

Global Biodiversity Sub-Committee (GBSC)

Meeting papers

**International Biodiversity – CBD CoP9
Outcomes, Implementation and
Intersessional Work**

September 2008

For other documents from
Global Biodiversity Sub-Committee (GBSC)
Visit: <http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-4628>



International Biodiversity – CBD CoP9 Outcomes, Implementation and Intersessional Work

Overview of COP9

The ninth Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) opened in Bonn on 19 May 2008. The UK was represented by a strong delegation of colleagues from Defra, DfID, JNCC, RGB Kew, Forestry Commission, and FCO. The full report of the conference is available on the CBD website¹.

COP9 was a complex Conference that achieved some significant results, adopting 36 decisions. UK objectives were achieved in line with expectations; the main disappointment being (continued) slow progress on biofuel sustainability criteria.

Significant decisions were adopted including on the following items:

- **2010 Target** - The UK achieved its target of establishing an intersessional process to review the 2010 target and use the findings to develop a new target or series of targets for consideration by COP10.
- **ABS** - The outcome on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) represented a major success for COP9 – a roadmap, the ‘Bonn Mandate’, was adopted for the negotiation of an international ABS regime, ensuring that three ABS Working Groups and three expert group meetings will take place before the 2010 deadline for completion of negotiations.
- **Marine biodiversity** - The COP agreed scientific criteria for identifying ecologically or biologically significant marine areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJs).
- **Biodiversity & Climate Change** - A decision on Biodiversity and Climate Change that secured a process for the CBD to contribute biodiversity expertise to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Bali Action Plan, including Reduced Emissions from Deforestation (REDD) in the form of a meeting of technical experts that the UK will part fund. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group will meet twice, the first meeting being 17th to 21st November 2008, in London; Bob Watson (CSA at Defra) will Chair the group. The second meeting will be hosted by Finland.
- **Biodiversity & Climate Change (Ocean Fertilisation)** - A decision that created an effective moratorium on Ocean Fertilisation activities which attempt to manipulate marine ecosystems to increase the removal of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, in accordance with the precautionary approach to prevent unknown consequences and risk of damage to marine ecosystems and biodiversity. The decision does include an exception for controlled research studies (i.e. small scale scientific research studies within coastal waters).
- **Forest biodiversity** - A decision that strengthened activities in the implementation of the Forestry Programme of Work including strengthening forest law enforcement and governance, increasing the links between forests and climate change mitigation, and adopting a precautionary approach to the release of GM trees; the UK also signed a commitment to end all illegal deforestation by 2020.
- **Protected Areas** - A decision on Protected Areas which provided for the enhanced management of existing protected areas and the establishment of additional ones.
- **MA follow up** – UNEP proposals to convene an intergovernmental meeting to discuss and establish a new science-policy platform to strengthen the science input to international work on biodiversity and ecosystem services were welcomed.
- **Funding of biodiversity** - A decision on resource mobilisation that adopted a strategy that aims to substantially enhance funding for biodiversity actions.
- **Agricultural Biodiversity (Biofuels)** - The result on biofuels was disappointingly (but not unsurprisingly) modest. The language agreed for promoting the sustainable use of biofuels, and developing sound policy frameworks for their sustainable production and use, fell far short of the development of sustainability criteria. There was agreement to some intersessional process, though this was limited to regional activities to strengthen development co-operation through regional and trilateral cooperation, including workshops. The UK will therefore need to also feed in through other processes, such as the draft sustainable criteria being developed by

¹ <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop/cop-09/official/cop-09-29-en.pdf>

the EU in connection with the Fuel Quality, and Renewable Energy Directives, as well as through the GBEP forum.

- **Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI)** – Parties were urged to undertake activities outlined in an annex of outcome-oriented deliverables for each of the planned activities of the GTI work programme.
- **CBD Budget & implications for intersessional activities** - Due to pressures on the CBD budget a decision was taken to hold only one intersessional meeting of the science body (SBSTTA), which will be held back to back with the Working Group on Review of Implementation (WGRI) in May/June 2010.
- **Operations of the Convention** – A decision and procedure to allow SBSTTA to review emerging issues and make proposals to the Conference of the Parties. This aimed to avoid a repetition of arguments about whether SBSTTA could consider controversial issues (like biofuels) without a mandate from COP, which had plagued the last inter-sessional period.

Implementation

The International Biodiversity Policy Unit (IBPU) of Defra is undertaking an exercise to look at implementation of the decisions, consulting with wider, relevant experts. Consideration is being given to how the UK already meets elements of the decisions, what activities are already underway to meet the actions, what further implementation activities are required and identification of the delivery mechanisms, to fully satisfy the requirements. This should include research requirements.

It is envisaged IBPU will host a COP9 Implementation meeting in late October / early November 2008 to prioritise implementation activities and discuss intersessional activity.

Intersessional work

There is a lot to do in the intersessional period leading up to COP10. A summary of the current key items/activities potentially of interest to GBSC members is provided below.

Notifications

CBD Secretariat are following up many of the COP9 decisions by circulating notifications to Parties requesting information and submission of ideas. It would be useful to get thoughts on some of these notifications received to date:

- 2008-083** Request for submission of proposals on new and emerging issues relating to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity (due 30 November 2008);
- 2008-090** Input into the review of programme of work on mountain biodiversity (due 30 November 2008);
- 2008-095** Request for information relating to implementation of programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity (due 31 December 2008);
- 2008-076** Views on the updating of the Strategic Plan of the Convention (due 31 December 2008);
- 2008-100** Information and views on the application of tools relevant to the sustainable production and use of biofuels (due 31 March 2009).

