International conference on biodiversity and climate change

From strategies to actions



Guadeloupe

22 - 25 October 2014

A Roadmap

MESSAGE FROM GUADELOUPE

Considering the European Commission Communication COM (2012) 287: The outermost regions of the European Union: towards a partnership for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth;
Recalling Outermost Regions (ORs) policies and actions;
Considering the Council Decision 2013/755/EU on the association of the overseas countries and territories with the European Union;
Recalling Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) policies and actions;
Recalling the recommendations of the Message from Reunion Island in 2008;
Recalling the Islands Declaration on Climate Change of the International Conference in La Réunion in 2014;
Recalling the declaration of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States in Samoa in 2014;
Recalling the UN Strategic Plan on Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Targets adopted by decision X/2 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), in particular Aichi Target 10, as well as decisions X/33 and XI/15, and decisions of CBD COP 12 on Ecosystem Conservation and Restoration and on Biodiversity and Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction;
Recalling the conclusions of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) decisions;
Recalling the EU Environmental and Climate framework and more particularly, the EU Biodiversity strategy (COM(2011) 244), the EU adaptation strategy (COM(2013) 216) and the EU Invasive Alien Species regulation (PE-CONS 70/14);
Recalling member states' policies and efforts;
Recalling the Cotonou agreements from 2000;

Taking into account that the ORs and OCTs are part of biodiversity hotspots of international importance with their regions and that they share common challenges in terms of biodiversity and climate change;

Acknowledging the critical value the ORs and OCTs add to European environmental wealth with their unique and diverse ecosystems providing fundamental and vital ecological services to the local populations, as well as to the local, national, regional and European economies;

Alerted by the unprecedented loss of biodiversity and hence natural capital, the threat of invasive species, the impact of climate change and human related activities on the natural environment and the sustainable development and economies of the ORs and OCTs;

Convinced that the promotion of actions in the field of sustainable management of ecosystems and ecological goods and services, sustainable energy, sustainable management and conservation of biodiversity, disaster risk reduction, would contribute to adaptation and mitigation of climate change in the ORs and OCTs;

Taking into account the characteristics of each territory, national development priorities and individual government's circumstances and legislation of ORs and OCTs;

The CBD Executive Secretary, the French Minister for Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy and the French Minister of Overseas territories, special envoy of the French President for the protection of the planet, the President of the Regional Council of Guadeloupe, the Deputy Premier and Minister for Natural Resources and Labour of the British Virgin Islands Government, the high-

MESSAGE DE LA GUADELOUPE

Considérant la communication de la Commission européenne COM (2012) 287 : Les régions ultrapériphériques de l'Union européenne : vers un partenariat pour une croissance intelligente, durable et inclusive;
Rappelant les politiques et actions des régions ultrapériphériques (RUP);
Considérant la décision du Conseil 2013/755/UE sur l'association des pays et territoires d'outre-mer (PTOM) avec l'Union européenne;
Rappelant les politiques et actions des pays et territoires d'outre-mer;
Rappelant les recommandations du Message de l'Ile de La Réunion en 2008;
Rappelant la Déclaration des Iles sur les changements climatiques de la Conférence Internationale de La Réunion en 2014;
Rappelant la déclaration de la troisième Conférence Internationale des petits États Insulaires en développement à Samoa en 2014;
Rappelant le Plan stratégique des Nations Unies sur la diversité biologique 2011-2020 et ses objectifs d'Aichi adopté par la décision X/2 de la Convention sur la diversité biologique (CDB) , en particulier l'Objectif d'Aichi 10, ainsi que les décisions X/33 et XI/15, et les décisions de la douzième conférence des Parties de la Convention sur la diversité biologique (CDB COP 12) sur la conservation et restauration des écosystèmes et sur la diversité biologique, changements climatiques et réduction des risques de catastrophe;
Rappelant les conclusions du Groupe d'experts Intergouvernemental sur l'évolution du climat (GIEC) et les décisions de la Convention-Cadre des Nations Unies sur les Changements Climatiques (CCNUCC) sur l'Utilisation des Terres, le Changement d'Affectation des Terres et la Foresterie (UTCATF);
Rappelant le cadre politique de l'Union européenne (UE) en matière d'environnement et de changement climatique et plus particulièrement la stratégie de l'UE sur la biodiversité à l'horizon 2020 (COM(2011) 244 final/2), la stratégie de l'UE relative à l'adaptation au changement climatique (COM(2013) 216 final) et le règlement européen relatif à la prévention et à la gestion de l'introduction et de la propagation des espèces exotiques envahissantes (PE-CONS 70/14);
Rappelant les politiques et les efforts des États membres;
Rappelant les accords de Cotonou de 2000;

