



Convention on
Biological Diversity



PRESS RELEASE

Scientists and policy makers call for greater efforts to integrate biodiversity into climate change politics

Lima, 5 December 2014 – A group of scientists and policymakers delivered a declaration to the Minister of the Environment of Peru, Manuel Pulgar Vidal, the president of UNFCCC COP-20, that calls for integrated research on biodiversity and climate change and increased recognition of key biodiversity issues in the context of climate change.

The declaration contains a set of recommendations from scientists who assessed the status, trends and vulnerability of biodiversity to climate change. According to scientists who met during a 2-day symposium on Biodiversity and Climate Change held in Lima, the role of biodiversity in carbon sequestration and in resilience for adaptation needs to be better recognized in the climate negotiations.

"To protect people and the planet from climate change, we need to agree on urgent actions to reduce GHG emissions and to help countries adapt to the unavoidable impacts. The conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity -- in our forests, mountains and oceans -- and the restoration of these ecosystems, can be an important part of the solution to the climate change problem. To develop integrated policies for biodiversity and climate change we need to understand how biodiversity and the climate are changing, the effects of each on the other, as well as how our response measures to address climate change affect biodiversity and vice-versa." said Gabriel Quijandria Acosta, vice-minister of Strategic Development of Natural Resources of the Ministry of Environment, Peru.

Specifically, the work presented at the conference demonstrated that:

- Biodiversity can enhance the resilience of ecosystem structure to environmental changes, such as prolonged drought,
- Biodiversity is changing across many different taxonomic groups and biomes, including mountains, oceans and forests, as a result of a wide range of recent environmental changes such as increasing temperature, and increased frequencies of extreme floods and droughts;
- Effective sustainable management requires understanding both the ecological and socio-economic dimensions of the problem and requires coherent policies at all levels of government;
- Possible solutions include community-based projects that provide economic or other benefits, carefully designed restoration projects, and/or appropriate incentives to support ecologically sustainable land-use practices; and
- A coherent set of actions across sectors and levels of government and society is needed for effective action to address climate change and biodiversity loss, including a policy framework,



Convention on
Biological Diversity

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
United Nations Environment Programme
413 Saint-Jacques Street, Suite 800, Montreal, QC, H2Y 1N9, Canada
Tel : +1 514 288 2220 Fax : +1 514 288 6588
secretariat@cbd.int www.cbd.int



economic incentives aligned with that framework, public participation continuous monitoring and effective enforcement.

Scientists identified recommendations and potential areas for collaboration and called for enhanced collaboration and support for research in biodiversity, climate change and socio-economic factors.

"Biodiversity is affected by climate change and in turn affects the carbon balance of ecosystems. Understanding these feedbacks and their relationship to human activities is the aim of the collaborative, international research and capacity building networks of the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI). The CBD secretariat, international cooperation agencies, such as GIZ and international scientific research organizations are expanding the networking and linkages between disciplines, and between the science and policy sectors. We truly hope the dialogue will be taken as an example by others," said Holm Tiessen, IAI Executive Director.

The symposium was held after the publication earlier this year of the IPPC's 5th Assessment report and the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO-4), with the aim to assess the current state of scientific knowledge on biodiversity and climate change. The declaration was presented at a side-event on December 5th from 08:00-09:30am at the Peru pavilion. The text of the declaration is available at www.iai.int

Notes for Editors:

The Symposium was organized by the Peruvian Ministry of Environment (MINAM), the National Council for Science Technological Innovation (CONCYTEC) and the CBD Secretariat, in collaboration with the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI) and the German Cooperation for Development (ProAmbiente).

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, and entering into force in December 1993, the Convention on Biological Diversity is an international treaty for the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of the components of biodiversity and the equitable sharing of the benefits derived from the use of genetic resources. With 194 Parties up to now, the Convention has near universal participation among countries. The Convention seeks to address all threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services, including threats from climate change, through scientific assessments, the development of tools, incentives and processes, the transfer of technologies and good practices and the full and active involvement of relevant stakeholders including indigenous peoples and local communities, youth, NGOs, women and the business community. The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing are supplementary agreements to the Convention. The Cartagena Protocol seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology. To date, 168 Parties have ratified the Cartagena Protocol. The Nagoya Protocol aims at sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources in a fair and equitable way, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies. It entered into force on 12 October 2014 and to date has been ratified by 57 Parties. For more information visit: www.cbd.int

For additional information, please contact: David Ainsworth on +1 514 287 7025 or at david.ainsworth@cbd.int; or Johan Hedlund on +1 514 287 6670 or at johan.hedlund@cbd.int

The Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI)

The IAI is an intergovernmental organization supported by 19 countries in the Americas dedicated to pursuing the principles of scientific excellence, international cooperation, and the full and open exchange

of scientific information to increase the understanding of global change phenomena and their socio-economic implications. The IAI was envisaged as an intergovernmental instrument by which scientists and decision makers of countries throughout the Americas might jointly address the critical issues associated with global change in the region.

For additional information, please contact: Ione Anderson at ianderson@dir.iai.int
