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GTI SUBREGIONAL CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOP
TO ADDRESS INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES AND TO
ACHIEVE AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS IN EAST
AND SOUTHEAST ASIA
Bangkok, 30 July – 1 August 2012

ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

INTRODUCTION

1. At its tenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 with its 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets. To achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets at regional and national levels, taxonomic capacity is fundamental for Parties to make scientifically sound decisions. In paragraph 7 of decision X/39, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary, with the assistance of the Coordination Mechanism for the Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI) and in collaboration with relevant international organizations, to hold capacity-building training workshops in all subregions and regions as needed.

2. The project "Expanded Taxonomic Capacity Building and Governance for Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity" proposed by the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) was approved by the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund on 9 December 2011. An inception meeting / workshop was conducted in Hanoi, Viet Nam on 5 - 6 March 2012 to provide direction and work out the details of the project. It identified 3 training topics to be conducted. One of these topics is the management and taxonomy of invasive alien species (IAS), which is addressed by the present training activity.

3. Accordingly, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity jointly organized the present workshop with the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, in collaboration with the Government of Thailand, the Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP) and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) of Thailand, and with the generous financial contribution of the Government of Japan. The workshop, entitled "GTI Subregional Capacity-building Workshop to Address Invasive Alien Species and to Achieve Aichi Biodiversity Targets in East and Southeast Asia", is being held from 30 July to 1 August 2012 in Bangkok, Thailand.

4. This workshop supports the strategic implementation of the revised draft Capacity-building Strategy for the Global Taxonomy Initiative (revised at the sixteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice: recommendation XVI/11), which will be considered by the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting.

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5. The broad objective of this workshop is to build capacity to address invasive alien species and to support implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

6. The workshop will exchange information on (i) the status of taxonomic capacity in the region and (ii) the process of integration of GTI activities, as needed, into national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) in East and Southeast Asia.

7. To facilitate the process of implementation of the Strategic Plan and integration of the GTI activities into national policy, the workshop will share the concept of "mainstreaming biodiversity" and provide technical training on project proposal writing to the GTI focal points and relevant experts in the region.

8. Importantly, the meeting also provides an opportunity for participants to communicate and enhance collaboration and cooperation in order to develop necessary capacity to implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 throughout East and Southeast Asia.

9. Several Aichi Biodiversity Targets are to be specifically addressed at this workshop. These include:

(a) Aichi Biodiversity Target 9: "By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment." Species identification is the very first step to all stakeholders who are involved in invasive alien species control and management. Development of regional project to achieve this target is primarily a goal of this workshop;

(b) Aichi Biodiversity Target 12: "By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained." Monitoring of biodiversity, especially long-term monitoring, is required to develop strategic conservation planning. This process also requires species identification capacity in protected areas management. In-situ and ex-situ conservation of biodiversity require taxonomic capacity to manage specimens and living organisms. Human and infrastructure improvement to achieve this target will be a discussion item of this workshop and if necessary the workshop will produce a roadmap to achieve this target over the next few years;

(c) Aichi Biodiversity Target 19: "By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied." Biodiversity science is a highly interdisciplinary subject. This workshop will discuss how efficiently engaged academic institutions support implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity with reference to Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

10. The specific objectives of this workshop are to:

(a) Build capacity to address the cross-cutting issue of invasive alien species and contribute to the fulfilment of Aichi Biodiversity Target 9 in East and Southeast Asia;

(b) Provide training on the issue of invasive alien species for the GTI national focal points and appropriate authorities in the national plant protection organizations / customs offices;

(c) Facilitate the integration of GTI activities into updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans in the region;

(d) Prepare project proposals to address invasive alien species in the region.

A. Invasive Alien Species

11. Invasive alien species[1] are those alien species which threaten ecosystems, habitats or species - Article 8(h) of the Convention on Biological Diversity. In some ecosystems, such as many island ecosystems, invasive alien species are the leading cause of biodiversity loss. In addition, they can pose a threat to food security, human health and economic development. Increasing trade and travel translates into greater risks of biological invasion unless prevention, eradication, and control of invasive alien species become national priorities. Under the Convention, the Conference of the Parties adopted "the guiding principles for the prevention, introduction and mitigation of impacts of alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species", annexed to decision VI/23*, in 2002.

