

Mobilizing Worldwide Action to Sustain the Living Resources of Our Planet:

The Biodiversity Conservation Strategy Programme

Organizers:

**International Union for the
Conservation of Nature and
Natural Resources**

**United Nations Environment
Programme**

World Resources Institute

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Within the past few years, news stories on habitat destruction and species extinction have made the worldwide erosion of biological diversity a topic of general conversation. People all over the world have at least a passing knowledge of what is happening to the moist forests of the tropics, the old-growth tracts of the North American Pacific region, and natural communities of sub-Saharan Africa—to name just a few critical areas.

Now, three international conservation organizations have launched an ambitious program of research and consultations that will lead to a global strategy and action plan to conserve the world's biodiversity. One of the organizations is private: the World Resources Institute (WRI), based in Washington, D.C., The International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), headquartered in Gland, Switzerland, has both governmental and private groups as members. The third organizer is the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), whose main offices are in Nairobi. Below we have reprinted a program description written by IUCN, UNEP, and WRI, dating from September 1990.

A great deal of attention has been paid to establishing the economic value of conserving biodiversity. To be sure, money talks, and it may well be that the best way to get governments to pay attention to biodiversity conservation is to demonstrate that doing so is in their economic interest. Yet for many people, protecting biodiversity is a moral and spiritual imperative. In a brief article following this one, J. Ronald Engel of the IUCN Working Group on Ethics, Culture, and Conservation updates us on how ethical considerations can be incorporated into the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and the forthcoming successor document to the World Conservation Strategy.

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PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

The world is being impoverished by the loss and degradation of its most fundamental living resources—its genes, habitats, and ecosystems.

Some scientists predict that if present trends continue, up to 25 percent of the world's species will be lost in the next several decades, accompanied by an equally alarming degradation of habitats and ecosystems.

This loss of the planet's living richness is both wrong and dangerous. Wrong, because we should accept that all species have a right to exist, as the U.N. General Assembly stated when it adopted the World Charter for Nature in 1982. Dangerous, because the world's environmental systems are humanity's life-support mechanisms, and we do not know which components are key to maintaining their essential functions.

The loss of biodiversity undermines prospects for sustainable development. The world's renewable resources, such as forests, fisheries, wildlife, and crops, are of immediate use to people, while the genetic diversity of these resources allows continued adaptation to the world's changing conditions. What's more, the highly diverse natural ecosystems that support this wealth of species also maintain hydrological cycles, regulate climate, build soils, absorb and break down pollutants, and provide sites for spiritual enrichment, tourism, and research. To waste Earth's riches is to rob the world's rural poor of sustainable livelihoods and deprive future generations of the resources they will need to survive and prosper.

Traditional conservation activities are too disparate, fragmented, and limited to bring about the fundamental changes necessary to bring the loss of diversity to a halt. The best way to slow the loss of biodiver-

builds support among wide-ranging institutions and individuals, draws on the best modern science, and establishes biodiversity conservation in its rightful place as a basic prerequisite of development policy.

To these ends, WRI, IUCN, and UNEP have organized a collaborative Biodiversity Conservation Strategy Programme. The Programme's ultimate goal is to help humanity use biological resources in a sustainable and equitable manner that does not critically reduce the biosphere's overall diversity. The immediate, practical goal is to take steps to keep losses of biological diversity to a minimum and to manage our living resource base wisely. Between 1990 and 1992, work will focus on:

1. Developing a *Biodiversity Conservation Strategy* that defines the options and opportunities for action that achieve global goals while addressing local priorities;
2. Developing and promoting a *Decade Action Plan* for an intensive and sustained worldwide effort by concerned institutions and individuals working locally, nationally, and internationally to defend, understand, and use biodiversity wisely;
3. Developing a *Biodiversity Status Report* that makes information on the state of biodiversity throughout the world available to scientists, NGOs [nongovernmental organizations], policymakers, and donors in a form they can use;
4. Analyzing the root causes of biodiversity loss and encouraging the development or reform of policies, laws, institutions, and ad-

5. Identifying and promoting the skills, management methods, and investments needed to provide local communities with more sustainable benefits from biological resources;

6. Developing methods of co-operating internationally in the conservation of biodiversity and promoting greater financial support for high-priority activities;

7. Establishing biodiversity conservation as a goal of development through the 1990s and beyond.

NETWORK OF PARTNER INSTITUTIONS

The Biodiversity Conservation Strategy Programme entails two years of collaborative research, dialogue, and workshops involving individuals, NGOs, governments, and international institutions. A critical mass of individuals and institutions, from North and South, will be mobilized to formulate complementary objectives and coordinate plans of action. In phase two, the *Strategy* will be implemented and promoted.

Critical to the *Strategy's* success are linkages being established with partner organizations. Through various mechanisms tailored to the objectives and style of the partner organizations, the Programme will develop a collaborative process that allows them direct input to the contents of the *Strategy* and *Decade Action Plan*. The materials issued will reflect this diversity of input and opinion. In many respects, the process of developing the *Strategy* is a test of the co-operation that will be needed later to carry it out.

Organizations associate themselves with the Programme by:

- Undertaking collaborative research with funds provided by the Programme or through other sources;
- Organizing and hosting workshops and regional consultations on topics of mutual interest to the host and the Biodiversity Programme, with financial support raised jointly;
- Participating in regional workshops and consultations;
- Contributing ideas and material for case-studies, policy recommendations, or needed actions.
- Promoting the *Strategy* and *Action Plan* and the implementation of specific projects and reforms locally, nationally, and internationally.

A number of organizations have already joined this partnership. (See Appendix 1.) The Programme partners will share responsibility for the content of the *Strategy* and the *Decade Action Plan*. Overall guidance will also come from an International Coordinating Group. (See Appendix 2.) (This group met for the first time in June 1990 in Caracas, Venezuela, and again the following November in Perth, Australia. It will meet every six months thereafter on different continents.) The International Coordinating Group will work with the Programme organizers to help coordinate the involvement of diverse regional perspectives and interests in the development of the Biodiversity Strategy Programme. In addition, IUCN's Environmental Law Centre and UNEP staff involved in the development of the International Convention for the Conservation of Biological Diversity will provide technical advice on the convention to

IUCN State Members. Linkages have already been established with the Ramsar Bureau [the secretariat which oversees the international treaty on wetland protection] and the Man and the Biosphere Programme. Collaboration with UNEP's Regional Seas Programme will take place through IUCN's Marine Programme.

Coordinated by the Chief Conservation Officer and the Chief Scientist for plant conservation, many parts of the IUCN Secretariat are also participating in the Programme. IUCN's Director General has established an Inter-Commissional Standing Committee for this purpose, though the Programme will draw on the products and expertise of the rest of the organization as well, both to promote its findings to a broader conservation community and to garner the broadest possible perspective. Among the IUCN programs and commissions closely involved will be:

- The Species Survival Commission (SSC);
- The Plants Office (focusing on species and sites of particular importance, conservation, and on the genetic aspects of conservation);
- The Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas (CNPPA);
- The Environmental Law Centre (ELC);
- The Tropical Forests, Coastal and Marine, and Wetlands Programmes;
- The Global Change Programme (focusing on the impacts of human population dynamics on biodiversity);

- The Women in Natural Resources Management Programme (focuses on women in the management and conservation of biodiversity in the tropics).

Along with IUCN, the World Wide Fund for Nature-International (WWF; known as World Wildlife Fund in the U.S. and some other countries) Plants Office, and, by extension, WWF's National Organizations (especially WWF-UK and WWF-US), are at work on some aspects of the Programme. Close links have been established with the U.K. Overseas Development Administration (ODA), the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Commission on Plant Genetic Resources, the FAO Forestry Division, the Center for Plant Conservation, the Bureau de Ressources Génétiques (Paris), the Agricultural University at Wageningen (The Netherlands), and the University of California at Riverside.

Some of the participants in the overall Programme are themselves consortia, so the "ripple effect" should be considerable. The Botanic Gardens Conservation Secretariat runs a network of several hundred botanic gardens and other institutions. The IUCN-Smithsonian Institution Latin America Plants Project has a network of several hundred collaborators.

Financial support for the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy Programme is being provided by a number of organizations, including the British ODA, Government of Switzerland, U.S. Agency for International Development, and W. Alton Jones Foundation. Additional support is being sought.

