

THE WEB OF LIFE

The Institute wishes to acknowledge the

generous financial support of

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change and economic globalization Fifteen years

knowledge presents some serious constraints to

The benefits of biodiversity include the

into force on 29 December 1993, a short 18 months later. On December 4, 1992. Canada

living resources. This will require a sharing of knowledge in all directions: North-South. South-

legislation and rule-making for access to genetic resources.

2.3 The Biosafety Protocol

Without doubt the greatest preoccupation has

been the need to ensure that the Protocol is

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environmental interventions in cases where a direct link to the protection of human health, life or safety can be established.

As a result of the shared authority and the nature of most environmental issues, cooperative federal-provincial arrangements and actions have developed. The Canadian Council of Ministers of

provinces and territories for the management of biological resources and terrestrial, marine and freshwater environments. For example, wildlife management boards established under Aboriginal land claims agreements have certain relevant responsibilities. Biodiversity covers a wide range of issues which touch various sectors such as agriculture, fisheries, forestry, wildlife and parks

In addition, Canada has a number of national regulatory and legislative instruments dealing with biodiversity issues. These include: the Canadian Wildlife Act and provincial and

biodiversity and the sustainable use of biological resources; and

- To work with other countries in a sustainable manner and share equitably the benefits that arise from the utilization of genetic resources.

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3.0 A GLIMPSE INTO THE FUTURE

Once upon a time stories, retelling the past, are more likely to be accurate than once upon a

The third is that the year 2015 is really just around the corner. Incremental change seems the most likely course with people's lives looking remarkably familiar. It would take a surprise to

promise of genetically engineering a species that

with little accountability. Multilateralism was

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implementation. All 3 of the objectives: conservation, sustainable use and equitable sharing of benefits would be pursued simultaneously.

In hindsight, the most significant activity was not an initiative of governments. The World

Stewardship Council to create market incentives for sustainable fishing. The prevailing economic myth of the late 20th century has been challenged.

This collaboration between economists and scientists had an ancillary benefit. Although the importance of an interdisciplinary approach to

just surviving have very different needs and ways

is very long term in character. Multilateralism

new technology is being put. But the science is

And, by the way, tremendous wealth has

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And, by the way, tremendous wealth has

rendered the need for natural diversity obsolete. Species and their habitats continue the perilous slide of extinction. Sustainable use has become an outdated concept .

Benefit-sharing has not happened as a matter of right, but rather as a matter of negotiating

A regime to protect the resource rights in developing countries was sought unsuccessfully and international harmonization of intellectual property protection laws did not happen.

The intense dispute about primacy of the rules of the trading system or the rules of the

It appears that an Ebola-like virus has mutated into an air-borne predator. With horror, we learn that the virus was engineered to possess codes to

and research are diverted to new opportunities they bring to commercialization. Collaborative global research has been ditched and

sign or ratify the Convention, and there is certainly no incentive for further negotiations. The fewer the rules the better.

the decisions of far-sighted corporate leaders of the 80's have ensured that US firms have significant advantage. Some anxiety is being expressed by citizens in adjacent countries.

politicians and bureaucrats, all in the interest of
forestalling any cumbersome or inconvenient

in each of these 4 scenarios that could well be
integrated into one surprise-rich story.

plodding pace because of cumbersome decision-making mechanisms. No coordinated response capability exists in the Cyberwave scenario.

All scenarios foresee a change in governance

increasingly integrated world economy Canada promotes rules-based approaches to managing international relations. Not surprisingly, life next door to the world's superpower and an economy oriented to trade means that both continental and global integration have a significant impact on

