

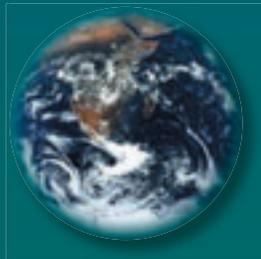


Proceedings of

**THE INTER-AMERICAN
BIODIVERSITY
INFORMATION
NETWORK (IABIN)
5TH COUNCIL MEETING**



*May 7–12, 2007
Punta del Este, Uruguay*



Foreword by

GLADYS COTTER

Chair of the IABIN Council and

ANA ABER

*Host of the 5th Council meeting and
member of the IABIN Executive Committee*

(MVOTMA-DINAMA)



The IABIN Framework. The Inter American Biodiversity Information Network (IABIN) 5th Council meeting brought together a diverse group of professionals from Government, environmental NGOs, development banks, and bilateral and multi-lateral donors, to discuss progress in the IABIN hemispheric network. Through presentations, plenary and panel sessions and working groups, the meeting aimed to 1) present information on biodiversity standards and tools for biodiversity; 2) increase the level of information available to biodiversity agencies and discuss significance of results; 3) encourage greater communication between the IABIN Thematic Networks of Species-Specimens, Ecosystems, Protected Areas, Invasive Species and Pollinators and the IABIN Council; and 4) assess advancements and performance of the GEF supported “Building IABIN” project and the IABIN Network overall. Several valuable presentations highlighted ecoregion based priority-setting and conservation.

The IABIN portal (www.iabin.net) and Catalogue provide mechanisms to locate, evaluate, and access biological and socio-economic data and information from a decentralized network of information sources from across the Americas through an Internet-based search service. This allows Internet users to search through an assortment of standardized descriptions (metadata) on different information products (such as databases, maps, websites, other information systems, etc.) to identify those that meet their particular requirements. All these portal databases promote the democratic principles of scientific exchange and participatory processes that foster informed decision-making.

IABIN encourages the creation and standardization of national and sub-national databases, and promotes their interoperability, and creates value-added computer-based products. Three examples highlight achievements:

1 In 2007, IABIN awarded 16 Data Content Creation grants (bringing the total to 26) to carry out multilingual training sessions on the use of data creation tools to enhance countries capacities to develop data for access within the IABIN network.

2 The Andes-Amazon Protected Areas Database expanded the on-line database and information system to 104 fields that give baseline and management effectiveness indicators about the protected areas of the 8 countries of the Andes-Amazon basin region.

3 The Mesoamerican & Caribbean Online Map Portal is the primary decentralized gateway to access online geospatial data for the region. Through this Portal, various local, national, regional, and international institutions are building a geospatial network and serving their data via a Web Map Service (WMS). The Portal

1) views and queries decentralized spatial data from the participating institutions, 2) has direct links to the Web Map Service of the participating institutions. In addition, any researcher/organization/country with qualified spatial data over the region may participate in this network.

The IABIN Challenge. The region's biodiversity faces significant and growing threats. The rate of habitat destruction is alarming and growing. As examples, the region has one of the highest rates of deforestation of any region in the world, and all indications are that these rates are increasing, not decreasing. Of the coral reefs in the region, one-third are considered to be highly degraded and critically threatened. Again, all the signs are that the rate of degradation is accelerating.

IABIN hopes to make contributions to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MEA), which was to gather scientifically valid existing information. IABIN does not set policies but rather gives the tools to decision-makers to make them. IABIN can help define differences between direct drivers and indirect drivers of change, and outline how all of those changes are affecting both the ecosystems and human well-being. Direct drivers are issues such as habitat transformation, changes in land use, and species introduction or removal. These direct drivers lead to ecosystem change and extinction. IABIN can supply this data that can then be related with indirect drivers that relate to demographics, economics, socio-politics, and science and technology.

By exchanging information at the Hemispheric scale, IABIN is helping to develop strong institutions that are accountable and transparent. This is fundamental for good ecosystem management. IABIN is strengthening environmental governance and could play an important role to analyze trade-offs for ecosystem services in the Americas, promoting the adoption of some of the response options and improving policy by making it science-based.

