



CONVENTION ON
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY



Enhanced Memorandum of Co-operation

between the Secretariat of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity
(Rio de Janeiro, 1992) and the Secretariat of the Convention on the
Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern, 1979)

Signed in Bonn (Germany) on 23rd May 2008

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The Secretariat of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (hereinafter referred to as the “CBD Secretariat”), represented by its Executive Secretary, and the Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (hereinafter referred to as the “Secretariat of the Bern Convention”) represented by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe;

Recalling the Memorandum of Co-operation signed on 13 March 2001 between the CBD Secretariat and the Secretariat of the Bern Convention, and in particular its Article 6;

Recalling the objectives of the CBD, namely the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources;

Recognising that the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (hereinafter referred to as the “Bern Convention”) is a binding international legal instrument in the field of nature conservation which covers the natural heritage of the European continent and extends to some states of Africa, and which aims to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats and to promote co-operation in that field;

Recalling further that the CBD stresses the importance of, and the need to promote, international, regional and global co-operation among states and intergovernmental organisations and the non-governmental sector, as well as desires to enhance and complement existing international arrangements for the conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components;

Recalling the 1994 Monaco Declaration on the role of the Bern Convention in the implementation of worldwide international instruments for the protection of biodiversity;

Recalling also the Strasbourg Declaration on the role of the Bern Convention in the conservation of biological diversity adopted on 30 November 2004;

Recalling further the Action Plan adopted by the Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe member states at the Warsaw Summit in May 2005, and in particular paragraphs II.7 and IV.3 on promoting sustainable development and stepping up co-operation with the United Nations and its specialised agencies in order to promote the universal values of the Council of Europe in the human rights field and to achieve the UN Millennium Development Goals in Europe;

Recalling that at its 7th Meeting, the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention (Strasbourg, 1-5 December 1997) decided to strengthen the co-operation with the CBD by establishing a Memorandum of Co-operation;

Recalling further decision VI/27 of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD (COP), which acknowledges the important role that regional and subregional mechanisms and networks play in promoting the implementation of the CBD, which, *inter alia*, provide forums for the preparation of regional inputs to meetings of the CBD and for translating decisions of the COP into regional actions;

Recalling also decision VII/26 of the COP, which *recognised* that enhanced co-operation and improved co-ordination at national level will be important in efforts to meet the 2010 target; and *urged* further enhanced co-operation between the CBD and all relevant international conventions, organisations and bodies, strengthening and building on existing co-operative arrangements to enhance synergies and reduce inefficiencies in a manner consistent with their respective mandates, governance arrangements and agreed programs, within existing resources;

Recalling further decision VIII/16 of the COP, which *requested* the Executive Secretary to liaise with the conventions, organisations and initiatives with which the CBD Secretariat has already signed memoranda of co-operation with a view to advancing implementation of the Convention in line with the decisions of the Conference of the Parties, including the possibility of developing joint work programmes, and further *noted* the need for enhanced co-operation among the Rio conventions and the biodiversity-related conventions at the level not only of their respective secretariats, but of their respective scientific and technical bodies; Have agreed as follows:

Article 1 – Institutional Co-operation

1. The Secretariats will co-operate for the preparation of the meetings of their respective governing and subsidiary bodies and invite each other to relevant meetings, subject to the applicable procedures.
2. The Secretariats will inform their respective Member States/Contracting Parties of their co-operative activities, and will seek to promote consultation and cooperation among themselves, with a view of promoting synergies at national level.
3. The Secretariats will co-operate in promoting exchanges of experiences and promoting best practices on issues of relevance to their mandate, including, as appropriate, through the Clearing House Mechanism of the CBD.
4. The Secretariats will co-operate on issues related to public awareness and communication with all relevant stakeholders including youth, women, NGOs, local authorities, local communities and the private sector.

Article 2 – Exchange of Information and Experience

1. The Secretariats will organise an annual meeting for a regular exchange of information on their respective activities. Each party will cover its own travel costs.
2. The Secretariats agree to exchange information on matters of mutual relevance including, as appropriate:
 - a. Scientific and technical information, including where appropriate ongoing consultations, discussions and fact-finding processes on new and emerging issues;
 - b. technical guidance of relevance to the two Convention processes;
 - c. components of the programmes of work implemented under the two Conventions that are of mutual interest, including in particular the programme of work on protected areas, invasive alien species, plant conservation and adaptation to climate change;
 - d. activities related to monitoring status and trends of relevant components of biodiversity regarding global and European targets;
 - e. other activities of relevance to the two Conventions.

Article 3 – Collaboration on the Implementation of the Conventions and their respective Programmes of Work

1. The Secretariats will co-operate in the organisation of regional meetings including preparatory meetings for the COPs.

2. The Secretariats will co-operate to support implementation of the two Conventions in Europe and achievement of the 2010 Biodiversity Target.

3. The Secretariats will explore the possibility of collaboration on the implementation of relevant programmes of work, including those mentioned under Article 2 paragraph 2 c.

Article 4 – Public Awareness and Engagement of Major Groups

1. The Secretariats will support realisation of the objectives of the two conventions through implementation of the Global Initiative on communication, education and public awareness (CEPA) in accordance with decision VIII/6 of the COP:

- a. The Secretariats will co-operate on issues related to public awareness and communication and in particular for the celebration of the International Biodiversity Day, the 2010 International year on biodiversity and related global awareness campaigns.
- b. The Secretariats will co-ordinate their action to raise understanding within the business community on the two conventions and opportunities for action.

2. The Secretariats will explore opportunities for building on the education network of the Council of Europe to support education on biodiversity, the objectives of the Bern Convention and the three objectives of the CBD.

Article 5 – Reporting

The Secretariats will report on the implementation of this agreement to their respective governing bodies and seek further guidance on new areas of co-operation.

Article 6 – Entry into Force, Amendment and Termination

1. This Memorandum will enter into force upon signature by the Parties and will supersede any previous agreement between the Secretariats.

2. The Secretariats may, by mutual agreement, review and amend this Memorandum.

3. This Memorandum may be terminated by either Secretariat giving a six-month written notice.

Signed this _____ day of _____ 2008 at _____

**For the Secretariat of the Convention on
Biological Diversity**

**For the Secretariat of the Convention on
the Conservation of European Wildlife
and Natural Habitats**

Dr AHMED DJOGHLAF
Executive Secretary

Mr ELADIO FERNANDEZ-GALIANO
On behalf of the Secretary General of the
Council of Europe