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SUBMISSIONS: Welcome from all civil society groups. Email to reachmiriam@earthlink.net and jdempsey@interchange.ubc.ca

Civil society statement on the Post 2010 Framework

The following statement was delivered by Muhtari Aminu-Kano, Birdlife International, in Working Group 2 on the 17th May 2010, in Nairobi, Kenya, on behalf of the following organizations: Birdlife International, BGCI -- Botanic Gardens Conservation International, Climate Alliance of European Cities with the Indigenous Rainforest Peoples / Alianza del Clima e.V., Conservation International, EcoNexus, Ecoropa, Forest People's Programme, Fundación Vida Silvestre Argentina, Global Forest Coalition, Global Invasive Species Programme, Greenpeace, Japan Civil Network for Convention on Biological Diversity (approximately 80 member organisations), Kalpavriksh, India, NGO Forum on Environment and Development, Germany, Plantlife International, The Gaia Foundation, The Timberwatch Coalition, South Africa, TRAFFIC, VAS – Green Environment Society (federation of 50 organisations in Italy), Wetlands International, WWF

The 3rd Global Biodiversity Outlook report clearly shows that despite progress in some areas, the Parties to the CBD have failed to achieve the 2010 target.

Biodiversity continues to be lost at an alarming rate, ecosystem functions and services are being severely diminished and neither the benefits of natural resources nor the costs of their loss are being shared equitably.

We have failed because we have not addressed the underlying causes of biodiversity loss. Current economic and governance systems and policies promote the over consumption of natural resources by some countries and segments of society. This is driving the destruction of habitats and undermining the rights and livelihoods of millions of people who depend on them.

The capacity of the planet to support an increasing human population at high levels of production and consumption is finite. The sustainability of life on earth is being severely undermined.

We are at a turning point. Fundamental change is urgently required. Society needs a new vision that links socio-economic and environmental policy.

The good news is, we can still do it. We can learn from existing successes and develop intelligent and equitable approaches for the future.

The Parties to the CBD are now challenged to lead the way.

Muhtari Aminu-Kano, Birdlife International

However, environmental sector cannot do it alone. All other relevant sectors responsible for issues such as finance, trade, climate change and energy, disaster reduction, health, agriculture, forestry, fisheries need to act at both national and international level.

These sectors have much to gain: biodiversity and functioning ecosystems provide a range of services that support their goals and underpin the global economy as a whole.

It is in their national interest for governments to recognise the value and benefits of biodiversity for relevant sectors, as well as the cost they will bear from its loss.

While there are some examples where sectors have integrated biodiversity into their portfolios, political leadership is required to ensure integration at a much broader scale.

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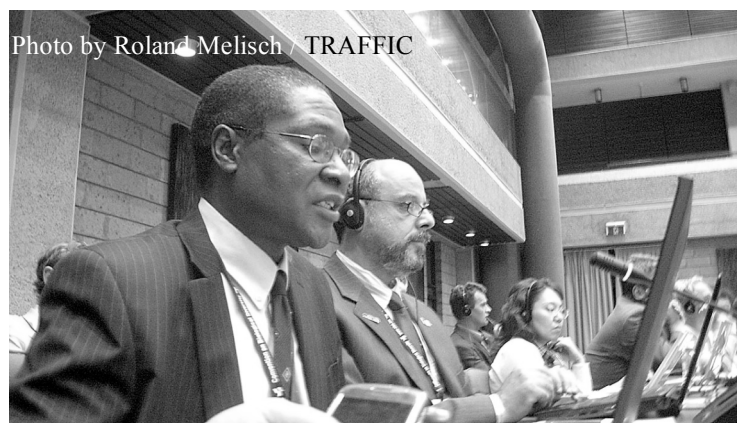


Photo by Roland Melisch / TRAFFIC

Governments must act at the highest level. Heads of state must commit to mobilize resources and action by all relevant sectors.

The current draft of the CBD Strategic Plan does not fully address this challenge.

While we welcome the work of the CBD Secretariat, the proposed overall mission is not ambitious enough – biodiversity loss must be halted by 2020.

Achieving many of the proposed targets would make a positive contribution to halting biodiversity loss but they need to be reformulated significantly in order to address the scale of the challenge we face.

We therefore recommend:

1. Reformulation of the Mission as follows:

“By 2020, biodiversity loss is halted, ecosystems are restored and the values and benefits of biodiversity and ecosystems are shared equitably and fully integrated into all aspects of development. And all Parties have the means to do so”

2. Reformulation of the targets to ensure the following issues are adequately addressed:

- The engagement of government at the highest level to integrate biodiversity into relevant portfolios through the establishment of cross-sectoral cabinet committees led by heads of state.
- The identification of concrete steps, mechanisms and timelines to integrate biodiversity processes, benefits and values into economic

policy design and national accounting for the health and benefit of society as a whole, giving full consideration for governance and the social and cultural dimensions of biodiversity.

