



A Special Report on Selected Side Events at the Tenth Conference of the Parties (COP 10) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

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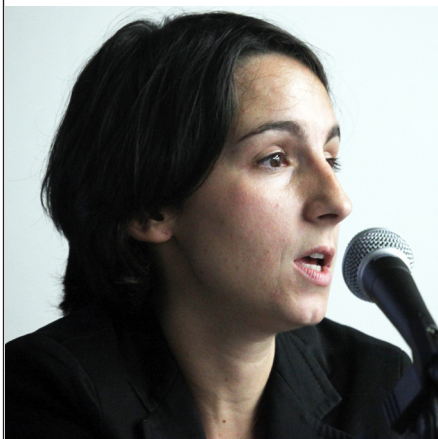
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Events convened on Friday, 29 October 2010

Economic Aspects of Biodiversity: Cost-Effective PES, Green Growth, Agriculture and Biodiversity

Presented by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development



Kati Karousakis, OECD, highlighted the CDM as an international PES scheme, and REDD+ as a potential international PES scheme since the payments for REDD+ can be targeted to areas of high carbon and high biodiversity.

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This event presented the recent work of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) on the economic valuation of biodiversity, and economic incentives and markets to promote the sustainable use of biodiversity.

Noting CBD COP 9's request for the OECD to undertake further studies on payments for ecosystem services (PES) and other positive incentive measures at local, national, regional and international levels, Markus Lehmann, CBD Secretariat, applauded the OECD's prompt work in publishing "Paying for Biodiversity: Enhancing the Cost-Effectiveness of PES."

Helen Mountford, OECD, discussed work across the OECD on: the costs of inaction related to biodiversity conservation; biodiversity financial flows; ways to remove costly and harmful subsidies; and biodiversity and the economic crisis and green growth. She emphasized key messages from the work, including that: the cost of inaction is high; and there is need to scale up public finance and harness private finance; and there is a need to maximize co-benefits for biodiversity in climate policies.

Hans Alders, Chair of the Task Force on Biodiversity and Natural Resources, the Netherlands, said that the Task Force was installed in 2009 in the hopes of enhancing environmental policy. He highlighted the Task Force's recommendations thus far including the need for: a countrywide 2020 target; more efficient agricultural policies nationwide and worldwide; investment in green economy and bio-based economy with government support; and innovative financing.

Katia Karousakis, OECD, discussed the OECD report "Paying for Biodiversity: Enhancing the Cost-Effectiveness of Payments for Ecosystem Services," noting that PES is important as they provide direct payments to landowners to use to support biodiversity conservation, yet that the environmental and cost effective benefits depend crucially on programme design and implementation.

Noting that agriculture is the major direct and indirect user of land and water, Wilfrid Legg, OECD, highlighted guidelines to cost effective agri-environmental policies. He said the challenge is to increase agriculture intensity while decreasing biodiversity loss. He emphasized that cost effective policies depend on knowing: the demand or target for agri-biodiversity; where it is supplied and at what cost; how much is jointly supplied with farm production; and what should be provided at farmers own charge.

Masamichi Saigo, Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, noted that his administration is focusing on new environmental policies that involve PES.

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An Introduction to DOPA, a Digital Observatory for Protected Areas

Presented by the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission and the Institute for the Environment and Sustainability

The side event was held to provide a demonstration of the Digital Observatory for Protected Areas (DOPA), which is a biodiversity information system that has been developed as a set of interactive web services by the EC Joint Research Centre (JRC), in collaboration with UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) and the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF), among others.

Outlining the JRC's functions, Grégoire Dubois, JRC, noted that the JRC provides independent, unbiased scientific and technical support for the conception, development, implementation and monitoring of EC policy.

Dubois highlighted the Africa Protected Areas Assessment Tool (APAAT) developed by the JRC to assess and prioritize African protected areas according to biodiversity values and threats using continent-wide datasets. He said DOPA built on APAAT, which operates on a global level to assess protected areas. Providing a demonstration, he said that DOPA was a more flexible, interactive tool that allows users to combine information on, *inter alia*, habitats, climate and species.

On DOPA's architecture, Stephen Peedell, JRC, elaborated on the concept of eHabitat, which is the future web processing service for habitat modeling. He said this will enable the user to use thematic maps when modeling environmental impacts on habitats. In this way, he elaborated that information can be used for visualizing issues such as climate impacts on species distribution.

Charles Besançon, UNEP-WCMC, noted that the organization manages a lot of data, largely for publications such as the Global Biodiversity Outlook-3. He presented the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA), saying that it is the only global database on protected areas. Providing an overview of the contents of the WDPA, he highlighted the significant effort by the world to create protected areas over time.

Besançon noted that a number of problems the WDPA faced, such as the website being too technical and the data not being updated frequently enough, has led to the launch of "protected planet.net." This is online collaborative effort, he said, to draw people in, interact with the data, and update the data of the WDPA. He cited a number of collaborations in this project including, Flickr, Wikipedia, Panoramio.

Simon Le Grand, EC, provided an overview of the Intra-Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Cooperation Programme to enhance existing institutions and networks by building their capacity to strengthen policy and to implement well informed decisions and policies on biodiversity conservation and protected area management.

Stressing that this is well aligned with the goals of the CBD, he said the first component of the programme is to enhance effective planning and management of protected areas in ACP countries and the second is to contribute to the access and benefit sharing capacity development initiative under German Technical Cooperation (GTZ GmbH).



Grégoire Dubois, JRC, noted that the largest component of DOPA is capacity building, which is being coordinated by IUCN.



Charles Besançon, UNEP-WCMC, noted that the World Database on Protected Areas has been the basis of a number of studies and analyses.

More Information:

<http://dopa.jrc.ec.europa.eu>
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