementing coherent and effective policies and for mobilising their own resources. They have a crucial role in assuring that environmental and biodiversity issues are put on their own development agenda. This is a big challenge as short term objectives often get priority over long-term sustainability issues.

The eight workshops in this conference offer a unique opportunity to strengthen the dialogue between development and environmental experts. We will jointly analyse what actually prevents us from practicing more what we preach, and we will identify new ways of addressing

environmental issues in development cooperation in a more effective and efficient manner. We cannot and should not wait as plants and animals do not write letters.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I sincerely hope that this conference will result in a constructive dialogue and will come up with practical approaches that fit well in the overall framework of development policies and that are acceptable to all stakeholders. I am looking forward to the results of the conference and the Message from Paris.

Thank you for your attention.

OLAV KJØRVEN

Director Energy and Environment

UNDP

Development organizations need to be concerned about biodiversity

Biodiversity is such a critical concern for all organisations – not just environmental institutions, but also, and critically importantly – “development organisations” such as UNDP – whose principal mandate is to reduce poverty and improve the lives of the poor.

Biodiversity is truly a central development issue since for the rural poor, development cannot happen without access to ecosystem services. And biodiversity frequently provides the “welfare system of last resort” for poor people and communities. Thus, UNDP has made “Biodiversity for Development” one of its primary areas of focus. There is great demand for biodiversity services from the more than 140 UNDP Country Offices around the world. Just last year, biodiversity attracted more funding in UNDP than any other environmental area of focus – over \$100 million in 2005 – about 30% of all expenditures in UNDP’s Environment and Energy Practice.

IUCN and the EU

I thank IUCN and the EU for their foresight in bringing the development and biodiversity communities together. Ensuring that thematic issues are addressed within the context of mainstream development cooperation discourse – rather than among experts and practitioners of the same thematic field alone – no doubt makes a huge contribution towards making development more effective.

Integration of Biodiversity in MDG-based National Development Plans

Since the primary drivers of biodiversity loss lie in the productive sectors of agriculture, forestry, fisheries, transport, etc., the key to meeting biodiversity targets is to embed them into these sector’s plans and frameworks whenever possible – rather than having a stand alone biodiversity strategy.

To this end, the biodiversity community needs to pay attention to a very important decision taken at the 2005 World Summit last September.

Specifically, countries committed to “adopt, by 2006, and implement comprehensive national development strategies to achieve the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals”.

It is when these MDG-based national strategies lay out concrete steps for maintaining biodiversity in productive agricultural, forest, marine and urban ecosystems, and when these strategies are implemented by the ministries of those sectors – as well as by local authorities, communities and the private sector – that a real difference will be made.

UNDP is rolling out its MDG Support Services, a major corporate priority initiative established to support country-led processes to formulate and implement MDG-based national development strategies with the aim of scaling-up action to achieve the MDGs.

UNDP/UNEP Partnership

The UN System is well positioned more than ever to deliver on this, especially as its normative arm (UNEP) and operational arm (UNDP) on environment are coming together through an enhanced partnership and a joint centre in Nairobi – to deliver on the mainstreaming agenda.

The importance of local communities

Local communities and indigenous peoples are showing us around the world what can and must be done and to this end, UNDP is pursuing a very active multi-pronged strategy for biodiversity. We know we need to work not just at the global and national levels but also at the community level – through our programmes such as the GEF Small Grants Programme (with more than 3,000 projects in over 80 countries) and Equator Initiative – because at the end of the day, it is at that level that development actually happens or is implemented.

Message to donors to pay attention to biodiversity in their direct budget support

The fact that official development assistance (ODA) has been increasing in recent years, after a steady decline in the 1990s, is a welcome trend. We also see that ODA is increasingly being delivered through Direct Budget Support. It is important that in the context of Direct Budget Support – which is typically administered through Planning and Finance Ministries – donor

target their support to thematic issues such as biodiversity that are so critical to economic development, that there is a balance and continued commitment to addressing all aspects of development.

Discussion

Among topics addressed in the ensuing discussion, **Corinda Sebastiana Essex**, Government of Saint Helena, reasserted that more financial resources were needed for OCTs, which often do not match the criteria for receiving funding from international NGOs and multilateral organisations, while not being able to access EC funding. **Olav Kjørven**, UNDP, added that the importance of religion at the local level should not be underestimated: faith-based institutions could be a tremendous ally in making progress for biodiversity conservation. Finally, **Jean-Luc Roux** of Greenpeace reminded that as consumers, all Europeans have the additional individual responsibility to decrease their ecological footprint, i.e. their consumption of food, especially meat and fish, of paper, wood, gasoline, etc.

Adoption of the Message from Paris

A refined version of the Message from Paris was presented to the audience by **William Jackson**, Director of Global Programme, IUCN, and adopted by acclamation¹¹.

