



Convention on Biological Diversity

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CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOP FOR NORTH
AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST ON THE
ECONOMICS OF ECOSYSTEMS AND
BIODIVERSITY (TEEB)
Beirut, 21–23 February 2012

BACKGROUND AND PROGRAMME OF WORK

I. BACKGROUND OF THE WORKSHOP

1. In decision X/2, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary, in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and other relevant organizations, to support countries, through capacity-building workshops, in making use of the findings of the study on The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB)¹ and in integrating the values of biodiversity into relevant national and local policies, programmes and planning processes. In decision X/44, the Conference of the Parties also requested the Executive Secretary to organize regional workshops in order to promote the exchange among practitioners on practical experiences on incentive measures.

2. The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) initiative was launched in 2007 by the G8+5 ministers of environment under the Potsdam Initiative and released its final reports at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, in Nagoya in October 2010. The TEEB studies drew attention to the global economic benefits of biodiversity and ecosystem services, highlighting the growing costs of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation by drawing together expertise from the fields of natural sciences, economics and policy in order to enable practical actions moving forward.

3. The future well-being of society depends on the effective conservation and sustainable use of its natural infrastructure. TEEB has focused on mainstreaming ecosystems and biodiversity into public policies and private decision-making, making “natural capital” an integral part of those strategic assets that citizens, companies, public administrations and whole nations rely on. Effectively mainstreaming nature needs therefore to include all relevant economic sectors, such as, planning, finance, development, energy, agriculture, fishing, health, transportation, education, tourism, infrastructure and mining. It is critical to reach out to and engage all relevant stakeholders, beyond the environment sector and environment ministries.

4. Many countries, including those in North Africa and the Middle East, use national biodiversity strategy and action plans (NBSAPs) as a central framework for coordinating the policy responses to biodiversity loss across sectors and policy areas. However, a gap analysis by the Institute for Advanced Studies of the United Nations University in 2010 revealed that many existing NBSAPs do not adequately

¹ <http://www.teebweb.org/>.

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address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss. In particular, they fail in the challenge of mainstreaming ecosystems and biodiversity into economic planning and sectors. Responding to this gap, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its tenth meeting in October, 2010, seeks to mainstream, as one of its five strategic goals, biodiversity across government and society, and the Conference of the Parties urged Parties and other Governments to review, update and revise, as appropriate, their national biodiversity strategies and action plans in line with this new Strategic Plan.

5. The present workshop for North Africa and the Middle East seeks to support countries in the region to make use of the approaches, methodologies and tools suggested by the TEEB study, thereby advancing the mainstreaming goal of the Strategic Plan. It is organized by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) through its Regional Office for West Asia (ROWA), and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA), in close coordination with the UNEP TEEB Office, the League of Arab States, and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), and in cooperation with the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ). Financial support is provided by the Governments of Germany, Japan, Norway and Sweden, as well as the European Union. The workshop will be hosted by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA) at its premises in Beirut.

6. The workshop seeks to contribute to achieving the following objectives:

(a) To provide decision-makers in the region with economic arguments for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, as well as with information on state-of-the-art tools that enhance the quality of decision-making processes regarding conservation and sustainable use;

(b) To promote synergies and enhanced cooperation among relevant policy areas and sectors by mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services;

(c) To support the revision and review or update of national biodiversity strategy and action plans in light of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, in particular with regard to Aichi Biodiversity Targets 2 and 3, as well as other relevant targets, including through the development of national targets as foreseen by decision X/2.

7. These objectives are in line with the needs for support previously identified in the region. The Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for Environment (CAMRE), under the League of Arab States (LAS), recognized, at its twenty-second session in December 2010, the need for valuation studies on the economic benefits of biodiversity and their links to decision-making processes, and requested funding from international organizations to hold a training workshop for this purpose. The workshop is also in line with the UNEP ecosystem management subprogramme of its programme of work for the period 2010-2011, which seeks to enhance the capacity of countries to realign their environmental programmes and financing to address degradation of selected priority ecosystem services, and to integrate ecosystems into financial sectors operations.