- The urgent prevention of habitat loss across all ecosystem types through effective spatial planning, management, sustainable use and good governance with the full respect for the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities.
- The integration of CBD objectives into relevant multi-lateral agreements. In particular decisions under the UNFCCC on climate change mitigation and adaptation should include ecosystem-based approaches that: maintain and/or enhance biodiversity; contribute to livelihoods; recognize and respect the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities; and mobilize adequate resources in an equitable and transparent manner.

We urge CBD Parties to announce national commitments to advance these four issues before CBD COP 10 in Nagoya.

We are at a crossroads. As the Global Biodiversity Outlook warned, without “swift, radical and creative action” we will fast-track destruction of life on earth. Our organisations urge you to use this opportunity to take concrete actions that will make the above a reality. We look forward to working together during what will surely be the UN Decade of Biodiversity to ensure that we put the planet back on a truly sustainable path.

The Case of the Missing Objective

As many at SBSTTA are aware, the theme of the International Day for Biodiversity (This Saturday, May 22nd) is: biodiversity for development and poverty alleviation.

The secretariat has produced a booklet on the topic “Biodiversity, Development and Poverty Alleviation: Recognizing the Role of Biodiversity for Human Well-being.” It can be downloaded at: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/bioday/2010/idb-2010-booklet-en.pdf>

A strange thing: in the over 30 pages, Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) is not mentioned once! (It is just mentioned in the annex where they quote the MDGs).

In a report on biodiversity and poverty, which aims to integrate the *three* objectives of the convention and poverty alleviation, it is a sadly missed opportunity not to mention benefit-sharing in all its dimensions, including the financial ones.



Emerging Technologies and the CBD

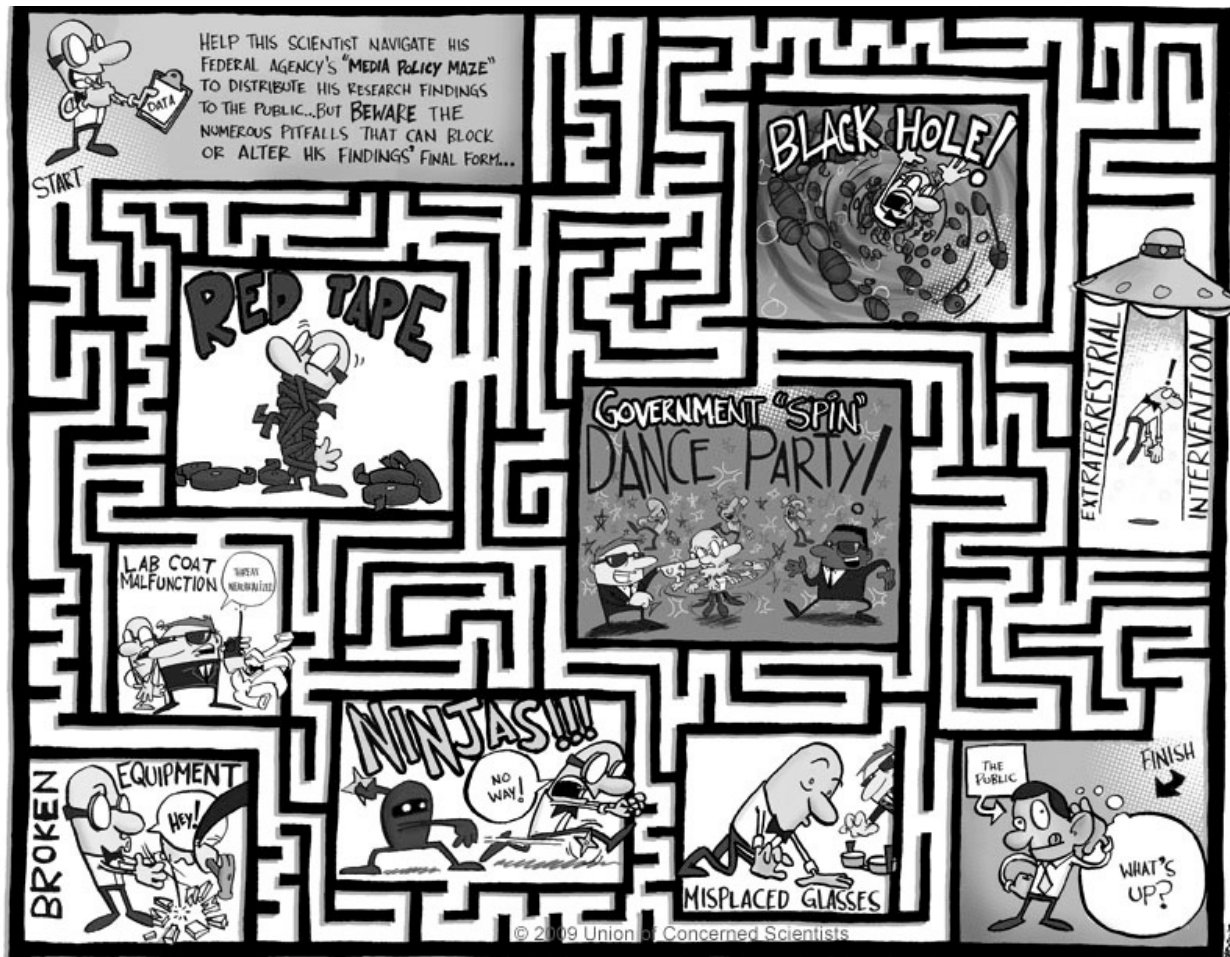
Technologies move fast, much faster than the necessary governance structures to review and assessment. While SBSTTA is still locked in debates on issues in present-day technologies that pose serious threats to biodiversity, rapid developments in synthetic biology are fast leading to the creation of so-called artificial life, synthetic genome, etc. These alarming developments have not escaped the attention of technical experts and governments that are conscious of the need to apply the precautionary principle in decision-making on these emerging technologies.

