



**Summary Report from a SIANI seminar at Tessinsalen, Stadsmuseet, 4<sup>th</sup> Nov 2010**

## **Climate Change and Biodiversity: the Road from Nagoya to Cancun**

On Thursday November 4th, 2010 SIANI convened a public seminar to discuss the complex issue of climate change and the linkage between the process behind the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) and the preparations for the next round of UNFCCC negotiations on climate change impact in Cancun this December.

The discussion centered on the possible links between these two processes, and whether or not it is constructive to think about “marrying” the two. While those who had recently participated in the CBD negotiations in Nagoya were generally pleased about the outcome, there was a stark difference of opinion about whether or not the two processes should be more closely aligned.

Conserving natural terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems and restoring degraded ecosystems (including their genetic and species diversity) is essential for the overall goals of both the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change because ecosystems play a key role in the global carbon cycle and in adapting to climate change.

Louise Karlberg from the Stockholm Resilience Center opened the seminar with an interesting perspective of the planet boundaries and the quadruple squeeze on planetary resources. She emphasized the role of biodiversity in supporting the ecosystem services needed to mitigate climate change.

Local and regional biodiversity changes can have pervasive effects on Earth System functioning and interact with several other planetary boundaries. For example, loss of biodiversity can increase the vulnerability of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems to changes in climate and ocean acidity, thus reducing the safe boundary levels for these processes.

Maria Berlekom, acting Director of Department for Environment, Climate Change and Sustainable Service at Sida, presented some reflections on possible synergies between the two conventions and the practical difficulties involved in translating the goals of these processes into concrete action in development cooperation.

There are synergies between the two conventions and it is important to have a transparent process within the partnership. CBD negotiations resulted in Nagoya in a tangible result, a strategic plan for implementation and a process for its further financing. This was not the case for COP 15 and one of its initiatives, REDD, could perhaps reduce the importance and impact of other international forest and biodiversity related agreements.

In a broader context Monique Barbut, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of The Council of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) gave an overview of the functions of the institution she heads. One of its most important functions, given the topic of the seminar, is the financing of both conventions and their protocols.

Ms. Barbut, while acknowledging the necessity of these financing mechanisms, warned that focusing on amounts of money to indicate political will, distracts from the practical considerations of how much money can actually be absorbed in developing countries, and for what purposes. She was also not convinced that a “marriage” between the two processes (CBD and COP) would be fruitful.

Maria Shultz, from the Swedish International Biodiversity Programme (Swebio) mention that the result is „coherence. between the CBD Strategic Plan and the GEF focal area strategies for biodiversity, as well as a realistic resource mobilization strategy for the convention that that provides the way forward to assistance in support of biodiversity and a request to the financial mechanism. She stated as well that Nagoya shows what can be accomplished with careful preparations directed toward reasonable goals and the value of working constructively with the financial mechanism. She thought that the two processes would benefit from joining together.