12. The Conference of the Parties also identified the pathways of introduction of alien species and pointed to the need to address the gaps and inconsistencies of the international regulatory framework in 2006. Further efforts to close the gap in the international regulatory framework have continued through the Conference of the Parties and communication among the relevant international organizations setting the regulatory framework relevant to invasive alien species. However, it has become clear that strong cross-sectoral collaboration at national level to control the transboundary movement of live species and contaminated goods is necessary to implement the Guiding Principles and other international agreements, including the multilateral environmental agreements.

13. On the ground, prevention is the most cost-effective means for addressing invasive alien species. Early detection of entry of alien species and rapid response, ideally eradication of alien species, are also critically important approaches to minimizing the spread and impact of invasive alien species.

14. It is important to note that information on alien species is essential for science-based risk assessment, not only for the pathways described above, but also for planned introductions where countries need to take a decision on whether or not to deliberately introduce a species based on a sound risk assessment. Early detection of entry and management of alien species also requires correct identification of the species. Capacity to find and apply taxonomic information tools is a basic need both in developing and developed countries.

15. Information sharing and communication among the stakeholders who are involved in transboundary movement of live species, including officials working at border control, management and eradication of invasive alien species are important elements of effective measures that every Government must consider. Improved information sharing and communication will also contribute to raising public awareness on invasive alien species.

B. The Taxonomic Imperative

16. Taxonomic information is essential for agencies and border authorities for the detection, management, and control of invasive alien species. However, effective measures can only be implemented

[1] The following definitions are used since the Guiding Principles were adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity:
"alien species" refers to a species, subspecies or lower taxon, introduced outside its natural past or present distribution; includes any part, gametes, seeds, eggs, or propagules of such species that might survive and subsequently reproduce;
"invasive alien species" means an alien species whose introduction and/or spread threaten biological diversity (For the purposes of the present guiding principles, the term "invasive alien species" shall be deemed the same as "alien invasive species" in decision V/8 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.);
* One representative entered a formal objection during the process leading to the adoption of this decision and underlined that he did not believe that the Conference of the Parties could legitimately adopt a motion or a text with a formal objection in place. A few representatives expressed reservations regarding the procedure leading to the adoption of this decision (see UNEP/CBD/COP/6/20, paras. 294-324).

when alien species are correctly and promptly identified. Misidentifications can waste valuable resources when rapid decisions need to be taken.

17. Networking and sharing of experiences, information, and expertise can aid in lowering the costs associated with invasive alien species and can reduce the need for eradication programmes with early detection and prevention. When eradication is needed, taxonomists can offer expertise that is central to developing the most effective yet economic and environmentally benign eradication measures.

18. Increased capacity-building, especially for developing countries, is necessary to identify, record and monitor invasions; provide current and accessible lists of potential and established invasive alien species; identify potential threats to neighbouring countries; and access information on taxonomy, ecology, genetics and control methods. It is vital that adjacent countries, and all countries along a particular pathway for invasive alien species, can recognize such species and concur on their nomenclature. Baseline taxonomic information on native biota at the national level is also important to ensure that invasive alien species can be recognized and distinguished from naturally present species.[2]

19. To develop such needed capacity, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted the programme of work for GTI at its seventh meeting, in 2004. The planned activities for invasive alien species and for protected areas were added to the programme of work by the Conference of the Parties in 2006. The deliverables of the planned activities, such as biodiversity information and informatics tools, are rapidly accumulating. The application of these deliverables to the process of decision-making on the implementation of the Convention has been successfully carried out in some countries in the region.[3]

20. "Mainstreaming biodiversity" means the integration of conservation and the sustainable use of biodiversity in both cross-sectoral plans such as sustainable development, poverty reduction, climate change adaptation/mitigation, trade and international cooperation, and in sector-specific plans such as agriculture, fisheries, forestry, science, technology, education and others. It implies advances in development models, strategies and paradigms.

