



## Convention on Biological Diversity



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### REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON BIODIVERSITY AND FINANCE IN SUPPORT OF THE NAGOYA OUTCOME

First meeting

Cairo, 29-30 November 2010

Agenda item 5

### **OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE TO BIODIVERSITY IN THE ARAB REGION**

Note by the Executive Secretary

1. External financial support to biodiversity efforts continues to be important in many countries. In some cases, over 90% of resources used for biodiversity have come from external support. Most financial and development agencies have specific programmes for Middle East and North Africa, but their relevance to biodiversity objectives has evolved over time.

2. This short note provides a briefing on external financial support to Arab biodiversity activities, including multilateral and bilateral financial and development agencies. Participants of the Workshop are invited to explore the following:

- Discuss the role of multilateral and bilateral financial and development agencies in achieving the Aichi Target for the period 2011-2020;
- Organize regular roundtables on environment and economic growth between development assistance institutions and national entities at the national and regional levels in order to ensure that the special needs of countries in the region, particularly least developed countries, are taken into account;
- Adopt a proactive approach to enable themselves to effectively utilize funding opportunities provided through existing funding mechanisms such as the Aid for Trade and the integrated framework facilities in order to promote sustainable trade, as well as environmental and development objectives;
- Build capacities to enable Arab countries to develop funding proposals that could be financed through various financial mechanisms;
- Explore opportunities to integrate biodiversity and ecosystem services in the regional programmes of donor agencies for the Arab region;

- Formulate future action to engage multilateral and bilateral financial and development agencies in the implementation of the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan and the Strategy for Resource Mobilization of the Convention.

#### A. Bilateral and multilateral programmes for Arab countries

3. Table 1 demonstrates that all major bilateral and multilateral financial and technical institutions have institutionalized programmes for the Arab region. Most bilateral and multilateral financial and technical institutions further have environmental management as a cross-cutting issue for resource programming and management. More information is needed on how the cross-cutting issue has been integrated in the institutionalized programmes for Arab countries.

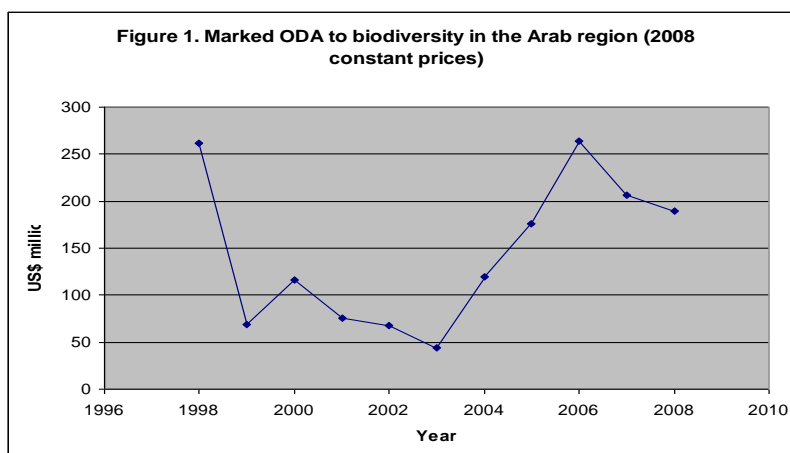
Table 1. Institutional programmes for Arab countries

Donor	Programmes related to Arab countries
Australia	Africa and Humanitarian Branch, and Middle East and West Asia Branch, Africa, West Asia, Middle East and Humanitarian Division (AWAMEH), AusAID
Belgium	Partner countries in North Africa and Middle East
Canada	The Europe Middle East and Maghreb Directorate (EMM), CIDA Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa, IDRC
Denmark	Danish-Arab Partnership programme
European Union	Union for the Mediterranean (Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, formerly known as the Barcelona Process)
Finland	Unit for The Middle East and North Africa, Department for Africa and the Middle East, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
France	Department for North Africa and the Middle East, Ministry of for Foreign and European Affairs Mediterranean and Middle-East, French Development Agency
Germany	North Africa, Middle East, German Development Ministry (BMZ) Mediterranean Region and Middle East, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) Africa and Middle East, KfW Bankengruppe
Greece	Arab Countries and Middle East, Hellenic Aid
Italy	Directorate General for the Countries of the Mediterranean and Middle East, Directorate General for Development Cooperation
Japan MFA	Middle Eastern and African Affairs Bureau, Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs Middle East and Europe Department, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
Netherland	North Africa and Middle East Department, DG for International Cooperation (DGIS)
Spain	Department for Cooperation with Mediterranean and Arab World, Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AECID)
UK	Western Asia and Stabilisation Division and Security and Humanitarian and Middle East, Caribbean and Overseas Territories Division, Department for International Development
USA	Bureau for Middle East, United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
World Bank	Vice Presidency for the Middle East and North Africa Region
UNDP	Regional Bureau for Arab States (RBAS)