11. See p. 1



CLOSING WITH ACTION

21st september 2006

Chair:
Tamás Marghescu,
IUCN, Regional Director for Europe

JAN-ERIK ENESTAM

Minister of Environment Finland

A 2010 Commitment

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great honour to address this Conference and to sign the Countdown 2010 declaration on behalf of the Finnish Government.

Biodiversity is essential to human well-being, and it is a crucial element in sustaining the social, economic and ecological dimension for humankind. This conference organised under the slogan "Nature - The World's largest Development Cooperation Agency" is a very timely one. The fact is that Nature provides day after day billions of people, in particular the rural poor, with food, water, fuel and shelter.

Loss of biological diversity, which is the source of these goods and services, thus has a direct impact on people's livelihoods. In turn, the conservation of nature can generate excellent opportunities for improving the quality of human life. However, biodiversity continues to decline. Political commitments have been made to halt this trend by 2010. We need to continue to work together for this 2010 commitment and to translate it into actions in cooperation with different stakeholders.

By signing the Countdown 2010 declaration Finland stresses the importance of taking actions to reach the 2010 biodiversity goal. We will strive to create precedence by implementing the Finnish National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2006-2016 focusing on the 2010 biodiversity target, and highlighting the importance of increasing public awareness and participation, including the promotion of exemplary activities towards this target. In this regard, I am

a strong believer in the bottom up approach for engaging the grassroots level in our work for reaching the goal. In Finland we have successful experiences and projects from voluntary work in the field of biodiversity.

As stated this year in the European Council on Development, stronger support to the implementation of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity will help to halt biodiversity loss and promote biosafety and sustainable management of biodiversity. Ultimately the mainstreaming of biodiversity into EU development cooperation is an important target and challenge for us. The preparation and adoption of the EU Council Conclusions on the European Commission's Biodiversity Communication: 'Halting the loss of Biodiversity by 2010 – and beyond', is the key task for us during the Finnish EU Presidency. Additionally, we will promote the theme of "Youth and biodiversity", encompassing the issues of education, communication and public awareness, during the European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy meeting in Helsinki later this year. Further, our work to promote the Peruvian Amazon biodiversity cooperation, through the BIODAMAZ project in preparing and launching a regional initiative in collaboration with the Andean Community is a concrete response to this Conference.

It is necessary to act now to halt the loss of biodiversity, in order to preserve this essential source of ecosystem goods and services, and thus ensure the well-being of current and future generations. I have outlined here some of the actions Finland is taking towards

this target. We look very much forward to working with other countries and various stakeholders both in the context of these projects, as well as in the future efforts for halting the loss of biodiversity.

Thank you for your attention.

ALEX MAMUD VENEGAS

Ministry of Agriculture

Peru

Ministers, Ambassadors, and
Professionals,

On behalf of the Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Peru, Ing. Juan Jose Salazar García, I come here today to thank the Governments of Finland and the Netherlands for the BIODAMAZ Project that can be seen in its Second Phase in our country.

Mr. Minister of the Environment of Finland, Jan-Erik Enestam, please allow me to express my country's gratitude for such a valuable collaboration.

We are enthusiastic about the success of the BIODAMAZ Project, so much so that the continuity of its Third Phase is being studied to extend it to the remaining Andean and Amazonian countries.

In Peru we have progressed on several fronts in order to contribute to reducing the current rate of loss of biodiversity, many agricultural export and timber companies have qualified for ISO-9000, ISO-14000 and many other international certifications for their products. However, there is still much to be done and that is why we reiterate our request for help to the countries of the European Union.

I am sure that this meeting will contribute much to the achievement of the Countdown 2010 objectives and, in this way, the Message from Paris will contribute to the deepening of our commitment to support the achievement of such objectives.

Thank you once again.

ROSALÍA ARTEAGA SERRANO

Executive Secretary, Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO)

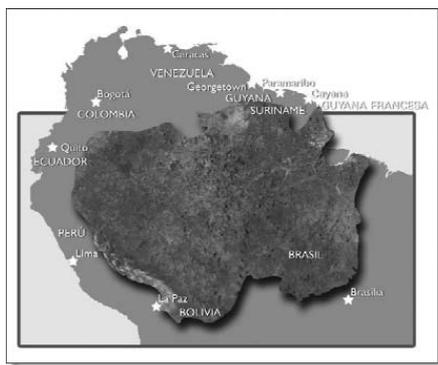
Governance and stakeholder engagement for strengthening sustainable development
in the continental Amazon

The Amazon is currently encountering a critical point in its history. The aspirations of its people for a better life, combined with large-scale infrastructure projects and global changes are significantly modifying the extremely rich cultural and biological diversity of the region. Strengthening environmental governance in the Region as well as international collaboration on trans-boundary issues in the Amazon Basin is a key factor for coping with the challenges of promoting sustainable development and protecting biodiversity.

One cannot deny that the Amazon of the twenty-first century will differ greatly from the current image as the great last frontier. The continuation of current trends would result in tremendous impacts on biological diversity and environmental services of the Amazon basin forests. Urgent action is needed.