21. Mainstreaming biodiversity can be facilitated with the engagement of the science and education sectors in planning processes for national and regional policy development. The limited capacity in taxonomy to underpin the implementation of the Convention used to be described as the taxonomic impediment. However, the best practices for the GTI in parts of the world (e.g., Latin America, East and Southeast Asia) have clearly demonstrated that the application of knowledge, science and technologies relating to biodiversity has strongly supported national decision-making and the measures to address the issues posed by invasive alien species. Looking into the success of these cases, the revised draft capacity-building strategy for the GTI (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/12) proposed 10 actions for Parties. Furthermore, networking of national centres of excellence in biodiversity science is crucial to achieve national and regional targets. Taxonomic capacity-building is therefore an imperative ("the Taxonomic Imperative").

[2] For more information on the importance of taxonomy in the biodiversity context, see: http://www.cbd.int/gti/importance.shtml.

[3] One of the best practices in the African region to apply biodiversity science to address invasive alien species – a case for plant health. See http://www.icipe.org/plant-health.html: The work of ICIPE in plant health "contributes to improving sustainable food security and environmental health through developing IPM options for pre- and post-harvest pests, and for parasitic weeds (such as striga). All technology development involves farmer participation to ensure farmers' needs are met. The agenda of plant health research covers four domains: **Staple Food Crop Pests**, which is covered by the *Habitat Management (HM)* and the *Noctuid Stemborers Biodiversity* (in collaboration with the Institut de recherche pour le développement) programmes; **Horticultural Crop Pests**, which is dealt with by the *Fruit Fly, Leafminer, Thrips* and *Red Spider Mites* research programmes; **Locusts and Other Pests,** which deals with African and Malagasy migratory locusts and the armyworm; and the **IPM in Legumes** research."

22. The provisional agenda of this workshop can be found in document UNEP/CBD/WS-CB-IAS-ESEA/1/1 and the proposed schedule is annexed to the present document. Annotations to the agenda items are presented below.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE WORKSHOP

23. The workshop will begin on Monday, 30 July, at 9 a.m.; registration will take place at 8.30 a.m. the same day. The venue of the workshop is the Imperial Queen's Park Hotel in Bangkok: 199 Sukhumvit Soi 22, Bangkok 10110.

24. The workshop will be opened at 9 a.m. by Ms. Chaweewan Hutacharern, Executive Advisor of ONEP and Chairperson of the National Alien Species Working Group. Ms. Junko Shimura of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and Ms. Clarissa Arida of ACB will then provide their opening remarks.

ITEM 2. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

25. Mr. Filiberto Pollisco, Jr., of the ACB will facilitate the workshop. He will provide an overview of the workshop and the proposed agenda, which is found in annex I to this document. The facilitator will then briefly suggest the organization of work. The workshop will be held in English.

26. Participants will be invited to approve the suggested organization of work.

27. Each participant will introduce him/herself, describe their relevant expertise, and express his/her expected outcome of this workshop within 2-3 minutes.

28. The emphasis of the workshop will be on exchange and active learning among the experts, the focal points to the GTI, staff of the ACB, national plant protection organizations, as well as resource persons. With this in mind, the workshop format features a mix of presentations with question and answer sessions and plenary discussions. In addition, there will be opportunities for one-on-one discussions between participants, resource persons and staff members of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and ACB.

ITEM 3. SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS

3.1. The GTI and invasive alien species programme of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets

29. Ms. Junko Shimura of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity will provide a presentation on the Convention's programmes on GTI and IAS, including on the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

30. Participants from National Plant Protection Organizations / Customs Offices will be invited to share experiences on challenges to address invasive alien species and identify taxonomic needs, if any, to prevent entry of potentially invasive species.

31. The GTI national focal points will be invited to provide suggestions to address the identified taxonomic needs.

32. The Secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity and ACB will take note on challenges and opportunities in mainstreaming biodiversity in the region.

3.2. Progress and monitoring on integration of GTI into updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs)

33. The GTI national focal points will be invited to present their progress on integration of the GTI in updating NBSAPs and existing taxonomic capacity to address invasive alien species. Presentations will be of a duration of 5 minutes per country.

34. Participants from National Plant Protection Organizations / Customs Offices will be invited to report briefly on their involvement in the process of review and updating of NBSAPs.

35. Participants will be encouraged to freely discuss matters related to invasive alien species and their identification during the lunch break.