PRODUCTS AND SERVICES OF THE BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION STRATEGY PROGRAMME

Developing a Strategy for Conserving Biodiversity

A major result of the Programme will be the publication, promotion, and wide dissemination of the *Biodiversity Conservation Strategy*. This document will define the values of species, genetic resources, and ecosystems in terms of their importance to people and to biosphere maintenance, as well as identify the options and opportunities for action at local to international levels. It will view biodiversity conservation as a combination of three inextricably linked pursuits: the need to *understand* its role in the biosphere, *defend* the world's biological richness, and *use* it wisely through sustainable management systems that provide for human needs now and in the future—and promote that perspective.

Understanding biodiversity entails activities including the inventory and survey of biodiversity in the wild; biological and ecological research to increase our understanding of the behavior and function of species and ecosystems; and the development of data and information on species, genes, and ecosystems. It requires both modern science and traditional knowledge.

Defending biodiversity requires urgent action to slow or halt unsustainable development paths that are leading to the loss of biodiversity. It also requires a variety of approaches to maintain species, genes, and habitats (including strict nature reserves,

multiple-use extractive reserves, zoos, botanic gardens, experimental research stations, and collections of seed, embryos, and tissues). These approaches must be used within the context of regional landscapes to ensure the maintenance of minimum viable populations of flora and fauna, continuity of ecological functions including stream flows, and stability and biological health of agriculture, forestry, and fisheries. Thus, defending biodiversity is directly linked with development and human welfare.

Using biodiversity wisely and equitably means converting the unknown or little-appreciated wealth of nature into biological resources that contribute to human well-being and local community self-reliance, promote equity, and ensure environmental protection. This requires research and development to create new uses of biological resources, to enhance the properties of foods, trees, medicines, and industrial commodities; it requires management systems that promote the sustainable use of forests, crops, fisheries, and wildlife to meet the needs of local communities and development goals while preserving the environment; and it requires policies and mechanisms that ensure that the grass-roots innovators and custodians of the planet's biological wealth are provided incentives for continuing innovation and conservation.

Both marine and terrestrial ecosystems will be covered in the *Strategy*. As the United Nations *World Charter for Nature* states, each nation has a responsibility to ensure that the species, genetic diversity, habitats, and ecosystems within its borders are protected, properly studied, and managed for the benefit of human

populations now and in the future. At the same time, local communities are ultimately responsible for conserving biodiversity, and they hold the ultimate right to seek their livelihoods from it. Even in this hierarchy, though, the need for complementary international cooperation and coordinated global action is pressing.

The *Strategy* will be launched in early 1992 in time to contribute to the Fourth World Congress on Protected Areas (February 1992) and to discussions on biodiversity at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to be held in Brazil in June 1992.

Stimulating Action to Conserve Biodiversity

The Programme will promote practical action during the 1990s through its various collaborating institutions and prepare and publish the *Decade Action Plan* for conserving biodiversity. This document will identify and promote the knowledge, skills, policy reforms, and investments needed to conserve biodiversity and will specify practical actions that can mobilize biological resources to meet human needs.

The *Decade Action Plan* will seek the key levers for changing the *status quo* of resource use and management, including:

- Identifying and addressing root causes, particularly through policy and institutional reform;
- Encouraging broad participation in resource management decisions and free access to information; and

- Developing local capacity for resource management and policy analysis.

The *Decade Action Plan* will focus on the urgent steps needed to identify areas of outstanding importance for biodiversity conservation and the options for planning, protecting, funding, and managing these areas through national and local action. Under IUCN's direction, areas that are critically important for conserving biodiversity—designated either as protected areas or other management regimes—will be identified. The *Decade Action Plan* will also specify quick actions needed to meet the needs of botanic gardens, zoos, aquaria, and seed banks.

Providing Information on Biodiversity

The Programme will work with the World Conservation Monitoring Centre and numerous other collaborating institutions to compile the information needed to support the conservation of biodiversity. The material will be made available on diskettes and through the *Biodiversity Status Report*, a compendium of information detailing the status of the world's biological diversity and the actions and investments underway to conserve it. This serial report will also provide essential data for monitoring the progress of actions stimulated by the *Strategy*. The first edition of the report will be in draft by November 1990. The data collection will be targeted to meet the needs of national and international institutions interested in improving biodiversity conservation activities and increasing funds available for investment in its conservation. The compendium will also provide a variety of users in resource management and develop-

ment fields with information on the status of biodiversity.

Improving Policies and Methods for Conserving Biodiversity

The Programme will conduct a number of studies and workshops in collaboration with partner institutions to improve policies and methods for overcoming social, economic, and political obstacles to conserving biodiversity. Suitable for application in the field, these studies will culminate in a series of publications released under the joint imprint of IUCN, WRI, UNEP, and other research partners. The "Biodiversity Conservation Series" will be promoted through WRI, IUCN, UNEP, and other participating organizations. All documents will be published in English, and, funding permitting, in Spanish, French, and other languages.

Providing Technical Advice on Biodiversity

On request, the Programme will provide advice to governments, development agencies, international development banks, and conservation organizations on biodiversity issues. Areas of expertise include protected areas, species, wildlife utilization, economics, planning, law, environmental impact assessment, and others.

Promoting Biodiversity as a Major Development Issue

The Programme will work with multilateral and bilateral development agencies and with NGOs to ensure that biodiversity receives full attention as a major development

issue. Activities will include participation in the preparations for the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and preparations for the 1992 Fourth World Parks and Protected Areas Congress. Programme participants will also prepare lectures, presentations, and articles for journals and magazines to promote the Programme's objectives to a variety of audiences.

MAJOR PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES (1990-1993)

The following research, technical outreach, and workshops will be undertaken as the *Biodiversity Conservation Strategy* is developed and promoted. Many will yield separate publications as well as meeting the needs of the *Strategy* process.

Research and Technical Outreach

Research will be carried out to identify changes in policies, laws, institutions, and administrative procedures that will foster the maintenance and understanding of biological diversity. This research will be published in a series of reports on the most important sites for conservation attention, the major policy issues in conserving biodiversity, country or regional studies, technical manuals, and individual project case studies.

1. *Root Causes of Biodiversity Loss.* WRI will manage studies on the root causes of biodiversity loss and the mismanagement of biological resources. Heavy emphasis will be placed on the international political economy of biodiversity loss, national economic policy distortions, con-

straints and pathologies of government institutions, land and resource tenure issues, erosion of indigenous cultures and their resource management systems, inadequate access to information and policy processes, and the effects of inappropriate international development assistance.

2. *Genetic Resources.* Also managed through WRI, this research will address equity issues involved in the conservation of genetic resources, seeking clarity on who benefits and who is paying for their conservation. The ongoing dispute over intellectual property rights as they pertain to biodiversity conservation will be examined along with the mechanisms needed to ensure that biotechnology will meet human needs, ultimately strengthening rather than weakening the rationale for biodiversity conservation. A related project, this one under IUCN's Chief Scientist for plant conservation, will analyze the status of germplasm conservation of wild species, *ex situ* in seed banks and field gene banks, and *in situ*, in both small- and large-scale reserves. Special attention will be accorded to local crops (so-called minor species), medicinal plants, crop relatives, rare and endangered species, and species needed for habitat rehabilitation. A "Handbook of Plant Collecting" for wild species will be prepared in association with the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources (IBPGR).

3. *Defining Key Sites and Species for Conservation.* The *Biodiversity Conservation Strategy* and *Decade Action Plan* will provide international and national conservation agencies and NGOs with a set of internationally accepted priorities for action to conserve biodiversity. IUCN and its

governmental and non-governmental affiliates will:

- Identify Key Sites for Conserving Biodiversity. The Programme will draw on the IUCN network and collaborating organizations (especially the World Conservation Monitoring Centre) to identify the highest-priority sites for conservation. In addition, data sheets on selected sites of outstanding importance for plant conservation will be developed under IUCN direction, and a conservation and development strategy will be outlined for each site selected. Findings will be summarized in a book titled *Centres of Plant Diversity*. The Programme will also forge links to efforts already underway to identify vitally important sites, under the lead of IUCN's Tropical Forestry Programme, its Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas, and the Wetlands Programme.
- Identify Priority Species for Plant Conservation. If funding is available, IUCN will prepare a rank-ordered list of economically valuable plants, which will give governments and NGOs a basis for deciding which plants warrant priority in conservation and development projects.
- Identify Priority Species for Animal Conservation. This work will be carried out by IUCN's Species Survival Commission (SSC), and will feed into the *Biodiversity Conservation Strategy* and *Decade Action Plan*, which will in turn

promote the implementation of the SSC Species Action Plans.

