

CONSULTATIVE PROCESS TOWARDS AN
IMOSEB

INTERNATIONAL MECHANISM OF SCIENTIFIC EXPERTISE ON BIODIVERSITY

INTERNATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE

OF THE CONSULTATIVE PROCESS TOWARDS AN

INTERNATIONAL MECHANISM OF SCIENTIFIC EXPERTISE ON BIODIVERSITY

INFORMATION BOOK

LOGISTICS

PROGRAM (FRANÇAIS, ENGLISH)

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LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

SCIENTISTS
GOVERNMENTS
CIVIL SOCIETY & NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS & U.N. AGENCIES
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT, FACILITATORS, INTERNATIONALS OBSERVERS

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COMMUNIQUÉ DE PRESSE (FRANÇAIS)

BLANK PAPERS

LOGISTICS

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

CONSULTATIVE PROCESS TOWARDS AN IMOSEB
TA 10 / B
CAMPUS INTERNATIONAL DE BAILLARGUET
34398 MONTPELLIER CEDEX 5
FRANCE
Tel.: + 33 (0) 4 67 79 3743 / 3923
Fax: + 33 (0) 4 67 79 3909

CONTACT IN PARIS

INSTITUT FRANÇAIS DE LA BIODIVERSITÉ
Tel.: + 33 (0) 1 40 79 56 62
Fax: + 33 (0) 1 40 79 56 63

ifb@gis-afb.org
didier.babin@gis-afb.org
anne@diversitas-international.org
maxime.thibon@gis-afb.org

HOTELS

Timhotel :

5, rue Linnée
75005 Paris
Métro : Jussieu

Tel: + 33 1 47 07 06 20
Fax: + 33 1 47 07 62 74
E-mail: Jardin-des-plantes@timhotel.fr

Best Western :

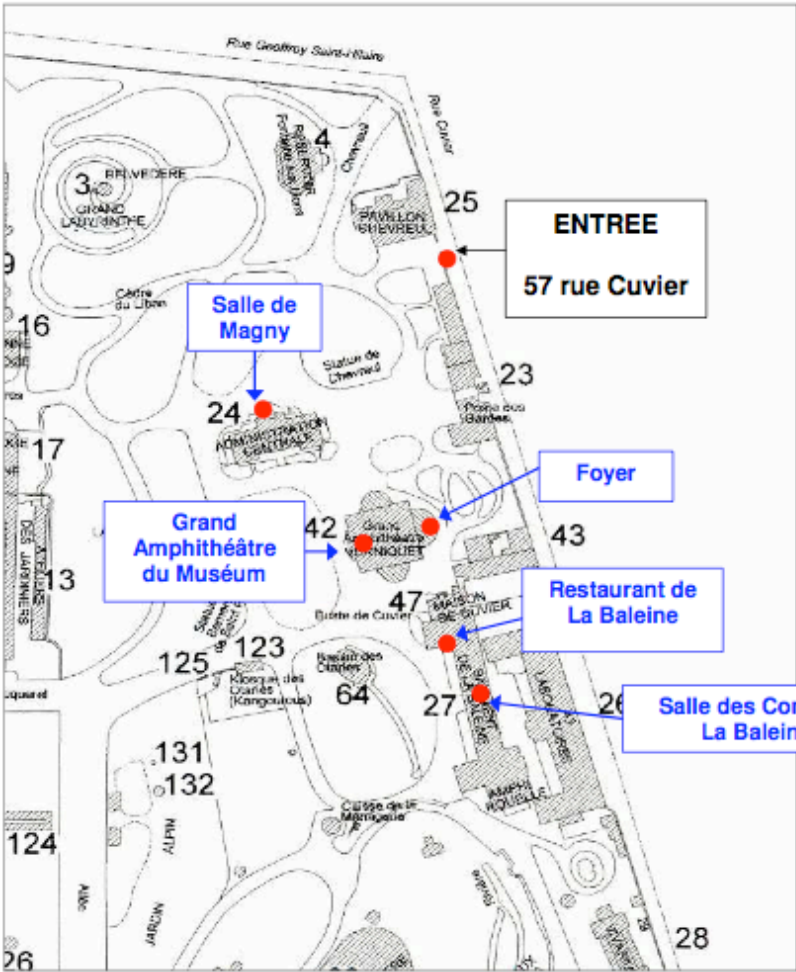
71, rue Monge
75005 Paris
Métro : place Monge

Tel: + 33 1 43 31 25 64
Fax: + 33 1 43 31 11 46
E-mail: quartier-latin@timhotel.fr

GRAND AMPHITHÉÂTRE DU MUSEUM & MEETING ROOMS

IMoSEB

Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle
Plan d'accès : réunions de travail
Jardin des Plantes



PREMIÈRE RÉUNION DU COMITÉ DE PILOTAGE INTERNATIONAL

Le Comité de Pilotage International du processus de consultation vers un mécanisme international d'expertise scientifique sur la biodiversité (IMoSEB) se réunira les 21 et 22 février 2006 à Paris au Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle.

Cette réunion fait suite aux réunions préparatoires de juin 2005 à Paris et de novembre 2005 à Oaxaca, qui ont essentiellement porté leur attention sur l'élargissement et la transformation du Comité de Pilotage Intérimaire vers un Comité de Pilotage International équilibré, les premières réflexions sur les principes d'un éventuel mécanisme et les principales questions posées à une telle initiative.

Objectifs

Cette première réunion du Comité de Pilotage International du processus consultatif vers un IMoSEB a pour objectif essentiel le lancement formel de la consultation et la mise en place du Comité de Pilotage International. Il doit se focaliser sur les premières étapes de cette consultation et notamment sur les attentes, capacités et besoins en matière d'expertise sur la biodiversité. Les réflexions et propositions du Comité de Pilotage International devront ensuite être affinées pour que le secrétaire exécutif de la Convention sur la Diversité Biologique puisse exposer à la huitième Conférence des Parties l'avancement du processus.

Résultats attendus

Les résultats attendus de cette première réunion du Comité de Pilotage International (CPI) sont :

- la validation de la composition du CPI ;
- la désignation de co-président(e)s et de vice-président(e)s et d'un comité exécutif ;
- l'établissement d'un programme de travail du CPI ;
- l'établissement des modalités et d'un agenda du processus de consultation vers un IMoSEB ;
- la finalisation de la rédaction d'un note de principes d'un IMoSEB ;
- les premières réflexions et propositions éventuelles pour un IMoSEB.

Participation

Les membres du Comité de Pilotage International appartiennent à 4 grandes catégories de partie-prenantes :

- les scientifiques (de différentes disciplines et nationalités) ;
- les institutions et organisations internationales concernées par la biodiversité ;
- les gouvernements ;

- des représentants de la société civile (organisations non gouvernementales, secteur privé,...) concernés par la biodiversité.

Enfin, des facilitateurs du processus de consultation : secrétariat exécutif et collaborateurs, groupe de travail interministériel d'accompagnement.

Organisation

La réunion des 21 et 22 février sera organisée en réunions plénières et groupes de travail afin d'avancer en parallèle sur plusieurs thématiques. Le secrétariat exécutif propose à chacun des participants de s'intégrer à un groupe de travail particulier afin d'établir une composition équilibrée de chacun des groupes.

Quatre ateliers parallèles sont prévus :

- Atelier A : **Processus consultatif et Comité de Pilotage International** (modalités de consultation, agenda, rôles et organisation du CPI, composition du CPI, ouverte à d'autres membres, constitution d'un comité exécutif, groupes de travail, liens avec le secrétariat exécutif,...)
- Atelier B : **Attentes en terme d'expertise (point de vue des clients)** : attentes, contenus et formes, périodicité, produits, échelles de la connaissance nécessaire aux utilisateurs
- Atelier C : **Capacités en terme d'expertise (point de vue des prestataires)** : champs, manques, précisions, incertitudes, interdisciplinarité, méthodes, standardisation et normes des connaissances à développer ou à fournir par les scientifiques, experts et prestataires de connaissance
- Atelier D : **Principes d'un mécanisme** : plans, projets, méthodes d'un éventuel mécanisme, rédaction d'une note de principes

Une restitution de chacun des groupes en plénière est prévue pour confronter les points de vue.

Préparation

Pour préparer au mieux cette réunion, des forums électroniques de discussion sur chacun des ateliers seront organisés à partir de début janvier 2006 sur le site internet de l'IMoSEB (www.imoseb.net). Chaque participant à la réunion du Comité de Pilotage International est invité à contribuer à ces discussions et recevra à cette fin un code de connexion et un mot de passe. Ces forums seront réservés aux seuls membres du Comité de Pilotage International.

Session de travail ouverte

Les travaux du Comité de Pilotage International se poursuivront par une demi-journée de travail et une ouverture pour partager les réflexions et propositions du CPI avec des représentants du monde politique, de la société civile, des médias et des grands témoins.

FIRST INTERNATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE

The first International Steering Committee of the consultative process towards an International Mechanism of Science Expertise on Biodiversity (IMoSEB) will be held on February 21 & 22 2006, in Paris, at the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle.

This meeting follows the preparatory meetings of Paris (June 2005) and Oaxaca (November 2005). These meeting focused on the widening and evolution of the interim Steering Committee towards a balanced International Steering Committee, on the principles of a possible mechanism and the first issues linked to the consultative process towards an IMoSEB.

Goals

The main goal of this meeting is the official launch of the consultative process and the establishment of the International Steering Committee. The meeting should stress on the first steps of the consultative process, in particular on the expectations and the needs in biodiversity expertise. The International Steering Committee propositions and reflections will be enhanced and fostered in order to report on progress of the consultative process by the Executive Secretary of the CBD at COP VIII.

Expected Outputs

The expected outputs of this first meeting of the International Steering Committee (ISC) are:

- The validation of the ISC members;
- The appointment of co-chairpersons and vice-chairpersons and executive committee;
- The establishment of the ISC work program;
- The consultative process rules and its agenda;
- The redaction of an IMoSEB concept note;
- The draft plans, schemes, or methods for an IMoSEB.

Participation

The International Steering Committee members belong to four majors groups of stakeholders:

- Scientists (various disciplines and nationalities);
- International organizations and institutions involved in biodiversity;
- Governments;
- Non-governmental organizations, research initiatives and business representatives attached or involved in biodiversity.

Finally, facilitators involved in the consultative process: Executive Secretariat and collaborators, inter-ministerial task team.

Organization

The meeting of February 21 & 22 is organized in several plenary sessions and workshops in order to move forward on several thematic in the same time.

To have a fair composition for each of the four workshops, the Executive Secretariat will ask to each International Steering Committee member to participate in a particular workshop.

