



Federal Ministry for the
Environment, Nature Conservation
and Nuclear Safety



ONE NATURE · ONE WORLD · OUR FUTURE
COP 9 MOP 4 Bonn Germany 2008

GREEN COP

**ENVIRONMENTAL CONCEPT FOR
THE 9TH CONFERENCE ON BIOLOGICAL
DIVERSITY BONN GERMANY 2008**

IMPRINT

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1 GREENING CBD COP 9/MOP 4

When delegates and experts come together in Bonn from 19 to 30 May for the 9th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the 4th Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CBD COP 9/ MOP 4) to discuss issues connected with biodiversity, the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the German Federal Government would like to create an appropriate setting that adequately reflects the idea of biodiversity in particular and nature conservation and environmental protection in general. The Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) is therefore basing the organisation and management of the conference on a comprehensive and ambitious environmental concept (Green COP). The underlying idea of this concept is to prevent as far as possible, or at least minimize, any negative impacts the conference might have on the environment. The second aim is to put in place exemplary environmental protection measures that will make the ideas behind the environmental concept tangible for the conference participants and thus indirectly promote the goals of the conference. Important areas that are addressed by the environmental concept include waste management, providing environmentally friendly mobility for conference participants, saving energy and water during the conference, catering, which will also take agrobiodiversity issues into account, and environmentally sensitive procurement. From a global perspective, climate protection, which also impacts on biodiversity, is one of the greatest challenges currently facing environmental policy-makers and therefore plays a key role in the environmental concept.

“We are currently experiencing an increasing willingness among consumers to take on responsibility for climate and resource protection in their everyday consumption patterns. This makes it all the more important that the German government sets an example here. Large-scale events and conferences are the calling card of an event organiser. They offer the opportunity to demonstrate how sustainability can be put into practice. I am pleased that the German government has developed an ambitious environmental concept for the meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. I hope that the participants in this meeting will support the environmental concept through their actions.”

Gerd Billen, Executive Director of the Federation of German Consumer Organisations

2 IT ALL BEGINS WITH AN ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY CONFERENCE BAG

There are countless conference bags in circulation, most of them poor quality and not particularly attractive. Consequently, they often lie around on shelves gathering dust until at some point they are thrown out with the rubbish. The environmental concept underpinning CBD COP 9/MOP 4 would like to demonstrate that there is an alternative. The Federal Environment Ministry therefore decided that part of the environmental concept should be to design a sustainable conference bag. Sustainable first of all means a modern, attractive and practical shoulder bag that people will keep and continue to use back home. Other requirements are that it must be environmentally friendly, high quality and durable. Whereas shoulder bags are normally made of new materials or contain PVC, the conference bags that have been specially developed for CBD COP 9/MOP 4 are made of recycled plastic.

PROTOTYPE OF THE ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY CONFERENCE BAG DEVELOPED FOR CBD COP 9/MOP 4



Simple estimates indicate that production will cause not more than about 5 kg of greenhouse gas emissions per bag. Using recycled material will significantly reduce their carbon footprint. The remaining greenhouse gas emissions will be offset within the conference's climate protection concept. This means that CBD COP 9/MOP 4 can produce a small highlight for participants right at the outset of the proceedings: a climate-neutral conference bag that sends out the right signals about the conference's environmental ambitions.

3 WASTE AVOIDANCE AND RECYCLING

The waste concept starts from the premise that every effort should be made to avoid generating waste. Proper organisation should ensure that the right conditions are created so that large volumes of waste are not produced at the conference in the first place. To enable as high a recycling quality as possible, all waste will be stringently separated at source. Most of this work will happen behind the scenes. Catering staff, for example, or people involved in setting up and dismantling the conference facilities will separate the waste into different fractions as it is produced. Some of the ways waste will be dealt with are described in more detail below.

AVOIDANCE OF WASTE

To avoid waste production as far as possible, reusable systems must have absolute priority. Reusable systems will be used at the conference wherever possible, instead of disposable systems that are discarded after being used only once. This is particularly relevant to the catering services, where food and drinks will be served with reusable crockery, cutlery, glasses and tumblers and returnable drinks bottles. However, suppliers have also been instructed to deliver their goods in reusable transport packaging.