4. *Finalizing the Global Protected Area System.* IUCN is establishing a task force to analyze the extent to which protected areas currently conserve biodiversity, to evaluate the quality of their management, and to identify gaps in coverage. The effort will build upon the considerable work already accomplished by IUCN Commissions, the International Council for Bird Preservation (ICBP), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC). In cooperation with local organizations, the Programme will develop an action plan that will specify the required activities and financial needs. The plan will be provided to the 1992 World Congress on Parks and Protected Areas and summarized in the *Decade Action Plan*.

5. *Biodiversity and Resource Management: Conserving Biodiversity Outside Protected Areas.* The following IUCN programs will describe the principles of conserving biodiversity in various habitats, specify the government policies required to maintain that diversity, provide specific guidelines for policy implementation, and recommend actions needed in the 1990s to conserve biodiversity in each particular habitat.

- IUCN's Wetlands Programme will review the principles of biodiversity conservation as applied to these ecosystems and identify the activities required over the next decade to improve wetlands management, paying particular attention to projects that help local communities adapt traditional systems of resource use to today's conditions. These invest-

igations will be summarized in a publication entitled *Conserving Biodiversity in Wetland Ecosystems*.

- IUCN's Tropical Forest Programme will focus its work on multiple-use management of tropical forests, sustainable use of tropical forest species, and how human population pressure affects tropical forests. Its research will be summarized in a book called *Conserving Biodiversity in Tropical Forests*.
- IUCN's Coastal and Marine Programme will describe what marine biodiversity is and how it is affected by fishing and other human activities. Drawing on experience with marine estuaries, mangroves, intertidal mudflats, seagrass beds, and coral reefs, the group will develop practical guidelines and principles for conserving marine biodiversity. A book, *Conservation of Biological Diversity in Coastal and Marine Systems*, will result from this work.

6. *Conservation Technology.* This conceptual and practical work on *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation tools and their linkages to development will be carried out under WRI's management. The partners in this research will analyze the elements and actions needed to foster intersectoral cooperation on resource management—a necessity since biodiversity can only be conserved if planning is undertaken at a regional, or “landscape” level.

7. *Economics and Biodiversity.* The Programme will analyze the linkages between market pressures and

the degradation and destruction of biological diversity. Research under WRI's auspices will examine conceptual issues underpinning the valuation of biological diversity, as well as market and policy failures that contribute to its loss. It will also analyze how the financial support for biodiversity conservation can be increased to ensure that costs and benefits are equitably distributed, and it will explore the obstacles to and opportunities for biodiversity conservation presented by international debt.

8. *The Role of Law in Conserving Biodiversity.* In the past, many rural areas were governed by customary law that *de facto* protected biodiversity, but most such laws have now been replaced by national legal systems, few of which have been designed with biodiversity conservation in mind. IUCN's Environmental Law Centre will examine legal techniques and mechanisms for promoting such conservation and publish a summary entitled *The Role of Law in Supporting the Conservation of Biodiversity*.

9. *Cross-sectoral Review of Wildlife Utilization.* The IUCN's Species Survival Commission (SSC) will identify mechanisms for enhancing the utility of biodiversity for local people. SSC will review a number of projects to see what it takes to make wildlife use sustainable. A central repository for information on sustainable use will be established so that donors, governments, and NGOs can have easy access to findings on the design and implementation of such projects. Results will be published in a work called *Guidelines for Sustainable Utilization of Wildlife*.

10. *Designing National Systems for Conserving Biodiversity.* The Pro-

gramme will identify the elements needed in any national plan to conserve biological resources and the wider biological diversity from which these resources derive. Research will identify the institutions that should be involved and the information needed for proper management, suggest comprehensive conservation policies, and explore ways to build institutions that will conserve biological resources. The team will also suggest long-term funding mechanisms and provide a model table of contents for a national plan to conserve biological resources.

11. *Global Change and Biodiversity.* IUCN's Programme on Global Change will investigate the potential impacts of climate and human change on biological diversity and the opportunities that biodiversity provides for adapting to these changes.

12. *Controlling Introduced and Invasive Species.* Drawing on its database on introduced species, IUCN will establish an information network and strategy for dealing with the threat that invasive plant species pose to natural ecosystems in many parts of the world, especially on islands. Work will focus on the distribution of these species, their effects on the ecosystem, reproductive biology, and control measures.

13. *Conserving Indigenous Medicinal Plants.* Strategies for conserving medicinal plants will be developed along with a global assessment of conservation needs. The strategies will describe collecting procedures and means of assessing supply and demand of medicinal plants, and will detail the steps needed to block genetic erosion and either cultivate or sustainably harvest these plants.

Workshops and Regional Consultations

Between August 1990 and June 1991, a series of experts workshops and regional consultations are scheduled to help develop the *Biodiversity Conservation Strategy* and *Decade Action Plan*. Both the experts workshops and the regional consultations will be three-day meetings, and where possible the two events will be held back-to-back at the same venue. The workshops and consultations are being organized in collaboration with partner organizations in the Strategy Programme (many of which are represented on the International Coordinating Group). Experts workshops will focus on a topic of particular concern to the region or institutions involved and most participants will be from the region. Regional consultations will include participants from the experts workshop but will draw on a broader array of individuals from a government, science, grass-roots groups, NGOs, and industry to review draft materials for the *Strategy* and *Decade Action Plan*. The following workshops are scheduled:

Scientific Basis for Marine Biodiversity Conservation (Center for Marine Conservation, Washington, D.C., October 28-30, 1990). Workshop participants explored the status of marine biodiversity, unique features of conservation in marine ecosystems, the new field of marine conservation biology, and scientific research needs for marine biodiversity conservation.

IUCN General Assembly (Perth, Australia, November 1990). The General Assembly of IUCN provided a special opportunity for dialogue among organizations and individuals from around the world on key bio-

diversity issues. At a two-day workshop, participants examined various components of the Biodiversity Strategy Programme, including the draft *Biodiversity Status Report*. A special session was held on women and biodiversity, and workshops on protected areas (including a review of world coverage and requirements for investment to strengthen sites and develop new areas), tropical forests, and extinction rates, will be featured. In a plenary session, the World Conservation Strategy for the 1990s, which includes a chapter on biodiversity, was discussed.

Information for Decision Making/Central American Consultation (National Institute of Biodiversity, Costa Rica). The workshop will identify practical methods that financially poor but biotically rich countries can use to inventory their wildlands, systematically explore their value and function, and support their development with appropriate information and knowledge. It will also identify needs for species inventory, institutional and training facilities, and strategies for increasing the amount and quality of biological information available to policymakers. It will elaborate a strategy for promoting new products and services from nature that meet development needs and increase community and national self-reliance.

Restoration of Degraded Lands and Biodiversity (Tentative location: India). The workshop will draw largely on the technical and political expertise in South Asia, but will also include scientists working in other parts of the world. It will explore strategies, techniques, and policies for the restoration of degraded lands that can make greater use of biodiversity, help in its conservation,

and broaden development options, especially for the benefit of local communities.

Managing Biodiversity/South American Consultation (FUNATURA, Brazil, in collaboration with BIOMA, Venezuela). This workshop will focus on the strategic integration of *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation methods—protected areas, corridors, transition zones, botanic gardens, zoos, seed banks, cryo-preservation—and the policies, laws, and institutional backing needed to make them work to support the study, maintenance, and sustainable use of biodiversity and biological resources. A major discussion topic will be how to raise planning and management of biological resources to a regional scale to ensure biodiversity conservation.

Property Rights and Genetic Resources (African Centre for Technology Studies, Kenya, March 6-9, 1991). Workshop participants will examine strategies for increasing the benefits that developing countries and custodians of genetic resources such as farmers and traditional healers derive from their genetic resources, and for insuring the worldwide conservation of those resources.

African Consultation (African NGOs Environment Network, Tanzania). Drawing on the unique network of grassroots NGOs that are members of the Network, this consultation will provide a key opportunity to ensure that grassroots perspectives are well represented in *Strategy* documents.