The four workshops are:

- Workshop A: **Consultative process and International Steering Committee** (consultations methods, agenda, ISC duty and organization, ISC composition, opening to others members, establishment of an executive committee, task teams, linked with the executive secretariat...)
- Workshop B: **Expectations in term of Expertise (Stakeholders views)** (expectations, contents, forms, periodicity, products, scales of requisite knowledge for users)
- Workshop C: **Capacities in term of Expertise (Scientists views)** (scopes, gaps, accuracy, uncertainty, interdisciplinarity, methods, standardization of knowledge to be developed or advised by scientists, experts and knowledge providers)
- Workshop D: **Mechanism principles** (plans, schemes and methods of a possible mechanism, redaction of a concept note)

A debriefing of each workshop in a plenary session is scheduled to oppose the different opinions or points of views.

Preliminary work to the International Steering Committee

In the preparation of this meeting, several electronic fora on every workshop thematic will be online on the IMoSEB website in the beginning of January (www.imoseb.net). Every participant is invited to participate on the different subjects and will receive a login and a password allowing an access to these fora. Only the ISC participants will be allow to post on these fora.

Open Work Session

The International Steering Committee meeting will be followed by a work and opening session to share its reflections and propositions with politicians, civil society, medias and international observers.

AGENDA

February 21, 2006 IMoSEB Steering Committee meeting

Grand Amphithéâtre	9:00-9:15	Reception and registration of participants
	9:15- 9:30	Welcome BP Galey, Director MNHN D Babin, Executive Secretariat
		Goals and organization of the meeting: Chair (M Loreau)
	9h30-10:00	Background presentation on the consultative process towards an IMoSEB (A Larigauderie; 10 mn) Proposition for co-chairs and executive committee Adoption of agenda
	10:00-10:30	Introduction to working group discussions (Chairs working groups; 5 mn each)
		1-Characteristics of the consultation (I Baste, to be confirmed) 2-Definition of user needs (M Sharman, to be confirmed) 3-Scientific approach to IMoSEB (B Scholes) 4-Vision for the IMoSEB (A Oteng-Yeboah)
		Discussion
	10:30-11:00	Coffee break
	11:00-13:00	Working groups
	13:00-14:00	Lunch
	14:00-16:00	Working groups (Discussion in separate groups; or plenary if necessary)
	16:00-16:30	Coffee break
Grand Amphithéâtre	16:30-18:30	Plenary presentations by rapporteurs (10 mn each and discussions) WG 1 (I Baste); WG 2 (J Weber); WG 3 (C Perrings); WG4 (A Oteng-Yeboah)
	19:30-22:00	Reception (Grande Galerie de l'Evolution) Welcoming words from Nelly Olin, Ministre de l'Ecologie et du Développement Durable, France and from BP Galey, Director MNHN

February 22, 2006 IMoSEB Steering Committee meeting and Open Work Session

Grand Amphithéâtre 8:30-10:45 IMoSEB Steering Committee: final discussions and synthesis of recommendations
(Chair: M Loreau)
With a statement by F Goulard, Ministre délégué à l'Enseignement supérieur et à la Recherche, France

Open Work session

10:45-11:00 Coffee break

Meeting joined by interested stakeholders and the media

Grand Amphithéâtre 11:00-11:15 Presentation of recommendations made by the ISC for a consultative process towards an IMoSEB (B Watson)

11:15-12:30 Round table with civil society representatives and international observers (5 to 10 mn each)
Ph Bourdeau (EU)
B Bolin (IPCC)
A Oteng-Yeboah (CBD-SBSTTA)

Panel joined by IMoSEB consultation co-chairs for general discussion with audience.

12:30-13:00 Closing session

13 :00 Meeting the press

IMoSEB Executive Committee Meeting

14:30-18:30 Executive Committee Meeting (closed)
Salle de Magny, MNHN

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY

Michel	LOREAU	Canada
Gaston	ACHOUNDONG	Cameroon
Keping	MA	China
Leonard	HIRSCH	USA
Jacques	WEBER	France
Yvon	Le MAHO	France
Alfred	OTENG-YEBOAH	Ghana
Jose	SARUKHAN	Mexico
Arkady A.	TISHKOV	Russia
Robert J.	SCHOLES	South Africa
Carlo	HEIP	The Netherlands
Charles	PERRINGS	UK / USA
Peter	RAVEN	USA
Georgina	MACE	UK
Stephen	SCHNIERER	Australia

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

David	MORGAN	CITES
Robert	HEPWORTH	CMS
Martin	SHARMAN	EC / DG Research
Linda	COLLETTE	FAO
James	EDWARDS	GBIF
Christoph	HAEUSER	GBIF
Adi	KELLERMAN	ICES - CIEM
Toby	HODGKIN	IPGRI
Peter	BRIDGEWATER	Ramsar Convention
Ahmed	DJOGHLAF	CBD
Christian	PRIP	CBD SBSTTA
Douglas	PATTIE	UNCCD
Ivar	BASTE	UNEP
Kaveh	ZAHEDI,	UNEP - WCMC
Natarajan	ISHWARAN	UNESCO
Peter	DOGSE	UNESCO
Salvatore	ARICO	UNESCO
Meriem	BOUAMRANE	UNESCO
Ah	ZAKRI	UNU - IAS
Sam	JOHNSTON	UNU - IAS
Robert	WATSON	World Bank
Sophie	CONDE	EEA

NGOS AND CIVIL SOCIETY

Sandy J. Ludovic Martha	ANDELMAN FRERE CHOUCHENA-ROJAS	Conservation International Greenpeace IUCN The Nature Conservancy WWF Millennium Ecosystem Assessment ICSU ICSU DIVERSITAS EPBRS Swedish National Research Council on Biological Diversity
Harold Thomas Gisbert Anne-Hélène Horst Lars	MOONEY ROSSWALL GLASER PRIEUR-RICHARD KORN BERG	

GOVERNMENTS

Andrea H. John Xiaohui Lesbia Alfredo Denys Martha Nicola Lore Desh Mario Elaine Choi Claudine Aimé Lala Mostafa Sem David Bozena Abdulaziz H. Hablaye Marian Sylvia Patama Andrew Christine Marie-Helene Kristen	NOUAK KARAU XIA SEVILLA ESTRADA CARRASCO GAUER MAPANGOU BREIER WIELAND DEEPAK VERMA SCALET FISHER JAI-CHUL, RAMIARISON RAZAFINJARA MADDBOUHI TUOKANJ SHIKONGO PENMAN HACZEK ABUZINADA SY RAMOS MARTINEZ DOMRONGPHOL STOTT DAWSON MASSING KATZER	Austria Canada China Costa-Rica Equator France Gabon Germany Germany India Italy Jamaica South Korea Madagascar Madagascar Morocco Namibia New-Zealand Poland Saudi Arabia Senegal Spain Switzerland Thailand UK USA USA USA
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EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT, FACILITATORS, INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS

Didier	BABIN	Executive Secretariat
Anne	LARIGAUDERIE	Executive Secretariat
Maxime	THIBON	Executive Secretariat
Laurence	TUBIANA	IDDRI
Philippe	Le PRESTRE	Laval University
Thomas	JEANNERET	French Ministry of foreign affairs
Jean-François	GIOVANNETTI	French Ministry of foreign affairs
Odile	ROUSSEL	French Ministry of foreign affairs
Pierre	SIGAUD	French Ministry of ecology and sustainable development
Guillaume	SAINTENY	French Ministry of ecology and sustainable development
Catherine	RENARD	French Ministry of ecology and sustainable development
Didier	HOFFSCHIR	French Ministry of high education and research
Denis	DESPREAUX	French Ministry of high education and research
Pascal	BERGERET	French Ministry of agriculture
Jacques	LOYAT	French Ministry of agriculture
Anne	ROUBAN	French Ministry of finance
Pascal	COLIN	French Ministry of Overseas
Philippe	BOURDEAU	International Observers
Bert	BOLIN	International Observers

BACKGROUND

DECLARATION OF PARIS, JANUARY 2005

This statement is based on the presentations and discussions during the conference and the “Appeal” by the Scientific Committee of the conference.

Recalling the commitment of governments to the global target of significantly reducing the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010 as a fundamental condition for sustainable development.

Recognizing that:

* Biodiversity is a vital and poorly appreciated resource for all of humankind that underpins the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;

* Biodiversity is being irreversibly destroyed by human activities at an unprecedented rate, and this demands urgent and significant action to conserve, sustainably use and equitably share the benefits of biodiversity;

* Unless the rate of loss of biodiversity and the resulting degradation of ecosystem services are significantly reduced, efforts to combat poverty, reduce hunger and provide clean water and a healthy environment will be undermined;

* A major effort is still needed to fill the gaps in knowledge, but there is already sufficient information available for improved management of ecosystems.

Therefore the participants of the international conference on “Biodiversity: Science and Governance” urge:

- Governments to take all necessary actions, including capacity building, needed to realize the 2010 biodiversity target, consistent with their sustainable development goals;
- Civil society, including local and indigenous communities and the private sector, to take actions consistent with the 2010 biodiversity target;
- The scientific community to develop greater national and international coordination;
- That the necessary public and private resources be mobilized for the inter-disciplinary scientific research and monitoring required to improve our current understanding and to address the cost of conserving biodiversity;
- Improved communications and partnerships among the scientific community, decision makers and civil society, including local and indigenous communities;
- Parties and Secretariats to the multilateral environmental agreements to build greater cooperation and synergy.

And recommend, in response to the call for action made by President Chirac at this Conference, the launch of an international multi-stakeholder consultative process guided by a balanced multi-stakeholder steering committee. This process would assess the need for an international mechanism which would:

*** provide a critical assessment of the scientific information and policy options required for decision-making;**

*** build on existing bodies, current and recent activities.**

FRENCH VERSION

DECLARATION DE PARIS, JANVIER 2005

Cette déclaration est basée sur les présentations et discussions pendant la conférence et l'appel du comité scientifique de la conférence.

Rappelant l'engagement des gouvernements sur la cible globale de réduction du taux de perte de biodiversité en 2010 qui est une condition fondamentale du développement durable. Reconnaissant que :

- la biodiversité est une ressource pour toute l'humanité qui est vitale et mal évaluée et dont dépend la réalisation des objectifs de développement du millénaire ;
- la biodiversité est irréversiblement détruite par les activités humaines à une vitesse jamais rencontrée et cela exige des actions urgentes et significatives pour la conserver, l'utiliser de façon durable et en partager équitablement les profits ;
- tant que le taux de l'érosion de la biodiversité et la dégradation consécutive des services des écosystèmes ne seront pas réduits, les efforts pour combattre la pauvreté, lutter contre la faim et fournir une eau de qualité et un environnement sain seront compromis ;
- un effort majeur est encore nécessaire pour combler les lacunes des connaissances, mais il existe déjà suffisamment d'information disponible pour améliorer la gestion des écosystèmes.