As a general rule, care will be taken that temporary installations (such as exhibition stands) are reusable, thus helping to avoid waste. For example, high-quality systems will be used in the numerous tent structures that will be disassembled and reused after the conference. Fittings such as furnishings and technical equipment will be hired. The companies setting up these facilities have been instructed to take transport packaging and other materials away with them after they have finished.

Often at conferences and exhibitions vast quantities of paper and flyers end up in the bin. This is an opportunity for conference participants to make their contribution to keeping the conference environment-friendly. As a general rule, paper should be printed or copied on both sides. And really not everything has to be printed out or photocopied; often an electronic version will do.

SOURCE SEPARATION OF WASTE

One of the principal aims of waste recovery schemes is to ensure that different fractions of waste and recoverables are correctly separated at source. This facilitates the highest possible quality of recycling. There are different requirements for refuse separation in the public areas of the conference (delegates, visitors) and the “backstage area” (catering, conference organisation and administration, exhibitors etc.).

It is very difficult to avoid producing waste paper at a conference. Delegates and visitors will therefore find special bins for paper next to the general waste bins to enable the paper fraction to be collected separately. Measures in place to avoid waste production mean that no other additional waste fractions are necessary in the public areas. This does not apply to the backstage area (conference set-up and dismantling, catering, etc.), where more types of different waste are generated, which will be strictly separated at source. The main fractions there are lightweight packaging, paper/paperboard/cardboard packaging and general waste. There are also two other fractions – glass and biodegradable waste – in the catering department. The pictograms for these fractions are shown below.

PICTOGRAMS FOR SOURCE SEPARATION OF WASTE IN THE PUBLIC AND BACK-STAGE AREAS



Waste



Paper/Cardboard



Lightweight packaging



Waste glass



Organic waste

The system for separating waste at source in the backstage and public areas should essentially be uniform throughout all the conference and exhibition spaces. This means that the same facilities will be available at the Hotel Maritim, the catering area of the conference or the exhibition and that the same pictograms will be used to label the different bins for the different waste fractions, so that they can be separated at source. Furthermore, all staff will help implement the waste concept and the separation of refuse at source throughout the conference site. They will also be available to answer any questions delegates or visitors might have about the waste concept.

4 SAVING ENERGY AND WATER

In order to save precious resources, energy and water consumption during the conference should be reduced as far as possible. The use of renewable energy will play a key role here.

Estimates to date have put the electricity consumption for the additional facilities alone during the conference, e.g. temporary installations or media coverage, at 250,000 kWh. The requirements for the canteens or for the overall exhibition area, for example, have to be added to that figure.

A declared aim of the organisers is to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions caused by energy consumption at the conference by ensuring that the entire demand is supplied by certified green electricity (e.g. from wind power, hydropower, or other renewable energies).

From the point of view of sustainability, measures in place in the buildings at the conference site play an important role, since any environmental projects implemented there to improve efficiency will have an impact not just for the short duration of the conference but in the long term too. The key element here is the introduction of environmental management systems. They can be used in the long term to systematically identify and put in place environmental measures designed to help reduce energy and water consumption and thus save resources. The Federal Environment Ministry, the buildings of which will also be used for the conference, is a tangible example of this. EMAS, the European Eco-Management and Audit Scheme, was introduced there back in 2006. However, the Hotel Maritim, where the conference auditorium is located, and the WCCB (World Conference Center Bonn), have also undergone environmental checks with the aim of saving resources as part of the “Sustainable Bonn” project. In order to ensure an intelligent environmental management EMAS shall be introduced for the entire CBD COP 9/MOP 4.

5 ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS

The transport concept focuses mainly on offering participants a comprehensive range of environmentally friendly means of transport for their journeys to and from the conference. Free use of public transport in Bonn, such as buses and trains, for journeys to and from the conference venue will be a key element in promoting this. To make using public transport as easy as possible, comprehensive information about routes, schedules and bus/tram stops and train stations will be provided in several languages. Environmentally friendly shuttle buses will connect the airport and hotels outside the

city to the public transport network or the conference venue. For selected government representatives, particularly ministers, a dedicated fleet of vehicles will provide shuttle service for the conference. This fleet will consist mainly of MPVs (multi-passenger vehicles) to allow for more efficient shared transport.

