



Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity



Online Forum on Article 10(c) Weekly Summary of Postings 11 February – 17 February 2009

Week one of the online forum on customary and sustainable use of biological diversity saw the beginnings of a lively conversation on how to further promote and implement Article 10(c) of the Convention on Biological Diversity. We encourage participants to read each of the postings in full on the Forum's website (www.cbd.int/tk/forum). Below is a brief summary of comments from week one. We look forward to hearing more from these and new participants in week two!

General comments:

- The best people to develop methodologies and systems for sustainable management of biological resources are indigenous peoples and local communities who live closest to nature. The advancement of 10(c) must therefore include consideration of how to transfer tools and technologies to ILCs so that this process is not controlled by aid organizations and governments.
 - The political will of governments to commit to a participatory process will be necessary for advancing 10(c);
 - The strengthening of traditional and local organizations and institutions is also an important part of advancing 10(c).
- It is important to distinguish between customary use for subsistence and customary use for commercial uses.
- Both under-utilization and over-utilization of a land or territory can modify the biodiversity of that land or territory. Abandoning or modifying traditional use practices can therefore negatively (or positively) affect biodiversity.
- Case studies that discuss issues related to 10(c) can be found on the website: www.forestpeoples.org/documents/conservation/bases/10c.shtml
- There is a close relationship between customary use and customary law, which reflects local values and beliefs that regulate customary use practices.
- Commercial activities that support customary use should be considered an aspect of responding to changing circumstances and part of the right of indigenous peoples and local communities to development.
- There is a need for input from indigenous peoples' and local communities' organizations on the question of whether sport hunting should be considered part of a framework of sustainable and customary use (question 8).

Specific suggestions:

- Under the section on "management" in the Abstract, add "local control of conservation areas through recognition of Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas" to item #1.
- In the discussion of land tenure rights, specify that by "land tenure" what is meant is lands, territories, inland waters and seas, traditionally occupied or used by ILCs.
- In the discussion of "access" – add a discussion of the right to free, prior informed consent.
- It may be helpful to review and further develop Addis Ababa guidelines to consider the fact that some biological resources have customarily been traded in local markets and farther afield.



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