

RESOLUTIONS

Fifth IABIN Council Meeting  
Punta del Este, Uruguay  
May 9 -11<sup>th</sup>, 2007

The Council of the Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network (IABIN), at its 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting held in the City of Punta del Este, Uruguay, on the 11<sup>th</sup> of May, 2007, adopts the following resolutions:

**1. IABIN Ecosystems Reference Classification (Reference Document No. 2)**

The Council of the Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network formally adopts as a pilot, the development of a Ecosystems Reference Classification, based on the GEOSS Classification, to achieve the Cross-walk between different ecosystem classifications within countries proposed by the Ecosystem Thematic Network.

**2. IABIN Technical Architecture (Reference Document No. 5)**

The Council of the Intern-American Biodiversity Information Network (IABIN) formally adopts the Network technological architecture, standards and protocols for interoperability as presented in the Reference Document No.5.

**3. Adoption of the IABIN Monitoring and Evaluation Methodology (Reference Document No.8 sent to all Focal Points in January 2007)**

The Council of the Intern-American Biodiversity Information Network (IABIN) formally adopts the Monitoring and Evaluation Methodology for the IABIN-GEF Project developed by the Secretariat at the request of the World Bank and explained in Reference Document No.8.

#### **4. Conservation Commons (Reference Document No. 7)**

Taking into account that: i) the goals of the Conservation Commons initiative are similar and complementary to IABIN's mission and goals, ii) several of our members already belong and participate in this initiative, and iii) in order to fully collaborate with this initiative and take advantage of the wider exchange and advances taking place within the global biodiversity informatics community, including resources, applications, and fora being developed or sponsored by this initiative it is to our network interest to formally joint this initiative by adopting the following resolution:

The Council of the Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network (IABIN) approves IABIN to formally joint the Conservation Commons and endorse its central principles.

#### **5. Implementation of Training and Data Digitizing Grants under Component 2 (Reference Document No. 10)**

The Council of the Intern-American Biodiversity Information Network (IABIN) formally adopts the following general guidelines to be implemented by the Secretariat in coordination with the Coordinating Institutions (CIs) of the Thematic Networks (TNs) of Species & Specimens and Pollinators, under Component 2 of the IABIN GEF Project:

Use of the funds under the Training Sub component for Species & Specimens and Pollinators to:

- i. Train trainers – the Focal Points would select one person in their country, to be trained as a trainer. This person must have the skills to train others and be able to train in English and Spanish as appropriate. This person will participate in a regional workshop on the use of the IABIN Data Digitizing Tool for Species & Specimens and Pollinators. The Focal Point will commit to ensure that this person carries out training workshops in his/her country, with

the support from the Thematic Networks, to teach the data providers how to use the tool, as soon as possible after the regional workshop. The regional workshop will consider the language of the region where it will take place.

- ii. Taking into account the previous guideline, all IABIN member countries will be eligible to receive seed funds for training data providers in the use of the IABIN Data Digitizing Tools. Priority will be given to the IABIN member countries that send one person to be trained as a trainer for the IABIN Data Digitizing Tool for Species & Specimens and Pollinators. The country will commit to providing effective cofinancing.

Additional guideline to streamline the process of data digitizing grants and the coordination of grantees with Focal Points:

- i. In the Terms of Reference for the Request for Proposals to digitize data within the Data Digitizing Grants subcomponent the evaluation criteria will include that the proponents establish contact with the Focal Point in their country and that once they become a grantee carry out activities in coordination with the Focal Point. This include giving periodic reports and making available the information generated through the project to the organization hosting the Focal Point or to the appropriate institution identified by the Focal Point. The Secretariat will continue to inform the Focal Points regarding the development of the data digitizing grants by forwarding reports send by the grantees.

### **6. IABIN Value Added Tools Funding Priorities (Reference Document No. 3)**

The Council of the Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network resolves to wait to implement Component 3 until after the Mid Term Evaluation of the IABIN-GEF project in order to make sure the priorities for the value added decision making tools respond to the needs of countries and of the thematic networks. This includes the possibility of re-channeling some of the funds to other project components. The Focal Points will review the document (Reference Document No.3) prepared by the

IABIN Secretariat and by 11 June, 2007 will send comments and suggestions to the Secretariat to be taken into consideration during the Mid Term Evaluation. The Secretariat will send a message to all the Focal Points to remind them of this agreement.