The selection criteria for the vehicles include low fuel consumption and sophisticated exhaust technology and particulate filters to reduce particulate emissions. Only vehicles that stand out in their segment for their particularly low fuel consumption will be used. The illustration gives an example of a vehicle in the compact executive segment, which is being used in the campaign that has already been launched in Germany in preparation for the biodiversity conference and which emits less than 140 grams of CO₂ per vehicle kilometre (approx. 5.5 liter/100 km). In order to reduce fuel consumption, the vehicles run on low viscosity oil, which can reduce fuel consumption, and are fitted with eco-tyres with optimized rolling resistance.

EXAMPLE OF A CONFERENCE VEHICLE WITH LOW FUEL CONSUMPTION



Environmentally conscious fleet management will also mean that the fleet of conference vehicles is deployed as effectively as possible to avoid unnecessary empty trips and therefore save vehicle kilometres. Plans for eco-driving courses are also in the pipeline. They will teach drivers fuel-saving driving techniques, which can achieve savings of 10 to 25%. Since this also lowers fuel costs it is worthwhile economically as well as ecologically. All the conference fleet's vehicles are fitted with an intelligent fuel consumption display that promotes driving in a way that saves fuel.

To give the idea of environmentally friendly mobility public visibility, use of a climate-neutral tram or bus route is planned. The buses or trains would have stickers with the slogan "I'm a climate-neutral runner!" to make it publicly visible that they are being operated with environmental considerations in mind.

6 CATERING - ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION TO TASTE

Catering is an area that offers particularly good opportunities for giving conference participants a first-hand experience of the theoretical content of the conference by serving a diverse range of food combined with information about its provenance. Apart from providing an appropriate culinary experience, another aim is that the catering should have as low an impact on the environment as possible. For that reason, the menu will contain organic food and specialities of the region. “Diverse/regional/organic/fair” sums up the conference’s catering philosophy.

THE CONFERENCE’S CATERING PHILOSOPHY “DIVERSE, REGIONAL, ORGANIC, FAIR”



AGROBIODIVERSITY

Agrobiodiversity is used to mean all the components of biodiversity that are relevant to food and agriculture. It therefore also includes all agricultural landscapes. Given the subject matter of the conference, it is especially important to incorporate the topic of agrobiodiversity into the conference catering, because the diversity of breeds of farm animal and crop species is declining drastically throughout the world. Using

old species and breeds that have become rare can help ensure their survival because creating demand provides an incentive to conserve rare breeds of animal and crop varieties. This amounts to actively promoting the preservation of species diversity.

REGIONAL FOOD

Taking “Specialities of the region” as its watchword, the catering service will set an example to promote greater use of local produce. Farmers from the region selling their own produce directly also has the advantage of reducing the number of truck miles used for food, which in turn reduces the negative impact on the health of local people from noise and particulate matter. Other reasons for using local produce include stimulating the local economy in rural areas and creating greater transparency with regard to provenance and production methods.

ORGANIC FOOD

Environmentally sound catering puts organically produced food at the top of the menu. Organic farming is a way of farming that tries to replicate nature as closely as possible. Ecological farming uses no pesticides or artificial fertilizers, or at least smaller amounts than conventional farming, which is of particular benefit to the soil and groundwater. Similarly it uses no genetically modified organisms (GMOs). Animal welfare is another important aspect in favour of ecological farming. The result of this environmentally sensitive way of farming is high quality food that is both healthy and delicious. Vegetarian dishes will also be on sale in the canteens and food bars. A diet that contains plenty of fruit and vegetables and less meat is healthy and also less harmful to the climate.