Strategic Plan

In terms of submission of views concerning the revision of the Strategic Plan to CBD Secretariat by December 2008, Defra are currently considering how to best input into this exercise. On the basis of the submissions, and other relevant information, the Executive Secretary will prepare a synthesis/analysis of issues relevant to the revision and updating of the Strategic Plan which will be circulated for review by Parties and others in early 2009. A revised synthesis/analysis and a draft updated Strategic Plan will be made available to the third meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention (WGRI 3), which will develop a draft decision on the matter for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its tenth regular meeting (COP 10). Further information is available at <https://www.cbd.int/doc/strategic-plan/post-2010.doc>

Fourth national report (4NR)

Parties have been requested to submit their 4th National Report to the CBD Secretariat by end March 2009. The Reports will provide essential information to assess progress towards the 2010 Biodiversity Target, at national level, and through their contributions to the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook, at global level. The UK Biodiversity Partnership Standing Committee and the Four Countries meeting decided on the following process for the drafting and submission of the UK report, allowing for inclusion of the revised set of BIYP09 indicators:

- i. June - September 2008: JNCC to compile existing information into required format to produce first draft.
- ii. October - November 2008: Initial review by UKBPSC; consultation with Defra, OGDs and Devolved Administrations; provision of country specific information, analysis and assessments.
- iii. December - January 2009: Preparation of second draft.
- iv. February - March 2009: Incorporation of BIYP09 Indicators. Consultation with Defra, OGDs and Devolved Administrations.
- v. March - April 2009: Sign-off by UKBPSC and Ministers.
- vi. May 2009: Report production and submission.

A process for including the UK OTs needs to be established.

Third Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO3)

The production of the third edition of Global Biodiversity Outlook is underway. The Secretariat, along with partners, are currently in the process of data collation, identifying case studies and interesting examples related to all aspects of biodiversity. It is currently planned to have a zero-order draft prepared for early 2009 so that it can be reviewed by the GBO-3 Advisory Group and other partners. Based on the comments from the Advisory Group a first complete draft of GBO-3 will be available for peer review by SBSTTA focal points and other experts by August/September 2009. The final draft would be finalised in December 2009/January 2010 and published on International Biodiversity Day 2010 (22 May 2010).

CBD Climate Change AHTEG

The first meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Climate Change and Biodiversity will be held in London 17-21 November 2008, to be chaired by Prof Bob Watson (Defra Chief Scientist). The meeting will address scientific and technical matters concerning the links between biodiversity and climate change with regards to (i) identifying risks and vulnerabilities, and (ii) impacts and opportunities from climate change mitigation. Colleagues from Defra and JNCC are working with the Secretariat to make the necessary arrangements. Delegates will be selected by the Secretariat on the basis of regional balance and expertise; the small size (around 20 experts) means it is unlikely further UK representatives will be invited. Defra will let a contract for expert support for the AHTEG.

Access and Benefit Sharing Negotiations

ABS negotiations will be a key area of intersessional activity in order to deliver on the mandate to finish negotiations on an international ABS regime as soon as possible before COP 10. The seventh meeting of the Ad Hoc Open Ended Working Group on Access and Benefit Sharing will take place in March 2009, with at least a further 5 AHTEGs and working group meetings scheduled in the run up to COP10.

Preparation for COP10

The next Conference of the Parties to the CBD will take place from 18 to 29 October 2010, in Nagoya, Japan. The High Level Segment will be held from 27 to 29 October 2010. The COP10 meeting will coincide with the celebration of the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity, as proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly. It is anticipated that the provisional agenda will be made available after the first COP Bureau meeting in October 2008. However there is already some indication of agenda items: Decision VII/31 and the annex to decision VIII/14 scheduled the following items for in-depth review at COP10:

- Protected areas;
- Inland waters;

- Mountain biodiversity;
- Marine and coastal biodiversity;
- Sustainable use;
- Climate change.

Decision VI/9 also called for the GSPC to be reviewed at COP10. The revision of the Strategic Plan will also be a substantive agenda item, including the periodicity of meetings.

Future international biodiversity meetings

15 September 2008	EU CITES SRG	Brussels
16 September 2008	EU WPIEI Biodiversity	Brussels
15-19 September 2008	African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement MOP4	Madagascar
29 September 2008	EU CITES Management Committee	Brussels
3 October 2008	EU WPIEI Biodiversity	Brussels
4-5 October 2008	COP Bureau Meeting	Barcelona
20-22 October 2008	Meeting of Raptors MoU	Abu Dhabi
28 Oct – 4 Nov 2008	Ramsar COP10	Korea
4 November 2008	EU WPIEI Biodiversity	Brussels
1-7 November 2008	GBIF Governing Board	Tanzania
10-11 November 2008	Intergovernmental Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services meeting (IPBES)	Malaysia
13 November 2008	Tentative date of Annual Darwin Initiative Lecture (likely to be on the global study on the economics of ecosystems and biodiversity (TEEB))	London
17-21 November 2008	1 st meeting of Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on biodiversity and climate change	London
28 November 2008	EU WPIEI Biodiversity	Brussels
1-5 December 2008	CMS COP9	Rome
2 December 2008	EU CITES SRG	Brussels
23-29 March 2009	7 th meeting of the Ad Hoc Open Ended Working Group on ABS	
May/June 2010	SBSTTA 14 & WGRI 3	
October 2010	CoP10	Japan