Species and whole ecoregions are being threatened with extinction, with serious consequences. We are on the verge of losing biological resources that once gone, cannot be regenerated or replaced. The IABIN community must work together to improve data compilation and assessment to countries in the conservation of the region's biodiversity. Once the 5 Thematic Networks are fully functional (Invasives and Species-Specimens already have databases and tools), IABIN will assist countries articulate conservation strategies formulated at a data specific and ecoregional scale. Countries will be better able to effectively address the fundamental goals of biodiversity conservation through: (1) representation of all distinct natural communities within conservation landscapes and protected areas networks; 2) maintenance of ecological and evolutionary processes that create and sustain biodiversity; 3) maintenance of viable populations of species; 4) conservation of blocks of natural habitat large enough to be resilient to large-scale disturbances and long-term changes (such as those predicted to occur through climate change).

IABIN needs to define the strategic roles different types of donors can play in relationship to one another and host governments to create the most effective overall sustainability for IABIN in its data compilation efforts. Greater political acceptance of the value of IABIN was reiterated during the *First Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High Level Authorities*, held in Santa Cruz Bolivia in December 2006. In the lead up to this meeting, different kinds of outreach and public consultations processes, to inform biodiversity representatives of civil society of the Ministerial Meeting, and enable different levels of opportunities for civil society to provide input to the Meeting. These initiatives included information bulletins, a virtual consultation forum, and local consultations in Buenos Aires, La Paz, Panama City, Port of Spain, and Washington, DC. Recommendations from these consultations were consolidated in a document where the Governments were encouraged to promote IABIN and to put it on a foundation of sustainability.

IABIN Recommendations from the discussions included:

- ◆ Conservation and environmental NGOs must learn how to better influence multilateral development through biodiversity data.
- ◆ Emphasis on civil society is increasing and participatory approaches greatly enhance the IABIN Network.
- ◆ The private sector such as Google Earth and ESRI are getting more involved.
- ◆ Climate change is gaining in importance and because of the recent occurrence of natural disasters, people are paying more attention to issues of data compilation, conservation, and mitigation measures and land-use planning.
- ◆ Conservation organizations are working better through the Coordinating Institutions and Thematic Network Consortium framework and they do have a team approach and a common agreement on what the conservation priorities are. Better data and communication, in the form of this type of analysis, allow NGOs to achieve the goals of no gaps and no duplication of efforts.
- ◆ IABIN needs to develop increased fund-raising campaigns, marketing strategies and making sure that attention is paid to thematic areas and sub-regions that are under-represented.
- ◆ Governments will give higher priority to efficient data compilation if the link between data and decision making, policy initiatives, and on-the-ground conservation if progress is visible.
- ◆ IABIN must get better at integrating social and economic information into our priority-setting exercises.
- ◆ Coordinating Institutions have an obligation to keep IABIN Focal Points and Government agencies as well-informed as possible.
- ◆ Biodiversity conservation must be couched in the region's efforts towards democracy, rule of law and citizenship rights for all people.

- ◆ IABIN must focus much more on indicators of success – what works and what doesn't – and take monitoring and adaptive management seriously and build it into the decision-making and value added projects. Baselines must be established to which we can then compare results.
- ◆ IABIN must develop specific objectives and targets and the ability to evaluate and monitor what we're doing and how IABIN data is helping influence decision making.
- ◆ We must get better at integrating biodiversity/environmental concerns with finance, sustainable agriculture, forestry and tourism and poverty alleviation strategies.
- ◆ There is a reluctance to share information on the part of Governments, NGOs, the private sector and donors, who are not necessarily inclined towards cooperation and working under the direction of other organizations. Instead, players often try to jockey for the best, most meaningful area in which to work, rather than work in collaboration with others. IABIN as a Hemispheric network bridges this divide.
- ◆ Different levels of coordination are needed – national, regional and international. IABIN must adjust expectations at each level. Sub Regional (e.g. Caribbean, MesoAmerican, Southern Cone) coordination mechanisms may have to be reactivated.
- ◆ Thematic Networks will strive to exchange lessons learned, especially with regards to methods of monitoring and evaluation of the impact of their funds.
- ◆ Thematic networks, under the direction of the Coordinating Institutions, view IABIN as a fundraising mechanism, that can help them deliver their products at a Hemispheric scale.
- ◆ Although the web is useful, face-to-face meetings such as occur at this 5th IABIN Council meeting between NGOs, donors, international NGOs, government and business, was felt to be important. Personal relationships developed at these types of meetings can be instrumental in getting things accomplished.
- ◆ IABIN can help donors engage in a policy dialogue and have countries in the Americas increase the importance of the sectors that deal with biodiversity (e.g. payments for ecological services, carbon markets, ecotourism, and bioprospecting).
- ◆ IABIN data can help decision makers understand that options exist to conserve or enhance specific ecosystem services in ways that reduce negative trade-offs or that provide positive synergies with other ecosystem services.

