

## Appendix 4

### **Draft Memorandum of Cooperation between The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and The Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network (date), Montreal, Canada**

*(incorporating comments received at the Second IABIN Council Meeting, 14 Jan 2002)*

*Recalling* paragraph 3 of Article 18 of the Convention on Biological Diversity that provides for the establishment of a Clearing-House Mechanism;

*Recognizing* that the Second Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (held in Jakarta, Indonesia, in November 1995) adopted Decision II/3 on a “Clearing-House Mechanism,” under which the clearing house mechanism should be developed, making full use of existing facilities, in close cooperation with relevant international organizations and entities as active partners, and by enhancing networking between existing national, regional, sub-regional and international centers of relevant expertise, as well as governmental and non-governmental institutions and the private sector;

*Further recognizing* in Decision II/3, the Executive Secretary is requested to encourage the development of a network of active partners, provide information on and facilitate access to these operating active partners, and support the active partners to develop specific training for the effective participation of users in the clearing-house network;

*Noting* that the Summit of the Americas on Sustainable Development (held in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, in December 1996) adopted article 31 wherein the countries “seek to establish an Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network, primarily through the Internet, that will promote compatible means of collection, communication, and exchange of information relevant to decision-making and education on biodiversity conservation, and that builds upon such initiatives as the Clearing-House Mechanism provided for in the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, the Man and the Biosphere Network (MABNET Americas) and the Biodiversity Conservation Information System (BCIS), an initiative of nine IUCN programs and partner organizations”;

*Aware* that the Council of the Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network seeks to cooperate with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in order to promote coordination and collaboration towards the goal of enhancing global access to biodiversity information;

*Therefore* the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Council of the Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network, hereafter referred to as “the Partners,”

Have agreed as follows:

#### Article 1

#### Objective

The objective of this Memorandum is to establish a framework for collaboration between the Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network (IABIN) and the Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM) of the Convention on Biological Diversity to further our common goals. These goals including facilitating the development and implementation of technologies and best practices necessary in order to share knowledge and information relevant to biodiversity conservation and sustainable management. The activities undertaken through this MOC will promote the exchange of scientific and technical knowledge and augment scientific and technical information

capabilities of the Partners and their constituents.

## Article 2

### Responsibilities of the IABIN

The IABIN will:

- 2.1 Work collaboratively with the Secretariat on the development of plans for the implementation of IABIN as a regional initiative supporting the objectives of the CHM;
- 2.2 Collaborate with the Secretariat to promote adoption of interoperability standards for the exchange of data and technical information;
- 2.3 Collaborate, as appropriate, with the Secretariat in the elaboration, development and implementation of programs pertaining to the promotion and use of biodiversity information and management tools;
- 2.4 Participate, as appropriate, in workshops, working groups, and other activities organized by the CHM to address capacity-building, technical approaches, policy issues and other concerns of mutual interest to IABIN and the CHM;
- 2.5 Promote relevant cooperative research, training activities, technical exchange of specialists and other opportunities for professional interaction among participants concerned with biodiversity information exchange;
- 2.6 Share with the Secretariat, within the limits of available resources, expertise pertaining to distributed interoperable networks and metadata;
- 2.7 Promote awareness of the CHM by making information about CHM activities, technical approaches, and information resources available through IABIN communication channels;
- 2.8 Facilitate the effective participation of the Secretariat in IABIN activities by inviting the Secretariat to name a representative to the IABIN Council who may participate in the IABIN Executive Committee as an observer;
- 2.9 Facilitate, as appropriate, the effective participation of the Secretariat in the management of joint activities developed under this Memorandum of Cooperation.

## Article 3

### Responsibilities of the Secretariat

The Secretariat will:

- 3.1 Work collaboratively with IABIN to develop plans for the implementation of IABIN as a regional initiative supporting the objectives of the CHM;
- 3.2 Collaborate with IABIN to promote adoption of interoperability standards for the exchange of data and technical information relevant to biodiversity conservation under the CHM;
- 3.3 Collaborate, as appropriate, with IABIN in the elaboration, development and implementation of programs pertaining to the promotion and use of biodiversity information and management tools;
- 3.4 Participate, as appropriate, in workshops, working groups, and other activities organized by IABIN to address capacity-building, technical approaches, policy issues and other concerns of mutual interest to IABIN and the CHM;

- 3.5 Promote relevant cooperative research, training activities, technical exchange of specialists and other opportunities for professional interaction among participants concerned with biodiversity information exchange;
- 3.6 Share with IABIN, within the limits of available resources, expertise pertaining to distributed interoperable networks and metadata;
- 3.7 Promote awareness among the Parties of the CBD of IABIN by making information about IABIN activities, technical approaches, and information resources available through Secretariat communication channels;
- 3.8 Facilitate the participation of IABIN in CHM activities by inviting IABIN representation on CHM committees and working groups;
- 3.9 Facilitate, as appropriate, the effective participation of IABIN in the management of joint activities developed under this Memorandum of Cooperation.

#### Article 4

##### Execution

- 4.1. The execution of this Memorandum will be effected through annexure relating to specific activities agreed upon by the Partners.
- 4.2. Such annexure will form an integral part of this Memorandum.

#### Article 5

##### Entry into Force, Amendment and Termination

- 5.1 The present Memorandum will enter into force upon signature by the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Chair of the IABIN Council.
- 5.2 Any amendment to this Memorandum will be effected only on the basis of written consent of the Secretariat and IABIN.
- 5.3 This Memorandum may be terminated by either Party giving six-months written notice.
- 5.4 The termination of this MOC shall not affect the validity or duration of the projects under this MOC that are initiated prior to such notification.

#### Article 6

##### Funding

Cooperative activities under this MOC shall be subject to the availability of funds and personnel. The Partners shall establish the financial arrangements for each activity in writing, as appropriate, before the commencement thereof.

#### Article 7

##### Disclaimer

Information transmitted by one Party to the other Party under this MOC shall be as accurate as possible, but the transmitting Party does not warrant the suitability of the information transmitted for any particular use or application by the receiving Party or by any third party.

#### Article 8

Other International Agreements

This MOC does not affect the rights and obligations of the Partners under other agreements.

Article 9

Planning and Review of Activities

The Partners shall designate representatives who, at times mutually agreed upon by the Partners, shall review the activities being carried out under this MOC.

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2002,

For and on behalf of the

Convention on Biological Diversity

For and on behalf of the

Inter-American Biodiversity

Information Network

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Hamdallah Zedan  
Executive Secretary

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Gladys Cotter  
IABIN Council Chair