C'est pourquoi les participants de la conférence internationale « Biodiversité : Science et Gouvernance » demandent instamment que :

- les gouvernements engagent les actions nécessaires, y compris en terme de développement de capacités, pour atteindre la cible 2010 sur la biodiversité en cohérence avec leurs objectifs de développement durable ;
- la société civile, y compris les communautés locales et indigènes et le secteur privé, agisse en cohérence avec la cible 2010 sur la biodiversité ;
- la communauté scientifique développe une plus grande coordination nationale et internationale ;
- les ressources privées et publiques nécessaires soient dégagées afin de mettre en oeuvre la recherche scientifique interdisciplinaire et la surveillance nécessaire à l'amélioration de notre compréhension et la prise en compte des coûts de la conservation de la biodiversité ;
- soient améliorées les communications et les partenariats au sein et entre la communauté scientifique, les décideurs et la société civile y compris les communautés locales et indigènes ;
- les parties et secrétariats des accord multilatéraux construisent des coopérations renforcées et des synergies.

Et recommande, en réponse à l'appel à l'action prononcé à cette Conférence par le Président CHIRAC, le lancement d'un processus de concertation international impliquant toutes les parties prenantes, guidé par un comité de pilotage équilibré. Ce processus évaluerait le besoin d'un mécanisme international qui :

- **produirait une évaluation critique de l'information scientifique et des options politiques requises pour la décision ;**
- serait construit à partir des instances existantes et des activités courantes.**

OAXACA DECLARATION, OCTOBER 2005

The scientists participating in the DIVERSITAS First Open Science Conference, Integrating biodiversity science for human well-being, held in Oaxaca, November 10-12, 2005, support the conclusions of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and of the Conference Biodiversity Science and Governance held in Paris in January 2005:

- Biodiversity is our common natural heritage and the foundation for a wide variety of ecosystem services that are crucial to human well-being.
- Irreversible destruction of biodiversity is taking place globally as a result of human activities; there is insufficient political and public attention to its extent and consequences.
- Mechanisms to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity have been developed at local, national and international levels; these need to be supported and considerably expanded.
- Scientific knowledge of biodiversity must be substantially increased, but immediate actions must be taken to better protect biodiversity based on existing knowledge.

Therefore, they call upon governments, policy makers and citizens:

- to integrate biodiversity into the criteria considered in all economic and policy decisions that affect environmental management;
- to launch and support ambitious interdisciplinary research programmes to explore the Earth's biodiversity, the ecological and socio-economic causes and consequences of its changes, and the best means to conserve and sustainably use it;
- to commit resources to build and greatly expand the capacity, especially in developing countries, to undertake biodiversity research and implement the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

In agreement with the recommendations of the Paris Conference, they urge national governments and United Nations bodies to establish a properly resourced international scientific panel that includes an intergovernmental component and that aims at providing, on a regular basis, validated and independent scientific information relating to biodiversity to governments, international conventions, non-governmental organisations, policy makers and the wider public.

TOWARDS A CONCEPT PAPER

Consultation on an International Mechanism of Scientific Expertise on Biodiversity (IMoSEB)

Working Group 1- Characteristics of the consultation for an IMoSEB

This working group is invited to discuss most aspects of the consultation towards an IMoSEB, that is to focus on points A1 to A4 in the text below. There will be overlaps with topics discussed in other working groups. Discussions in Paris may take place either in plenary or in working groups, depending on the number of participants, their interest, etc.

The International Steering Committee meeting in Feb 06 will produce specific recommendations on all aspects of the consultation, taking into account feedback received during the electronic consultation.

A1- Define the need for this new scientific mechanism

The primary issue for the consultative process is to evaluate whether a scientific mechanism(s) is needed to provide the scientific, technical and economic information needed for informed decision making in the various multi-lateral environmental conventions that focus on biodiversity and ecosystems, i.e., the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD), the Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD), the Ramsar Wetlands Convention, the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). Such a mechanism would need to be designed to empower and complement the existing scientific and technical subsidiary bodies to the Conventions, e.g., e.g., the SBSTTA of the CBD, by providing state-of-the-art peer-reviewed policy relevant scientific and technical information, and would not duplicate or replace any of the functions of the existing scientific and technical subsidiary bodies to the Conventions.

The mandates of each of the environmental Conventions recognize the importance of basing policy decisions and their work programs on state-of-the-art scientific, technical and economic information. The question is whether the existing mechanisms embodied in each of the Conventions is adequate or whether there is a need to strengthen them. For example, the CBD has a process of forming *Ad hoc* Technical Expert Groups as needed to assess scientific and technical information on specific issues, primarily authored by a small group of experts (typically less than 20) nominated by governments.

In 2001 the CBD recognized the value of an independent assessment of climate change and biodiversity by requesting the IPCC to develop a Technical Paper on Climate Change and Biodiversity. This resulted in the CBD establishing an *Ad hoc* task force on Biological Diversity and Climate Change to further assess the inter-linkages between climate change and biodiversity.

The CBD and the other Environmental Conventions (i.e., CCD, Ramsar and CMS) recognized the value of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA), which provided an independent assessment of: (i) the condition and trends in ecosystems and the implications for human-well being; (ii) how ecosystems might change in the future; and (iii) policy response options. The scope of MA, which was based on a set of user needs from the Environmental Conventions and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), assessed the key issues at both the global and sub-global (community to sub-continental) scales.

Hence, the Environmental Conventions have explicitly recognized the value and importance of independent assessment processes, to complement their own mechanisms. Therefore, the consultation

process should assess the utility of an independent scientific assessment to assist the Environmental Conventions. This would be analogous to that where the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change provides independent scientific and technical advice to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its subsidiary bodies, particularly SBSTA.

ISC members are invited to give their views on the need for an IMoSEB.

A2 Who needs to be consulted?

Before embarking on any international assessment, it is critical to carefully design a consultation process that should include all major stakeholders. All stakeholders should be represented on the International Steering Committee very early on in the consultation process.

Stakeholders include governments from developed and developing countries, environmental conventions (CBD, CCD, Ramsar, CITES and CMS; also UNFCCC?), UN organizations, NGOs, private sector, indigenous people and other relevant elements of civil society.

ISC members are invited to look at the current membership, provide suggestions and exchange opinions on what they perceive as gaps in terms of stakeholders.

A3 What type of consultation should be envisaged?

It could be envisaged, as recently done for other on-going assessments to hold a series of regional consultations to define the needs of all stakeholders in the major regions of the globe. Such meetings could take place in 1) the Americas (N and S, together or separately?), 2) Africa, 3) Asia and 4) Europe.

ISC members are invited to discuss the proposed concept of regional meetings, and think about meetings already planned which could be used to that effect.

A4 What questions should be asked during the consultation?

ISC members are invited to start listing the issues which should be proposed for discussions during the regional consultations.

The issues of funding, budget and timetable listed below, also relevant to this working group, will be discussed in Paris.

Funding mechanism

Budget

In addition to the secretariat, which is funded by the French government, funds will be necessary to hold 4/5 regional consultations. It may be difficult to make use of already planned meetings on a related topic in these regions, but this will be tried. Each meeting should cost about 60,000 €, (to support attendance of 50 people at each meeting) for an overall budget of 300,000€.

Timetable

The consultation should take no more than 18 months, starting in Feb 06. This means that final recommendations by the ISC should come out around June 07.

Working Group 2- Stakeholders' needs

In this working group, the various stakeholders represented in the International Steering Committee (governments, multilateral organizations, NGOs, private sector and the scientific community) will propose ideas on who the stakeholders are, and what their needs are in terms of scientific and technological knowledge on biodiversity.

B1- Who would be the audiences and stakeholders for a new scientific mechanism?

If a new scientific mechanism is developed, serious consideration should be given to designing this mechanism to meet the needs of the wide range of relevant stakeholders, who are dependent upon, and impact on, biodiversity and ecosystem goods and services. This would include not only the Environmental Conventions, but individual national governments and government agencies (not only Ministries of Environment, but Ministries of all sectors that depend on ecosystems and impact ecosystems, e.g., agriculture, forestry, fisheries, water, energy, transportation, mining), local governments, the private sector, NGOs, local communities, consumers, and the scientific community in a manner analogous to the MA. The design, management and governance structures of a scientific mechanism would have to take the breadth of the stakeholders into account.

ISC Members are invited to review the stakeholders currently involved, and make suggestions to complement this list.

B2- What are the needs of the various stakeholders in terms of expertise on biodiversity?

What kind of information is needed for what stakeholders to provide the necessary information to elaborate policy options and support operational public and private actions? Have previous assessments been “user-driven” enough? Has the scientific expertise provided been usable by the various stakeholders?

ISC Members are invited to provide input on what their needs are in terms of scientific information and policy option, being aware of the new information gathered during recent assessments, such as the MA.

Working Group 3- Scientific approach

This working group will be tasked with starting to sketch the possible scientific approach that the IMoSEB could take, that is brainstorm on the overarching question asked by IMoSEB, define the scope of the assessment, and some of the key scientific challenges. This will lead to propositions which will be discussed and decided upon by the whole ISC, taking into account discussions held in other working groups.

C1- Overarching question to be addressed by IMoSEB

What is the primary goal of IMoSEB? Having an overarching question early on will help everyone focus on our common goal.

As an example, the primary goal of the on going IAASTD is to assess: “How can we reduce hunger and poverty, improve rural livelihoods and facilitate equitable, socially, environmentally and economically sustainable development through the generation, access to and use of agricultural knowledge, science and technology?”.

The primary goal of the MA is to “establish the scientific basis for actions needed to enhance the contribution of ecosystems to human well-being without undermining their long term productivity”.

Proposed overarching question:

How can we reduce hunger, poverty and the destruction of ecosystems, and promote conservation and sustainable use of Earth living resources, through the generation of scientific and technological knowledge on biodiversity?

ISC members are invited to brainstorm on an overarching question for the IMoSEB.

C2- Key questions to be addressed/ Scope of the assessment

What are the main scientific questions which need to be answered to advance the overarching goal?

What data are missing?

The brief of the Paris and Oaxaca meetings were to develop a scientific mechanism that could:

- Provide scientifically validated information on the status, trends, and services of biodiversity;
- Identify priorities and recommendations for biodiversity protection; and
- Inform the relevant international conventions, especially the Convention on Biological Diversity, and their Parties.
- Integrate biodiversity into the criteria considered in all economic and policy decisions that affect environmental management.

ISC members are invited to propose some key questions which need to be answered. This will be used to define the conceptual framework of the assessment.

In parallel to this, ISC members are invited to think about the scope of this new assessment, and whether it should emphasize: (i) only biodiversity; (ii) biodiversity and ecosystem goods and services; or (iii) biodiversity, ecosystem goods and services, and the links to human well-being, as with the MA. The broad and inclusive scope of the MA relative to the Global Biodiversity Assessment (GBA) has resulted in a greater appreciation of the important role of biodiversity and ecosystem goods and services in sustainable development and meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by a broad range of stakeholders and argues for a broad and inclusive scope.

C3- What would be the value-added of a new scientific mechanism and what would be the relationship with current and recent assessments?

A key issue that needs to be addressed is the value-added of the proposed mechanism relative to ongoing and recent assessment processes, e.g., the Ad-hoc technical expert groups of the CBD and the recently completed Millennium Ecosystem Assessment.

There needs to be a discussion of the value-added and relationship between the proposed scientific mechanism and the IPCC, in particular. Given the fact that climate change is a critical driver of biodiversity and ecosystem goods and services, coordination among these activities will be important.

Working Group 4- Characteristics of an IMoSEB

This working group is tasked with brushing the main contours of what IMoSEB could be in terms of governance, relationship with key partners, and management structure (Points D1 to D3, below).

D1- What would be the governance structure of IMoSEB?

A key question is what is the most appropriate governance structure, of an assessment process i.e., intergovernmental (e.g., the IPCC), non-governmental (e.g., the MA), or a hybrid, i.e., an intergovernmental process but with a multi-stakeholder Bureau (e.g., the IAASTD). Based on experience learnt from the five international assessments summarized in Annex I, the decision depends on which stakeholders the scientific mechanism is designed to influence most. Given that governments play a critical role in both directly and indirectly influencing the management of ecosystems, and hence biodiversity, an intergovernmental process is likely to ensure greater ownership of the process and conclusions by governments. However, because the private sector and other elements of civil society are highly dependent on, and impact, biodiversity and ecosystem goods and services, serious consideration should be given to involving them in the governance structure, hence the most appropriate structure may be an intergovernmental process but with a multi-stakeholder Bureau, like the IAASTD.

This is a key feature of a possible IMoSEB, which will need to be well articulated in the final recommendations. ISC members are invited to give their opinion and provide specific arguments on this topic.

D2- What would be the relationship between the new scientific mechanism and the Global Environmental Conventions, especially the CBD and its SBSTTA, CCD, Ramsar, and CMS?

A key issue is what type of relationship should be developed between the proposed scientific mechanism and the ecologically-related Environmental Conventions, especially the CBD, CCD, Ramsar, CMS and CITES. The discussion could examine the experience of the IPCC and its relationship with the UNFCCC and its subsidiary bodies.

While the IPCC is independent from the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol, it is the primary source of independent scientific, technical and economic advice to the Convention processes. An IPCC-UNFCCC Secretariat joint working group has been established to discuss the needs of the UNFCCC and what the IPCC can deliver. The UNFCCC through its SBSTA and the secretariat provides advice to the IPCC on the types of information it would find useful, but plays no formal role in the governance structure, nor is it part of the peer-review process. However, in many cases, the government representatives on the IPCC Bureau and Plenary tend to be the technical advisors to the UNFCCC SBSTA, hence ensuring close coordination between the scientific and policy processes. The independence of the IPCC has limited the political influence of the UNFCCC on the IPCC, yet the close working relationship between the IPCC and the UNFCCC via the Joint Working Group and the formal IPCC presentations at the UNFCCC SBSTA and COPs has ensured that the IPCC results have been relevant, providing the scientific and technical basis for the negotiation process.

ISC Members are invited to discuss and provide arguments on the relation between IMoSEB and the various environmental multilateral agreements.

D3- What would be the management structure of a new scientific mechanism?

If an independent scientific mechanism is established then a key issue that needs to be discussed is who would co-sponsor/manage it. One obvious candidate is UNEP, which has co-sponsored and co-managed a large number of international scientific assessments, including the international ozone assessments, the Global Biodiversity Assessment, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, the International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development, the Global Environmental Outlook, and the Global International Waters Assessment. However, there are other potential sponsors or co-sponsors that should be considered. A set of criteria could be developed to assess who would sponsor/manage the assessment. For example, the IAASTD has seven international organizations involved in co-sponsoring and managing it (World Bank, FAO, WHO, UNEP, UNESCO, UNDP and GEF) because the assessment has relevance to all of them, hence their co-sponsorship ensures their ownership of the process and increases the probability of them incorporating the findings into their activities.

ISC members are invited to think about a set of organizations which should sponsor IMoSEB

The following topics (D to F) flagged below will be discussed in Paris, but are not part of the electronic consultation.

D4- What principles and procedures would guide a new scientific mechanism?

A set of principles and procedures should be developed. An initial starting point for discussion could be those developed and implemented by the IPCC and the MA. Adherence to a well defined set of principles and procedures ensures that the process is open, transparent and legitimate. The principles and procedures should include issues such as: (i) organization of the assessment process; (ii) roles and responsibilities of the different stakeholders; (iii) decisions to be taken in plenary; (iv) roles and responsibilities of the Bureau, secretariat and co-sponsoring agencies; (v) procedures for the preparation, peer-review, acceptance, approval, adoption and publication of the assessment report; (vi) author nomination and selection process; (vii) roles and responsibilities of authors and review editors; and (viii) conflict resolution procedures.

D5- What would be the estimated budget and funding mechanisms for a new scientific mechanism?

An assessment of the cost of any proposed scientific mechanism should be made, and an assessment of potential funding mechanisms.

D6- When would the scientific mechanism be needed and what would be its timetable?

If an assessment is deemed valuable then an estimate of when the assessment would be needed and the time to complete it should be assessed. This issue is related to the value-added of any scientific mechanism relative to current and recently completed assessments, e.g., the global and sub-global MA assessments.

CHARACTERISTICS OF SELECTED ASSESSMENT PROCESSES

THESES REVIEWS, MADE BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT, SHOULD BE USED ONLY IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE CONSULTATIVE PROCESS AND THE INTERNATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE

GESAMP	JOINT GROUP OF EXPERTS ON THE SCIENTIFIC ASPECTS OF MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
GIWA	GLOBAL INTERNATIONAL WATER ASSESSMENT
IGEO	INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP ON EARTH OBSERVATIONS
IPCC	INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE
LADA	LAND DEGRADATION ASSESSMENT IN DRYLANDS
MEA	MILLENNIUM ECOSYSTEM ASSESSMENT
SWERA	SOLAR AND WIND ENERGY RESOURCE ASSESSMENT
UNFF	UNITED NATIONS FORUM ON FORESTS

Background

The Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP) was established in 1967 by a number of United Nations Agencies. Its purpose was to provide advice to the agencies and, through them their Member Governments on a problem that was just beginning to be recognized as a major threat.

In 2001, GESAMP' s eight sponsoring organizations commissioned an independent review that concluded that GESAMP should be continued as **an agreed source of independent scientific advice on marine environmental protection to the UN system**, but with changes to its organization, work methods, and management. The resulting discussions among GESAMP experts, its sponsoring organizations, and a variety of interested external parties have led to a strategic vision for a “New GESAMP” that will:

maintain and strengthen GESAMP' s established credibility;
strengthen engagement both with the broader scientific community and with governments and other major user groups to enhance the relevance and legitimacy of GESAMP' s advice; and
ensure professionalism in work methods, management, and product delivery.

Overview

The GESAMP mission is to provide authoritative, independent, interdisciplinary scientific advice to organizations and governments to support the protection and sustainable use of the marine environment.

In fulfillment of its mission, GESAMP has:

- in respond to the requests,
 - to integrate and synthesize they results of regional and thematic assessments and scientific studies,
 - to support global assessments of the marine environment,
 - to provide scientific and technical guidance on the design and execution of marine environmental assessments and
 - to provide scientific reviews, analyses and advice on specific topics relevant to the condition of marine environment, its investigation, protection, and/or management;

- on a regular basis,
 - to provide a overview of the marine environmental monitoring assessment, and related activities of UN agencies and advise on how these activities might be improved and better integrated and coordinated and,
 - to identify new and emerging issues regarding the degradation of the marine environment that are relevance to governments and sponsoring organizations

Governance

The “new GESAMP” as a whole is an integrated mechanism (**Figure 1**) that includes:

GESAMP itself, i.e. the sitting group of experts, which provides overall scientific guidance, perspective, and oversight;

Working groups, composed of both members of GESAMP and other experts selected from the GESAMP pool, that execute the individual projects that make up most of the substantive work programme;

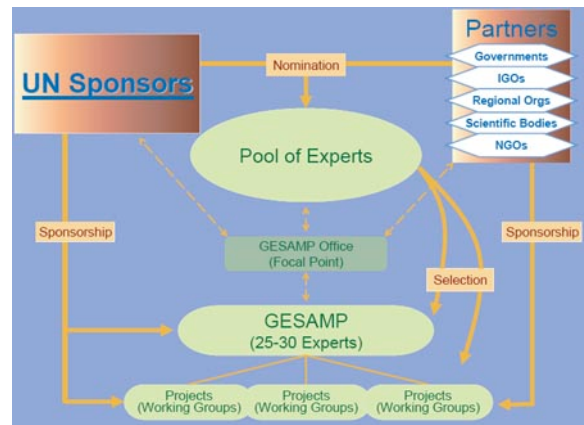
UN sponsoring organizations, under whose auspices and imprimatur the mechanism as a whole resides;

Partner organizations, which may include governments, intergovernmental organizations, regional bodies, scientific bodies, and international NGOs, that cosponsor specific GESAMP projects; and

Supporting organizations, which provide financial or other support to GESAMP but are not actively involved in the design or execution of projects.

Each UN sponsoring organization appoints a **Technical Secretary for GESAMP**. Together the Technical Secretaries form an **Executive Board**, which along with the Chair and Vice-Chair of GESAMP meets as the **Executive Committee**.

Day-to-day administration and management of GESAMP will largely be performed by the GESAMP Office.



The primary roles of the **Executive Board** will be to **provide policy direction and technical guidance** to the Office and advocacy and liaison within the sponsoring organizations.

The Executive Board will also nominate the Chair and Vice-Chair and review candidates for the Senior Officer, who will be in charge of the GESAMP Office.

The Executive Committee will develop GESAMP's budget and work plan, appoint GESAMP members, and generally supervise the activities of the Office.

Technical Secretaries will also have responsibilities in connection with the sponsorship of working groups and other GESAMP-related activities of their individual organizations.

A dedicated **GESAMP Office** will be established to centralize GESAMP's administration and management, thereby reducing duplication and increasing efficiency and transparency. The Office will also have important new functions needed to increase GESAMP's effectiveness. In particular, the Office will provide a single "shop front", a focal point for interactions with governments and external organizations. It will also promote and disseminate GESAMP's products and capabilities to make them more visible to users, and develop an active fund-raising program. The Office will operate under the direction of the Executive Committee.

The primary mechanism for participation in GESAMP will be its pool of experts, from which members of GESAMP and its working groups will be recruited. Pool experts who are not current members of GESAMP or its working groups will have opportunities to participate by providing peer reviews, bringing new and emerging issues to GESAMP's attention, and commenting upon draft *GESAMP Statements*. Pool experts may also be invited to serve on *ad hoc* task teams.

The GESAMP Office will establish and maintain the pool as a database of expertise. Nominations to the pool may be made by the sponsoring and other UN organizations, their Member States, regional organizations, international scientific bodies and non-governmental organizations, and sitting members of GESAMP. To foster broad participation and publicize the re-organization of GESAMP, the GESAMP Office and sponsoring organizations will actively solicit nominations.

Pool experts will be briefed on GESAMP's background and operations, receive electronic copies of GESAMP products, and be regularly updated on current GESAMP activities via an electronic mailing list and dedicated area of the GESAMP web site.

The participation of pool experts in GESAMP's work will actively engage a large number of scientists from governments, non-governmental organizations, and industry, enhancing

GESAMP's interactions with these groups. These ongoing interactions will not only raise the profile of GESAMP and its products, but also enhance the capacity of pool experts to contribute to GESAMP, and to scientific advisory processes in general. The pool will also greatly broaden the expertise available to GESAMP and increase its ability to respond rapidly to pressing issues.

GESAMP itself will consist of 25-30 experts nominated by the Executive Board from the GESAMP pool, largely on the basis of their scientific credentials and experience. The duties of GESAMP members are to:

Participate in the sessions of GESAMP; and

Contribute to the intersessional work of GESAMP including reviewing terms of reference, project briefs, and draft reports, contributing to consensus statements and the identification of emerging issues, and participating in *ad hoc* task teams, correspondence groups, and working groups as appropriate.

The first consideration in nominating experts to GESAMP will be to maintain the necessary disciplinary composition

Working Group Members

Working group members are experts in disciplines required for the completion of the working group's terms of reference, collectively representing both breadth and depth of expertise. Generally, about three-quarters of working group members should not be current members of GESAMP.

The duties of working group members are to contribute to fulfilling the working group's terms of reference under the leadership of the working group Chair and according to the working group's work plan.

Funding

The GESAMP Office will manage GESAMP's finances according to UN standards and procedures on behalf of all sponsoring organizations and under the oversight of the Executive Committee. Finances will be managed as a Trust Fund for core activities including regular functions and individual project accounts for "on-request" functions.

Outputs- expertise

GESAMP Reports and Studies

GESAMP's major thematic studies will continue to be published as *GESAMP Reports and Studies*. They will be conducted by working groups in accordance with a comprehensive project brief prepared at the inception of each study. All reports will be externally peer-reviewed, reviewed and approved by GESAMP. Their release will be adequately publicized, and their results presented to appropriate international fora such as intergovernmental meetings and scientific conferences.

Reports to GESAMP

GESAMP sometimes forms task teams or correspondence groups to investigate an issue of interest to ascertain its current status and/or scope for potential work for GESAMP. These groups may include members of GESAMP, its working groups, or other members of the pool of experts. The groups generally work by correspondence and report the results of their investigations back to GESAMP. Such reports provide valuable background information on marine environmental issues, but in the past have been published solely as Annexes to reports of GESAMP sessions. To disseminate the information more widely, and make GESAMP's work more transparent, these reports will be published electronically in a new series, *Reports to GESAMP*. *Reports to GESAMP* are primarily

intended for use by GESAMP itself but they will also be of interest to governments, sponsoring organizations, and the scientific community.

User- and Project-Specific Outputs

GESAMP may produce other outputs tailored to the special requirements of particular users, projects, or programs. A prominent example of this is the chemical hazard evaluations produced by the standing working group on the Evaluation of the Hazards of Harmful Substances Carried by Ships. Other examples might include peer review of the work of other bodies or the development of training materials or handbooks. The nature of such outputs and method of producing them will be determined *ad hoc*.

The GESMAP will also produce others reports as the Annual Report of the Chair, Annual Business Report, Overview of Marine Assessment Activities

Relevance: Engaging the Users

To effectively support the protection and sustainable use of the marine environment, GESAMP' s advice must be salient, i.e. relevant to its intended users in both content and delivery. GESAMP' s strategy to ensure the relevance of its outputs is to explicitly consider the needs of users and involve them in designing and developing GESAMP' s products, as follows:

- Key user groups for project outputs will be clearly identified when work is initiated;
- Members of those groups will be involved in project design, including the development of terms of reference for GESAMP working groups;
- Members of major user groups will participate in GESAMP and its working groups;
- *GESAMP Reports and Studies* will be peer-reviewed by members of key user groups;
- GESAMP products will be designed to meet the needs of users in content, language, format, and mode of delivery, while remaining accessible to a broad audience; and
- GESAMP's outputs will be effectively publicized and presented in appropriate fora.

Interaction with Governments

Because its advice is generally intended to inform policy formulation, GESAMP's relevance to governments is particularly important. To improve the policy relevance of its advice, GESAMP's expertise in socio-economic aspects of marine environmental protection, including the economic valuation of ecosystems, will be broadened and strengthened. GESAMP will also improve its interactions with governments through mechanisms including:

- Encouraging governments and other organizations to nominate experts to the GESAMP Pool of Experts, as noted in section 2.3.1 above;
- Proactively seeking partnerships and interactions with governments and other relevant organizations and activities;
- Establishing a central GESAMP Office as the focal point for such interactions;
- Encouraging governments and other organizations to propose work for GESAMP; and
- Direct reporting to the United Nations Open-Ended Informal Consultative Process (ICP), CSD, the UN Secretary-General, and the governing bodies of the sponsoring organizations.

GESAMP has little comparative advantage in policy analysis and formulation *per se* and will not attempt to develop policy recommendations independently. When GESAMP does participate in policy processes it will adopt the multi-tiered approach described in section 2.5, in which scientific review and analysis and policy review are conducted at different stages of the process.

Interaction with Regional Bodies

GESAMP has heretofore functioned on a primarily global level, but its independent evaluation, various international fora, and indeed GESAMP itself have noted the desirability of greater involvement at a regional level. Such involvement, however, should be initiated by regional organizations and institutions. GESAMP's strategy for increased regional involvement is first to raise awareness of GESAMP and its capabilities at the regional level and second to provide mechanisms for cooperation with regional bodies. These include:

- Nomination by regional bodies of experts to the GESAMP pool;
- Accepting proposals for GESAMP projects from regional bodies; and
- Potentially, joint execution of projects with regional bodies.

In addition, an informal network of focal points/liaisons within regional seas organizations and regional scientific bodies will be developed.

Background

Global assessments have already been made on biodiversity, climate change, and the ozone layer (stratospheric ozone) for the purpose of supporting the implementation of the GEF project portfolio in these areas. GIWA is intended as a comparable assessment in support of the implementation of the international waters component of GEF.

October 96

GEF took the lead and provided funds to develop a large scale program to produce a a fully comprehensive and integrated Global International Waters Assessment , encompassing the problems of freshwater basins and associated coastal systems from the perspective of water quality and quantity and associated biodiversity and habitats"

February 97

First meeting of the steering group of the GIWA

June 97

Second meeting of the steering group of the GIWA

Overview

The Global International Waters Assessment is a partnership project. It will be implemented in collaboration between the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Kalmar University, and a wide range of partners within the international water community.

The overall objective of GIWA is to develop a comprehensive strategic assessment that may be used by GEF and its partners to identify priorities for remedial and mitigatory actions in international waters, designed to achieve significant environmental benefits at national, regional and global levels.

The aim of GIWA is to produce a comprehensive **and integrated global assessment of international waters**, the ecological status of and the causes of environmental problems in 66 water areas in the world, and focus on the key issues and problems facing the aquatic environment in transboundary waters. GIWA is also focusing on five major problem areas, (Freshwater shortage, Pollution, Habitat and community modification; Unsustainable exploitation of fisheries and other living resources, Global change) including 22 specific environmental and socio-economic problems. Causal chain analyses is an essential tool used to identify and better understand the links between perceived problems and their societal root causes.

GIWA is designed not merely to analyze the current problems and their societal root causes, but to develop scenarios of the future condition of the world's water resources and analyze policy options.

Ultimately, the aim is to **provide sound scientific advice to decision-makers and managers** concerned with water resources and dealing with environmental problems and threats to transboundary water bodies.

Governance

The Core Team of full time specialist, covering both regional and thematic concerns and based in Kalmar, will be advised by and report to a **Steering Group** of senior scientists and representatives of the major co-sponsoring organizations.

The primary task of the Core Team is to establish the major components of the GIWA Network (the different task teams) for consideration by the Steering Group.

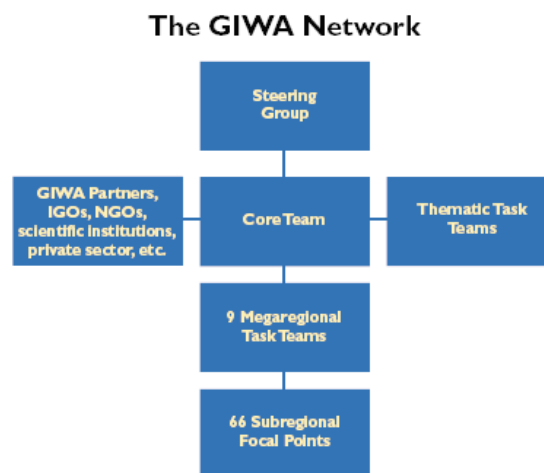
A steering group composed by senior scientists and representatives of the co-sponsoring organizations

Mega-regional Task Teams: Nine task teams scattered in 66 water areas

Thematic Task Teams will also be established to identify needs for case studies, particularly in the socio-economic domain.

The network established to accomplish the work of GIWA will consist of national experts and institutions, regional and global collaborating bodies organized around geographic units of assessment and grouped into nine major regions. It represents more than 2000 experts and scientists.

Overall coordination of the work of participating individuals and institutions will take place through focal points for each of the sub region who will participate in the work of nine Mega Regional Task Teams, supported and assisted by a Core team.



Assessment and expertise

The next step will be to complete a preliminary GIWA Assessment Protocol in close co-operation with the mega-regional Task Teams. An approved methodology for making causal chain analyses to examine societal root causes of water-related environmental problems, and guidelines for the making of transboundary diagnostic analyses, will be designed and offered as a primary GIWA product applicable to GEF International Waters projects.

The GIWA assessments methodology in its simple form comprises the following components:

- Scaling
- Scoping
- Causal Chain analysis
- Policy option analysis

Scaling is the exercise whereby the hydrological catchments and the receiving seas that comprises the region are identified (water system, population, boundaries,...)

Scoping enables a comprehensive assessment the current perception of the impacts of each GIWA issue (both environmental and socioeconomic). The scoping is the identification of the severity of impacts of the 22 GIWA issues on a comparative basis which can serve as a mechanism for prioritization.

Causal chain analysis traces the cause effect pathway associated with each significant concern from the socioeconomic and environmental impacts back to its roots cause. Its purpose is to identify the most important root causes of each concern, in order to target them by policy measures for cost-effective remediation or mitigation. It should be stresses that CCA is policy oriented.

Policy option analysis indicates potential management interventions to solve or mitigate the addressed concerns

GIWA does not work in isolation, but in a complex system of collaboration . It has partners in all regions of the world: many international organizations active on global and regionals levels; experts

National experts and institutions (assisted by the Mega-regional Task Teams, the Core Team and the Thematic Task Teams) will gather and analyze the information necessary for applying the GIWA Assessment Protocol at the sub-regional level.

