

Collaborative Programme on Ecosystem Restoration

CSAB4 agenda item 6.1
Sunday 13 February 2011

Outline

1. Background and introduction of the topic and briefing paper (HM)
2. Proposals for the collaborative development of restoration guidance (SA)
 - Target audiences and end users needs
 - Types of guidance needed
3. Discussion
 - Points in summary of briefing paper
4. Recommendations & next actions

Background

- **CSAB3 (2009) decision:**
 - Ramsar to lead development of collaboration on ecosystem restoration.
- **CSAB3 information paper on potential modes of collaboration among the MEAs, including:**
 - Sharing existing guidance on issues of common interest (cross-reference or cross-adopt).
 - Collaborating on focused projects to develop new shared guidance.
 - Designing a collaborative programme to address a theme of common interest.
- **Draft discussion paper for CSAB4:**
 - Proposal for development of collaborative programme on restoration.
 - Employ all three modes of collaboration, depending on needs and priorities of collaborating MEAs.

Foundations for Collaboration



- Conventions and MEAs provide biodiversity-related mandates, objectives, and target audiences:
 - Original agreement texts and CP obligations
 - Recent decisions and resolutions
 - Current and planned scientific work programmes
- Other global processes provide multi-sectoral objectives, priorities and target audiences including:
 - Water resources and water security
 - Food security and sustainable livelihoods
 - Climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies
 - Economic development and poverty eradication
 - Health and wellbeing

Proposal for Collaboration

- **Society for Ecological Restoration (SER) letter to CSAB4:**
 - Ready to assist CSAB and other MEA processes
 - Practical ways/means to bridge science-practice interface
 - Recognizing the work of relevant organizations (IUCN)
- Aim of the proposal is to **translate increased knowledge into practical tools and guidance** for ecosystem restoration:
 - Common thread: biodiversity & ecosystem services (using ecosystem approach, MA, and TEEB as platform)
 - Address current/future needs to meet MEA objectives
 - Identify target audiences and types of guidance
 1. General policy/planning guidance (short term)
 2. Specific technical guidance (long term)

Proposal for Collaboration

- 1. General Policy and Planning Guidance**, which builds on existing guidance and takes into account the priorities of the individual Conventions and MEAs, would serve:
 - Policy-makers, legislators and regulators
 - Inform/guide decision-making and restoration planning within new or existing frameworks
 - Transnational collaborations on large-scale projects
 - Administrators, planning and implementing bodies
 - Promote effective design and implementation of restoration projects/programs
 - Establish frameworks for prioritization and adaptive management, including baselines, performance indicators, and reporting requirements

Proposal for Collaboration



- 2. Specific Technical Guidance** on ecosystem- or intervention-specific technologies, methods, and techniques for:
- Land/water managers and restoration practitioners in the field from contractors to community volunteers
 - to provide detailed, step-by-step direction on designing, implementing, and monitoring appropriate biotic and abiotic interventions
 - Technical guidance database
 - would draw on the plethora of existing guidance manuals and handbooks that address specific ecosystems and interventions, and present them in an open-source, searchable database

Current Work Plans



- **The CBD, in its multi-year programme of work 2011-2020, includes “the identification of ways and means to support ecosystem restoration, including the possible development of practical guidance on ecosystem restoration and related issues” (Decision X/9)**

Current Work Plans



- **The Ramsar STRP, in its current triennium of work 2009-2012,** was asked to “prepare proposals for updating and expanding existing Ramsar guidance on restoration and rehabilitation of lost or degraded wetlands” (Resolution X.16). This work includes a review of Ramsar’s existing practical guidance for restoration of wetland ecosystems (STRP updated work plan, tasks 9.1 and 9.2)

Current Work Plans



- **The UNCCD CST, in its multi-year workplan for 2010–2013**, includes Outcome Area 3.4 “Knowledge of the interactions between climate change adaptation, drought mitigation and restoration of degraded land in affected areas is improved to develop tools to assist decision-making” (Decision 1/COP.9)

Current Work Plans



- **The IUCN** adopted a motion in Barcelona (2008) and is currently tasked with preparing a Best practice protected area guideline for ecological restoration and presenting it at the next World Conservation Congress in 2012 (CGR4.MOT051). The work is being led by Parks Canada and SER.

Discussion & Recommendations of CSAB

1. Is this proposal a good starting point for developing a broader programme of collaboration on ecosystem restoration?
2. Which conventions/MEAs should be involved and how would they interact/work together?
3. How do we ensure that products are designed and delivered to meet the needs of the various conventions/MEAs?
4. What are the next actions?

Suggested Next Actions

1. **Form working group within CSAB:**

- Composed of interested CSAB members, invited groups with appropriate expertise
- Secretariats provide co-ordination support
- Advise on further development of briefing paper, immediate zero-budget products, longer-term programme design
- Help to secure resources and funding

2. **Finalize the draft discussion paper further (with available resources & help of working group):**

- More detail/focus on the context and rationale
- Complete sections on synthesis of decisions and work programmes
- Refine proposal to produce a scope of work for future collaborative programme?
- Release this as an information paper, for other MEA and global processes to take forward in their own processes as appropriate (eg *inter alia* SBSTTA 15 Nov 2011, IPBES)?

3. **Workshop(s) of technical expert group (as and when resources available – August 2011?)**

- Framework for policy guidance (global, regional, national levels; multiple MEAs)
- Identify target audiences, needs and priorities for policy/planning and technical guidance
- Prepare detailed terms of reference for collaborative programme (deliverables, responsibilities, timelines, budget)
- Inform future draft decisions and resolutions for the MEAs involved in the collaboration