And one of the most urgent is ensuring that multinational collaboration will produce good results. At this regard, ACTO has been dedicating efforts aimed at strengthening regional integration processes and sustainable development initiatives, through the active participation of the governments of the Amazon countries and regional and local stakeholders in this process.

As a matter of fact, ACTO, an evolution of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty (ACT) signed on the 3rd of July 1978 by Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela, was created exactly to promote joint actions towards the harmonious development of the Amazon Basin and, thus, cope with problems common to the 8 countries.



Since 2003, ACTO Secretariat has been acting as a catalyst and promoter of efforts throughout the region, with strong emphasis on the promotion of sustainable development. Moreover, one of the main roles of ACTO is to work as a mechanism of coordination and cooperation among the countries of the basin for themes of supranational interest.

ACTO has also been dedicating efforts towards building new institutional lines, capable of contributing to overcome the sustainable development challenges posed to the Amazon region, concerning issues such as health, water resources, forest sustainable management, biodiversity. Besides that, ACTO makes efforts towards creating political arenas for regional dialogues aiming at establishing consensus and convergences among the Country Members in global issues of interest to the Continental Amazon.

It is important to highlight that ACTO's competitive advantages remain exactly in the fact that its structure naturally leads to the consensus and solution of problems shared by all the Amazon countries. ACTO's value for the Country Members lies on the support it provides for actions individually developed by each country, as a single biome, with an evident interdependence.

It is common sense that effective collaborative governance by the eight sovereign Amazonian countries is required. At this regard, ACTO is aware that only innovative approaches in international environmental governance during the coming decades would help reduce the tremendous loss of biological diversity and environmental services that is projected to occur in the basin.

Another key factor is democratic governance, that is to say a set of practices of the government that deeply interacts with society listening to its demands and rendering account to it.

In this regard, it is worth mentioning that our Strategic Plan defines basic guidelines for the development of the Amazonian sustainability, which embraces consultation with the civil society and its participation. Thus, ACTO is currently holding a consultation round to the civil society. Some workshops have been done, and others are scheduled for the coming months.

That initiative stems from the 8th Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of ACTO's State Members, held in Manaus in September 2004, an occasion in which the governments assigned to ACTO the mandate for proposing mechanisms for consultation with civil society, in order to formulate policies and implement plans, programs and projects.

When the consultations finish, the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization will have a solid proposal to submit to the Amazonian governments' consideration.

This initiative is deemed crucial by ACTO, since we believe that the efficiency of our Strategic Plan depends on our capacity of engaging



those directly affected by the Amazon problems, that is to say, the institutions and the population of the Amazon region. This engagement is the only way of assuring the sustainability of ACTO's projects. Moreover, such an engagement strengthens the institutional capacity of the organizations and contributes to the governance.

A good example is the Plan of Action for the prevention and control of deforestation which has been implemented by the Brazilian government. This plan involves 15 ministries and has allowed reducing the deforestation rate up to 30% between 2003 and 2005. Such reduction is due to a greater presence of the State through the creation of protected areas, the control of illegal logging, territorial zoning and the creation of clear rules regarding the access to land by small farmers.

Another worth mentioning example of collaboration involving government and local stakeholders aiming at strengthening governance is the "Social - Environmental Consortium of the Road BR-163". The Brazilian government has decided to pave that dirt road, but owing to requests by social movements and environment organizations, the Brazilian government decided to create the above mentioned Consortium, which is composed of an Inter-ministerial Working Group in charge of developing a "Sustainable

Development Plan" for the road. The goal of this initiative is the planning and the execution of a set of public policies which are aimed at promoting social inclusion and the conservation of natural resources, with the participation of local communities through public consultations.

Another case of local stakeholders' engagement for strengthening sustainable development which deserves special note is the MAP Initiative (Madre de Dios - Acre - Pando), a grassroots social movement that began in 2000 and whose fundamental innovation has been to systematically organize tri-national meetings, working groups and other exchanges.

The autonomous and self-organized MAP Initiative originated among university scholars and local NGO leaders seeking to build capacity for cross-national social learning in order to engage in broad-based participatory environmental governance. A key activity of the MAP Initiative has been regularly-held tri-national forums open to the public. Attendance has grown exponentially in these forums, from 20 participants in 2000 to over 1200 in recent years.

The MAP Initiative has also engaged in other innovative activities, orchestrated in a participatory mode with local stakeholders to contribute to formulation of public policies for sustainable regional development. The MAP Initiative now constitutes a polycentric network that includes numerous local, state, national, and international organisational partners. Together, these partners have collectively oriented their efforts to addressing numerous intertwined challenges to the MAP region's identity as a forest-based extractive economy compromised with the conservation of its biological and social diversity.

The MAP initiative serves as a model for addressing the thorny issues of international collaboration for environmental governance of the Amazon Basin. For example, a simple dispute over fishing rights between two local communities on opposite sides of the Acre River has international implications and may require involvement of the Ministries of Foreign Relations for resolution. The same applies for the conflict between Brazilian and Peruvian lumber dealers, a relation characterized by asymmetries.