GLADYS COTTER,
Chair of the IABIN Council

ANA ABER,
Host of the 5th Council meeting and
member of the IABIN Executive Committee

I. PRESENTATION

The Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network (IABIN) was created in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia as a forum to foster technical collaboration and coordination among countries of the Americas, in the collection, sharing, and use of biodiversity information relevant to decision-making on natural resources management and conservation, and education to promote sustainable development in the region.



To date, the Network has fulfilled some key goals. This includes the construction of a computer based scientific infrastructure that will strengthen the technical capacity of Latin American and Caribbean countries to exchange biodiversity information free of political, linguistic and institutional boundaries, in agreement with the postulates of the Network and their partnership with the Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM).

IABIN also coordinates and supports other regional initiatives, such as the "Strategy for Biodiversity of the MERCOSUR (iv2)," an initiative which arose from the First Meeting of Ministers of Housing, Zoning and Environment in Curitiba, Brazil on March 29, 2006.

In October of 2002, as part of a consultation meeting in Montevideo, a subregional specialist and The Ministry of Housing, Zoning and Environment (MVOTMA) – the regional key participant or Institutional Focal Point – participated in a preparatory workshop for the design of the Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network (IABIN).



Articles 13 and 17 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CDB) indicated the need to raise awareness and facilitate the exchange of information on biodiversity. Uruguay was the host of the Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network (IABIN) 5th Council meeting.



Two other meetings preceded the Council meeting. One was the Geospatial Mesoamerican, Caribbean and Geo-Sur Program Network, and the other, as shown in the photo, is IABIN's Invasive Species Thematic Network.

IABIN began the development of the Geospatial Mesoamerican and Caribbean Network for Geo-Sur and is planning its expansion into South America. The Geo-Sur Program allows the user to download geospatial information from geoservers for distribution to and visualization on computers. There are more than 20 geoservers with maps in Central American and Caribbean institutions.

II. 5TH COUNCIL MEETING

Between 2003 and 2004, sub-regional specialists worked with institutional leaders in the field of bio-information in Latin America and the Caribbean to plan the beginning of the thematic networks (RT) and the IABIN-GEF Project. The Global Environmental Fund (GEF) is the financing body, the World Bank is the project implementing agency and the Organization of American States (OAS) is the executing agency of the IABIN-GEF Project.



In charge of opening the meeting were Ambassador John Biebl, Director of the Office of the Organization of American States in Uruguay (OEA), Jaime Igorra, Vice-Minister of Housing, Zoning and Environment, and Rodrigo Tarté of the City of Knowledge in Panama.

- *Species & Specimens*
- *Ecosystems*
- *Invasive Species*
- *Pollinators*
- *Protected Areas*

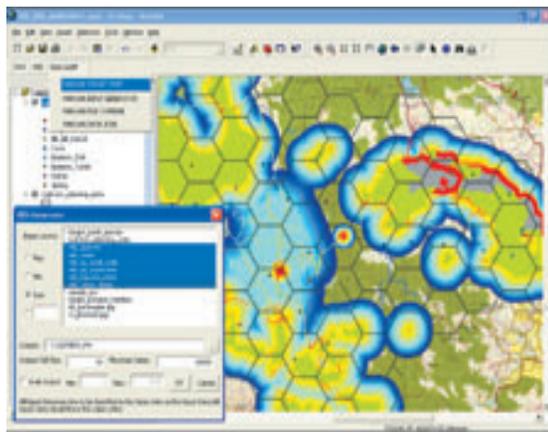


The IABIN Thematic Networks are Species & Specimens, Ecosystems, Invasive Species, Pollinators, Protected Areas.

Uruguay participated in the Invasive Species Thematic Network with their project "Invading Species Database for Uruguay" (InBUy). It also

implemented a National Strategy for Managing Exotic and Invasive Species, which will part of a report next year at a CBD conference in Germany.

