



Conservation Commons



Joint Statement to the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity
Open Access to Biodiversity Data and Information



Call of the Earth ** Llamado de la Tierra



Joint Statement: Contact Persons

American Museum of Natural History
BirdLife International
Call of the Earth – Llamado de la Tierra
Canadian Museum of Nature
CIFOR – Center for International Forestry Research
Conservation International
CRIA – The Centro de Referência em Informação Ambiental, Brazil
Digital Library of the Commons – Indiana University
Earthwatch Institute
GBIF – Global Biodiversity Information Facility
GreenFacts
IABIN – Inter American Biodiversity Information Network
IISD – International Institute for Sustainable Development
Information Center for the Environment (ICE), U. of California, Davis
INSnet – Internetwork for Sustainability
Invasive Species Specialist Group of IUCN/SSC (Species Survival Commission)
IUCN – The World Conservation Union
Nature Protection Trust of Seychelles
NBII – The National Biological Information Infrastructure
The Nature Conservancy
The Rainforest Alliance
The Smithsonian Institution
The Zoological Society of London
TRAFFIC International
UNEP WCMC – World Conservation Monitoring Centre
Wild Bird Club of the Philippines
Wildlife Conservation Society
WWF International

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Images (from top): A red pansybrush in the Canadian Rockies © Jim Thorsall; A flower in the Bystriński Nature Park, Kamchatka © Peter Stradie; Edelweiss © Wendy Strahm; A butterfly on a flower in the Kinabalu Park, Malaysia © Jim Thorsall

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Open Access to Biodiversity Data and Information



Comprehensive knowledge is essential to successful conservation of biodiversity and to its sustainable use. Provision for both open access and responsible use of biodiversity knowledge resources represents a fundamental precondition to meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and other global commitments such as the 2010 Targets. However, biodiversity data and information required by decision makers and practitioners are often fragmented, difficult to find, prohibitively expensive, or simply not accessible. These challenges are magnified in many countries and regions where existing data and information assets of importance for conservation are held in institutions far from these areas of critical importance for conserving the world's biodiversity.

RECALLING Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration, establishing that [. . .] each individual shall have appropriate access to information concerning the environment that is held by public authorities;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that under Article 17 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Parties shall facilitate the exchange of information, from all publicly available sources, relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking into account the special needs of developing countries;

And NOTING the mission of the Clearing House Mechanism to facilitate technical and scientific cooperation among Parties, other Governments, and stakeholders and contribute to the implementation of the Convention;

The undersigned call upon the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to consider the Principles of the Conservation Commons and, wherever possible in accordance with these Principles, ensure that all past, present and future publicly funded research results, assessments, maps, and databases on biodiversity are made freely and openly accessible to everyone.

Principles of the Conservation Commons

Open Access: The Conservation Commons promotes free and open access to data, information and knowledge for all conservation purposes.

Mutual Benefit: The Conservation Commons welcomes and encourages participants to both use these resources and to contribute data, information and knowledge.

Rights and Responsibilities: Contributors to the Conservation Commons have full right to attribution for any uses of their data, information, or knowledge, and the right to ensure that the original integrity of their contribution to the Commons is preserved. Users of the Conservation Commons are expected to comply, in good faith, with terms of uses specified by contributors.



The Conservation Commons is a worldwide cooperative effort amongst conservation organizations, agencies, institutions, and corporations committed to open access of biodiversity data and information. The Conservation Commons encompasses both conceptual and practical contexts – defined legally, economically, culturally and technologically – in which biodiversity conservation can most successfully and most effectively be accomplished.

www.conservationcommons.org

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Date: _____ Name: _____

Signature (and person's name): _____



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