RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORKING GROUP ON BIODIVERSITY AND TRADE

EUROPEAN PLATFORM FOR BIODIVERSITY RESEARCH STRATEGY

Meeting under the Dutch Presidency of the EU Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 9th–13th December 2004

"A people that values its privileges above its principles soon loses both"

Dwight D. Eisenhower (1890-1969)

The participants of this meeting place high priority on research to:

- 1. understand the effects of selective removal from an ecosystem of species valuable for trade;
- 2. understand how trade in wildlife and wildlife products affects livelihoods;
- 3. create a system for the genetic traceability of resources, e.g. for timber certification, pharmaceutical exploration, wildlife trade;
- 4. identify and understand the effect of trade-related incentives on biodiversity;
- 5. improve the standards and efficiency of labelling schemes for sustainable use of biodiversity;
- 6. elaborate strategies to better identify and internalise the costs and benefits to biodiversity arising from trade;
- 7. investigate how to reduce the risk of introduction and establishment of non-native species either traded intentionally or transported unintentionally as a result of trade;
- 8. better understand the principles and functioning of biological invasions related to trade, with a view to prevention, eradication or control;
- 9. investigate the impact on biodiversity of trade-related transport and its infrastructure;
- 10. investigate the impact of international trade agreements and changing terms of trade on biodiversity;
- 11. investigate how carbon-trading schemes impact biodiversity;
- 12. assess the prospects of the biodiversity regimes with a view on how trade could contribute to halt biodiversity loss;
- 13. investigate the legitimacy and effectiveness of biodiversity-related trade standards;
- 14. investigate how the social and economic impacts of trade affect biodiversity;
- 15. investigate how trade of products is influenced by consumers' concerns for biodiversity.

In relation to these priority areas, the EPBRS recognises the crucial importance of

- development of mechanisms to enhance consumers' awareness of how trade impacts biodiversity;
- development of procedures to better accommodate the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in international trade agreements.

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