

# Friends of the CBD Meeting 11-12 February 2013

This was a first, informal meeting of CBD experts convened by the CBD Secretariat to advance CBD Strategic Plan implementation. The meeting took place in Bossey, Switzerland (11-12 February 2013) and gathered nearly fifty government officials, stakeholders and representatives of international organizations including the GEF NGO Network expert of the GEF-6 Needs Assessment Group. Participants discussed:

- 1 Mainstreaming and integrative approach to implementation**
- 2 Management, monitoring resource mobilization and allocation**
- 3 Decision-making and international exchange and learning process for implementation**

Meeting notes will be compiled by the CBD Secretariat and circulated as an information document.

## Meeting outcomes

### On content issues

On the first day, participants discussed how to better mainstream biodiversity into national development and economic agendas and the management, monitoring and allocation of resource mobilization. The discussion recalled common hurdles, such as the lack of financial means and political will to implement COP decisions; lack of awareness within key target groups (consumers, politicians, business); and poor monitoring and reporting capacity and funding. Participants also recognized the overwhelming number of decisions to be considered (currently more than 300), the lack of engagement from other sectors including the private sector and conflicts with other policy priorities, in particular national economic development agendas.

### On structure and organization of work

Decision making, international exchanges and relationships between the CBD and other Conventions were discussed on the second day. Working groups also discussed how to better organize CBD meetings (COP, SBSTTA and WGRI). General consensus formed around a number of issues:

- The COP Agenda should be structured according to the Aichi Targets until 2020 in order to address results, progress and actions needed to achieve the targets, including stronger engagement in the discussion and joint activities of key stakeholders from outside the CBD community (e.g. FAO on sustainable agriculture or business on sustainable production).
- CBD subsidiary bodies (SBSTTA, WGRI) should be better used to facilitate discussion and decision making on progress towards the Aichi Targets (e.g. SBSTTA) and on resource mobilization, reporting and monitoring (WGRI).
- An “implementation market place” could be organized to showcase best practices and progress on implementation; consideration needs to be given to how to link that event to negotiations;
- CBD must work more strategically with other conventions (e.g. Ramsar, CMS, CITES) to increase synergies and improve joint activities ;
- Reduction of the duration of COP meetings and more strategic, periodic use of the High Level Segment were also addressed.

Working groups also discussed the reorganization and harmonization of National reports and assessments. The main ideas brought to the discussion were that:

- Emphasis should be on finalizing/updating NBSAPS, including to integrate the Aichi targets as the principle instrument through which the convention will have impact on the ground.
- National reports should be harmonised to be easily comparable; and all assessments should include elements related to traditional knowledge and indigenous community engagement.

- The CBD Secretariat should develop guidance on the further use of reports and assessments within the CBD system; and the Bureau should consider presenting key findings from the National Reports during formal CBD meetings with opportunities for questions and discussions.

## Relation with the GEF

Gustavo Fonseca of the GEF Secretariat was also present at the meeting providing input from GEF's expertise in providing funding for the implementation of CBD decisions. It was discussed that any further reporting and assessments at national level should be linked with GEF reporting processes to ensure a common set of indicators is used.

### ***Contact:***

Guenter Mitlacher  
GEF NGO Network Regional Focal Point Europe  
Director Biodiversity  
WWF Germany  
Direkt: +49 (30) 311 777-200  
[guenter.mitlacher@wwf.de](mailto:guenter.mitlacher@wwf.de)