



Convention on
Biological Diversity



CONCLUSIONS

of the Side event “Implementation of the CBD Programme of Work on Mountain Biodiversity: Regional Approaches and Conventions”

Nagoya, 27 October 2010

At the margins of the tenth meeting of the COP of the CBD in Nagoya, high-level representatives from governments, inter-governmental organizations, and non-governmental organizations, and others gathered together in order to reflect on the implementation of the CBD Programmes of Work on Mountain Biodiversity and Protected Areas. The side event was called for in the framework of the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention by their respective Secretariats, and was supported by a broad range of partners in the context of the Mountain Partnership. The main outcomes of this side-event can be concluded as follows:

1. Participants acknowledged the role of mountains all over the world as storehouses of biological diversity and endangered species. Mountains hold some of the richest but also most fragile varieties of ecological systems.
2. Mountains are exposed to natural hazards such as landslides, soil erosion, avalanches etc. but also to more and more human caused loss of habitats and species. Both are contributing to an important change of mountain landscapes and natural heritage influencing strongly the natural balance of ecosystems. While the first group of phenomena is strongly caused by global changes such as warming and for this difficult to mitigate by local or regional measures, the second group should be the target of active policies reducing the loss of biodiversity by the adoption of appropriate measures and changes especially in spatial planning strategies.
3. Both the Alpine and the Carpathian Conventions place an emphasis on concrete activities in this field, such as the creation of a continuum of non-fragmented natural or semi-natural spaces and ecological corridors, thus furnishing the essential political framework for such an initiative and thereby directly contributing to the achievement of the objectives of the CBD. Based on the experience of the developing work on connectivity in the Alps and the Carpathians, the participants of the side events recommended that approximately 15 % of



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the territory of each mountain region should be dedicated to ecological networks before 2020.

4. Participants recalled the outcome of the Millennium Summit, addressed the need of reducing the rate of loss of biodiversity and called for the support of efforts of countries to preserve fragile mountain ecosystems as an important source of fresh water and as repositories of rich biological diversity.¹ Concrete and visible actions should start not later than in 2011 as a pragmatic result of the international “Year of Biodiversity”. It is proposed that each mountain range define the most urgent needs for action in order to protect biodiversity and that the corresponding actions be adequately financed.
5. Participants took note of the draft decisions to be considered by COP 10 with regard to the in-depth review of the implementation of the Programme of Work on Mountain Biodiversity² and highlighted the role and importance of the Programmes of Work on Mountain Biodiversity and Protected Areas. Participants recommended increasing until 2020 the surface of protected areas to about 7% in each mountain range.
6. Participants acknowledged and noted with appreciation the work being undertaken with regard to the conservation of mountain biological diversity within the various existing mechanisms of regional cooperation and global initiatives, alliances and networks such as the Alpine Convention, the Carpathian Convention, ICIMOD, CONDESAN, the Andean high plateau project, the Mountain Partnership, the Mountain Research Initiative, the International Mountain Society, the Mountain Forum and the Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment (GMBA). They welcomed the Mountain Partnership Consortium and the support it provides to Mountain Partnership members and others, in promoting the sustainable management of ecosystem services for the benefit of mountain people and the global population. For improving communication efficiency of all these initiatives and a more regular exchange of information, participants proposed concrete tools for promoting the sharing of experiences, such as enhancing the participation of local populations in decision-making processes as well as awareness raising campaigns and the definition and implementation of Mountain-to-Mountain Cooperation Programmes.
7. Because of their characteristics, mountain regions can play the role of model regions for implementing climate change mitigation and adaptation measures. Ambitious climate-related objectives should therefore be formulated for the regions on the basis of a precise time-schedule.
8. Participants recognized the achievements accomplished within the frameworks of the Alpine and Carpathian Conventions, ICIMOD, CONDESAN, Andean high plateau project and other relevant initiatives. They demonstrated the importance of and the need for the

¹ See also Doc. A/65/L/1 Sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly, Follow up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit, Draft resolution referred to the High-Level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session.

² See Doc UNEP/CBD/COP/10/1/Add.2 Item 5.3., taken from the recommendation XIV/1 of the 14th meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (UNEP/CBD/COP/10/3)

establishment of regional cooperative frameworks in other mountain regions in order to implement the provisions of the CBD and objectives as set out in the CBD Programmes of Work on Mountain Biodiversity and Protected Areas. It was further recommended to extend this approach to other mountain regions, starting the necessary negotiation work at the latest by 2012. Participants appreciated the relevant ongoing work in the framework of the Alpine-Carpathian-CBD MoC, and called upon UNEP to continue and enhance its programmatic support to global experience sharing on eco-regional governance mechanisms for mountains. Furthermore, participants emphasized the benefits of mountain to mountain cooperation to enhance results through experience exchange and the enhancement of synergies in the implementation of biodiversity-related and other MEAs.

9. Nevertheless, participants of the meeting - also by making reference to Agenda 21, Chapter 13 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, further stressed the need for communicating and disseminating the results of inter-regional partnerships with the view of inspiring other regions toward similar actions, and to report on progress made to the Rio +20 Earth Summit in 2012.
10. Building upon the COP 10 Draft Decision on Mountain Biodiversity, the Nusa Dua Declaration³ and the Alpine-Carpathian-CBD MoC, participants called for a more systematic exchange of information, enhancement of synergies, joint programming and collaboration between mountain regions of the world. Participants called upon the Alpine Convention, the Carpathian Convention, and the CBD, in cooperation with all interested organizations, conventions, alliances and initiatives including UNEP, the FAO, the UNCCD⁴, the UNFCCC⁵, UNOOSA, the Ramsar Convention, IUCN, WWF, ICIMOD, CONDESAN, GMBA and all Mountain Partnership members, as well as regional and local partners, to pursue the **definition and implementation of future Mountain-to-Mountain Cooperation Programmes**. Participants invited all interested States and donors to actively participate in and support this process.

³ Nusa Dua Declaration, Bali, February 2010

⁴ United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

⁵ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change