

8. The Parties affirm the importance of the *Convention on Biological Diversity*, done at Rio de Janeiro on 5 June, 1992 ("Convention on Biological Diversity"), and agree to work together to advance the objectives of that Convention.

9. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to affect the existing rights and obligations of either Party under other international environmental agreements to which such Party is a party.

Article 3: Availability of Proceedings and Procedural Standards

1. Each Party shall ensure that judicial, quasi-judicial or administrative enforcement proceedings are available to provide sanctions or remedies for violations of its environmental law.

2. Each Party shall ensure that interested persons residing in or established in the territory of such Party may request the Party's competent authorities to investigate alleged violations of its environmental law and shall give such requests due consideration, in accordance with its law.

3. Each Party shall ensure that persons with a legally recognized interest under its law in a particular matter covered by this Agreement shall have appropriate access to judicial, quasi-judicial and administrative proceedings for the enforcement of the Party's environmental law, and to remedies for violations of that law.

4. Each Party shall ensure that the proceedings in paragraphs 1 and 3 of Article 3 are fair, equitable and transparent, comply with due process of law and are open to the public, except where the administration of justice otherwise requires.

5. Each Party shall ensure that the parties to the proceedings are entitled to support or defend their respective positions and to present information or evidence, and that the decision is based on such information or evidence.

6. Each Party shall ensure that the final decisions on the merits in such proceedings are in writing, preferably state the reasons on which the decisions are based, and, without undue delay, are made available to the parties to the proceedings and in accordance with its law to the public.

7. Each Party shall further provide, as appropriate, that parties to such proceedings have the right, in accordance with its law, to seek, where warranted review and correction or redetermination, of final decisions in such proceedings.