



Convention on
Biological Diversity



Transdisciplinary Research and Governance on Climate-related Geoengineering

Geoengineering and the Convention on Biological Diversity

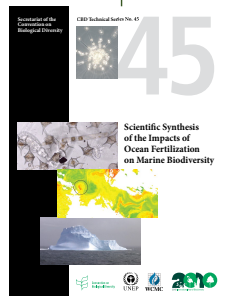
David Cooper,
Deputy Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity
C2G2 Workshop, 17 November, 2017



Decision IX/16

- Qualified moratorium on ocean fertilization

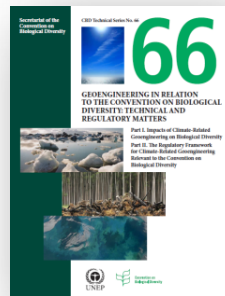
2008
COP-9



Decision IX/33

- Qualified moratorium on geoengineering
- Mandated preparation of technical & legal reports

2010
COP-10



Decision IX/20

- no single geoengineering approach meets basic criteria for effectiveness, safety & affordability.
- lack of science-based, global, transparent and effective control & regulatory mechanisms
- most necessary for transboundary effects & deployment ABNJ & atmosphere

2012
COP-11

Decision IX/14

- Need for trans-disciplinary research
- Engagement of IPLCs

2014
COP-12



2016
COP-13

Decision X/33 8 (w): “Invites Parties and other Governments, according to national circumstances and priorities, as well as relevant organizations and processes, to consider the guidance below

to ensure, in line and consistent with decision IX/16 C, on ocean fertilization and biodiversity and climate change, **in the absence of science based, global, transparent and effective control and regulatory mechanisms** for geo-engineering, and in accordance with the **precautionary approach** and Article 14 of the Convention, **that no climate-related geo-engineering activities that may affect biodiversity take place**, until there is an **adequate scientific basis** on which to justify such activities and **appropriate consideration of the associated risks** for the environment and biodiversity and associated social, economic and cultural impacts, **with the exception of small scale scientific research studies** that would be conducted in a controlled setting in accordance with Article 3 of the Convention, and only if they are justified by the need to gather specific scientific data and are subject to a thorough prior assessment of the potential impacts on the environment”

Decision XI/20: The Conference of the Parties notes:

(6) there is **no single geoengineering approach** that currently meets basic criteria for effectiveness, safety and affordability, and that approaches may prove difficult to deploy or govern;

(8) the **lack of science-based, global, transparent and effective control and regulatory mechanisms** for climate-related geoengineering, the need for a precautionary approach, and that such mechanisms may be most necessary for those geoengineering activities that have a potential to cause significant adverse transboundary effects, and those deployed in areas beyond national jurisdiction and the atmosphere, noting that there is no common understanding on where such mechanisms would be best placed;

(11) the application of the **precautionary approach** as well as **customary international law**, including the general obligations of States with regard to activities within their jurisdiction or control and with regard to possible consequences of those activities, and requirements with regard to EIA, may be relevant for geoengineering activities but would still form an incomplete basis for global regulation;

(12) relevance of work done under the auspices of existing treaties and organizations for the governance of potential geoengineering activities

Decision XII/14: The Conference of the Parties:

(5) Also notes that more **transdisciplinary research** and sharing of knowledge among appropriate institutions is needed in order to better understand the impacts of climate-related geoengineering on biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, socio-economic, cultural and ethical issues and regulatory options;

(6) Recognizes the importance of taking into account sciences for life and the knowledge, experience and perspectives of indigenous peoples and local communities when addressing climate-related geoengineering and protecting biodiversity.;

SBSTTA Recommendation XXI/1 (15th December, 2017) :

“Societal and disruptive technological developments can lead to transitions that may contribute to, or counter, sustainability and the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention”

(7) Invites the scientific and other relevant communities working on scenarios and related assessments to take into account the following issues which are relevant to the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework:

(h) Technology developments that may have positive or negative impacts on the achievement of the three objectives of the Conventions as well as on the lifestyles and traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities