



CBD-UNESCO CONSULTATIVE WORKING GROUP OF EXPERTS ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS

(Second Meeting, Bergen, Norway, 19-21 November 2000)

Summary of Relevant COP Decisions

I. Excerpts of the Draft Handbook on the Convention on Biological Diversity on Article 13: Public Education and Awareness

References

Decisions specifically addressing Article 13

Decision IV/10, B (Public education and awareness: consideration of measures for the implementation of Article 13)

Relevant references in thematic work programmes

Decision II/9, Annex, paragraph 14 (Forest – statement to IPF)

Decision III/11, paragraph 13 (Agriculture)

Decision III/12, Preamble (Forest)

Decision IV/4, Annex I, A, paragraph 9(i) (Inland water)

Decision IV/5, Annex, Programme Element 1, Operational Objectives 1.2(g), 3.2(d) (Marine and coastal)

Decision IV/7, Annex, paragraph 29 (Forest)

Other relevant decisions

Decision III/19, Annex, paragraph 24(a) (Statement to UNGA Special Session)
Decision IV/9, paragraph 1 (Article 8(j) and related provisions)

ARTICLE 13

The Contracting Parties shall:

- (a) Promote and encourage understanding of the importance of, and the measures required for, the conservation of biological diversity, as well as its propagation through media, and the inclusion of these topics in educational programmes; and
- (b) Cooperate, as appropriate, with other States and international organizations in developing educational and public awareness programmes, with respect to conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.

Notes

Consideration of Article 13 by the COP

The COP decided to address Article 13 at its fourth meeting. [*Decision I/9, Decision II/18*] Accordingly, the question of public awareness and education was dealt with at COP 4 under the agenda item: Measures for Implementing the Convention. Public education and awareness is addressed in Part B of Decision IV/10, which includes a range of provisions addressed to the Parties to the Convention. With regard to future work on Article 13, in Decision IV/10 the COP decided that public education and awareness issues will be integrated into and become an integral component of all sectoral and thematic items under the programme of work of the Convention. [*Decision IV/10 B, para 5*] The COP will review progress in implementing its decisions on Article 13 no later than at COP 7. [*Decision IV/10 B, para 10*] At COP 5, the Executive Secretary is to report to the COP on discussions with UNESCO on the feasibility of a global initiative on biodiversity education, training and awareness. [*Decision IV/10 B, para 7*]

Guidance to Parties

National action

The COP has urged parties to place special emphasis on Article 13 in the development of their national strategies and action plans. It has also urged Parties to:

- Promote education on biodiversity through relevant institutions including NGOs;
- Allocate resources for the use of education and communication instruments;
- Allocate appropriate resources for the strategic use of education and communication instruments at each phase of policy formulation, planning, implementation and evaluation;
- Integrate biodiversity concerns into education strategies; and
- Support relevant initiatives by major groups which foster stakeholder participation in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. [Decision IV/10 B, para 1] The COP has encouraged Parties to make use of the media to promote public education and awareness about the importance of and appropriate methods for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Where necessary, provisions of the Convention should be illustrated and translated into local languages. [Decision IV/10 B, paras 3 and 4] The COP has recommended that Parties strengthen education and awareness programmes relating to inland water biological diversity [Decision IV/4, Annex I. A, para 9(i)], and mechanisms for information and education on the importance of sustainable use of agrobiodiversity. [Decision III/11, para 13] Parties have been urged by the COP to propose projects to the financial mechanism, which promote measures for implementing Article 13. [Decision IV/10 B, para 9]

Information and case studies

The COP has urged Parties to share experiences on initiatives on public education and awareness and public participation relevant to the Convention, particularly on a sectoral or thematic basis. Relevant case studies should be made available to the Executive Secretary, including lessons learnt in the preparation of national biodiversity policies, strategies and plans. [Decision IV/10 B, para 2]