At ACTO, we work based on the premise that the quest for a regional strategy must include themes which go beyond national limits, stressing the importance of a regional approach. One cannot overlook that there are structural and historical problems which demand solution in the long run. Therefore, integrated action is needed at the executive and legislative branches of the government at various levels, civil society, cooperation agencies, etc. Furthermore, the liberalisation of global markets has contributed to the increase of social and regional inequalities, owing to greater vulnerability to which less competitive economies are exposed. This seems to indicate that market alone is not capable of distributing income or regulating access to natural resources, leaving to the State an important role in the management of territory. Those considerations have been taken into account when ACTO prepared its aforementioned Strategic Plan, which outlines actions to be undertaken to the year 2012.

The vulnerability of the Amazon basin is deeply linked to the poverty of the region. As a matter of fact: poverty and biodiversity are intimately linked; most of the world's biodiversity exists in the economically poorest countries; biodiversity loss exacerbates poverty; and, likewise, poverty is a major threat to biodiversity. This provides the poor with opportunities to enhance their income by entering emerging markets for sustainable products, certified forest and agricultural products, ecotourism, payment for ecosystem services, carbon kidnap, etc. Therefore, ACTO's strategies are aimed at ensuring that biodiversity will be used in a sustainable way in order to guarantee that it will be available for us and for all future generations.

Concerning that, ACTO has been taking concrete measures toward promoting sustainable development and protecting biodiversity. One of them is the project "Strengthening of Joint Regional Management for the Sustainable Use of Amazonian Biodiversity", a joint programme by ACTO and Inter-American Development Bank, whose purpose is to coordinate and foster knowledge about regional biodiversity and its potential uses and provide support for conservation and sustainable development tasks.

The referred programme addresses the following three specific objectives:

1. Formulation of a strategic framework and regional action plan for biodiversity, in a participatory process with broad consultation, and based on approved strategies in Amazon countries, and which will ensure participation by representatives of Amazon's indigenous communities;
2. Strengthening of the capacity to coordinate applied research and generate public information accessible regionwide;
3. Strengthening of the capacity to coordinate and support conservation actions in priority areas, such as border control with a view to reducing traffic in endangered species under the mandates of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species; policy coordination and financial management to promote the establishment of trans-national ecological corridors; and analytical information mechanism for areas with biodiversity concentration to ensure that the infrastructure is built in a context of sustainability.

In the same line of action, ACTO and the UNCTAD BIOTRADE Initiative have joined forces to establish a regional BioTrade Programme in the Amazon to promote the sustainable use of its biodiversity through trade and investment. Possible areas of action could include the improvement of regional policy and legal frameworks or regional trade promotion.

Another ACTO's initiative of great importance for the Amazon region is the project "Integrated and Sustainable Management of Trans-boundary Water Resources in the Amazon River Basin", with financial support of the Global Environment Facilities (GEF), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP, implementing organisation) and the Organisation of American States (OAS, international executing organisation). The goal of GEF Amazonas Project – Otca/pnuma/oea is to strengthen the institutional framework for planning and executing, in a coordinated and coherent manner, activities for the protection and sustainable management of the land and water resources of the Amazon River Basin in the face of impacts caused by human action and ongoing climatic changes being experienced in the Basin. The initiative shall assist the basin's inhabitants in better conserving and managing region's waters, forests, flora and fauna. The project shall identify the damaged ecosystems and establish measurements to reduce threats and repair environmental damages.

The Andes-Amazon Inter-institutional Platform is another ACTO's proposal that counts on the engagement of regional stakeholders. The idea is to create mechanisms for coordinating information on activities and projects of organizations working in the two regions, thus, joining forces for the benefit of sustainable development. The first meeting was held on September 2005, in the headquarters of ACTO, with the participation of over 30 representatives of organizations like the GTZ, World Bank, CIRAD, CARE, CIC, Unamaz, UNESCO, IRD, OMM, OAS, European Union, FAO, USAID, etc. One of the most urgent aspects would be the carrying out of a study to characterize the actors that work in the region, and determine the advantages of each institution and a proposal on how to generate synergies.

In the same way, ACTO has been collaborating with the Latin-American Organization of Intermediary Governments (OLAGI). This organisation has as its mission to help to strengthen and integrate the intermediary governments in order to promote development and democratic governance.

I could not overlook the importance of the engagement of indigenous communities. Their engagement is a vital factor. They account for the region's rich, cultural diversity. Protecting forest areas helps these communities protect their land and culture from external threats and development. Without them, biodiversity would surely be lost. For that reason ACTO pays great importance to the engagement of the ancestral people of the Amazon, considering COICA (Coordinator of the Indigenous Organisations of the Amazon Basin) one of its priority partners.