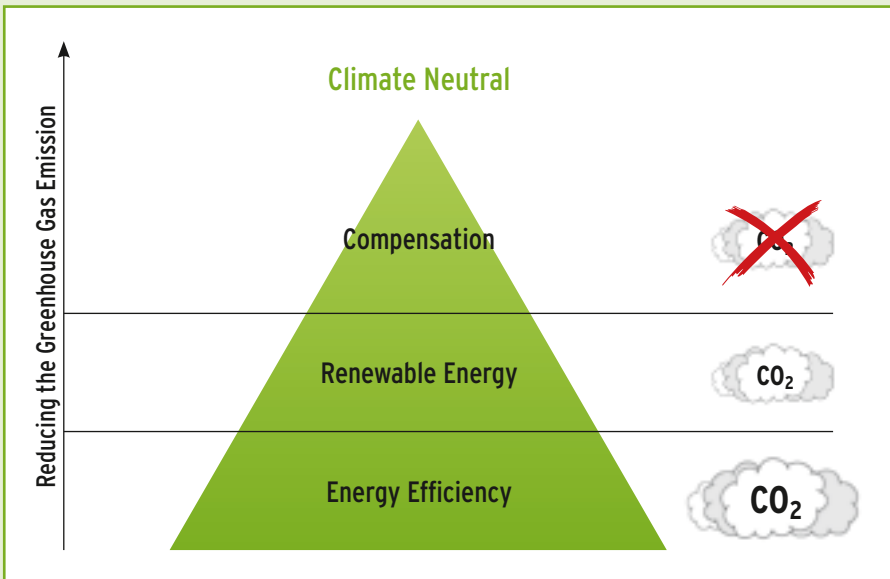
FAIR TRADE

The use of fairly traded produce such as coffee supports producers in developing countries and helps improve their living conditions. But fair, cost-covering prices also make an important contribution to securing the livelihood and future of domestic farmers. Fairly traded food and drinks therefore also reflect the conference’s sustainability philosophy.

7 CLIMATE-FAIR - REDUCING THE IMPACT ON OUR CLIMATE

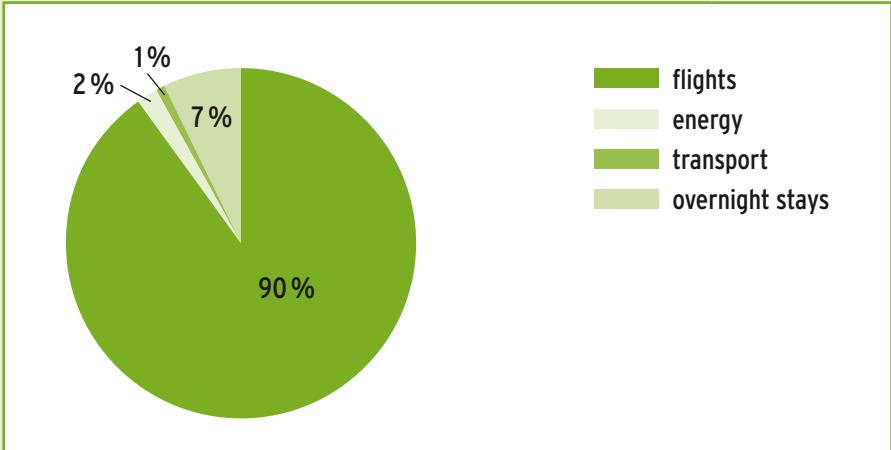
With a view to protecting the climate, the German Federal Government has made it its declared aim that this conference should be climate-neutral, i. e. should not cause any additional impact on the climate. In order to achieve this goal, a threefold strategy will be followed. First of all, low-emission technologies, which save energy and increase efficiency, and the use of environmentally friendly means of transport will reduce energy demand as much as possible and increase energy efficiency. This is followed by the use of certified green electricity. Finally, any greenhouse gas emissions that are unavoidable will be offset.

SCHEMATIC DEPICTION OF THE STRATEGY FOR A CLIMATE-NEUTRAL CONFERENCE



Even the most ambitious environmental concept is bound to meet with limitations on what can be done to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Simply due to the great distances that many participants have to travel to get to and from Germany by air, the unavoidable CO₂ emissions arising from the conference constitute by far the largest group of emissions.

CARBON FOOTPRINT OF CBD COP 9/MOP 4, PERCENTAGE SHARE ACCOUNTED FOR BY VARIOUS CAUSES, ESTIMATED BY ÖKO-INSTITUT FEBRUARY 2008.