As far as possible, this will lead to the completion of regional assessments based on the products of the sub-regional assessments. Based on existing information, there will be differences in the approach required in each region.

During this phase, the Thematic Task Teams in collaboration with the Core Team, will also begin the elaboration of a series of global reviews - integrating information from the regional studies and historical information - based on the outcomes of the work of the UN Commission for Sustainable Development.

At this stage, GIWA will concentrate on scenario development and policy options analyses, and focus upon the evaluation of alternative scenarios. The analyses will incorporate a number of scenarios developed on the basis of projected actions taken to address the identified societal causes of environmental degradation. The initial starting point for these scenarios will be "current trends". In effect, from an economic perspective, these analyses will consider the implications of measures to internalize environmental externalities. Different alternative approaches will be considered in order to reach a given objective. From a social perspective, the analyses will consider the incremental cost of measures to encourage the modification of unsustainable social and economic development trends. The uncertainties in the scenarios must also be identified and clearly stated.

The final phase of GIWA will be dedicated to the preparation and dissemination of the global and regional GIWA products. Emphasis will be placed on the preparation of reviews that are easily comprehensible to various sectors of society. It is essential that the Global International Waters Assessment does not remain a desk exercise but is made available to the public in general, to educational institutions and to national and regional authorities. The GIWA meta-database and regional reports should be freely available through electronic communications, on CD-ROM and, where strictly necessary, in hard copy.

GIWA Products

The key products of GIWA is a series of regional reports (66 sub-regional and 9 mega-regional) on the state of transboundary water bodies in relation to 5 major threats. The reports describe and score those threats by region by region, predict future development, discuss root causes, and provide policy options for sustainable management. The report apply a uniform methodology and are solid science based but user oriented (regional definition, assessment, causal chains analysis, policy options, executive summary and conclusions).

Considering the many different target groups and stakeholders concerned, the various and sometimes complex GIWA products need to be tailored to the specific needs of each recipient - the scientific community, policy-makers and decision-makers, the private sector, the public and the media, etc.

GIWA products will also include:

- The Global International Waters Assessment, a comprehensible and illustrated report, comparable to the assessments already made for biodiversity, climate and stratospheric ozone.
- Products at the scientific-technical level
- A comprehensive bibliography and meta-data catalogue of already completed global and regional programmes related to international waters.
- GIWA Assessment Protocol, including an agreed methodology for making causal chain analyses to examine societal causes of water-related environmental problems.
- An agreed methodology for making transboundary diagnostic analyses at regional scales.

- reviews of the ecological status of transboundary waters and major water-related issues, including analyses of their societal causes.
- Guidelines for the preparation of causal chain analyses.
- Global thematic reviews.
- Mega-regional and sub-regional scenarios for the future state of international waters based on planning boundaries, trends and rates of change in industrialization, population growth and development.
- A global analysis of the societal causes of identified major water-related concerns and principal issues; and a global overview of the relative importance of the various major concerns and principal issues by region.
- GIWA reports, databases and information sources available on the Internet and on CD-ROM.
- Products for the educational sector and the public
- Popular information, plain-language technical reports.
- Popular educational and information materials specific to the mega-regions and sub-regions.
- GIWA educational CD-ROM.

GIWA contribution to the UNDP/IW-Learn Project web site.

Background

- WSSD, Johannesburg, 2002
Statement of an urgent need for coordinated observations relating to the state of the Earth
- Earth Observation Summit, Washington DC, July 2003
Establishment of an *ad-hoc* intergovernmental Group on Earth Observation (*ad-hoc* GEO) in charge of the development of a 10-year Implementation program for February 2005.
33 countries, the EC and 21 international organizations
Five technical groups and small secretariat were established for the redaction of this plan. A serie of sub-groups meeting and a plenary meeting led to the framework
- Earth Observation Summit, Tokyo, April 2004
Adoption after review and negotiations (GEO 3, Cape Town), of a framework document defining the scope and intent of a Global Earth Observation Systems of Systems (GEOSS)
43 countries, the EC and 25 international organizations
- Earth Observation Summit, Brussels, February 2005

After Tokyo, a small task team was charged by the ad-hoc GEO with the drafting of an implementation plan. The **GEOSS 10-Year Implementation Plan** was negotiated in Ottawa and adopted in Brussels after being reviewed by technical experts, countries and international organizations.

This summit established the intergovernmental Group on Earth Observations (GEO)

Members

The GEO welcomes and is open to all interested governments. The GEO may also invite the participation of organizations, international bodies, and individual experts.

Purpose of the plan / But

The purpose of GEOSS is to achieve comprehensive, coordinated and sustained observations of the Earth system, in order to improve monitoring of the state of the Earth, increase understanding of Earth processes, and enhance prediction of the behavior of the Earth system. GEOSS will meet the need for timely, quality long-term global information as a basis for sound decision making , and will enhance delivery of benefits to society in the initial areas mentioned in the plan.

The plan defines a sequence of actions and responsibilities. GOESS has an indefinite lifetime, subject to periodic review of its continued effectiveness

The functions of the GEO include:

- Overseeing implementation of the plan, including monitoring and evaluating progress
- Further developing and periodically updating the plan taking account existing activities, and evolving needs and capabilities
- Identifying opportunities and measures to minimize gaps in data , metadata and products
- Setting and addressing priorities for filling gaps

- Coordinating efforts to involve and assist developing countries in improving and sustaining their contributions to observing systems, their access to and effective utilization of shared data, metadata, and products, and the related technologies
- Facilitating exchange of shared data, metadata and products
- Measuring , monitoring and facilitating interoperability
- Drawing on the expertise of the international scientific and technological communities
- Facilitating ser involvement and conducting outreach at global and regional levels
- Adopting an annual Work Plan and associated budget
- Selecting the director of the secretariat
- Establishing and adopting its operating rules and procedures
- Consulting, coordinating and liaising with relevant UN specialized Agencies and Programs, and international scientific organizations

Governance

Organizational structure

GEO, comprising the members and participating organizations, is established on a voluntary and legally non binding basis, with voluntary contributions to support activities

GEO will meet in Plenary at least annually at the senior level and periodically at the ministerial level.

Geo will take decisions by consensus of its members. Decisions on implementation of the plan will be based upon sound scientific and technical advice obtained through appropriate consultation with the research and observation communities.

To support its work, the GEO Plenary will establish

- An elected Executive committee
- Subsidiary body as appropriate, including science and technical advisory mechanisms
- A secretariat

The secretariat led by the director will facilitate and support GEO activities. The secretariat will consist of co-located, well qualified, professional and administrative staff

Funding of GEOSS

The total cost for implementing GEOSS will be significant, but only limited resources will need to be provided through GEO. Most of the resources will be provided through existing national and international mechanisms, and by voluntary contributions to special projects. Unless otherwise agreed, any costs arising from GEO activities will be borne by the Member or Participating Organization that incurs them and will be subject to the availability of funds, personnel or others resources.

Members and Participating Organizations may make voluntary financial or others contributions to GEO activities, including the baseline activities of the Secretariat, through a trust fund to be administrated by the secretariat. Others entities may make contributions to finance specific activities approved by GEO.

Performances indicators

GEO will develop performance indicators for GEOSS.

It is expected that time will be needed to make arrangements for the successor mechanism. Following adoption of this plan at the third EOS in 2005. To maintain current momentum, the terms of reference for the ad-hoc GEO will be extended until such terms of Reference are reco gnizing that ,in order for the necessary transitional arrangements to be completed, the ad-hoc GEO Terms of References will need to continue until the first meeting of the successor GEO

Interactions / relations with

Biodiversity

The 2005 report on planned GEOSS activities, based on the analysis of 200 contributions from external experts underlined in the 5 strategic activities and the 26 tasks to implement in the second half of 2005, several points where biodiversity is involved

The first strategic activity is to expand and strengthen links with new partners. Diversitas as representing a central international for a for coordinating global activity in Biodiversity is one of these partners

In the tasks related to User interface and requirements , two tasks are related to biodiversity:

Task 10: Conduct a planning meeting for a workshop to be co-hosted by GEO (include GBIF, Diversitas, UNCDB,...) in 2006, to identify initial concept and plan of action **to develop a biodiversity monitoring system.**

The task is in progress, GEO Secretariat has already engaged with DIVERSITAS on identification of steering committee members. This task will be linked to Biodiversity tasks BI-06-02, BI-06-04 and BI-06-05 of the 2006 Work Plan.

Task 14: Engage with GBIF in the development, before December 2005, of a survey tool to conduct a 2006 survey of user requirements for **improving the interoperability of the multi-institutional biodiversity observation** network through GBIF and ensure that it links to data sets of ecological and other related observation systems.

The task is postponed to 2006 (will be combined with Biodiversity task BI-06-05)

Activities for 2006 (for approval), separated in 5 different tasks, will focus on:

- Developing coherent biodiversity strategies within the context of an agreed upon ecosystem classification system
- Facilitating the establishment of monitoring system that enable frequently – repeated, globally coordinated assessment of trends and distributions of species of special conservation merit
- Facilitating consensus on data collection protocols and the coordination of the development of interoperability among monitoring programs

- Mandate

Recognizing the problem of potential global climate change, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) established the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 1988. The IPCC completed its First Assessment Report in 1990. The Report played an important role in establishing the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a UN Framework Convention on Climate Change by the UN General Assembly. The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was adopted in 1992 and entered into force in 1994. It provides the overall policy framework for addressing the climate change issue. The IPCC has continued to provide scientific, technical and socio-economic advice to the world community, and in particular to the Parties to the UNFCCC through its periodic assessment reports on the state of knowledge of causes of climate change, its potential environmental and socio-economic impacts and options for addressing it. Even if the role of the IPCC is only vaguely referred to in the UNFCCC, it has over the years been firmly established as an assessment mechanism serving the SBSTA and the COP of the convention

- Scope

The role of the IPCC is to assess the state of the climate system, including the influence of human activities, the impact of climate change on human health, socio-economic sectors and ecological systems, and policies and technologies to adapt to climate change and to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions. The scope of the assessment is therefore thematic, and takes place at the global, regional and subregional levels.