Last, but not least, I would like to emphasise that there are numberless ways of engaging local stakeholders in supporting sustainable development and the protection of biodiversity. We must be creative. ACTO, for instance, organised an expedition called "Meeting the Amazon - ACTO and the Youth - In the Footsteps of Orellana". During one month, 45 youths from the Amazonian countries travelled through 6,000 km from Quito down the Amazon river up to the city of Manaus. A unique experience they will never forget and will guarantee their commitment to the cause of the sustainability of the Amazon for the rest of their lives. ACTO is already organizing a new expedition which will depart probably from Peru, go through the Bolivian territory and will, finally, reach the Brazilian Pantanal.

ACTO is making all possible efforts to promote the engagement of regional stakeholders, because we are aware that this is the only way toward sustainability, and toward a better future for the women and men who live in that vast and challenging Amazon.



CLOSING SESSION

A REFLECTION ON THE OUTCOMES

Chair:
Ibrahim Thiaw,
Acting Director General, IUCN

STAVROS DIMAS

Commissioner for the Environment European Commission

Development cooperation and biodiversity: Recognising the links and building the partnerships

Ministers, Executive Secretary, Ladies and Gentlemen

There can be no more important subject in the world than stopping the loss of biodiversity. This is literally "Life on Earth" - and I am delighted to have the opportunity to say a few words at the conclusion of this important conference.

[As we have already heard,] by far the richest biodiversity on the planet is found in developing countries. More species can be found in ten square kilometres of the Amazon basin than in the whole of Europe. So if the developed world is serious about protecting the planet's natural heritage, if we want to do more than expressing long-distance concerns, then we need to find a way of working in partnership with these countries.

The most obvious way of making this partnership work is by giving financial support to biodiversity projects. To quote an old proverb "conSERvation with out cash is simply conVERsation".

But before looking a ways of delivering more – and more effective – support to third countries it is important to be clear why stopping the loss of biodiversity is both in their interests and also in the interest of the donor countries. This is a fundamental starting point since the political and economic case for protecting nature is not yet well understood outside the "environmental" community. Protecting nature is still seen by many as a luxury that developing countries simply cannot afford. And as long as this view prevails progress will be limited.

There can be no doubt that the planet's nature is in crisis. Despite our 2010

targets, the pressures on nature are increasing, and the rate of biodiversity loss is – if anything – accelerating. Business as usual is simply not an option – not least because our prosperity and our quality of life are underpinned by healthy ecosystems. Perhaps the most important message of the Millennium Assessment was that ecosystem services are the life-support system upon which our well-being depends.

It is in Europe's own self-interest to support the global effort. Our high intensity consumerism means we rely on the eco-system services of the rest of the planet to meet our needs. Global biodiversity provides over 25% of our medicines. Natural forests help regulate our climate. Our imports of food, timber and other raw materials are the natural resources of other countries. It makes common sense to invest in protecting these services.

It is also true that many EU policies – such as trade, agriculture, fisheries and development aid – can have a negative impact on biodiversity in third countries. As a responsible global partner we have to recognise and mitigate these impacts.

A final reason to invest in the protection of global biodiversity is that the destruction of nature undermines our own efforts to promote international development. In developing countries it is the poorest who rely most heavily on nature – for food, for clean water, for firewood and for their livelihoods. By preserving these vital services biodiversity has a key role to play in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, not only the environment goals, but also those for poverty eradication, health, and water.

When sustainably harvested, natural resources – such as timber and fish - can also provide the basis for long term economic growth. Investments in protected areas can help the poor, provided that the benefits of conservation are shared equitably with local communities. For example, in Costa Rica eco-tourism is now the most important sector in the national economy having overtaken coffee and bananas.

It is therefore encouraging that the World Bank and other development experts now recognise the value of "natural capital" and have concluded that sustainable economic development requires sustainable environmental development.

When they ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity, the countries of the developed world committed themselves to support the developing countries. The developing countries committed themselves to integrating biodiversity into their national development strategies and programmes. But despite these pledges, eco-system destruction is continuing almost unabated and there is a need for a step change if the signatories of the CBD are to move from passing resolutions to actually implementing them.

For this to happen we need to make it economically interesting to protect biodiversity.

Appealing to nature's intrinsic value is not going to be enough on its own and there are a number of actions that can be taken:

- We need to harness the process of trade liberalisation in order to remove environmentally damaging subsidies in sectors such as agriculture and fisheries.
- We should use our economic expertise to give non-environmental policy makers a clearer idea of the real value of environmental goods and services.
- We should explore innovative approaches – such as the economic link between stopping climate change and stopping deforestation.

But the most immediate impact will come when developed countries increase the amounts of development funding for biodiversity projects. This is a direction the EU is moving in and on the 22nd of May the Commission adopted a Communication on 'Halting the Loss of Biodiversity by 2010'. Global biodiversity was identified as one of the priorities for action and two clear targets were set.

The first is to substantially increase "earmarked" funding for programmes and projects which benefit biodiversity. The second is to ensure that the rest of EU development assistance does not harm biodiversity.

The new EU Development Policy reflects these ambitions. And EU Member States have already gone some way to meeting the first of these targets with their commitment to replenish the Global Environment Facility.

