



**CONVENTION ON
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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
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Ninth meeting

Bonn, 19-30 May 2008

Item 4.4 of the provisional agenda*

**RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE PRE-COP9 SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE
“BIODIVERSITY RESEARCH — SAFEGUARDING THE FUTURE”**

Bonn, Germany 12 – 16 May 2008

Note by the Executive Secretary

1. The Executive Secretary is making available herewith, for the information of participants in the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the recommendations for the pre-COP-9 scientific conference “Biodiversity Research – Safeguarding the Future” sent by the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS) and DIVERSITAS.
2. The document is reproduced in the form and language it was received by the Secretariat.

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Recommendations from the pre-COP9 scientific conference “Biodiversity Research — Safeguarding the Future”

The conference “Biodiversity Research — Safeguarding the Future” brought together global scientific expertise to address the current global biodiversity crisis. Convened by the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS) and DIVERSITAS, 258 scientists from 36 countries met in Bonn during the week prior to the COP9 of the CBD to prepare a statement to enrich the discussions on the CBD agenda. This document presents the conclusions of their work.

The scientific consensus

Despite the best of intentions to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010, available scientific evidence clearly shows that the dramatic global decline in biodiversity is generally accelerating; this emphasises the urgent need for intensified political action by the CBD. Biodiversity provides crucial goods and ecosystem services and constitutes our long-term life-support system.

Global monitoring systems have been established for weather, climate change, and earthquakes; a comparable system is urgently needed for biodiversity. This will strengthen the evidence base for action and enable a predictive capacity to guide and facilitate the implementation of a wide range of management strategies. In addition, the full benefits that societies derive from biodiversity should be effectively incorporated into national accounting and policies. Achieving these goals will require new scientific endeavour and improved science input to policy.

Recommendations

To address the urgent need to reverse the dramatic global biodiversity decline, the scientific community here convened recommends that governments:

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- Establish an integrated global biodiversity observation network by complementing, expanding, and linking national and regional monitoring systems to provide effective information on ecosystems, species, and genes, and the services they collectively provide.
- Intensify support for the 2010 target and build on current progress to support stronger targets and improved indicators beyond 2010.
- Account for the values of the ecosystem services provided by biodiversity and internalize them in relevant policies and decisions.
- Increase investment in a wide range of tools and technologies, including citizen-science schemes, to accelerate biodiversity description, identification, inventory, and monitoring.
- Increase efforts to make biodiversity information universally available through technological innovations, particularly the transfer of legacy information to countries rich in biodiversity.
- Formulate streamlined and simplified rules for purely scientific open-access research in the proposed International Regime for Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS), to avoid unnecessary impediments to the generation of knowledge which serves CBD objectives.
- Enhance the effectiveness of the science-policy dialogue through full use of scientific expertise by CBD bodies, including SBSTTA, and through establishing a dedicated assessment body for biodiversity.
- Recognise the role of biodiversity in mitigating the negative effects of global change and employ sound biodiversity management accordingly.
