

## **Biodiversity**

### Minutes of the Workshop

#### **Policy issues**

- Integrated consistent policy on cross cutting issues  
Different Ministries responsible
- Implementation gap in the field of Biodiversity
- Compliance
- Conservation with people (sustainable use) or from people?
- Ownership of Biodiversity and Responsibility has to be sorted out  
(party and non-party, Inventory lists)
- Biodiversity is a resource that is getting scarcer, the price will go up – should we let the market rule the regime?
- Task: What about the poor countries?
- Link between climate change and biodiversity

#### **“Potsdam Initiative – Biological Diversity 2010”**

The Potsdam Initiative, adopted by the G8 Environment Ministers ([http://www.bmu.de/english/international\\_environmental\\_policy/g8\\_presidency\\_2007/doc/38948.php](http://www.bmu.de/english/international_environmental_policy/g8_presidency_2007/doc/38948.php)) was presented in the Meeting. The discussion focused on the following issues:

- The economic significance of the global loss of biological diversity  
A global study (similar to the ‘Stern’-Review in the climate sector) that will analyse the global economic benefit of biological diversity, the costs of the loss of biodiversity and the failure to take protective measures versus the costs of effective conservation.
- Science (IMoSEb)  
The initiation of an international mechanism for providing scientific advice (IMOSEB), similar to the IPCC – that may be launched at COP9 (Germany would very much appreciate that) (<http://www.iisd.ca/ymb/imoseb3/ymbvol132num3e.html>)
- Biodiversity and Climate Change

#### **Biodiversity protection is a matter of Global Governance**

Policy Reform: (Means to stop forest destruction)

- promote trade in sustainable timber
- reduce foreign debt burden of developing countries
- price of products from tropical forest areas must reflect the true environmental costs
- abolish perverse subsidies
- apply proper land use planning

#### **Poverty is threat for, cause of and consequence of biodiversity loss**

➔ The protection of biodiversity is a matter of human rights!

#### **Biodiversity and developing countries**

- Problems of Biodiversity loss in developing countries are e.g. Logging, illegal fishing, traditional fishing grounds are destroyed; GMO-Fish has impact on other fish. The answer is small scale ecologic agriculture – but that is not supported by G8-Countries.

- FAO and world bank-policies as well as company interests are reasons for biodiversity loss.
- How could Germany help EU help G8 help UN and help the +5 ?  
Germany should respect the rights of developing countries and protect them

**It is an achievement, that Biodiversity is mentioned at all in the draft of the final paper**

What are important aspects/suggestions for the upcoming process?

Issues that were discussed:

- The conservation of biodiversity must become a principle in all international Negotiations.
- Biodiversity criteria should be applied when screening development projects.
- Regarding the ABS-negotiations countries should take a look at Africas proposal for an ABS-regime, which is very good. Germany should make the effort to convince the EU to discuss ABS sensibly and to be a good Negotiation partner (→ EU-Council Conclusions in June)
- Germany should protect the developing countries 'against the USA
- The ‚Stern‘-review should not only focus on the costs but analyze perverse subsidies as well
- It's impossible to separate biodiversity and livelihoods – biodiversity is an issue of development, economics, livelihoods and justice. The G8 countries should not blame the developing countries. They must take responsibility for their own politics and for their own economies (regarding e.g. Legislation)
- The Terms of Reference for the IMoSeb-Panel should not only include natural science but social science as well.

**What should be our input to the Round Table?**

- Biodiversity is the basis of life AND the basis of economics.
- Biodiversity should be a mainstream Issue !
- The Potsdam Initiative should play a role/should be mentioned in the Heiligendamm Final Document
- Biodiversity and Climate Change Policies should be linked
- GMOs are no Option – they are drivers of biodiversity loss
- An important issue are CO2-Emmissions resulting from deforestation

*Recommended Reading:*

- Paper from the St. Petersburg-Meeting in 2006 – a Documentation of the NGO-Debates
- NGO-G8-Policy Paper  
([http://www.forum-ue.de/fileadmin/userupload/positionspapiere/g8\\_ngo\\_pospap\\_dt\\_1.pdf](http://www.forum-ue.de/fileadmin/userupload/positionspapiere/g8_ngo_pospap_dt_1.pdf))