Estimates to date indicate that we must expect the overall running of the conference to cause greenhouse gas emissions in the order of 20,000 t of CO₂ equivalents. As the diagram below shows, the predominant cause of emissions is international flights (to and from Germany) at approx. 90%; there is also a wide uncertainty range here, since countries of origin and numbers of participant have not yet been finalised.

Voluntary carbon offsetting is an innovative instrument that can be used to compensate elsewhere for any unavoidable emissions that are harmful to the climate by investing in climate protection projects. As part of the environmental concept, carbon offsetting projects that meet the highest ecological and social standards are being specially selected for CBD COP 9/MOP 4.

8 INTRODUCTION OF AN ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SCHEME BASED ON EMAS

The ecological measures mentioned should be coordinated and managed as a single cohesive system. The obvious way of doing this is to introduce at CBD COP 9/MOP 4 an energy and environmental management scheme based on the EMAS Regulation. This system will essentially fulfil three functions designed to make the environment-related activities as efficient as possible:

- First of all, the system delivers information about the material and energy flows of the event in question (*information function*). This makes it possible to make an estimate and reasonable evaluation of the environmental impact in advance of the event.
- This information can be used as a basis for setting environmental targets and deciding and putting in place measures to achieve them (*planning function*).
- The data acquired makes it possible to monitor the success of the measures implemented and identify the progress made towards reaching the environmental targets (*audit function*).

Large-scale events have a number of special characteristics that have to be taken into account when introducing an environmental management system. Each is a unique event in itself, even if it is repeated, as is the case for CBD COP 9/MOP 4. The environmental impact can differ greatly simply as a result of the different number of participants and where they have travelled from. If the events always take place at a different venue, the internal organisational arrangements are also constantly subject to change, which the environmental management system has to take into account if it is to have long-term success.

So how will the environmental management system for CBD COP 9/MOP 4 be set up?

- The process begins with the drafting of what is called an **environmental policy**. This records the main points to be taken into consideration at this large-scale international event. The environmental policy should ideally be transferable to future events of this nature.
- Similarly at the outset of the project, an **environmental project team** will be set up.

1 Regulation (EC) No 761/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 March 2001 allowing voluntary participation by organisations in a Community eco-management and audit scheme (EMAS)

- After this, an **environmental review** is carried out. This involves identifying and recording the relevant environmental impacts of the different venues used during CBD COP 9/MOP 4 and compiling an overview of all the legal and administrative regulations on environmental protection and health and safety. The environmental review is prepared by collecting the data needed for an environmental inventory, which in turn is used to conduct an analysis of the ecological weak spots and to work out environmental performance parameters. Based on the environmental review, initial proposals concerning measures to reduce environmental pollution and energy consumption can be drawn up.
- Finally, an **environmental programme** is developed, which describes the concrete environmental goals, both qualitative and quantitative, and sets time scales for their achievement. The measures and activities to be considered for achieving these goals, along with the names of individuals responsible for putting them in place, are listed in a clear, easy-to-understand format.
- In parallel to the environmental review, work begins on **setting up the environmental management system**. It is particularly important to incorporate organisational aspects into the system. The role of individual actors within the system must be defined: who will assume the role of representing the environmental management system within the event organisation team? Who will take on the work of environmental officer during the event? What are the rights and obligations of these individuals? How will conference participants and guests be given information about the environmental management system? How will the internal communication processes be designed?
- All these procedures will be set out in an environmental management manual, the purpose of which is to describe the procedural and organisational aspects of the environmental management systems in an easily comprehensible way.
- An **environmental statement** is then drawn up in a clear and succinct form for participants and guests at CBD COP 9/MOP 4. Another purpose of this environmental statement is to provide information that can be used when staging other large-scale international events.
- In preparation for validation of CBD COP 9/MOP 4, **internal audits** have to be conducted with the event organisation team, the project team and the procurement department.
- The process is concluded with **validation** by an environmental verifier, who checks that the environmental statement is correct and reliable. The validation of the environmental statement will take place on 26 and 27 May 2008.
- In June 2008, an **updated environmental statement** incorporating the results from CBD COP 9/MOP 4 will be produced; it will also be checked by an environmental verifier.

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