- Periodicity

The IPCC produces a series of assessment reports at approximately five-year intervals. Its First Assessment Report was completed in 1990, its Second in 1995, and its Third in 2001. The Fourth will be released in 2007

- Working Modalities

IPCC has three working groups and a task force and follows an agreed set of principles and procedures for selection of experts, conducting assessments and adoption of reports. Working Group I assesses the scientific aspects of the climate system and climate change. Working Group II addresses the vulnerability of socio-economic and natural systems to climate change, negative and positive consequences of climate change, and options for adapting to it. Working Group III assesses options for limiting greenhouse gas emissions and otherwise mitigating climate change. The Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories is responsible for the IPCC National Greenhouse Gas Inventories Programme. Over 2000 experts from nearly 100 countries were involved in the preparation and peer-review of each of the Second and Third Assessment Reports. A 30-member Bureau of nationally/regionally-nominated government representatives oversees the management of the assessment process, but all major decisions are made by the IPCC Panel (all governments) in plenary. In addition to three comprehensive assessments, a number of Special Reports on specific issues have been prepared at the request of the governments. For example, governments requested IPCC prepare a report on Land-Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry in order to provide the scientific and technical basis for implementing certain Articles within the Protocol. The Assessment Reports and Special Reports undergo expert and expert/ government review, and a final government review of the summaries for Policymakers before approval by Plenary. Governments approve the scope of the assessments, nominate lead authors and peer-reviewers, are involved in the peer-review process and approve the Summary for Policymakers.

- Costs of Assessment

IPCC is funded by UNEP, WMO, UNFCCC and voluntary contributions to the IPCC Trust Fund. The cost of the IPCC is approximately US\$ 5 000 000 per year

- Mandate

LADA responds to the need to strengthen support to land degradation assessment at international and national levels. It also responds to the needs of the joint work program between the Convention of Biodiversity (CBD) and the Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD) on Dry and Sub-humid Lands and was fully endorsed by the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP4) of the CCD in Bonn, Germany on 11-22 December 2000 in its Decision # 18.

- Scope

The Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands (LADA) will generate up-to-date ecological, social, and economic and technical information, including a combination of traditional knowledge and modern science, to guide integrated and cross-sectoral planning and management in drylands. LADA will develop and implement strategies, tools and methods to assess and quantify the nature, extent, severity and impacts of land degradation on ecosystems, watersheds and river basins, and carbon storage in drylands at a range of spatial and temporal scales. It will also build national, regional and global assessment capacities to enable the design and planning of interventions to mitigate land degradation and establish sustainable land use and management practices. It will produce - with country participation - a scientifically valid and objective standardized methodological framework for the assessment and monitoring of land degradation causes at global and national levels, including identification of key indicators of the causes of land degradation.

- Periodicity

In development from 2001 under a GEF-financed PDF-B project. PDF-B duration is 24 months beginning in December 2001. The implementation of the GEF-funded full scaled project will take four years and was supported to start in October 2005 after completion of the project appraisal. The project has been approved by four pilot countries and the approval of more countries is expected by the UNCCD COP 7 in October 2005.

- Working Modalities

As the Implementing agency of GEF and the assessment, UNEP will play a key role in steering and implementing this project. The full technical, scientific and operational co-ordination of the project development (PDF-B) stage of the LADA project will be done by FAO as the executing agency, with direct support of its technical divisions and decentralized offices and its Inter-departmental Working Group on Desertification. The overall implementation of PDF-B activities will be monitored through, and when necessary cleared by, the International Technical Steering Committee (ITSC). LADA will generate new data, knowledge and processes of land degradation and its repercussions. During the PDF-B, the project will develop and test novel integrated approaches and methods for assessing land degradation in dry areas, that link biophysical and technical with socio-economic (especially policy and institutional) factors, with scientific reliability and robust application to different kinds of land degradation at different scales. It will generate methodologies, information and data for the implementation of the full LADA project. This will include establishing an International Technical Steering Committee (ITSC), reviews and synthesis, thematic studies, development, testing, and revision of integrated assessment approaches and methods, capacity and network development, pilot studies, implementation-related strategies, project development, and others. Some of LADA methods include: expert opinion, remote sensing, field monitoring, productivity changes, sample studies at farmer level, based on field criteria and the expert opinion of land users, modelling.

- Costs of Assessment

LADA is funded by UNEP/GEF and the Global Mechanism of the UNCCD and receives in kind contributions from the UNCCD Secretariat. The estimated total cost of the PDF-B is US\$ 1 375 000 and the estimated total cost of full project. US\$ 9 000 000.

- Mandate

The UN Secretary-General launched the assessment in 2001. The initial demand for the Millennium Assessment came from a Steering Committee comprised of UNEP, FAO, UNDP, UNESCO, CBD, CCD, World Bank, World Council for Science (ICSU), Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), World Business Council on Sustainable Development (WBCSD), World Resources Institute (WRI), World Conservation Union (IUCN), and the Global Environment Facility (GEF). After one year of consultation with the potential users of the assessment, this Committee recommended in 1999 that the MA be established. The Conference of Parties of the CBD and CCD and the Standing Committee of the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar), and their scientific advisory bodies have since welcomed the MA and called upon it to undertake activities to meet some of their assessment needs.

- Scope

The scope of the MA is ecosystem services and the links between ecosystem services and human well-being. It will assess ecosystem condition, plausible futures and response measures at the global level, and pilot a series of assessments at the regional, national and community level in order to provide the types of information needed by a wide range of users. All major ecosystem types will be covered, as well as the important services provided by those systems for people. Other topics to be assessed include the vulnerability of socio-economic and natural systems at multiple scales under multiple pressures, as well as the availability and quality of data for integrated ecosystem assessments at the global scale, and at the scale of the various sub-global components of the MA. The report will also identify global hotspots of change (areas of rapid land cover and land use change), and gaps in knowledge relating to ecosystem assessment.

- Periodicity

MA began in 2001 and was completed in 2005.

- Working Modalities

The MA will not be creating its own data, but will use existing data to consider the current condition of ecosystems and their capacity to provide goods and services. It follows a procedure similar to that of IPCC. The Condition and Trends Working Group will assess current condition of ecosystems and the services provided by those ecosystems. The Scenarios Working Group will consider plausible futures of ecosystem services and implications for human well-being in the form of scenarios, as well as response options available to affect these futures. The assessment will use an analytical framework that is a modified DPSIR, which will be applied at multiple scales through the assessment of current conditions (and recent trends), scenarios and response options. The MA is non-governmental and is administered by a secretariat that is provided by dispersed support organizations (including ICLARM, Malaysia; UNEP-WCMC, UK; Institute of Economic Growth, India; WRI, USA; Meridian Institute, USA; SCOPE, France; UNEP, Kenya; CIMMYT, Mexico). Its Assessment Panel is composed of 13 leading natural and social scientists, and representatives of each of the stakeholder groups comprise a 40+ member Board of Directors, which approved the scope of the assessment, the geographic balance of the authors and which will approve the Summaries for Policymakers. All MA documents will undergo governmental and expert review. MA Board and MA Authors include individuals and organizations from the private sector, indigenous peoples, civil society, policymakers, decision-makers.

- Costs of Assessment

The MA is funded by the GEF, United Nations Foundation, David and Lucille Packard Foundation, and The World Bank. Additional support is provided by CGIAR, FAO, Government of Norway, Rockefeller Foundation, UNDP, UNEP, NASA, the Government of China, the European Commission, and others. The core funding of the MA is approximately US\$ 21 000 000.

Mandate

This UNEP coordinated Program is a 4-year project (initially 3) and a consequence of the lack of adequate solar and wind resource data and the lack of tools to evaluate these data to plan the use of renewable energy technologies for in the developing countries. The overall goal is to promote the integration of wind and solar alternatives in national and regional energy planning as well as related policy making. The project will enable informed decision making and enhance the ability of participating governments to attract increased investor interest in renewable energy.

Scope

SWERA is coordinated by UNEP on behalf of more than 25 institutions around the world. SWERA has a global scope even if the pilot project focused first on 13 developing countries. It aims at produce and develop new informational tools for energy planners and projects developers in each country involved. These tools include regional and national maps of solar and wind energy resources and a geographical information system (GIS) that will allow easy access to the information contained in these maps. The availability and accessibility, high resolution solar and wind energy resource will remove a significant barrier to widespread use of clean solar and wind technologies.

Working modalities

SWERA is creating a global archive of information and a technical review service that can help developing countries evaluate their renewable energy resources. It is doing so through a network of international and national agencies, who are collecting and analyzing data on solar and wind energy resources.

The SWERA is based on the collaboration between a project manager , a steering committee, the regional coordinators , the technical supporting agencies , country partners and others stakeholders/ UNEP / DTIE will coordinate the project with regional assistance from INPE and TERI as required (for the coordination and assistance with regional country activities). The steering committee will consist of members from UNEP / DTIE, NREL, Riso, TERI, INPE, U NEP/ GRID and DLR. The World Bank and UNDP will be invited to participate especially for the coordination of country activities.

NREL, Riso, TERI, INPE, U NEP/ GRID will implement the mapping, database and GIS activities.

A solar and a wind review committee composed of experts from SWERA, independent experts have been established to review available information methods and assessment capacity in the country. The lead national collaborating agency will designate country partner experts, to work with solar or wind experts of SWERA.

The purpose of these reviews is to identify the resource, assessment, capacity and related information already available to the country or region.

Periodicity

SWERA was a 4 year pilot project on 13 countries but it should be develop and available to all developing countries.

Cost of assessments

SWERA had a total budget of \$9.3 million and was funded principally by the GEF (\$6.8). Others donors are the collaborating agencies.

Background / IPF – IFF processes

The UNFF was established by ECOSOC Resolution/2000/35 as part of a new international arrangement on forests, to carry on the work building on the IPF and IFF processes.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF) and Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF) processes (1995 – 2000) represent five years of international forest policy dialogue.

The **Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF)**, established by the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) for two years (1995-97) to provide a forum for forest policy deliberations.

Subsequently, in 1997, ECOSOC established the **Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF)**, for three years (1997-2000).

The IPF and the IFF, both under the auspices of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development, were the main intergovernmental fora for international forest policy development.

An informal, high level **Interagency Task Force on Forests (ITFF)** made up of eight international organizations, was set up in July 1995 to coordinate the inputs of international organizations to the forest policy process.

One of the most important legacies of the IPF/IFF process is the wide-ranging set of approximately 270 proposals for action, known collectively as the IPF/IFF Proposals for Action. These proposals provide governments, international organizations, private sector entities and all other major groups guidance on how to further develop, implement and coordinate national and international policies on sustainable forest management.

The IPF

Action and duty

The IPF was expected to focus on 11 issues clustered into five interrelated categories and submit final conclusions and policy recommendations to the Commission at its fifth session in 1997. The IPF will consider the outputs of a large number of ongoing processes and initiatives and draw upon the expertise and resources of relevant organizations within and outside the United Nations system, as well as from all relevant parties, including major groups.

Meetings of experts sponsored by one or more countries, international organizations and major groups will contribute to the work of the IPF. The IPF will hold a total of four meetings and, at its first session, decided that all topics should be left open for discussion during its second and third sessions, but different topics will be emphasized at each session.

Support

The IPF was supported by a core group of international agencies who have established the informal, high level Interagency Task Force on Forests (ITFF).

Members include: FAO (Chair and Task Manager for forests in Agenda 21), UNDP/PCSD, ITTO, UNDP, UNEP, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the World Bank. The first five of these have seconded staff to the Secretariat. Each of the agencies has assumed lead responsibility for one or more of the eleven Program Elements of the Panel's work program.