Prenant en compte le fait que les RUP et les PTOM, avec les pays, Etats et territoires de leurs environnements régionaux, font partie de points chauds de biodiversité d'importance internationale (hot spots) et qu'ils font face à des défis communs en matière de biodiversité et de changement climatique;

Reconnaissant la valeur primordiale que les RUP et les PTOM apportent à la richesse environnementale européenne avec leurs écosystèmes uniques et divers qui fournissent des services écologiques fondamentaux et vitaux aux populations locales, ainsi qu'aux économies locales, nationales, régionales et européennes;

Alertés par la perte de biodiversité sans précédent et en conséquence du capital naturel, la menace liée aux espèces exotiques envahissantes, l'impact du changement climatique et des activités humaines sur l'environnement naturel, le développement durable et les économies des RUP et des PTOM;

Convaincus que la promotion d'actions dans les domaines de la gestion durable des écosystèmes et des biens et services écologiques, de l'énergie durable, de la gestion durable et de la conservation de la biodiversité, de la réduction des risques de catastrophe, contribuerait à l'adaptation et à l'atténuation du changement climatique dans les RUP et PTOM;

Tackling biodiversity loss

Strategic orientations:

- ➢ Better connect the efforts of ORs, OCTs and their regions by facilitating regional projects,(i.e. lionfish in the Caribbean);
- ➢ Ensure incorporation of the ORs and OCTs information in the existing databases and analysis at all levels - including the European Environment Agency (EEA) -, with dedicated datasets and reports.

Operational actions:

- Develop common indicators for the ORs and OCTs to increase the knowledge base (as recognized in the 7th EU Environment Action Programme) by building on local initiatives, already existing indicators, ensuring the necessary resources to collect any additional data, and establishing a reporting system for the EU on the biodiversity status of the ORs and OCTs;
- Take into account the effectiveness of some best management practice examples such as for fisheries, key habitats identification, invasive species control, key species translocation or reintroduction, and habitat restoration in ORs and OCTs, and promote international and regional cooperation in the implementation of management measures;
- Support the strengthening of the protected area systems in the ORs and OCTs with the aim of i) increasing their ecological representativeness, ii) networking at regional level, iii) fostering ecological connectivity and iv) improving their management effectiveness, taking into account prerogatives of managers, the competences of local governments, the role of civil society;
- Assess the status of habitats and species to stop/prevent their destruction; identify and share best practices on protected areas and conservation of taxa including wild species, domesticated varieties/cultivars/races (agrodiversity), and species of cultural importance (ethnodiversity), in order to:
  - Establish lists of regionally ecologically important and threatened habitats and taxa and prioritise based on accepted methodologies involving all stakeholders, taking into account traditional knowledge and ethnobiodiversity;
  - Develop action/management plans for the species and habitats that are most endangered, or have high ecological/conservation values, and provide them with legally protected status;
  - Put in place effective legal compliance mechanisms;
  - Mobilize expertise for less known taxa (fungi, mosses, etc.);
- Stop overexploitation of marine and terrestrial resources;
  - ORs and OCTs should actively engage in, and member states should accede to, relevant international/regional agreements/protocols and partnerships on biodiversity;
  - Support the creation of fisheries management bodies where they do not yet exist, such as the decision for WECAFC (Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission) to become a management body instead of advisory body;
- Promote programs/projects on "ecosystem connectivity" through regional and international cooperation, involving all stakeholders, by developing or supporting networks for managers in the ORs and OCTs;
- Extend European tools, platforms, databases and observatories to the ORs and OCTs in order to better monitor the status of biodiversity and threats;
- Implement/develop IAS (invasive alien species) strategies at the local and regional level including the elaboration of IAS alert lists, control methods, early warning systems at the local and regional level to prevent introduction and spread;
- Support restoration of degraded/contaminated areas in the ORs, OCTs and in their regions, with an emphasis on the principle of ecological compensation/offset and innovative solutions, and highly prioritize the use of indigenous species;
- Prioritise species to be restored based on scientific or societal criteria involving all stakeholders.