The meeting was attended by a number of non-governmental organizations (NGO) and members from IABIN Thematic networks. Several case studies were presented. A program on Biodiversity Tools for Protected Areas (PAT) was designed and developed by the Nature Conservancy's Mesoamerica and Caribbean Science Program with funding from

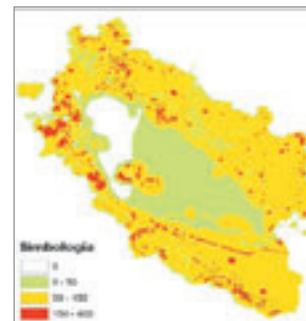


IABIN and donations from the World Bank Development Grant Facility (DGF). These tools were drawn up as part of an ongoing process to help build technical capacity to countries seeking assistance in identifying protected area gaps. They allow the calculation of complex conservation models within an easy-to-use interface. These tools can be downloaded from <http://conserveonline.org/workspaces/Caribbean.conservation>.

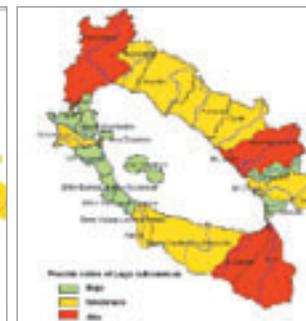
The mapping project of the Forest Bridge of the Americas was also presented to the council. The project involves tropical forests, dry forests, and conifer forests located near Central and Southern Mexico and Central America. The narrow tropical isthmus between the 2 great American continents is a place of constant exchange in the extraordinary wealth of species, natural communities and ecosystems, as well as the great variety of geological and climatic characteristics. However, threats of urban and coastal development, climatic changes, fires, and invasive species are jeopardizing this mega biodiversity. Urgent sustainable conservation is necessary to ensure the future survival of this unique forest system.



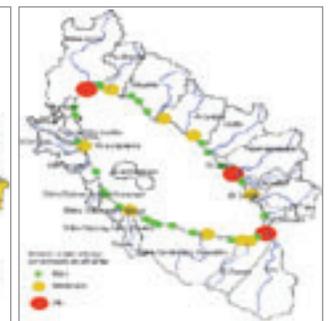
A Project in the Cocibolca Lake was carried out by IABIN in coordination with TNC, to develop a system for evaluating land-based and freshwater ecosystems. This system integrates socioeconomic and spatial biodiversity data.



Topographical Map of Environmental Risk. Lake Cocibolca.



Contamination Pressure in the Basin of Lake Cocibolca.

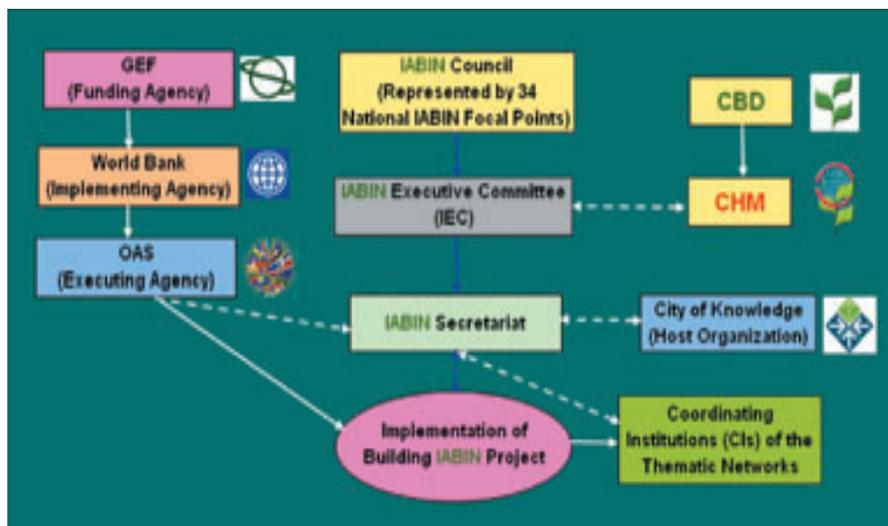


Contamination Pressure at the Entry Flow of Lake Cocibolca.

History of IABIN Meetings. Since the beginning of IABIN, 5 Council meetings have been held in the United States, Mexico, Panama, and Uruguay. At the 4th IABIN Council meeting in Panama, The Uruguay Ministry of Public Housing, Land Administration and Environment (DINAMA) reiterated its support for IABIN initiatives and offered to host the 5th Council meeting.

At these meetings, the IABIN Focal Points from 34 countries have participated, as well as representatives from the NGO and private sectors.

IABIN Organizational Charter



The 5th IABIN Council Meeting took place on May 9-11, 2007 at the Hotel Barrada in Punta del Este, Uruguay. It was the first IABIN Council meeting held in the Southern hemisphere. The meeting included participation by the OAS, the World Bank, IABIN Focal Points and the IABIN Secretariat from Ciudad del Saber, Panama.

