



Culture Sector

United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للترقية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

ACTIONS *Scanlon* COPY

10 FEB 2011

M. John Scanlon

Secretary-General

Convention on International Trade in
Endangered Species of Wild Fauna
and Flora

International Environment House

Chemin des Anémones

CH-1219 Châtelaine, Geneva

Switzerland

04 February 2011

Ref.: CLT/WHC/SPU/11/070

Subject: World Heritage activities linked to climate changes and CITES

Dear Mr ~~Scanlon~~ *John*,

In reply to your letter of 21 December last, I am happy to provide you some information on the Climate Change related activities implemented by the World Heritage Centre.

The World Heritage Committee at its 29th session (Durban, 2005) requested that the World Heritage Centre convene a broad working group of experts to review the nature and scale of risks arising from climate change to World Heritage sites and prepare a strategy for dealing with this issue. The corresponding developed strategy was endorsed by the Committee at a subsequent session (Christchurch, 2007). Furthermore, a policy document on the impacts of climate change was developed and discussed by the 16th General assembly of the States Parties to the World Heritage Convention (Paris, 2007). The World Heritage Centre also prepared a publication with several case studies. All these publications are available on our website, under the page related to climate change (http://whc.unesco.org/en/activities/&pattern=&search_theme=23). I also enclose copies of the relevant decisions of the World Heritage Committee and General Assembly.

In follow-up to the strategy, the World Heritage Centre is planning to implement it by developing a number of pilot projects in World Heritage sites across the world. The objective is to increase the resilience of World Heritage sites to climate change, monitor climate change impacts and strive to set up pilot carbon-financed forest protection measures in the buffer zones and forest corridors. We also plan to further research the impacts of climate change on the network of World Heritage sites. However, as the Committee has not aside specific funding for these initiatives, we need to mobilise extrabudgetary resources and partners to pursue these initiatives.

.../...

I hope that this provides the information you need to respond to the query of the CITES Animals and Plants Committees. We remain available to provide additional details if needed.

Yours sincerely,



Kishore Rao
Deputy Director Programmes
UNESCO World Heritage Centre

Enc. Copies of relevant decisions of the General Assembly and World Heritage Committee

Decision - 31COM 7.1 - Issues relative to the state of conservation of world heritage properties : the impacts of climate change on world heritage properties

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7.1,
2. Recalling Decision 30 COM 7.1 adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Thanks the Government of the Netherlands for having funded the development of the policy document on the Impacts of Climate Change on World Heritage Properties, including a meeting of the Working Group of Experts, (5 - 6 February 2007 at UNESCO Headquarters, Paris), and also thanks the experts and representatives of organizations who contributed to the meeting;
4. Endorses the "Policy Document on the Impacts of Climate Change on World Heritage Properties" as described in Document WHC-07/31.COM/7.1, and decides to authorize the Chairperson of the Committee to vet the Policy Document, incorporating views expressed at the 31st session, and, as appropriate, to consult Committee members by email and other means;
5. Decides to transmit the revised Policy Document for discussion and adoption at the 16th General Assembly of States Parties in 2007;
6. Recommends that the Policy Document be read in conjunction with the report on "Predicting and managing the impacts of Climate Change on World Heritage" and the "Strategy to assist States Parties to implement appropriate management responses" - endorsed by the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006) - together with other relevant conventions such as the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention to Combat Desertification, and other UNESCO initiatives, and further thanks the Government of Spain for supporting their publication as World Heritage Paper No. 22;
7. Urges the World Heritage community to integrate actions pertaining to climate change in risk preparedness policies and action plans, making use thereby of the Policy Document and the Strategy for Risk Reduction at World Heritage properties, so as to protect their outstanding universal value, authenticity and/or integrity.
8. Also urges States Parties to participate in the United Nations Climate Change conferences with a view to achieving a comprehensive post-Kyoto agreement, and to fund and support the research needs as identified in Annex 1 of the Policy Document;
9. Encourages the World Heritage Centre to sensitize States Parties, as appropriate, to the need to establish inter-disciplinary mechanisms to deal with policy and governance issues relating to the effect of climate change on World Heritage properties;
10. Recommends that the World Heritage Centre strengthen its relations with all organizations working on climate change, particularly with the UNFCCC

and IPCC secretariats, and specifically with regard to the effect of climate change on World Heritage properties;