Building Resilience

Recognizing that it is critical for ORs and OCTs to build their resilience to global changes and achieve a 'low carbon' economy by 2050:

Strategic orientations:

- ➢ Support the energy transition in the ORs and OCTs and in their regions;
- ➢ Identify and adopt no-regret measures through *inter alia*, enhancing energy efficiency, improving public transport, and protecting and restoring ecosystems, regardless of the remaining uncertainties of specific local climate change impacts.

Operational actions:

- Define strategies and allocate adequate time and resources for the identification and engagement of stakeholders;
  - Develop greater awareness of and information on climate change impacts in the ORs and OCTs, with an emphasis on explaining exposure to risks and vulnerability among local populations, and increasing the understanding of ecosystem resilience and the cost efficiency of nature-based solutions;
  - Support labelling, awareness raising and materials certification across ORs and OCTs in order to shift consumption to a more sustainable level;
- Reflect EU targets on emission reductions and renewable energy in ORs and OCTs including by:
  - Aiming to contribute to the collective target of $C0_2$ reduction adopted by the European Council on 23 October 2014 (Conclusion on 2030 Climate and Energy Policy Framework (SN 79/14)) and;
  - Building the framework for collaboration in the establishment and achievement of individual emission reduction and energy targets as a contribution to the whole;
- Pursue an energy transition through achieving energy savings, transitioning to renewable energy sources, and increasing energy autonomy in the ORs and OCTs and encouraging cooperation with their neighbouring countries including by:
  - Developing clean transport systems and public transport in order to reduce emissions and private car use;
  - Supporting the adoption of innovative renewable energy technologies;
  - Ensuring that use and sourcing of biofuel and biomass energy is sustainable;
- Consider an 'Islands adapt and mitigate initiative' that would include nature-based solutions and that capitalises on and further strengthens existing initiatives such as the Pact of Isles, BEST (voluntary scheme for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Territories of European Overseas), GLISPA (Global Island Partnership) and the Samoa Pathway by :
  - Developing integrated management approaches for biodiversity vis-à-vis climate change in the ORs, the OCTs and in their regions;
  - Elaborating strategies to address the projected impact of climate change on water resources and the availability of fresh water for people and biodiversity;
  - Assessing key species and ecosystems to identify those that can be used as specific indicators for ORs and OCTs vulnerable to climate change;
- Enhance collaboration between ORs and OCTs and their regions with regards to the application of tools for the valuation of ecosystem services, assessing vulnerability, and the transfer of renewable energy and waste management technologies;
- Build capacity to support the development of clear messages targeting communities and other stakeholders on research findings related to the key drivers of vulnerability to climate changes among biodiversity at the local level.

Developing Green &Blue Economy

Strategic orientations:

- Urgently prioritise and finance environmental sustainability of the ORs' and OCTs' economic sectors (e.g. tourism, agriculture, forestry, aquaculture, fisheries, mining, energy, construction...) through innovation and diversification;
- Develop a vision and international support for the ORs and OCTs combined marine domain, of international importance, by promoting ecologically sustainable uses of the marine environment, fostering local governance and supporting spatial planning in the ORs and OCTs;
- Promote access to resources and equitable benefit sharing for ORs' and OCTs' populations.

Operational actions:

- Develop nature-based solutions and ecosystem services approaches (e.g. assessment, valuation, and certification) as tools supporting public policies, e.g. for awareness, decision support;
- Develop sustainable financing mechanisms and incentives such as payment for ecosystem services, while favouring the convergence of methods;
- Foster ecological transition via circular economy, enabling small and medium enterprises to create jobs, generate wellbeing and increase self-sufficiency;
- Support marine spatial planning, monitoring and surveillance in the ORs, OCTs and neighbouring countries.

Thank you for your kind attention