

## SUMMARY OF THE CBD COP-7 PROTECTED AREAS NEGOTIATIONS FINANCIAL RESOURCES COMMITMENTS

Summarized by: Sheldon Cohen, The Nature Conservancy, February 2004.

On February 20, 2004 at the COP-7 meeting under the Convention on Biological Diversity, 188 governments formally adopted a negotiated *Global Programme of Work on Protected Areas*. In general the COP and PA PoW were considered a great success that provided strong emphasis and impetus to conservation finance. For the first time in any international treaty or convention process, governments have committed to a set of ambitious and specific targets, timetables and activities on protected areas. In addition, governments have committed to providing and securing the necessary financial resources to translate these commitments into action. The full 25-page PA PoW "Decision Document" adopted by the final plenary can be found at:

<http://www.biodiv.org/doc/meetings/cop/cop-07/official/cop-07-l-32-en.doc>

This document can be found in Spanish, French and other languages under "L32" at:

<http://www.biodiv.org/meetings/cop-07/docs.aspx>

### **Overall objective of Programme of Work on Protected Areas:**

Establishment and maintenance by 2010 for terrestrial and by 2012 for marine areas of comprehensive, effectively managed, and ecologically representative national and regional systems of protected areas that collectively, *inter alia* through a global network, contribute to achieving the three objectives of the Convention and the 2010 target to significantly reduce the current rate of biodiversity loss.

### **Summary of Conservation Finance related issues (specific references within the Decision Document are cited in parentheses):**

- **Urgent mobilization of international funding to support PoW.** CBD Parties, other governments, and funding organizations are urged to mobilize, as a matter of urgency, adequate and timely financial resources for implementation of the PoW by developing countries and countries with economies in transition (with special emphasis on those elements requiring early action) (Recommendations, para. 9).
- **Estimate costs and funding shortfalls of PoW implementation.** CBD Parties were requested to estimate the cost of implementing the necessary activities to meet the targets in the PoW, to review the effectiveness in using existing financial resources, and identify the unmet costs, and report back to the COP-8 meeting in 2006 (Recommendations, para. 10).
- **Integrate protected areas into development strategies.** Parties and development agencies were requested to integrate protected area objectives within their development strategies (e.g., World Bank country assistance strategy, national development strategy) (Recommendations, para. 11).
- **GEF financial support for PoW.** The Global Environment Facility was requested to support the implementation of the PoW, and in particular to: (i) encourage increased

support to address the *long-term financial sustainability* of protected areas to help achieve the target of securing, by 2008, sufficient resources to meet the costs of national and regional systems of protected areas; (ii) further develop its portfolio on protected areas towards comprehensive, representative and effectively managed protected area systems, addressing *system wide* needs; and (c) Support early action by continuing to streamline its procedures and by providing *fast disbursing resources through expedited means* (Recommendations, para. 12).

- **Financial sustainability.** By 2008, sufficient financial, technical and other resources to meet the costs to effectively implement and manage national and regional systems of protected areas are secured, including both from national and international sources, particularly to support the needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition (Target for Goal 3.4). Conduct a national-level study by 2005 of the effectiveness in using existing financial resources and of financial needs related to the national system of protected areas and identify options for meeting these needs through a mixture of national and international resources. By 2008, establish and begin to implement country-level *sustainable financing plans* that support national systems of protected areas, including necessary regulatory, legislative, policy, institutional and other measures. (Activities 3.4.1 and 3.4.2)
- **Meeting of donor agencies and other organizations by 2005.** Executive Secretary will convene, as soon as possible, but not later than 2005, a meeting of the donor agencies and other relevant organizations to discuss options for mobilizing new and additional funding to developing countries and countries with economies in transition for implementation of the programme of work.

In advance of COP7 an NGO Consortium<sup>1</sup> helped to catalyze an initial set of 10 so-called *National Implementation Support Partnership (NISP)* agreements. These took the form of formal agreements (e.g., MoU) between international NGOs, local NGOs and government agencies, outlining collaboration to support the Programme of Work. Most NISPs identified specific priority activities for early action including developing sustainable financing plans, and therefore demonstrated that there were real commitments to the PA PoW targets and timetables. Providing technical assistance to implement these NISPs as well as developing transatlantic strategies to generate funding to support PA PoW through GEF replenishment and bilateral funding will now be a key challenge.

The COP decided to establish a follow up mechanism -- an *open ended working group (OEWG) on protected areas* to support and review implementation of the PoW and report back to the COP. There will be at least one week-long meeting of this OEWG in Italy before COP-8 (2006), involving any interested governments and NGOs as observers. Terms of reference will include: options for mobilizing, as a matter of urgency, financial resources.

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<sup>1</sup> This consortium consisted of eight of the major international conservation NGOs: Birdlife International, Conservation International, Fauna and Flora International, Greenpeace, The Nature Conservancy, Wildlife Conservation Society, WWF, and World Resources Institute