Redefining the Roles of Local Communities in Natural Resource Management/Southeast Asian Consultation (WALHI, Indonesia). Participants at this workshop will explore how to establish or re-establish stewardship

at regional and community levels of resource management, how to ensure that local people get the benefits, how to establish cooperative arrangements between local groups and government, and how to balance national interest and local rights.

Trade and Biodiversity/European Consultation. A workshop on "trade and biodiversity" is under preliminary discussion. Participants would explore the impact of trade patterns on biodiversity and also the impact of European economic integration in 1992 on biodiversity in Europe.

Economics and Biodiversity/North American Consultation. A workshop is under preliminary discussion with the Keystone Center on this topic. Participants would explore key issues of valuation, market failures, policy conflicts, and the integration of biodiversity into development planning.

Protected Areas Task Force and Workshop Series. The key needs of the existing global protected areas network and the gaps in the network will be analyzed by an international task force of experts from the several groups that have been working to identify sites of outstanding importance for biodiversity conservation. Through workshops and consultations, the task force will seek consensus on priorities for local, national, and international action—where required, on an emergency schedule. This work will be closely allied with similar efforts to support botanic gardens, zoos, and other key *ex situ* conservation needs.

Communications Strategy

The Biodiversity Conservation Strategy, Decade Action Plan, and

Biodiversity Status Report will be published by early 1992 in time to contribute to the Fourth World Congress on National Parks and Protected Areas and at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. All of the documents will be aggressively promoted by all the partner institutions. A new "Biodiversity Conservation Series" will be established to handle the numerous publications expected from the Programme. The publications are expected to include:

- *The Biodiversity Conservation Strategy* (February 1992)
- *The Decade Action Plan for Conserving Biodiversity* (February 1992)
- *The Biodiversity Status Report* (November 1991)
- *Root Causes of Biodiversity Loss* (Summer 1991)
- *Equity in the Conservation and Use of Genetic Resources* (Summer 1991)
- *The Economics of Biodiversity Conservation and Use* (1992)
- *The Role of Law in Conserving Biodiversity*
- *Centres of Plant Diversity*
- *Conserving Biodiversity in Wetland Ecosystems*
- *Conserving Biodiversity in Tropical Forests*
- *Conserving Biodiversity in Coastal and Marine Ecosystems*
- *Guidelines for the Sustainable Utilization of Wildlife*

IUCN also plans to publish a general text on plant conservation and a book on the conservation of medi-

nal plants. The Programme publishes a newsletter, "Biodiversity Conservation Strategy Update," two to three times per year and distributes it to the mailing lists of each of the organizing institutions. A descriptive leaflet has been produced and is being widely distributed.

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APPENDIX 1:

PRELIMINARY LIST OF PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

These institutions have indicated their interest in the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy Programme, asked to be listed as partner organizations, and will contribute materials and be invited to participate in workshops.

Asian Development Bank
Association of Systematics Collections
Australian Department of the Arts,
Sport, the Environment, Tourism,
and Territories
Botanic Gardens Conservation
Secretariat
Caribbean Natural Resources
Institute
Center for Marine Conservation
Commonwealth Science Council
Conservation International
Fundação Pró-natureza
(FUNATURA)
Fundación de Parques Nacionales
(Costa Rica)
Fundación Natura (Ecuador)
Fundación Neotrópica (Costa Rica)
Fundación Pro-Sierra Nevada de
Santa Marta
Fundación Venezolana para la
Conservación de la Diversidad
Biológica (BIOMA)
Indigenous Food Plants
Programmeme

International Council for Bird
Preservation

Kenya Institute for Organic Farms

Keystone Center

Missouri Botanical Garden

National Institute of Biodiversity
(INBio)

National Museums of Kenya

Plant Genetic Resources Centre/
Ethiopia

Ramsar Conservation Secretariat

Smithsonian Institution

Society for Conservation Biology

The Nature Conservancy

WALHI (Indonesian Environmental
Forum)

World Bank

World Conservation Monitoring
Centre

World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)

World Conservation Monitoring
Centre

In consultation with:

Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations (FAO)

International Board for Plant Genetic
Resources (IBPGR)

International Council for Research in
Agroforestry (ICRAF)

Unesco (United Nations Educational,
Scientific, and Cultural
Organization)

APPENDIX 2:

INTERNATIONAL COORDINATING GROUP, BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION STRATEGY

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