At the same time, the recent report from the EU Court of Auditors underlined that there is still plenty of room for improvement. We must be more successful at including biodiversity in the development cooperation strategy papers and regional and country programmes. And to do this we need a dialogue between the Commission, the EU Member States and our partners.

At the same time, additional aid will only work if the recipient countries fully incorporate biodiversity into their national political priorities.

For this to happen we have to be able to convince the development ministers, the economics ministers and even the prime ministers that a sustainable use of natural resources is very much in the economic self-interest of their country. With no disrespect to today's distinguished audience – this is simply too important a question to be left to the ministries of environment.

Today's Message from Paris comes two years after the Message from Malahide that laid the foundations of the EU's current approach to biodiversity policy. Malahide was a model of stakeholder consultation. It clarified our thinking and helped many people realise that they shared the same strategic objectives and that the disagreements they may have had were only details. I look forward to today's Message having the same impact and can assure you that the European Commission will work with Member States, partner countries, NGOs and international organisations to translate this message into reality.

Protecting biodiversity is not a luxury – it is at the heart of sustainable

development and it should be at the heart of effective development cooperation. Getting this message into the mainstream is essential and it is why I would like to conclude by warmly congratulating the IUCN for initiating this debate and the French authorities for hosting it.

Thank you.

JAN-ERIK ENESTAM

Minister of Environment

Representing the Finland EU Presidency

I would like to start by thanking all of you who have been involved in arranging this very important and timely Conference on Biodiversity in European Development Cooperation here in Paris.

It is my pleasure to see the vast amount of work and the proposals which are in the Message from Paris and the recommendations of workshops on how to enhance linkages between environmental, social and economic activities, and on how to support partner countries in their efforts to reach sustainable development. I strongly feel that we have to accelerate the mainstreaming of biodiversity issues into development cooperation. Now is the time to go from policy formulation to action.

Biodiversity forms a core foundation for our development goals and is a prerequisite for the functioning of ecosystems. Indeed, healthy ecosystems offer people ecosystem services. Without these, the survival particularly of the poor would be impossible.

Biodiversity is essential for ecosystem functions and services and for human well-being. Ensuring environmental sustainability is – as you all know – the foundation of the Millennium Development Goals, which were adopted by the UN Member States and which include the objective to protect biodiversity. This is closely linked to sound management of biodiversity at the local, national and global levels.

The mainstreaming of development and efforts to improve the integration of the environment and development together form one of our main challenges. We need to improve our understanding and

knowledge base, for example, in work on how to link climate change to biodiversity conservation and its sustainable use.

In development cooperation there is a trend to go towards direct budget support, including a sector-wide approach. This means that the ownership of partner countries becomes more important, when the development cooperation is targeted to the development plans of the country. However, often the environmental administration in many developing countries is poorly resourced and the ministries are often weak. In this new situation, it is truly a major challenge to us all to ensure that sustainable development and long-term visions stay high on our agenda.

Thus, it is important that donors in collaboration with environmental administrations in partner countries make sure that the principles of sustainable development, including the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, are properly taken into account in national development planning and monitoring activities.

The mainstreaming of the environment and biodiversity concerns into development policies and practices depends on the participation of both developed and developing countries. In this regard, it is important to continue to improve coherence between EC Policies and Services in relation to the development of policies and practices. We need to further enhance international cooperation, but it is also equally important to act locally and think globally so as to engage the civil society and individuals in each and every country.

By ratifying the Convention on Biological Diversity, Finland has made the commitment to implement the Convention's three objectives: to conserve biodiversity, to promote its sustainable use and to ensure the equitable sharing of the benefits from the use of biological assets, such as genetic resources.

The prevention of international environmental threats is one of the main goals of Finland's development policy. Environment is a cross-cutting theme in all our development cooperation, but especially in the Andean region and Zambia it has become one of our priority areas for cooperation.

When implementing the Millennium Development Goals, one of the Finnish focal areas is the sustainable management and protection of natural resources. We feel it is important to support our partner countries in implementing global environmental agreements and processes.

By signing the Countdown 2010 Declaration today, we underline the Countdown 2010 initiative to raise public awareness and exchange experiences to act together for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

This unique alliance allows individual participants to set goals for actions aimed at commitments to reach the biodiversity 2010 target. The Countdown 2010 offers a platform, as my colleague Minister Paula Lehtomäki has stated in her message to this Conference, “to share information and experience and provide a framework for action”, not only within the EU but also globally.

During our EU Presidency, Finland will carry further the message of this conference in the EU, as the base for EU decisions. We are very proud to take care of this task and we thank you all for assisting us in doing this.

Thank you.

NELLY OLIN
Minister for Ecology
and Sustainable Development
France

Mr and Madam Ministers,
Mr European Commissioner,
Mr Director General of the World
Conservation Union,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Friends,

I am happy to be able to greet you, in Paris, on the occasion of the closure of the Conference on Biodiversity in European Development Cooperation, of which I already celebrate the success.