11. Welcomes the excellent publication on "Case Studies on Climate Change and World Heritage" and thanks the United Nations Foundation (UNF) and the Government of the United Kingdom for having supported its production;
12. Encourages UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies to disseminate widely the Policy Document, and other related publications through appropriate means to the World Heritage community and the broader public, and promote their application;
13. Adopts the specific research priorities indicated in the Policy Document and recommends to the UNESCO Forum - Universities and Heritage to prioritize these subjects and to open discussions on the effects of climate change on World Heritage properties;
14. Requests the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to develop in consultation with States Parties criteria for the inclusion of those properties which are most threatened by climate change on the List of World Heritage in Danger, for use in prioritizing vulnerability assessment, mitigation and adaptation activities;
15. Decides, for future sessions of the World Heritage Committee, to add to the working document on State of Conservation reporting, a section on those properties most affected by climate change;
16. Commends the Government of New Zealand for making the 31st session "carbon neutral" and adopts a carbon neutral policy for all future sessions, to the extent feasible.

Resolution: 16 GA 10

The General Assembly,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-07/16.GA/10*,
2. Recalling Decisions **30 COM 7.1** and **31 COM 7.1**, adopted respectively at the 30th (Vilnius, 2006) and 31st (Christchurch, 2007) sessions of the World Heritage Committee,
3. Taking into account the relevant issues identified in the recent Thematic Debate of the Executive Board on UNESCO's role in addressing climate change within its mandated areas of competence and also noting the upcoming meetings on climate change in Bali in December 2007 (Thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP 13) and the third meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 3), Bali, Indonesia, 3 to 14 December 2007) and in Denmark in 2009 (Fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC (COP 15) and the fifth meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 5), Copenhagen, Denmark, 30 November 2009 - 11 December 2009);
4. Adopts the "Policy Document on the Impacts of Climate Change on World Heritage Properties" and strongly recommends its use by all concerned, together with the report on "Predicting and Managing the impacts of climate change on World Heritage" and the "Strategy to Assist States Parties to Implement Appropriate Management Responses" contained in World Heritage Paper No: 22;
5. Encourages UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies to disseminate widely the Policy Document, the Report and Strategy, referred to in paragraph 2 above, and other relevant publications to all concerned, including the general public, and promote their application;
6. Requests the World Heritage Committee to institute a mechanism for the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to periodically review and update the Policy Document, and other related documents, so as to make available the most current knowledge and technology on the subject to guide the decisions and actions of the World Heritage community.
7. Urges the States Parties to participate in the United Nations climate change conferences with a view to achieving a comprehensive post-Kyoto agreement, and to fund and support the research needs as identified in the adopted Policy document.
8. Further requests the Director-General and the World Heritage Committee to strengthen its relations with all organizations working with climate change particularly the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) secretariats, and specifically with regards to the effect of climate change on World Heritage properties, with a view to delivering as one UN.



**Convention on
Biological Diversity**

**INTERNATIONAL YEAR
OF FORESTS = 2011**



Ref.: SCBD/STTM/JW/ac/74641

16 February 2011

Dear Mr. Scanlon,

Reference is made to your letter dated 21 December 2010 (ref.: JES/DHM/VEZ) in which you request information on activities that may be linked to climate change and CITES.

As such, I am pleased to provide you with the attached summary of activities related to biodiversity and climate change in the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

If you would like more information on this topic, do not hesitate to communicate with Ms. Jaime Webbe (email: jaime.webbe@cbd.int, tel: +514-287-8718), the Programme Officer in charge of the cross-cutting issue on biodiversity and climate change.

I look forward to our continued collaboration.

Yours sincerely,

Ahmed Djoghilaf
Executive Secretary

Attachment

Mr. John Scanlon
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COP 10 / MOP 5



**INTERNATIONAL YEAR
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Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

Activities related to Biodiversity and Climate Change

Background

At its fifth meeting, the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the CBD highlighted the risks of climate change, in particular, to coral reefs (decision V/3) and to forest ecosystems (decision V/4), and drew attention to the serious impacts of biodiversity loss on these systems and their associated livelihoods. The cross-cutting issue on biodiversity and climate change was included in the work under the Convention in 2004 through decision VII/15 of the Conference of Parties (COP).

In 2001, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) established an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) to carry out an assessment of the interlinkages between biodiversity and climate change. The report of this expert group is published as Technical Series No. 10¹.

At its seventh meeting, the COP encouraged parties to take measures to manage ecosystems so as to maintain their resilience to extreme climate events and to help mitigate and adapt to climate change (decision VII/15). SBSTTA was requested to provide advice or guidance for promoting synergy among activities to address climate change, including activities to combat desertification and land degradation, and activities for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and invited the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) to collaborate with the CBD to this end. Hence, in 2006, the AHTEG on Biodiversity and Adaptation to Climate Change produced a Technical Report providing such guidance (Technical Series No. 25²).

