

**Global biodiversity mechanisms:
a thematic review of recent developments and future evidence needs**

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MEA Presentations

Biofuels

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Biofuels and Biodiversity

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Overview

- Introduction to biofuels and why they are discussed at MEAs
- Biofuels - implications for biodiversity and ecosystems
- What has been agreed?
- Where are the gaps?
- Other international work on biofuels



Introduction - Biofuels

- Perceived as a means to mitigate climate change, alleviate energy concerns and foster rural development?
- Concerns regarding the sustainability of biofuel production and threat to food security



Implications for biodiversity

Potential direct effects:

- Habitat loss, water scarcity, soil and water pollution, increased fertiliser use, GHG emissions
- Indirect effects: indirect land use change, GHG emissions
- Other implications: increase of food prices.





CBD Decisions

- Two Decisions:
 - Decision IX/1 para 31 - in depth review of the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity
 - Decision IX/2: Agricultural biodiversity: biofuels and biodiversity





CBD Decision IX/2

- Agrees that biofuel production and use should be sustainable in relation to biological diversity,
- Recognises the need to promote the positive and minimise the negative impacts on biodiversity,
- Urges Parties to develop and apply sound policy frameworks for the sustainable production of biofuels,





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CBD Decision IX/2

– Future Action

- Requests the Executive Secretary
 - To disseminate the experiences and best practices submitted by the Parties,
 - To convene regional workshops,
 - SBSTTA to consider the reports of the regional workshops and submissions at CoP10





RAMSAR Resolution

- One Resolution on Wetlands and Biofuels: Resolution X.25
- Recognises that biofuels production and use should be sustainable in relation to wetlands,
- Concerned that biofuel production will compete with other demands on agricultural land such as food production which will lead to conversion of wetlands,





RAMSAR Decision

- 70% of globally abstracted water is already being used for irrigated agriculture and biofuel production could increase the threats to water resources,
- Concerned that the conversion of wetlands will lead to increase of global GHG emissions from the carbon they store,





RAMSAR Resolution X.25

- Urges Parties to consider formulating appropriate land use policies for the sustainable production of biofuels,
- Urges the Parties to strive to ensure that biofuel policies consider the full range of ecosystem services wetlands provide,
- Encourages Parties to consider the cultivation of biomass on rewetted peatlands (paludiculture).





RAMSAR Resolution X.25 – Future work

- Instructs the STRP to:
 - Collate existing best management practice guidance and social and env sustainability appraisals and develop these where appropriate in cooperation with other international organisations,
 - Advise Standing Committee of its conclusions,
 - Work with relevant international bodies dealing with biofuels.



Where are the gaps?

- Negotiations on biofuels are notoriously political and difficult,
- Strong opposition from producer countries,
- To date no international sustainability standards which ensure safeguards for biodiversity and habitats - not even agreement that biofuel production should not destroy valuable habitat and carbon stocks.



Other international work on biofuels

- EU Renewable Energy Directive stipulates a set of binding sustainability criteria which ensure basic protection for specific habitat and carbon stock,
- Global Bioenergy Partnership (GBEP) is working on a voluntary set of international biofuels sustainability criteria,
- IUCN World Conservation Congress: Resolution 4.082 Sustainable Biomass-based energy, 4.083 Industrial agrofuel production



Thank you for your attention!



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