Guidance to the financial mechanism

As noted above, the COP has urged Parties, when requesting assistance through the financial mechanism, to propose projects which promote measures for implementing Article 13. [Decision IV/10 B, para 9]

Other financial resources

The COP has urged Parties, relevant organizations and donor agencies to support local, national, subregional and regional public education and awareness initiatives. [Decision IV/10 B, para 8]

Guidance to the Secretariat

The COP has invited UNESCO to consider launching a global initiative on biodiversity education, training and public awareness, and has requested the

Executive Secretary to explore the feasibility of such an initiative and report to COP 5 on progress. [*Decision IV/10 B, para 7*]

Cooperation with other conventions and organizations

As noted above, the COP has invited UNESCO to consider launching a global initiative on biodiversity education, training and public awareness. [*Decision IV/10 B, para 7*]

The COP has invited UNEP, in cooperation with other UN bodies and relevant international and regional organizations, to continue to make use of existing initiatives and to further develop its information dissemination and public awareness activities in support of the work of the Convention. [*Decision IV/10 B, para 7*]

Relevant aspects of thematic work programmes

Inland water biological diversity

In its Decision on inland water biological diversity, the COP has recommended that Parties strengthen education and awareness programmes, recognizing that responsible environmental stewardship requires an informed public; that participatory-based management approaches are most effective when people are well informed of both the economic and environmental consequences of management; that inland waters provide both a challenge and an opportunity to educate the public and policy makers about the need to take an ecosystem based approach to management. This recommendation also states that environmental education should be built into school curricula and should emphasize integration using inland waters as a model subject to teach problem-solving. [*Decision IV/4, annex I. A, para 9(i)*]

Marine and coastal biological diversity

The Conference of the Parties and SBSTTA have consistently recognized the importance of developing public education and awareness in their consideration of marine and coastal biological diversity aspects of the Convention. The first meeting of SBSTTA, in its Recommendation I/8 on the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity, encouraged the participation of local communities concerned and of resource users in the planning, management and conservation of marine and coastal areas. At its third meeting SBSTTA, in its recommendation on a proposed programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity, called for the development of appropriate education and public awareness programmes at all levels. Decision IV/5 of the COP on the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity and a programme of work approved the above recommendation. In particular, the adopted programme of

work, in its Operational Objective 1.2 'To promote the development and implementation of integrated marine and coastal area management at the local, national and regional level', includes a specific activity on the development of appropriate education and public awareness programmes at all levels. [Decision IV/5, Annex, Programme Element 1, Op Objs 1.2(g), 3.2(d)]

Agricultural biological diversity

As noted above, the COP has recognized that successful implementation of policies aiming at sustainable use of agrobiodiversity components largely depends on the degree of public awareness and understanding of its importance for society, and has recommended that Parties establish or enhance mechanisms for information and education, including the use of the CHM, specific to groups of concern at the national, regional and international levels. [Decision III/11, para 13]

Forest biological diversity

In its 1995 statement to the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests, the COP noted that the issue of public education and awareness had not been explicitly addressed in the Terms of Reference of the IPF. It stated that the importance of education and awareness raising at all levels of society related to biodiversity, especially those components under threat, should have a high priority in both national and international efforts. [Decision II/9, Annex, para 14] The COP has subsequently noted that the implementation of forest conservation and sustainable use policies depends, *inter alia*, on the level of public awareness and policies outside the forest sector [Decision III/12, preamble], and that attention needs to be paid to the further raising of public awareness and the understanding of the importance of biological diversity through educational programmes and information. [Decision III/19, para 12] However, public awareness and education does not appear to be explicitly addressed in the work programme on forest biological diversity adopted in Decision IV/7 of the COP.

