



Advice to Contracting Parties on the CBD COP 9 agenda.

Item 3.1 Agricultural Biodiversity and 3.4 Forest Biodiversity

Biofuels

The Conference of Parties will discuss under 44. and 53. a note, in line with Recommendation XII/7 about the impact of biofuels on biodiversity (document UNEP/CBD/COP/9/26).

Wetlands International has been strongly involved in the development of criteria for biofuels within the RSPO for palm oil; with the Dutch government for biomass for energy production; and with the European Union for biomass for energy and biofuels for transport.

We are concerned that the 'wheel will be reinvented' in simultaneous but disjunct processes that will force producers to deal with different sets of criteria for different markets and products. This complicated situation is not effective in tackling the issues.

Wetlands International urges the CBD Conference of Parties to: DEVELOP one set of global guidelines for sustainable biofuel production and certification in relation to biodiversity, to be used by the Parties as a standard for developing their own criteria.

Item 4.5 Biodiversity and climate change

Peatlands

Point 91. considers the 'Global Assessment on Peatlands, Biodiversity and Climate Change'. This assessment, presented in December 2007, shows the enormous impact of peatland loss on greenhouse gas emissions to the atmosphere.

Point 92. invites the COP to review the guidance on climate response activities of the UN-Climate Convention.

Point 93. deals with the progress report for further action to support conservation of tropical peatlands and other wetlands (UNEP/CBD/COP/9/20).

The last UN-FCCC summit in Bali recognised the issue of emissions caused by the degradation of forest carbon stocks by including these in the Bali Road Map and by adopting the Decision on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation in Developing Countries. Emissions from unforested or deforested peatlands are however not covered. With 12 million ha of deforested peatlands in SE Asia contributing an equivalent of 8% of global fossil fuel emissions, and imminent threats to millions of hectares of remaining tropical peat swamp forests with a high biodiversity value, the

For further information about these issues:

Wetlands International; Alex.kaat@wetlands.org;

+31 (0)6 5060 1917 (mobile); +31 (0)317 486 776



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conservation and restoration of these should be recognised as a top priority for climate change mitigation and biodiversity conservation.

Wetlands International urges the CBD Conference of Parties to formally recognize the gravity of the on-going CO₂ emissions from peatlands and to specifically CALL FOR:

- **inclusion of combating peatland loss and degradation as an explicit part of mitigation policies for post Kyoto 2012 climate change mitigation**
- **incorporation of peatland conservation and restoration activities as a priority in bilateral and multilateral financial mechanisms including the GEF.**

Wetlands International also urges the CBD Conference of the Parties to:

CALL FOR the development of biodiversity guidelines to underpin REDD policies.

Climate Adaptation

Wetlands International welcomes the statement by Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of CBD, in his Manila speech, February 2008:

Biodiversity contributes to many ecosystem services including the provision of food and fodder, nutrient cycling and the maintenance of hydrological flows. As such, maintaining biodiversity and associated ecosystem functions is an important component of adaptation. Likewise, biodiversity resources, such as land races of common crops, mangroves and other wetlands and vegetative cover, can form an integral part of adaptation plans.

Inland wetlands play a key role in reducing the ecological and human impacts of extremes in precipitation and droughts. Intact and well-managed coastal wetlands contribute significantly to reducing the impacts of extreme weather events like storms. Restoration and management of coastal freshwater ecosystems is key to limiting salt water intrusion impacts of sea-level rise.

UN-FCCC COP 13 decided to include Adaptation in a post 2012 policy. Following on from the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (2006), now is a key moment for CBD to address the need to consider the role of various ecosystems and ecosystem services in climate adaptation policies and strategies. The disproportionately high value of inland and coastal wetlands should be recognized in this process.

The CBD Conference of the Parties should encourage further qualitative and quantitative research on ecological and socio-economic importance of healthy ecosystems in relation to climate change adaptation and coordinate this with the UN-FCCC and other Conventions, such as the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. However, there is already significant information available on which to act.

Therefore, Wetlands International urges the CBD Conference of Parties to:

DEVELOP technical guidance for Contracting Parties on the role of ecosystems and especially wetlands in strategies for adaptation to Climate Change.

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