This arrangement has allowed rapid deployment of experienced staff within the UN system, avoiding long recruitment delays and the establishment of any new permanent structures and, at the same time, has enabled the UN Secretariat to draw effectively on the institutional capacity of agencies. A wide range of special interest groups have contributed actively and constructively to the deliberations of the Panel. Participation of delegations as well as NGOs have been greatly facilitated by the quality of documentation and the use of the Internet for informal, but timely, access to information and reports.

Participants

The guidelines governing participation in the work of the Panel are the same as those which apply to the Commission on Sustainable Development itself.

Since the Panel is open ended and Intergovernmental, all countries were able to participate in the debates, either as members (the 53 member countries of the Commission), or as observers (all other countries including the European Community). Non-Governmental Organizations, Intergovernmental Organizations, representatives of Major Groups, (farmers, women, youth, local authorities, indigenous peoples, business and industry, the scientific and technological community) which are accredited to the CSD participated as observers to the Panel in the same way as in the CSD. The Panel is an intergovernmental body, and not an expert group. Therefore the question of selection of "members" of the Panel did not apply, governments decided on their own representation.

The IFF

On reviewing the proposals for action of the IPF, the General Assembly decided to continue the intergovernmental policy dialogue on forests through the establishment of an *ad hoc* open-ended Intergovernmental Forum on Forests under the aegis of the Commission on Sustainable Development. The IFF worked on three categories to work in an open, transparent and participatory manner, with a focused and time-limited mandate. The three categories were:

1. Promoting and facilitating the implementation of the IPF's proposals for action;
2. Reviewing, monitoring and reporting on progress in the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests;
3. Considering matters left pending as regards the programme elements of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests, in particular trade and environment in relation to forest products and services, transfer of technology and the need for financial resources.

In addition, the General Assembly decided that the Forum should identify the possible elements of and work towards consensus on international arrangements and mechanisms, for example, a legally binding instrument.

Among the IFF's recommendations:

- Establish a new intergovernmental body, which may be called the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF).
- Invite the Executive Heads of relevant UN organizations, international and regional organizations and instruments to form a "collaborative partnership on forests" to support the work of the UNFF as well as for policy implementation and effective coordination of activities. This partnership mechanism could be built on a high-level, informal group, such as the Inter-agency Task Force on Forests (ITFF).
- Consider, within five years, to recommend the parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests.
- Devise approaches, towards appropriate financial and technology transfer to developing countries to enable the implementation of sustainable forest management, as recommended under the IPF/IFF process.

Governance

UN Forum on Forests as a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Committee, with universal membership, is composed of all member states of the United Nations and states members of specialized agencies, with full and equal participation, including voting rights.

States members of the UNFF have designated a UNFF National Focal Point within their government. These focal points are compiled into UNFF National Focal Point List.

States members contribute to the UNFF process through dialogue culminating in the annual session of the UNFF. States members also are invited to provide [voluntary reports](#) to each UNFF session.

UNFF Bureau

The UNFF Bureau consists of one Chairperson and four Vice-Chairpersons in accordance with the principle of equitable geographical distribution. The Bureau members are elected at the end of each UNFF session from amongst the members of UNFF. The Bureau has several responsibilities including the follow up of decisions made at UNFF sessions, preparation for the subsequent session as well as the management and organization of sessions. Further, the Bureau chairperson represents the UNFF in various fora.

Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF)

The Collaborative Partnership on Forests was established in April 2001, following the recommendation of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC).

The CPF has two main **objectives**:

- 1) to support the work of the UNFF and its member countries and
- 2) to foster increased cooperation and coordination on forests.

The CPF is currently comprised of 14 international organization **members**:

- Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)
- International Union of Forestry Research Organizations (IUFRO)
- Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- Secretariat of the Global Environmental Facility (GEF)
- Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
- The United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat (UNFF)
- Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF)
- World Bank
- World Conservation Union (IUCN)

In 2002, forest related stakeholders established a [CPF Network](#). The CPF Network provides a mechanism for facilitating dialogue and collaboration between CPF members and a wide range of other international and regional organizations, NGOs, private sector entities and other major groups.

Major Groups

Participation of a wide range of forest-related stakeholders is a key component of sustainable management of forests. Thus, the Forum welcomes the participation of the nine major groups as identified in Chapter 23 of Agenda 21, including:

Women

Children and Youth

Indigenous People

Non-governmental Organizations

Local Authorities

Workers and Trade Unions

Business and Industry

Scientific and Technological Communities

Farmers and Small Forest Landowners

Organizations representing major groups that are accredited with the Economic and Social Committee of the UN (ECOSOC) and the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) are encouraged to participate in UNFF Sessions.

Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue (MSD)

A multi-stakeholder dialogue is part of the regular UNFF sessions, usually a full day during the first week of the session. Participation in this MSD process is crucial to integrating major group views into UNFF sessions. The dialogue provides an opportunity for dialogue between States members of the UNFF and representatives of major groups on issues relevant to UNFF sessions. Several months in advance of the UNFF session, the UNFF Secretariat issues a call for papers and commentaries from major group representatives related to the topics of the current UNFF session in preparation for the MSD. Major groups can use this opportunity to present their views on the issues being treated at the particular UNFF session in these [UNFF MSD Discussion Papers](#).

In order to facilitate the MSD process, major group networks have nominated focal points to assist in coordination of input of each of the nine different major group networks.

Ad-Hoc Expert Groups

The UNFF in a [decision](#) at its Third Session, decided to establish three ad hoc expert groups to support the work of the Forum. The Three expert groups will focus on the following issues: a) approaches and mechanisms for monitoring, assessment and reporting; b) finance and transfer of environmentally sound technologies and c) consideration with a view to recommending the parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests.

PRESS RELEASE

The Duty of scientific expertise in Biodiversity

Nowadays, everybody agrees on the fact that climate change is happening on Earth. Regarding the Biodiversity loss and erosion issues, the warning launched by scientists over the last 30 years, in international conferences (Stockholm, Rio, Johannesburg....) have not a lot of impacts on public policy. There is now clear evidence that life on Earth is decreasing at an unprecedented rate, (almost the same rate that led to the dinosaur's extinctions)

Numbers.... hiding an even more important issue.

Numbers are hardly believable. The World Conservation Union (IUCN) outlooks forecast the loss of 25% of mammals, 33% of amphibians, 25% of conifers. The current rate of extinctions is between 100 and 1,000 times faster that it should normally be.

Besides the ethical and cultural loss it will result in the degradation and disappearance of biodiversity functionalities and services provided to the world and to human well-being also occur. Health services, economic activities, protection from hazards are part of these jeopardized functionalities.

In 2005, the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, a 4-years study led by more than 1,000 scientists worldwide, showed the scale (or range) of this degradation, mostly due to anthropic activities, and the direct and indirect consequences it has on the human well being, in particular on the poorest societies.

Towards the establishment of an international expertise on Biodiversity?

In January 2005, in the final declaration of the International conference "Biodiversity: science and governance", the scientific community agreed with this statement and, in response to the call for action made by President Chirac, recommend the establishment of an International mechanism of scientific expertise to take up Biodiversity issues

This notion has been explored again during the first Open Science Conference of DIVERSITAS in October 2005 in Oaxaca.

To consider such a mechanism, an open and international consultation has been launched. The first International Steering Committee of this consultative process will be held in Paris, February 21st and 22nd, to define needs and the methods of the consultation. Worldwide It will gather circa 100 people related to biodiversity (scientist, civil society, NGO representatives, international organizations representatives, governments).

BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN SCIENCE AND POLICY

The goal of the mechanism would be to improve our capacity to predict changes in biodiversity, the consequences of these changes and to plan scenarios in order to help policy makers make informed decisions about the best strategy. It would also inform the general public about the current trends in biodiversity and its consequences. In short, the aim is to allow scientific expertise to provide overall answers for addressing the biodiversity issue

COMMUNIQUÉ DE PRESSE

L'expertise scientifique mondiale face à la biodiversité !

Plus de doute aujourd'hui : le changement climatique est inéluctable. A contrario, les cris d'alarme des scientifiques concernant l'érosion de la biodiversité résonnent encore trop dans le vide, malgré les rapports et les conférences internationales qui se succèdent depuis plus de 30 ans : Stockholm, Rio, Johannesburg... Le constat est pourtant sans appel : la vie sur notre planète connaît actuellement une crise d'extinction comparable à celle qui a provoqué la disparition des dinosaures.

Des chiffres... qui cachent un autre drame

Les chiffres peuvent sembler incroyables. Ainsi le réseau scientifique de l'Union mondiale pour la Nature (IUCN) prévoit la disparition de près d'un mammifère sur quatre, d'un amphibien sur trois, d'un quart des conifères.... Ce taux d'extinction actuel est de cent à mille fois plus rapide que ce qu'il devrait être naturellement.

Cette disparition des espèces vivantes, outre les pertes éthiques et culturelles qu'elle représente, conduira, comme commencent à le démontrer des expériences scientifiques, à la dégradation ou la disparition des fonctions et des services que la biodiversité « rend » à l'espèce humaine, son bien-être, sa santé, ses activités économiques, ses modes de vie et, à terme, sa survie. En 2005, une synthèse menée à l'échelle mondiale par plus d'un millier de scientifiques (*Millennium Ecosystem Assessment*) a révélé combien l'ampleur de ces modifications, essentiellement d'origine anthropique, pouvait toucher directement ou indirectement le bien-être de l'espèce humaine et notamment les populations les plus pauvres.

Vers la mise en place d'une expertise internationale ?

En janvier 2005, lors de la Conférence internationale sur la biodiversité tenue au siège de l'UNESCO à Paris, la communauté scientifique a confirmé ces diagnostics et a lancé un appel, soutenu par le président de la République Jacques Chirac, pour mettre en place un mécanisme d'expertise scientifique qui puisse faire face aux enjeux considérables de la biodiversité. Cette idée a été reprise lors de la conférence du programme scientifique international DIVERSITAS, tenue en octobre dernier à Oaxaca au Mexique.

Pour réfléchir à un tel mécanisme, une consultation internationale a été lancée. Un comité de pilotage international se tiendra à Paris les 21 et 22 février prochains afin de définir les besoins et les modalités de cette initiative. Il rassemblera une centaine de personnalités de très haut niveau venues de différents horizons liés à la biodiversité : domaine scientifique, institutions internationales, gouvernements, société civile, ...

Eclairer les décisions !

A terme, l'objectif est de fournir l'information pour éclairer et accompagner les processus de décisions, de valider des scénarios de modification, d'envisager des solutions, de mettre les politiques devant leurs responsabilités et d'informer l'opinion publique sur les enjeux et les conséquences de ces bouleversements annoncés. En un mot : permettre à l'expertise scientifique mondiale de mieux répondre aux véritables enjeux de la biodiversité.