Other relevant decisions

Among the recommendations for elements of a work programme on traditional knowledge of the Workshop on Traditional Knowledge and Biological Diversity held in Madrid in November 1997 in accordance with Decision III/14 were:

- The requirement for the revitalization and maintenance of indigenous languages as part of the implementation of Article 8(j) and related articles and the support of the development of educational systems based on indigenous values and world view, including the establishment of an indigenous university;
- The promotion of public awareness of the importance of traditional knowledge and biological diversity to global sustainability, the role of indigenous peoples and local

communities in the maintenance of biological diversity, and the international and national agreements for their protection and strengthening; and

- Ensuring that governments promote public awareness activities in the implementation of Article 8(j) to realize the role of indigenous, local and farming communities in the protection of their genetic resources material and their knowledge, innovations and practices.

COP 4, in its decision IV/9 on 'Implementation of Article 8(j) and related provisions', decided that an Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-sessional Working Group be established to address the implementation of Article 8(j) and related provisions of the Convention. The mandate of the working group will include the development of a programme of work, based on the structure of the elements in the Madrid workshop. It is likely that elements of biological diversity education, training and public awareness will be considered by the Ad Hoc Working Group in its future work.

Documents

UNEP/CBD/COP/4/19 Public education and awareness: implementation of Article 13.

UNEP/CBD/COP/4/Inf.15 Education, training and public awareness on biological diversity: An additional contribution by UNESCO on Agenda Item 15.2

UNEP/CBD/COP/5/13 Progress report on the mechanisms for implementation *Guide to Decisions 1258* See UNEP/COP/4/10/Add.1.

II. Compilation of CBD COP-V Decisions on Education and Public Awareness

Following is a compilation of elements of decisions by the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, which relate to education and public awareness.

Decision V/3: Progress report on the implementation of the programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity - Coral bleaching

Paragraph 6(c)

Building stakeholder partnerships, community participation programmes and public education campaigns and information products that address the causes and consequences of coral bleaching.

Annex: Priority areas for action on coral bleaching - B. Capacity Building

Issue: Public awareness and education are required to build support for effective research, monitoring, and management programmes, as well as policy measures.

Response: Build stakeholder partnerships, community participation programmes, and public education campaigns and information products that address the causes and consequences of coral bleaching.

Decision V/5: Agricultural biological diversity: Review of phase I of the Programme of Work and adoption of a multi-year work programme

Paragraph 10

Invites Parties, Governments and relevant organizations to support actions to raise public awareness in support of sustainable farming and food production systems that maintain agricultural biodiversity.

Programme element 3: Capacity building: Operational objective

To strengthen the capacities of farmers, indigenous and local communities, and their organizations and other stakeholders, to manage sustainably agricultural biodiversity so as to increase their benefits, and to promote awareness and responsible action.

Activities

Paragraph 3.5

Promote awareness about the value of agricultural biodiversity and the multiple goods and services provided by its different levels and functions, for sustainable productivity amongst producer organizations, agricultural cooperatives and enterprises, and consumers, with a view to promoting responsible practices.

Decision V/6: Ecosystem approach

Paragraph 3

Invites Parties, other Governments and relevant bodies to identify case-studies and implement pilot projects, and to organize , as appropriate, regional, national and local workshops, and consultations aiming to enhance awareness, share experiences, including through the clearing-house mechanism, and strengthen regional, national and local capacities on the ecosystem approach.

Decision V/8: Alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species

Paragraph 9

Encourages Parties to develop effective education, training and public-awareness measures, as well as to inform the public about the different aspects of the issue, including the risks posed by alien invasive species.

Paragraph 12

Invites the Parties, Governments, the Global Invasive Species Programme and other relevant bodies, to disseminate publicly available information which they hold or acquire, including databases of alien species, through the Convention's clearing-house mechanism.

Guiding Principle 6: Education and public awareness

States should facilitate education and public awareness of the risks associated with the introduction of alien species. When mitigation measures are required, education and public-awareness-oriented programmes should be set in motion so as to inform local communities and appropriate sector groups on how to support such measures.