Each of you know the fundamental role of biological diversity in satisfying human needs, and therefore, in the development of our countries. It is as essential to the regulation of the water cycle as it is to the protection of land against erosion. With every moment that passes, we also become aware of the fact that it is of crucial importance to climate, through its capacity to capture and store carbon. It is also the main source of our food, our drugs, of the material we need to build our homes.

Unfortunately, in developed countries, we sometimes reduce the conservation of biological diversity to that of symbolic species, such as the great predators, dolphins, or even endangered plants. It is natural, but far from being enough. Behind these emblematic species can be found all of the other species, those we already know, and especially those we have not yet discovered.

In developing countries, where populations often depend directly on natural resources, the conservation of the environment sometimes competes with the need for development, and with demographic pressure. Consequently, each year, 13 million

hectares of forest give way to cultivated lands. These short term priorities, whilst legitimate, sometimes unfortunately lead to the deterioration of the biological heritage of those countries – and are a serious obstacle to their long term development. Thus, land degradation and desertification, due to an overexploitation of the natural environment today compromise the means of survival of more than a billion people around the world.

However, we all know that biological diversity continues to deteriorate at a disturbing rate, including in Europe. Even though this resource is renewable, it is not endless. Certain species are disappearing – the numbers are eloquent: at the current rate, between a quarter and half of all species will have disappeared by the end of the century. Yet it is a fact that I am not only the minister in charge of ecology, but also the minister for sustainable development. This indicates that, for me, that nature's assets must also be available for future generations. I believe that on a worldwide scale, the destruction of nature's diversity is without a doubt the most contrary, detrimental action for all sustainable development, especially that of developing countries.

Given the seriousness of the problem, awareness increases north and southbound, and we can but rejoice over this. I present as proof of this the ambitious objective that the Heads of State and Governments established in Johannesburg in 2002, namely the reduction of the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010. But time is of the essence. We have but four years to achieve this. Considering the urgency of the matter, we must now accelerate our pace. This

conference must remobilise us all, towards the South and towards the North. But I know all too well that Europe can contribute to the conservation of biological diversity in our developing country partners.

I listened attentively to the interventions of my colleagues. I wish to greet them warmly. Their remarks show us that the future commands us to preserve biological resource. But this supposes that the international community being mobilised. This is why I strongly wish that the Message from Paris that you have prepared at the end of these three days of discussion, be taken to the Council of Ministers of Foreign Relations of the European Union under the Finnish Presidency.

As to the particular action of France and its "sustainable development" objectives, I would like to assure you, on behalf of my entire government, of our firmest commitment. At the initiative of my Ministry, France has been equipped with a national strategy in favour of biodiversity that I will present elsewhere next week at the Council of Ministers. In particular it comprises a topic dedicated to international actions that will allow for integration into a coherent framework, of France's international actions in favour of biological diversity.

However, the States are not the only actors that count. I am pleased that the World Conservation Union assumes the role of unquestioned leader on an international scale. Since its creation in France in 1948, it has known to be sensitive to public opinion, advise political decision-makers and initiate actions in the field. The IUCN constitutes a network of unique

worldwide environmental influence that brings together States and civil society representatives from coast to coast.

As you know, France has recently caught up with this powerful new lobbying and expert diffusion vector on the multilateral and European level. My colleague, Brigitte Girardin, and myself have recently signed a framework agreement with the IUCN for over 9 million euros. This will allow France to increase IUCN's general budget for four years and set in motion an ambitious programme on biodiversity and nature conservation. Thanks to the seven technical assistant positions also planned through the agreement, we have the capacity to contribute to the setting forward of the "Message from Paris" in the concerned regions or partner countries.

Biodiversity is a global public good. We must therefore be ready to partake in the cost of its preservation. With its European partners, France has moved for the reconstitution of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to be as serious as possible. I am glad that this fourth reconstitution has reached the unexpected level of 3.13 billion dollars. I would also like to remind you that the French Development Agency (AFD) and the French Fund for the World Environment (FFWE) also intervene to benefit biodiversity conservation.

For that matter, the FFWE is applying an intervention doctrine that aims to favour worldwide environmental protection in development projects, and has recently opened a new programme with the objective of mobilising civil society in the South on the problems of world environment through the financing of local projects.

Parallel to immediate action, we are also concerned with the progress of scientific knowledge in the area of biological diversity. During the Conference "Biodiversity: Science and Governance" that took place in Paris in January 2005, President Chirac called for the creation of an international scientific expertise mechanism on biodiversity, the IMOSEB. The scientific community responded well. An international committee of 90 people is currently considering the development of proposals that should be made official in 2007.

I hope that such a mechanism, when more defined, will be able to transmit the message of the scientific community and convince public opinion, the media, and decision-makers on the urgency of acting. It is therefore necessary that the affirmation of this world awareness go hand in hand with the reinforcement of our solidarity towards partner countries, and contribute to the mobilisation and evaluation of their scientific expertise.