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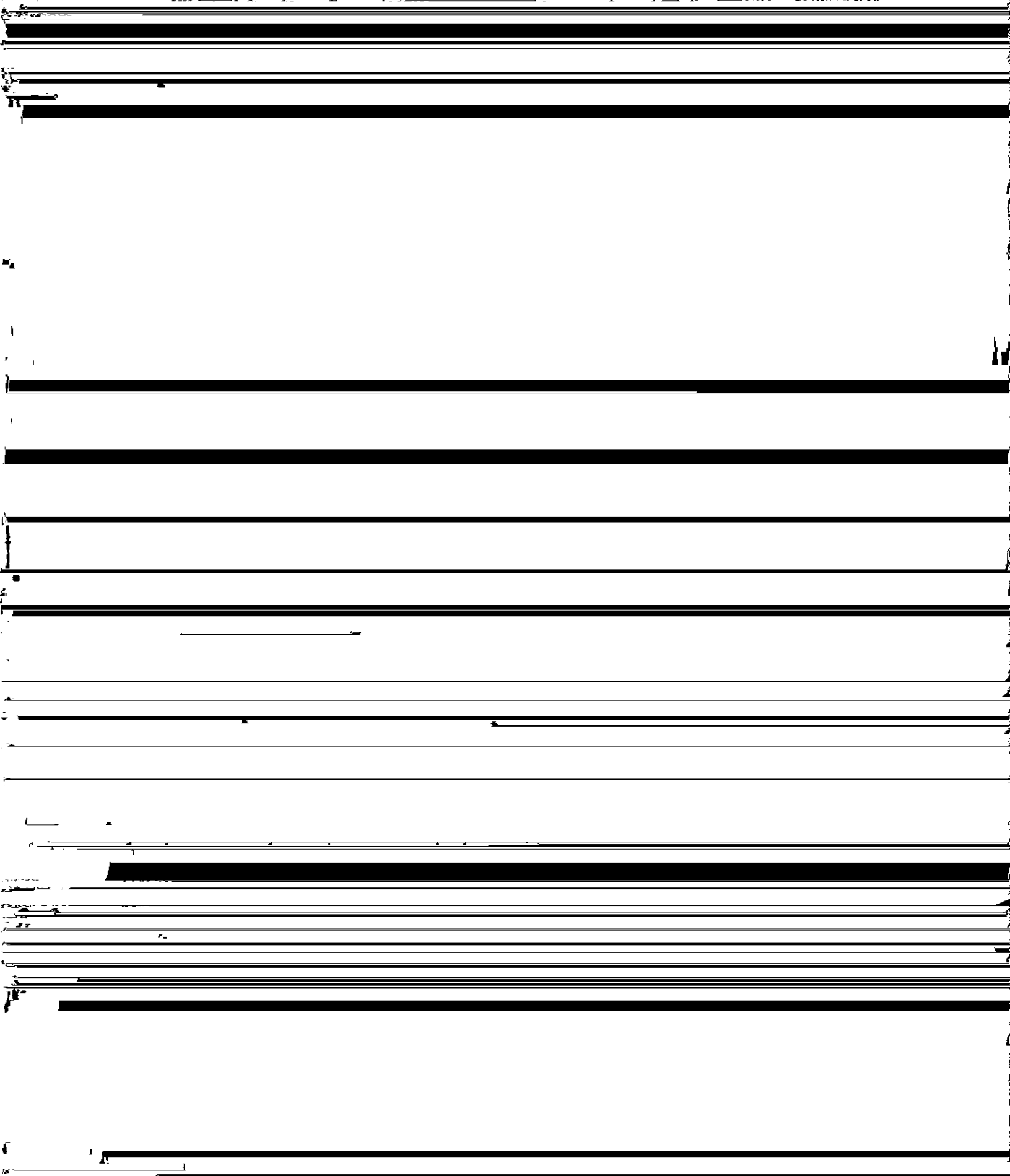
economic and social considerations in most parts of the world.

The decision to recommit to the Biodiversity Convention has resulted in a revitalized regime. Scientists and economists have worked together

rules based United Nations also meant that Canada could be subject to decisions taken outside its borders, in the long-term interests of the global commons, but not necessarily in the short-term economic interests of Canada. Other orders of government and industry challenged the

The Canadian business community was supportive of an international regime that was predictable and allowed them to compete on a level playing-field. International standard setting

more significant in international affairs and as consideration of environmental issues became more integrated the provinces worried that their role would be eroded.



4.4 Regional Dominators

natural resources, has to be managed with care to

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require federal support. The latter have begun to

are opposed vigorously. However the days of

close of leadership and moral suasion. In fact

vague commitments and no targets and

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or strategic power. Although there are projects at the local level, erosion continues in many parts of the world, but in the Regional Dominators.

about possible loss of control in a technological revolution in cell biology may well force a nation to meet international obligations.

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