

UNEP/CBD/COP/9/3: Report of SBSTTA13

XIII/6 Biodiversity and climate change: options for mutually supportive actions addressing climate change within the three Rio conventions

BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Greenpeace urges parties attending CBD COP9 on the following issues:

Recognising the strong interlinkage between biodiversity and the global climate system, particularly: the important role of biodiversity in both mitigating against as well as adapting to climate change and the impacts of current and future climate change on biodiversity, States need to start negotiating a plan for joint implementation by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Convention on Biological Diversity in order to reduce emissions from Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) in general, and Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) in particular.

The destruction of terrestrial ecosystems, mostly of tropical forests, causes approximately 20% of global greenhouse gas emissions. Achieving zero deforestation by 2015 is key to mitigation against these emissions. The same destruction causes massive loss of biodiversity and threatens the livelihoods of indigenous and other local communities – issues at the heart of the CBD agenda.

Joint implementation of the conservation of tropical forests and other ecosystems by the UNFCCC and the CBD must ensure that greenhouse gas emissions are avoided while at the same time halting biodiversity loss and safeguarding community benefits including food security. Greenpeace has put together a **Forests for Climate** proposal that provides a basis for the integration of all relevant aspects (www.greenpeace.org/forestsforclimate).

The 9th Conference of the Parties in its High Level Ministerial Segment must make a **Call for Interaction** between the CBD and the UNFCCC, with the goal of **joint implementation** and a **joint REDD mechanism**, and the establishment of a **High Level Task Force** to that end.

In particular, the joint mechanism and implementation plan must incorporate:

- National accounting of forest (and other terrestrial) carbon
- Financing of forest conservation through the auctioning of industrial emission allowances, avoiding direct trading between fossil carbon and forest carbon
- Strong focus on reducing and preventing tropical deforestation and degradation. Carbon sequestration (e.g., by way of reforestation) should only be considered in conjunction with the restoration of the native ecosystem biodiversity (ecological restoration)
- Only those agricultural management systems (e.g. for bioenergy, feed etc.) that contribute verifiable emissions reductions without negatively impacting upon forests, biodiversity or the livelihoods of local communities

With regard to the above points, the COP9 should give guidance to the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) to prioritise biodiversity and climate related projects, as well as those projects linked with the protection of areas of intact forests and oceans.

COP9 should specifically

- Apply the ecosystem approach in the implementation of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures considering the negative impacts of climate change on biodiversity and related traditional knowledge
- Adopt a moratorium on all ocean fertilization activities in the light of questions about the effectiveness of ocean fertilization for climate change mitigation and its potentially adverse impacts on marine biodiversity
- Welcome the priority given to the issue of reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
 - Invite the Framework Convention to take full advantage of opportunities for its work to provide benefits for biodiversity, including through the collaboration of the subsidiary bodies of the three Rio conventions and
 - Invite the Framework Convention to work to ensure that traditional knowledge, innovations and practices related to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are adequately addressed, bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity
- Recall decision 1/CP.13, para 11, on the Bali Action Plan, in which Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) agreed that this process shall be informed by the best available scientific information, experience in implementation of the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol, and processes thereafter, outputs from the Convention on Biological Diversity and insights from the business and research communities and civil society:
 - **Provide biodiversity relevant input in a timely manner**
 - Establish in this regard a possible **Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change with a mandate to develop advice on biodiversity**, relevant to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) decision on the Bali Action Plan (1/CP.13) as well as the UNFCCC Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change, drawing, inter alia, from the reports of the previous ad hoc technical expert groups on biodiversity and climate change and the relevant reports from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
- Request the Executive Secretary to convey the report of this Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group to the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change for appropriate consideration
- Agree terms of reference for an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change to develop advice on biodiversity relevant to the decision on the Bali Action Plan by the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (1/CP.13), as well as that Convention's Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change, in consultation with the secretariats of the UNFCCC and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
- Request that the Executive Secretary summarise information on the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, and the impacts of climate change and response measures on biodiversity found within the existing documents, including the report of the Viterbo Workshop on "Forests and Forest Ecosystems: Promoting Synergy in the Implementation of the three Rio Conventions" (April 2004), the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, and CBD Technical Series Nos. 10 and 25; and provide this information to the Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC with the intention that it be transmitted to that Convention's Subsidiary Body on Scientific and Technical Advice at its twenty-eighth meeting for consideration in discussing the issue of reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation

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