The IABIN Council is the main decision-making body of the Network. It will work with the IABIN Executive Committee (IEC) to develop actions and execute the decisions from the Council meeting.

At the 5th IABIN Council meeting, it was decided that the IEC will be composed of representatives from 8 countries and up to 2 international NGO organizations. Currently, GBIF and TNC will occupy the positions assigned to NGO and the international organizations.

II.1. OBJECTIVES AND RESULTS

II.1.1. Objectives

- A. Review advances on the implementation of IABIN as a network and of the IABIN-GEF Project since the last IABIN Council meeting, and make adjustments as needed:
 - i. Familiarize the Council with progress of the Coordinating Institutions of IABIN Thematic Networks (TNs) that will include an update on TNs development, outputs, and mechanism to guarantee participation of Focal Points, country data providers, and other local and national partners in TNs implementation
 - ii. Carry out an overview of and adopt IABIN IT architecture and standards for the implementation of TNs
 - iii. Review the implementation of Component 2 - Data Content Creation
 - iv. Review the implementation of Component 3 - Tools for Decision-Making (Value-added tools)
 - v. Presentation and adoption of IABIN- GEF Project Monitoring and Evaluation Methodology
 - vi. Review progress on project administration and financial execution and provide guidance
 - vii. Adopt recommendations for the mid-term evaluation of the IABIN-GEF Project
 - viii. Review challenges on the implementation of the IABIN-GEF Project and provide guidance to make any necessary adjustment
- B. Review implementation of IABIN associated projects and their role in promoting the network's initiatives and interest
- C. Overview of IABIN Vision, perspective and challenges and make decisions on its future
 - i. Revisit IABIN vision and its future
 - ii. Overview of sustainability actions to be undertaken (donors conference, possible funding opportunities)
 - iii. Mechanism to build IABIN Endowment, including the "10% recommendation," where 10% of IABIN project funds are directed to an account to provide for the sustainability of the network
 - iv. Review document on IABIN Legal Status and make decision
 - v. Review and adoption of suggested changes to the Rules of Procedure
- D. Election of IEC members
- E. Review and adoption of IABIN resolutions

II.1.2. Results from the Council Meeting

1. Update on the implementation of the IABIN-GEF Project:

A. Members of the Council became familiar with and made recommendations as needed:

- i. Coordinating Institutions (CIs) updated participants on the implementation of their respective Thematic Networks (TNs)
- ii. The annual operating plan (AOP) and advances of the TNs
- iii. IABIN architecture and interoperability based on the March 29-30 Information Technology (IT) Specialist meeting
- iv. TNs standards and applications recommended are adopted
- v. Implementation of Data Content Grants
- vi. Results and recommendations from the Bogota meeting regarding decision-making tools and the progress to hire consultants or partners to develop them
- vii. Advancements in fundraising and partnerships
- viii. IABIN-GEF Project administration and 2006 Financial Report
- ix. IABIN-GEF Project Monitoring and Evaluation

In general, during the 5th Council Meeting, the development of the Thematic Networks and building of the IABIN infrastructure were analyzed. Additional issues dealt with execution of the IABIN-GEF Project, future activities and sustainability of the Network.



III. FIELD TRIP

Part of the meeting included an organized trip to Cabo Polonio and the Fortress of St. Teresa, localities with interesting fauna and flora.

The area is distinguished by its environmental diversity: sandy beaches, rocky coastline, dunes, native hills, small swamps, marine islands.

In the Cabo Polonio ecosystem, there co-exists more than 340 animal species, 155 types of vegetables and 40 kinds of marine life in at least 10 ecospheres. The Cabo establishment originated in the 19th century with fishermen and seaman. Current settlers are still for the most part fishermen and merchants.

The area was declared a Natural Sanctuary by the Decree 266 of 1966. It is part of the Biosphere Reserve in southeastern Uruguay's Banados del Este, designated by UNESCO in 1976.





The Fortress of St. Teresa is located within the St. Terera National Park. It is a vestige of Uruguay's monumental past. Its construction was initiated by the Portuguese in 1762, but taken over and completed by the Spaniards shortly after. The fortress was the site of encounters between Spaniards and Portuguese, between Spaniards and English, between Spaniards and Creoles,

between Eastern forces and Portuguese, and with the birth of Uruguay as a country, played a role during the civil wars for it was there that Oribe's forces took refuge during the Great War.