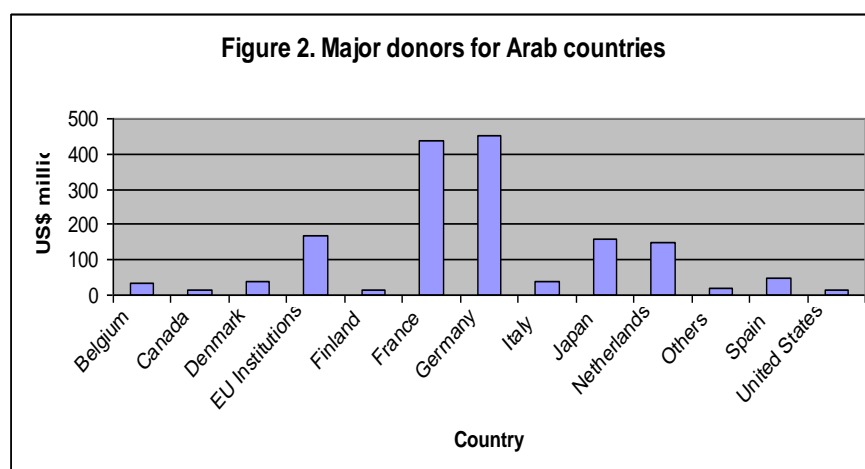
## B. Bilateral official assistance

### *Status and trends in bilateral assistance*

4. The Rio Markers under the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development were designed to capture biodiversity-related official development assistance as reported by various bilateral and multilateral financial and development agencies. Some US\$1.5 billion has been marked for biodiversity in the Arab region between 1998 and 2008. Figure 1 provides the trend in bilateral assistance to biodiversity in the Arab region in the past decade. Marked official development assistance peaked in 1998 and 2006, and managed to cover from a trough period for 1999-2004. The current level of marked bilateral development assistance stands at about US\$200 million a year.

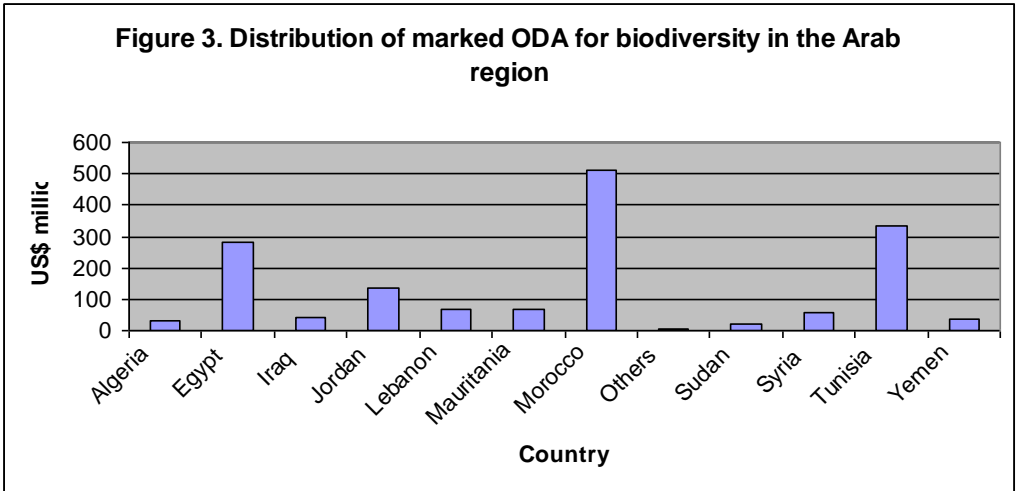


5. In terms of the volume of marked bilateral assistance between 1998 and 2008, top countries providing official development assistance to Arab biodiversity are: Germany, France, EU Institutions, Japan, Netherlands, Spain, Denmark, Italy, and Belgium (see Figure 2). Other bilateral assistance to Arab biodiversity has been from Norway, Greece, Sweden, Switzerland, Austria, Ireland and Republic of Korea.



6. Over 70 percent of marked official development assistance to biodiversity in the Arab region has been found in Morocco, Tunisia and Egypt for the period 1998-2008 (see Figure 3). Together with Jordan, Mauritania and Lebanon, they account for over 88 percent of the total marked. Other visible recipient countries are: Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Algeria and Sudan. A small portion, i.e. 0.5 percent, of total

official development assistance marked for biodiversity has been observed for Somalia, Oman, Comoros, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Djibouti, and Bahrain together.



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