During Wednesday morning's Agenda Item on New and Emerging Issues the Philippines delivered this intervention urging for the Precautionary Approach on synthetic biology:

“We would like to express our concerns on the serious potential impacts of this development in synthetic biology on biodiversity. We would like to call for the application of the Precautionary Approach on synthetic biology. We believe that there should be no field release of synthetic life, cell or genome into the environment until through scientific assessments have been conducted in a transparent, open and participatory process involving all Parties, indigenous and local communities that will all be potentially affected by these synthetic life with unknown consequences on biodiversity, environment and livelihood”

SBSTTA 14 Delegates:

Show us your political savvy by helping this biodiversity scientist distribute his research findings to the ‘public’!



International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity on Post 2010 Plan, Targets and Indicators

IIFB STATEMENT Agenda Item 3.4 – Post 2010 Plan, Targets and Indicators

The International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB) wishes to provide some information to SBSTTA14 about proposed indicators on Traditional Knowledge, and also make some recommendations on this Agenda Item:

Parties are aware that the IIFB Working Group on Indicators has been actively working with the CBD's Working Group on Article 8j and Related Provisions to recommend indicators on the Protection of Traditional Knowledge, Innovations and Practices, and as such have also worked with the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership.

The 6th meeting of the OEWG on Article 8j and Related Provisions made the following recommendations to COP10, with respect to the adoption of indicators on Traditional Knowledge to complement the adopted indicator on linguistic diversity:

14. Adopts the following proposed indicators:

(a) Status and trends in land-use change in the traditional territories of indigenous and local communities;

(b) Status and trends in the practice of traditional occupations;

The WG8j also recommended that considering increased emphasis on Article 10, that COP10 request the Executive Secretary

“ to explore, through further technical workshops, the development of appropriate indicators for customary sustainable use and to report on this matter to the Working Group on Article 8(j) and

Related Provisions at its seventh meeting, so that this matter can be advanced within the framework of post 2010 targets and the revised Strategic Plan.

In the period leading up to 2010, much work was carried out to identify suitable global indicators on traditional knowledge, but it has been recognised that there is lack of up-to-date disaggregated data. Therefore, to make progress on these indicators post 2010, significant work on national indicators will need to be undertaken by Parties, in collaboration with indigenous peoples and local communities, to generate new local and national data.

1. The IIFB working Group on Indicators wishes to collaborate with Parties, on piloting TK indicators within national CBD monitoring processes and indicators development.
2. The IIFB Working Group on Indicators, supports the recommendation to convene an AHTEG on Indicators, and would wish to be involved in its work.
3. The IIFB proposes the inclusion of participatory approaches towards more effective implementation of a revised CBD Strategic plan and post 2010 biodiversity targets, including its monitoring and indicators work. We propose the following additions to Strategic Goal E and Target 16:

Strategic Goal E: Enhance implementation through **PARTICIPATORY** planning, knowledge management and capacity development, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources.

Target 16: By 2020, each Party has implemented a **PARTICIPATORY and** effective national biodiversity strategy, contributing to the achievement of the mission, goals and targets of the Strategic Plan.

! Thank you – Asante !

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