3.3. Taxonomy (recognition and identification) of terrestrial IAS

36. Mr. Edwino S. Fernando of the College of Forestry and Natural Resources, University of the Philippines-Los Banos, will make a presentation entitled "Taxonomy and Tools of Species Identification of IAS and its impact to natural ecosystems". This will be followed by a presentation by Mr. Koichi Goka from the Research Center for Environmental Risk at the National Institute for Environmental Studies, Japan, on eDNA, bar coding and other identification methods applicable for early detection of biological invasion.

37. All participants will be invited to ask questions on technical and technological matters related to the presentations. Then, participants will further be invited to identify challenges and opportunities of identification of terrestrial invasive alien species. The discussion will be expected to feed into the process of proposal writing / national review process of NBSAP.

3.4. Achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 9

38. Participants are invited to present on current status of national invasive species strategy and action plans and other measures such as sanitary and phytosanitary agreements to prevent biological invasion (5 minutes per country). Mr. Filiberto Pollisco, Jr., of ACB will facilitate brainstorming on possible projects, ideas, priorities and the region's strengths.

39. The workshop adjourns for the day at 5.30 p.m. All participants will be invited to a welcome and cocktail reception at 6 p.m. at the Imperial Queen's Park Hotel.

3.5. Management of IAS

40. The second day of the workshop starts at 8.30 a.m. Mr. Filiberto Pollisco, Jr., will summarize the discussion made by the participants on the first day and identify strengths and challenges of the region.

41. The participants are encouraged to take note of the strengths and challenges of the region in order to consider the elements of project proposal writing, which will be discussed in the following session. The project development will continue after a few presentations relevant to development of projects addressing invasive alien species.

42. Mr. Soetikno Sastroutomo of CABI-Southeast Asia will provide presentations entitled "Concepts, Processes and Control and Management of Invasive Alien Species" and "Risk Assessment of Invasive Alien Species in Protected Areas". These will be followed by a presentation on "Promoting Public Awareness on Invasive Alien Species" by Mr. Rolando Inciong of ACB.

43. Participants will be invited to discuss measures to prevent introduction and minimize the risk of invasive alien species at national level taking into account existing taxonomic capacity. Participants will be encouraged to discuss regional collaboration if necessary to improve national capacities.

44. Mr. Rolando Inciong of ACB will present on "Promoting Public Awareness of Invasive Alien Species". This will be followed by a presentation by Ms. Clarissa Alida of ACB, "Proposal Development and Identifying Prioritized Project Areas and Donors".

45. Ms. Clarissa Alida will facilitate the discussion on proposal development and provide guidance on the discussion in the following session.

3.6. Proposal development

46. This activity is to prepare for the side-event on the regional capacity-building strategy, to be held during the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The break-out sessions will be led by ACB. The groups will be as follows:

- Group 1 – Countries with connected borders (CLMVT and others) (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Viet Nam, Thailand, Mongolia, Korea);
- Group 2 – Island countries and countries with islands (Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Singapore, Japan);
- Group 3 – other cross-cutting group (participants can choose to be in this group).

47. Each group will present their outputs and resource people will provide comments based on their expertise and experiences in prevent and control invasive alien species.

3.7. Field trip for hands-on field recognition, identification, collection and specimen management of IAS

48. Registration will begin at 6 a.m. and the bus will leave for Khao Yai National Park at 6.30 a.m.

49. Participants will arrive at Khao Yai National Park around 8.30 a.m.; the session starts at 9 a.m.

50. Mr. Theerapat Prayurasiddhi, Deputy Director General of DNP, will provide welcoming remarks and a presentation, "The Use of Taxonomic Knowledge for Invasive Alien Species Management in Protected Areas".

51. Mr. Krissada Somsud, Management Head of Khao Yai National Park will present "Case Studies Regarding Capacity Building on Taxonomy and Alien Species for Staff at Khao Yai National Park".

52. The participants will receive field training on identification of species which are native to Thailand and invasive species, as appropriate.

53. At 1 p.m., participants will depart for the National Science Museum. Mr. Tanya Chan-ard, Director Reference Collection Division, will facilitate the visit of the National Science Museum Reference Collection.

54. The participants will receive training on collection of specimens and taxonomic knowledge, to be applied for implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.

ITEM 4. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

55. The meeting is expected to close at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, 1 August 2012. The bus will depart to Bangkok as soon as the meeting closes.