IV. AGREEMENTS

RESOLUTIONS

5th IABIN Council Meeting

Punta del Este, Uruguay

May 9-11, 2007

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

1. IABIN Ecosystems Reference Classification *(Reference Document #2)*

The IABIN Council formally adopts as a pilot, the development of an Ecosystems Reference Classification, based on the GEOSS Classification, proposed by the Ecosystem Thematic Network, to achieve a bridge between different ecosystem classifications within countries.

2. IABIN Technical Architecture *(Reference Document #5)*

The IABIN Council formally adopts the architecture, standards, and protocol of the IABIN Network Inter-operation, as presented in Reference Document #5.

3. Adoption of the IABIN Monitoring and Evaluation Methodology *(Reference Document #8 sent to all Focal Points in January 2007)*

The IABIN Council 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 #8.

4. Conservation Commons *(Reference Document #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 information community, including resources, applications, and forums being developed or sponsored by this initiative, it is in our network's interest to formally join this initiative by adopting the following resolution:

The IABIN Council approves formally joining the Conservation Commons and endorses its central principles.

5. Implementation of Training and Data Digitizing Grants under Component 2 *(Reference Document #10)*

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

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

- i. Educate trainers - the Focal Points would select one person in their country to be educated as a trainer. This person must have the skills to then train others 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 ensuring that this person carries out training workshops in his/her country, as soon as possible after the regional workshop, with the support from the Thematic Networks, to teach the data providers how to use the tools. 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 educated as a trainer for the IABIN Data Digitizing Tool for Species & Specimens and Pollinators. The country will commit to providing effective co-financing.

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

- 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, will carry out activities in coordination with the Focal Point. This includes 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 sent by the grantees.

6. IABIN Value Added Tools Funding Priorities *(Reference Document #3)*

The IABIN Council 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 correspond 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 #3) prepared by the IABIN Secretariat and by June 11, 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 #4)*

No specific decision was made regarding this issue. The Secretariat recommends that the Focal Points review the Reference Document #4 and 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.

8. IABIN Sustainability

The IABIN Council officially resolves to take the following actions:

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

ACTIONS

Form a working group to gather information to present IABIN at the 2009 Summit of the Americas' meeting on Sustainable Development. This working group will be Co-chaired by the Focal Points from Trinidad and Tobago and Chile, and composed of the IEC, and the Secretariat.

MECHANISM

- i. By a mandate of the Council, the Secretariat will draft a document 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 help conceptualization and ensure that 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 for review and 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 the SG/OAS Office of Sustainable Development what precedents and mechanisms the OAS has used to fund this kind of initiatives.
- vi. OAS will make the necessary arrangements or will provide guidelines to get IABIN formally on the Agenda of the 2009 Summit of the Americas on Sustainable Development

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

PARALLEL STRATEGIES

In order to generate interest which can be translated into financial support, IABIN needs to be present at international and regional events on environment and sustainable development to promote the Network's achievements and carve a niche that can be recognized by the international community. It is important to target other international Biological Diversity Conventions (CBD) committees and meetings to promote IABIN, particularly to link the Network's contribution in helping countries achieve the goals and commitments made at these conventions.

THE IABIN COUNCIL CONSIDERATIONS:

At the Ciudad del Saber, the IABIN Council learned that the International Center for Sustainable Development (CIDES) is developing an initiative to negotiate with Spain and the Ibero-American countries a multilateral debt swap for knowledge management on sustainable development. 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.

THE IABIN COUNCIL RESOLVES:

As a means to long-term IABIN sustainability, the IABIN Council accepts the offer from CIDES and Ciudad del Saber to propose to the Governments of the Ibero-American countries represented in IABIN, a plan to possibly support a Debt Swap for "Knowledge Management on Sustainable Development" in recognition of the importance of IABIN, and using funds from GEF (Global Environment Fund), will hire someone who will serve as the IABIN fundraiser.

9. Additions to the IABIN Rules of Procedure *(Reference Document #6)*

The IABIN Council officially reviewed and adopted changes proposed to the IABIN Rules of Procedure. These are incorporated in the Reference Document No.6.

During discussions at the 5th IABIN Council Meeting, it was agreed that Annex 4 of the Rules of Procedure will be reviewed by the Focal Points.



5TH COUNCIL MEETING

May 7-12, 2007

Punta del Este, Uruguay

For access to presentations and documents, please go to:

http://www.iabin.net/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=249&Itemid=0&lang=es

For documents related to the decisions made during the Council meeting, please consult:

http://www.iabin.net/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=593