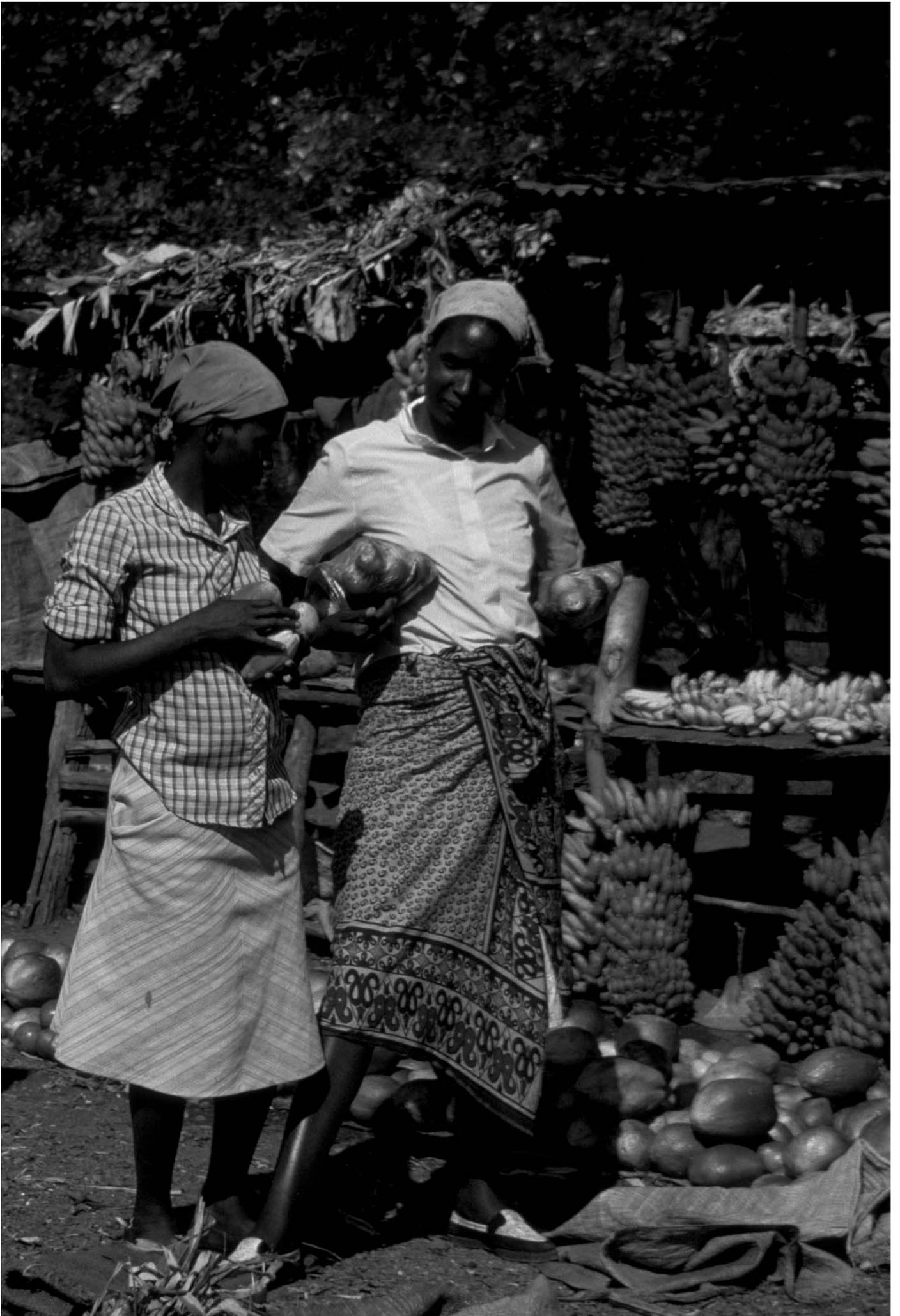
Ladies and gentlemen, dear friends,

You have launched the Message from Paris to improve the integration of biodiversity in European development cooperation. We know that concrete actions are of the utmost urgency if we want to guarantee the living conditions of future generations in the world. You have given out a call to European governments. We have heard it and are ready to take up our responsibilities. But in order to respond, we will need the support of all actors, representatives of public and private sectors, of non-governmental organisations, of international institutions, of cooperation and

conservation organisations, of research institutes, and citizens. In other words, we need you. Our mobilisation of all is essential to overcome this great challenge. I am confident. Your presence here today is a strong sign of your commitment in accompanying and supporting government efforts.

I thank the IUCN for the organisation of this conference that was perfectly prepared in detail, and the strong message of the participants from which, I will not forget. The next World Conservation Congress will take place in Barcelona, Spain in October 2008, during the French Presidency of the European Union. From this perspective, I encourage the participants to set everything in motion to give life to the Message from Paris so that we may, together, be able to draw a first assessment during the Barcelona Congress.

Thank you.



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