

385-Integrating and Sustaining Cultural and Biological Diversity: The Difficult Questions.

Over the past few decades, conflict surrounding conservation practice has revealed the ways in which concepts of nature are a product of people's beliefs and values and how these are expressed in knowledge and practice. These same conflicts have increased awareness of the interrelations between the sustainability of both biological and cultural diversity. Despite an increasing amount of research that enhances understanding and appreciation of the diversity of factors that help sustain biological and cultural diversity, there is still significant debate, and insufficient dialogue, focused on the reciprocal and mutually supportive relations between cultural and biological diversity. In April 2008, the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) will host a symposium entitled

Sustaining Biological and Cultural Diversity in a Rapidly Changing World. This symposium will bring representatives of broad constituencies together to discuss the opportunities and challenges involved in conserving biodiversity and sustaining cultural diversity. We propose to build on this meeting by bringing the results to the WCC in the form of an Aliances in order to: extend dialogue begun at the Symposium; and develop constituencies that will aid in the development of related policy and practice. To achieve this, we propose to design an aliances in which two people from two different perspectives will develop two provocative questions related to the challenges of confronting the relations between cultural and biological diversity. These questions will be posed to a panel of 5 individuals from different constituencies (such as, INGOs, indigenous bodies, biodiversity scientists, anthropologists, and activists). Each will have 5 minutes to address each of the questions. Following the panel response the moderator will invite the audience to identify the divergence or consistency in the panelists responses that indicate obstacles or opportunities for constructive future engagement in the development of policy and practice.