Decision V/9: Global Taxonomy Initiative: Implementation and further advance of the Suggestions for Action

Paragraph 6

Urges eligible Parties and consortia of eligible Parties to seek resources for the above priority actions through the financial mechanism, and requests the financial mechanism to continue promoting awareness of the Global Taxonomy Initiative in its outreach activities, such as the Capacity Development Initiative and the Country Dialogue Workshops...

Decision V/13: Further guidance to the financial mechanism

Paragraph 2

The Global Environment Facility, as the institutional structure operating the financial mechanism, should provide support:

- (k) To continue promoting awareness of the Global Taxonomy Initiative in the relevant activities of the Global Environment Facility, such as the Country Dialogue Workshops, and to facilitate capacity-building in taxonomy, including in its Capacity Development Initiative;

- (l) For capacity development for education, public awareness and communication in biological diversity at the national and regional levels, in accordance with decision V/17;

Decision V/14: Scientific and technical cooperation and the clearing-house mechanism (Article 18)

Annex II: Activities to be undertaken by the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the informal advisory committee and other relevant bodies, subject to available resources

(d) Convene regional workshops to support capacity-building for clearing-house mechanism activities, training and awareness, with a focus on cooperation in biodiversity information for the implementation and management of the clearing-house mechanism at the national, subregional, bio-geographic and regional levels, as appropriate.

Decision V/16: Article 8(j) and related provisions

Annex II: Tasks of the first phase of the programme of work: Element 5: Exchange and dissemination of information

Task 8

Identification of a focal point within the clearing-house mechanism to liaise with indigenous and local communities.

Annex III: Tasks of the second phase of the programme of work: Element 5: Exchange and dissemination of information

Task 16

The Executive Secretary to identify, compile and analyse, with the participation of the indigenous and local communities, existing and customary codes of ethical conduct to guide the development of models for codes of ethical conduct for research, access to, use, exchange and management of information concerning traditional knowledge, innovations and practices for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.

Decision V/17: Education and public awareness

The Conference of the Parties

1. Takes note of the information provided by the Executive Secretary with regard to education and public awareness (UNEP/CBD/COP/5/13, section IV);

2. Requests the Executive Secretary, in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization, to convene a consultative working group of experts, including the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Bank, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the Commission for Education and Communication of IUCN, the World-Wide Fund for Nature, representatives of Parties and other relevant bodies to further advance and, in particular, to identify priority activities for the proposed global initiative on biological diversity education and public awareness;
3. Decides that the working group should take into account priorities developed by the Conference of the Parties for its work programme, and, when approved by the Conference of the Parties, priorities identified in the strategic plan for the Convention;
4. Invites the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, through its education programmes, to actively integrate biological diversity into all levels of formal education systems as a component of the development of the global initiative;
5. Endorses paragraph 7 of recommendation IV/1 A of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, which states that education and public awareness be included in the discussions on the work programmes on thematic issues;
6. Invites Parties, Governments, organizations and institutions to support capacity-building for education and communication in biological diversity as part of their national biodiversity strategies and action plans, taking into account the global initiative;
7. Requests the Executive Secretary to:
 - (a) Further develop the public information and outreach activities of the Secretariat, including through the use of the clearing-house mechanism to raise awareness of biological diversity issues amongst all sectors of society, including indigenous and local communities;
 - (b) Designate a theme each year for the International Day for Biological Diversity and prepare background information to be placed on the clearing-house mechanism;
 - (c) Consult the United Nations Secretariat on the feasibility of changing the designated date of the International Day for Biological Diversity to 22 May and provide advice on this matter to the Parties by February 2001;

- (d) Report on progress achieved in developing the global initiative to the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting.

Decision V/18: Impact assessment, liability and redress

Paragraph 1

Invites Parties, Governments and other relevant organizations:

- (e) To organize expert meetings, workshops and seminars, as well as training, educational and public awareness programmes and exchange programmes, and carry out pilot environmental impact assessment projects, in order to promote the development of local expertise in methodologies, techniques and procedures.