In 2006, at its eighth meeting, the COP highlighted the importance of integrating biodiversity considerations into all relevant national policies, programmes and plans in response to climate change, and to rapidly develop tools for the implementation of biodiversity conservation activities that contribute to climate change adaptation. The COP also noted the need to identify mutually supportive activities to be conducted by the secretariats of the three Rio Conventions (UNFCCC, UNCCD, and CBD), parties and relevant organizations (decision VIII/30).

At its ninth meeting, the COP, through decision IX/16, established the Second AHTEG on Biodiversity and Climate Change, with a mandate to develop scientific and technical advice on biodiversity, in so far as it relates to climate change and decision 1/CP.13 of the COP of the UNFCCC on the Bali Action Plan as well as its Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change so as to support the enhanced implementation of synergies. The final report of the Second

¹ <http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-10.pdf>

² <http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-25.pdf>



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AHTEG has been published as Technical Series No. 41³. In addition, Technical Series No. 42: Review of the Literature on the Links between Biodiversity and Climate Change – Impacts, Adaptation and Mitigation⁴, provided important input to the AHTEG process.

In annex II to decision VIII/10, the Conference of the Parties decided to undertake an in-depth review of the cross-cutting issue at its tenth meeting. The Executive Secretary prepared a note⁵ for submission to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) at its fourteenth meeting based on national reports received and information gathered from organizations and reports submitted under other relevant international processes. The in-depth review revealed that, with regard to the implementation of activities by Parties, the links between biodiversity and climate change are well recognized. There are a number of national and regional studies on impacts and vulnerability. However, when considering the implementation of programmes and activities addressing both climate change and biodiversity, Parties still face a number of obstacles, especially when considering climate change mitigation. A review of implementation of activities revealed good progress with regards to activities to be implemented by the Secretariat alone. However, implementation of activities in collaboration with partners has been limited.

At its tenth meeting, the COP, through decision X/33⁶, invited Parties to, *inter alia*:

- address the impacts of climate change on biodiversity, ecosystem services and biodiversity-based livelihoods,
- implement ecosystem-based approaches for adaptation and mitigation, and
- implement activities to increase the adaptive capacity of species and the resilience of ecosystems in the face of climate change.

The COP also requested the Executive Secretary to, *inter alia*:

- convene an expert workshop on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries to enhance the coordination of capacity-building efforts on issues related to biodiversity and ecosystem-based carbon sequestration and the conservation of forest carbon stocks,
- compile information on the possible impacts of geo-engineering techniques on biodiversity and undertake a study on gaps in regulatory mechanisms for climate-related geo-engineering relevant to the CBD, and
- convey a proposal to develop joint activities, between the three Rio conventions, to the secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

The decision also includes activities for the Executive Secretary to undertake through the Joint Liaison Group of the three Rio conventions.

Resources

Relevant Publications

Technical Series No. 10 – Interlinkages between Biological Diversity and Climate Change - Advice on the integration of biodiversity considerations into the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol (2003).

<http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-10.pdf>

³ <http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-41-en.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-42-en.pdf>

⁵ <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/sbstta/sbstta-14/official/sbstta-14-06-en.pdf>

⁶ <http://www.cbd.int/decision/cop/?id=12299>

Technical Series No. 25 - Guidance for Promoting Synergy among Activities Addressing Biological Diversity, Desertification, Land Degradation and Climate Change (2006).

<http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-25.pdf>

Available in English, French and Spanish.

Technical Series No. 41 - Connecting Biodiversity and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation: Report of the Second Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change (2009).

<http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-41-en.pdf>

The Key Messages of the Report of the Second Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change. <http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/ahteg-brochure-en.pdf>

Available in English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese, Russian and Japanese.

Technical Series No. 42 - Review of the Literature on the Links between Biodiversity and Climate Change: Impacts, Adaptation and Mitigation (2009).

<http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-42-en.pdf>

Technical Series No. 43 - Forest Resilience, Biodiversity, and Climate Change. A synthesis of the biodiversity/resilience/stability relationship in forest ecosystems (2009).

<http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-43-en.pdf>

Technical Series No. 45 - Scientific Synthesis of the Impacts of Ocean Fertilization on Marine Biodiversity (2009). <http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-45-en.pdf>

Technical Series No. 46 - Scientific Synthesis of the Impacts of Ocean Acidification on Marine Biodiversity (2009). <http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-46-en.pdf>

Available in English and French.

Climate Change Adaptation Database

The Climate Change Adaptation Database gathers information and tools for the integration of biodiversity within adaptation planning from a number of relevant partners. Its purpose is to support Parties as they continue to integrate climate change impacts and response activities through their implementation of the CBD. <http://adaptation.cbd.int/>