

# Capacity Building in Biodiversity and Impact Assessment

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Impact Assessment as a tool for regulating activities in and around protected areas for the benefit of biodiversity

# Convention on Biological Diversity

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## Three objectives

- Conservation of biological diversity
- Sustainable use of its components
- Fair and equitable sharing of its benefits

# CBD Decision VII/28

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Confirms that efforts are essential to establish and maintain systems of protected areas to conserve biological diversity, and to meet:

- CBD objectives
- 2010 CBD Strategic Plan target
- Millennium Development goals

# VII/28 – PROGRAMME ELEMENT 1

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## **Goal 1.5 - To prevent and mitigate the negative impacts of key threats to protected areas**

### ■ **Suggested activities of the Parties**

1.5.1 Apply, as appropriate, timely EIAs to any plan or project with the potential to have effects on protected areas, and ensure timely information flow among all concerned parties to that end, taking into account decision VI/7 A ....on guidelines for incorporating biodiversity related issues into EIA legislation and/or processes and in SEA.

# CBD Decision VI/7A. Further development of guidelines

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Endorses guidelines for incorporating biodiversity-related issues into EIA and SEA

- Screening
- Scoping
- Impact analysis & assessment
- Mitigation measures
- Reporting (ES)
- Review
- Decision-making
- Monitoring & environmental auditing

# VII/28 – PROGRAMME ELEMENT 1

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**Goal 1.5 - To prevent and mitigate the negative impacts of key threats to protected areas**

■ **Suggested supporting activities of the Executive Secretary**

1.5.8 Collaborate with the IAIA and other relevant organizations on further development and refinement of the impact assessment guidelines particularly to incorporate all stages of EIA processes in protected areas taking into account the ecosystem approach.

# The Ecosystem Approach is the primary framework for action under the CBD

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It is based on the application of appropriate scientific methodologies focused on levels of biological organization which encompass the essential processes, functions and interactions among organisms and their environment. It recognizes that humans, with their cultural diversity, are an integral component of ecosystems.

# Application of EIAs to protected areas – some key issues

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- Screening – triggers for EIA
- Treatment of buffer zones
- PA designation features and objectives
- Indirect impacts (e.g. isolation)
- 'Downstream' impacts
- Defining site integrity
- Involvement of stakeholders
- Mitigation and compensation (offsets)