### **7. IABIN Vision, Perspectives and Challenges (Reference Document No. 4)**

No specific decision was made regarding this issue. The Secretariat recommends to Focal Points to review the Reference Document No. 4 and to send comments and suggestions to the Secretariat so that a consensus approach to address this matter is reached and forwarded back to Council members for decision.

The Secretariat further suggest that this matter by also referred to the working group created to address the following point.

### **8. IABIN Sustainability**

The Council of the Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network (IABIN) officially resolves to take the following actions:

- I. GOAL: Report on IABIN at the Summit of the Americas on Sustainable Development meeting of 2009 in order to seek financial support from this body to guarantee the network's financial sustainability.

#### Actions

- i. Form a working group to get information to present IABIN at the next Summit of the Americas on Sustainable Development meeting (2009). This working group will be Co-chaired by FP from Trinidad and Tobago, and composed of the IEC, and the Secretariat.

### Mechanism

- i. By a mandate of the Council, the Secretariat will draft a document, which will be sent to members of the working group
- ii. The working group will review the document submitted by the Secretariat and will make comments and suggestions to it, thereby, helping in its conceptualization to make sure the document responds to the needs of the countries
- iii. The Secretariat will incorporate the comments and suggestions made by the working group and will send a finalized version to the rest of the Council to review it and provide comments.
- iv. The Secretariat will integrate the comments and suggestions of the IABIN Council into a final version of the document, which will be submitted to the Summit of the Americas on Sustainable Development.
- v. Find out with the help of Office of Sustainable Development of the SG/OAS what precedents and mechanisms have been used to fund this kind of initiatives (such as IABIN) by the OAS.
- vi. OAS to make necessary arrangements or to provide guidelines to get IABIN formally on the 2009 Summit of the Americas on Sustainable Development agenda

The Council stressed the need to carry out intermediary actions or parallel strategies to promote the networks sustainability.

II. PARALLEL STRATEGIES

- i. IABIN needs to be present at international and regional events on environment and sustainable development to promote Network's achievements and carve a niche that can be recognized by the international community in order to gather interest, which can be translated into financial support. It is important to target some CBD committees and meetings of other international bodies and conventions to promote IABIN, particularly to link the Network's contribution to help countries achieve the goals and commitments made to these conventions.
- ii. Work on some of the strategies proposed by Iván Valdespino, Douglas Graham, and City of Knowledge.
- iii. The IABIN Council

Considering:

- 1- That the IABIN Council learned about the Initiative the International Center for Sustainable Development (CIDES) at the City of Knowledge is developing to negotiate a Multilateral Debt Swap for Knowledge Management on Sustainable Development with Spain and the Iberian-American countries.
- 2- That IABIN could be one of the beneficiaries of said debt swap, which would allow IABIN to achieve its sustainability given that biodiversity is one of the five priority areas of said debt swap.

Resolves:

- 1- To accept the offer from CIDES and City of Knowledge regarding the development of a proposal to the Governments of the Ibero-American

countries represented in IABIN, which shall be presented by the IABIN Council to the Governments, so the Governments would analyze the possibility of supporting the Debt Swap for Sustainable Development Knowledge Management in recognition of the importance of IABIN in this regard thus contributing towards IABIN's sustainability.

- iv. Hire someone using GEF funds who will serve as the IABIN fundraiser.

### **9. Additions to the IABIN Rules of Procedure (Reference Document No. 6)**

The Council of the Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network officially reviewed and adopted changes proposed to the IABIN Rules of Procedure. These are incorporated in the Reference Document No.6 (attached).

During discussions at the Fifth IABIN Council Meeting it was agreed that Annex 4 of the Rules of Procedure will be reviewed by Focal Points and that suggestions and comments would be sent to the Secretariat by June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2007.