

JOINT PROGRAMME BETWEEN UNESCO AND THE SCBD ON THE LINKS BETWEEN BIOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY

Vision

A world in which the global community sustains biological¹ and cultural diversity² for present and future generations.

Mission

With the CBD acting as global focal point for biodiversity³ and UNESCO acting as global focal point for cultural diversity, strengthen the linkages between biological and cultural diversity initiatives, and enhance synergies between interlinked provisions of conventions and programmes dealing with biological and cultural diversity at relevant scales.

Timeframe: To 2020 with mid-term review at the end of 2015, to also contribute to the Millennium Development Goals.

General Principles for the Implementation of the Joint Programme

- Full and effective participation of all relevant actors, and in particular indigenous and local communities in the establishment and implementation of the joint programme.
- Collaborative engagement of policy and decision makers, governmental and non-governmental organizations, academia, private sector and civil society in both rural and urban contexts.
- A holistic approach consistent with cultural and spiritual values, worldviews and knowledge systems and livelihoods that contribute to conservation and sustainable and equitable use of biodiversity.

Specific Objectives

1. To build bridges between ongoing work on biodiversity and cultural diversity where such bridges are relevant and do not already exist.
2. To promote synergies and information sharing among already existing programmes, projects and activities that focus on links between biological and cultural diversity.
3. To further explore conceptual and methodological issues related to the links between biological and cultural diversity and the role of indigenous peoples and other communities in enhancing those links.
4. To promote the collection, compilation and analysis of information from on-the ground activities linking biological and cultural diversity from, among others, biosphere reserves and World Heritage sites, and from the experiences provided by indigenous and local communities.
5. To support and foster learning networks on bio-cultural approaches, linking grassroots and community initiatives with local, national, regional and global policy processes.
6. To raise awareness about the importance of interdependent biological and cultural diversity in resource management and decision-making processes as well as for the resilience of socio-ecological systems.

¹ As defined by the Convention on Biological Diversity (<http://www.cbd.int/>)

² As defined in the 2001 UNESCO Declaration on Cultural Diversity
<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0012/001271/127160m.pdf>

³ Noting CBD's role as convener of the Biodiversity Liaison Group

Key Action Points

Building bridges between legal instruments

- Finalize in-depth analysis of the provisions linking cultural and biological diversity under the CBD and UNESCO culture related Conventions.
- Analyze and provide recommendations for the implementation of the interlinked provisions of the CBD and UNESCO culture related Conventions in a mutually reinforcing and coordinated manner.
- Collaborate with other international programmes and legal instruments towards the protection of the interdependent biological and cultural diversity.

Building the knowledge base

- Building on the existing scientific, local and indigenous knowledge, develop robust interdisciplinary conceptual and methodological frameworks for addressing the links between biological and cultural diversity.
- Develop a set of guiding principles, including ethical principles, for future research, management, practice and policy work to sustain the interdependent biological and cultural diversity for present and future generations.
- Advance knowledge on the ways in which cultures have shaped and continue to shape biodiversity in sustainable way (e.g. cultural landscapes, traditional agricultural systems, sacred sites, culturally significant species and urban biodiversity).
- Synthesize and advance knowledge on contemporary processes that simultaneously impact biological and cultural diversity and the responses to address those processes and their impacts.
- Support the development of indicators and other means of measuring status, trends and values of diversity, including linguistic diversity by building and maintaining expert networks, providing platforms for the exchange and sharing of information.
- Promote inter-cultural and inter-faith dialogues on the links between biological and cultural diversity.

Raising awareness and educating

- Develop communication materials and other tools to raise awareness on the importance of the links between biological, cultural and linguistic diversity, for human well-being and environmental sustainability.
- Promote and develop multilingual and intercultural education as well as non-formal intergenerational transmission of knowledge on links between biological and cultural diversity in the framework of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development.
- Develop education kits for students as well as local decision makers, including in cities and urban environments.
- Promote the use of UNESCO chairs for further systematic study of the links between biological and cultural diversity.

Acting

- Mainstream principles and knowledge about the interdependence of biological and cultural diversity in the relevant CBD's Programmes of Work and UNESCO's Conventions and Programmes, including in the management of UNESCO biosphere reserves and World Heritage sites.
- Launch pilot projects in appropriate sites, including in biosphere reserves and World Heritage sites, to apply the knowledge on the links between biological and cultural diversity in equitable management and governance practices.

- Support indigenous and local communities to assess the possible challenges relating to implementation of the interlinked provisions of the CBD and UNESCO culture related Conventions and make recommendations for improving their full and effective participation in the implementation of these provisions.
- Build national and local capacities to mainstream principles and knowledge about the interdependence of biological and cultural diversity in sustainable development policies.

The Programme will be implemented taking into account relevant declarations and guidelines, examples of which are given in Annex 1.

Annex 1

Examples of Relevant Declarations and Guidelines:

- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)
- The Earth Charter (2000)
- UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity (2001)
- The Yamato Declaration on Integrated Approaches for Safeguarding Tangible and Intangible Cultural Heritage (2004)
- The CBD Akwé:Kon Voluntary Guidelines for the Conduct of Cultural, Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Regarding Developments Proposed to Take Place on, or Which are Likely to Impact on, Sacred Sites and on Lands and Waters Traditionally Occupied or Used by Indigenous and Local Communities (2004)
- Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights (2005)
- Tokyo Declaration on the Role of Sacred Natural Sites and Cultural Landscapes in the Conservation of Biological and Cultural Diversity (2005)
- United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007)
- The UNESCO/IUCN Guidelines for the Conservation and Management of Sacred Natural Sites (2008)
- United Nations Development Group Guidelines on Indigenous Issues (2008)
- Bonn Declaration on Education for Sustainable Development (2009)
- The Code of Ethical Conduct to ensure respect for the cultural and intellectual heritage of indigenous and local communities relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity
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