56. At 7 p.m., the participants will be invited to farewell party under the hospitality of the Government of Thailand.

Annex

SCHEDULE OF THE WORKSHOP

Day 1: 30 July 2012	
8.30 a.m.-9 a.m.	Registration
9 a.m.-9.30 a.m.	Opening ceremony Opening remarks: • Dr. Chaweewan Hutacharern, Executive Advisor of ONEP and Chairperson of the National Alien Species Working Group • Dr. Junko Shimura, SCBD • Ms. Clarissa Arida, ACB
9.30 a.m.- 10 a.m.	Introduction of participants Dr. Filiberto Pollisco, Jr., ACB: Overview of the Training Workshop (Group photograph)
10 a.m.-10.15 a.m.	*Break*
10.15 a.m.-11 a.m.	Dr. Junko Shimura, SCBD: The CBD's programme on GTI and IAS (including Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and Aichi Targets)
11 a.m.-12 noon	Progress on integration of the GTI in updating NBSAPs (5 minutes per country: GTI national focal points)
12 noon-1 p.m.	*Lunch break*
1 p.m.-2 p.m	Dr. Edwino S. Fernando (UPLB CFNR, Philippines): Taxonomy and Tools of Species Identification of IAS and its impact to natural ecosystems
2 p.m.-2.30 p.m.	Dr. Koichi Goka (National Institute for Environmental Studies-Japan): eDNA, bar coding and other identification methods
2.30 p.m.-3 p.m.	Presentations by participants: existing taxonomic capacity to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 9 and other relevant targets
3 p.m.-3.30 p.m.	*Break*
3.30 p.m.-5.30 p.m.	Cont'n: Identifying existing taxonomic capacity to achieve target 9 and other relevant targets: Brainstorming on possible projects, ideas, priorities, region's strengths.
6 p.m.	*Cocktails / welcome*
Day 2: 31 July 2012	
8 a.m.-8.30 a.m.	Registration
8.30 a.m.-9.30 a.m.	Sharing ideas and results of brainstorming
9.30 a.m.-10.30 a.m.	Dr. Soetikno Sastroutomo, CABI-SEA: Concept, Processes, Control and Management of IAS
10.30 a.m.-10.45 a.m.	*Break*

10.45 a.m.-12 noon	Dr. Soetikno Sastroutomo, CABI-SEA: Risk Assessment of IAS in Protected Areas
12 noon-1 p.m.	*Lunch break*
1 p.m.-2 p.m.	Mr. Rolando Inciong, ACB: Promoting Public Awareness of IAS
2 p.m.-3 p.m.	Ms. Clarissa Arida, ACB: Proposal Development and Identifying Prioritized project areas and Donors
3 p.m.-3.15 p.m.	*Break*
3.15 p.m.-4.45 p.m.	Proposal development exercise: Group 1 –Countries with connected borders (CLMVT – Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Viet Nam, Thailand – and Korea, Mongolia) Group 2 – Island countries and countries with islands (Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Singapore, Japan) Group 3 – Cross-cutting group
4.45 p.m.-5.45 p.m.	Presentation of outputs and critiquing by resource persons (Group 1, Group 2, Group 3)
5.45 p.m.-6 p.m.	Awarding Certificates of Completion Messages: Dr. Junko Shimura, SCBD; Ms. Clarissa Arida, ACB
6 p.m.-6.30 p.m.	Briefing for field trip to Khao Yai National Park
Day 3: 1 August 2012	
6 a.m.	Registration
6.30 a.m.	Departure for Khao Yai National Park
9 a.m.-10 a.m.	Arrival and briefing at Khao Yai National Park
10 a.m.-11 a.m.	Dr. Theerapat Prayurasiddhi, Deputy Director General of DNP: The Use of Taxonomic Knowledge for Invasive Alien Species Management in Protected Areas
11-12 noon	Mr. Krissada Somsud, Management Head of Khao Yai National Park: Case Studies Regarding Capacity Building on Taxonomy and Alien Species for Staff at Khao Yai National Park
12 noon-1 p.m.	*Lunch break*
1 p.m.	Depart for National Science Museum
3.30 p.m.-5 p.m.	Mr. Tanya Chan-ard, Director Reference Collection Division: Visit to the National Science Museum Reference Collection
5 p.m.	Depart for Bangkok
7 p.m.-10 p.m.	Farewell party by host country
