Feasibility Study for a Harmonised Information Management Infrastructure for Biodiversity-related Treaties

Prepared by the World Conservation Monitoring Centre

On behalf of UNEP, CBD, CITES, CMS, Ramsar Convention, WHC





CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY















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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The five biodiversity-related treaty secretariats and UNEP commissioned WCMC to undertake a *Feasibility Study* to identify opportunities for harmonising information management. The study responds to the growing realisation that decisions on development and sustainability depend on access to well organised information, and that the secretariats could collaborate more closely to gain synergies, avoid duplication and reduce the burden of reporting carried out by the Parties to the conventions.

The Feasibility Study involved the Secretariats of: the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES); Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS); Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat; (Ramsar) and the Convention Concerning the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (WHC). It considered effectiveness and efficiency in the gathering, handling, disseminating and sharing of information.

The Feasibility Study identified three programmes of work to improve information management:

- Development of a harmonised conventions information resource
- Streamlined national reporting to facilitate national reporting to, and implementation of, the Conventions
- Development of a shared lessons-learned network

They would be taken forward through:

- preparation of a GEF PDF (Project Development Funding) proposal addressing harmonised reporting requirements, and the development and pilot testing of integrated national reporting guidelines for the biodiversity related conventions
- development of funding proposals for considerations by bilateral agencies covering actions needed to develop an inter-convention web site and search engine, and the development of a lessons-learned network
- increased collaboration of the programme and technical staff of the secretariats to share experiences:

Recognising the need for broader synergies, a follow-on study is recommended to involve the other Rio treaties and regional agreements.

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