8. Expected outcomes of the workshop include:

(a) Enhanced understanding of participants of the economic approach to ecosystems and biodiversity, including: (i) the concept of ecosystem services; (ii) the role of valuation and incentive measures as tools for mainstreaming ecosystem services and biodiversity in policy planning and decision-making; (iii) the inner workings, underlying assumptions, and limitations of these tools;

(b) Enhanced capacity of participants to apply this approach and the associated tools within a policy-making context, to assess the situation in their home countries regarding: (i) the identification and appraisal of biodiversity values; (ii) the integration of these biodiversity values in policy planning and decision-making;

(c) Enhanced capacity of participants to develop national targets for translating Aichi Biodiversity Targets 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 into revised and updated NBSAPs, including the identification of possible indicators, milestones, and concrete activities.

9. The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 provides a common approach relevant to all of the biodiversity-related conventions as well as major conservation organizations. The workshop will thus be an opportunity to promote synergies and reflect commonalities in the application of the TEEB approaches and associated tools. The workshop will especially highlight opportunities for synergies between the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).
10. Participants in the workshop comprise two officials from each of the countries in the region responsible, respectively, for the implementation of the Convention, and for planning, financing and/or development. The following countries were invited to nominate officials: Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen. In addition, GIZ will support the participation of officials from forestry authorities from Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco, the Syrian Arab Republic and Tunisia.
11. A number of regional and subregional organizations and United Nations organizations based in the region will also send their representatives to this workshop.
12. The Secretariat issued a note for participants containing details of logistical arrangements, including information on travel, visa requirements, accommodation and other matters for the workshop. The note is available at <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=WSCBTEEB-MENA-01>. The language of the workshop will be Arabic and English, with interpretation being provided in both languages.
13. In preparing for the workshop, participants are encouraged to review their country's fourth national report and national biodiversity strategy and action plan, and identify any item therein pertinent to the valuation of biodiversity and ecosystem services, and to the design and implementation of incentive measures. They may also identify, and bring with them, any relevant tools or guidelines, or studies, reviews or progress reports generated at the national level on these topics. Sharing national information, in particular practical experiences and good practices will be an important contribution towards the success of the workshop. Participants are also encouraged to familiarize themselves with their country's national development strategies, poverty reduction plans, or equivalent instruments, as well as any sectoral development plans with prospective impacts on ecosystems and biodiversity.
14. The agenda of the workshop is available as document UNEP/CBD/WS-CB-TEEB-MENA/1/1. The emphasis of the workshop will be on exchange and active learning. With this in mind, the workshop format features a mix of presentations with question and answer sessions, discussions in small working groups, and interactive sessions to introduce relevant tools and training modules. A detailed programme of the workshop is provided below.
15. The registration of participants will commence at the meeting venue at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, 21 February 2012.

II. DETAILED PROGRAMME

Time	Session	Agenda item number
DAY 1 – Tuesday , 21 February		
8 a.m.	Registration	
8:30 a.m.	Welcome, overview of workshop objectives and process	1
9 a.m.	Icebreaker session, expectations and self-introductions by participants	1
9:30 a.m.	TEA/COFFEE BREAK	
9:45 a.m.	Introduction: The TEEB approach to the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services Genesis and making of the TEEB studies, methodology, and main results Presentation, questions and answers, general discussion	1
10:30 a.m.	Valuing ecosystem services and biodiversity: valuation methods Methodologies, central assumptions, strengths and limitations, using valuation in decision support tools Presentation and questions and answers	2 (a)
11:30 a.m.	Valuing ecosystem services and biodiversity: examples from the region Kickoff presentation Valuation studies of forest ecosystems services in Tunisia: methodologies and first results Economic valuation of wetlands in Arab Region	2 (b)
12:30 p.m.	LUNCH	
2 p.m.	Valuing ecosystem services and biodiversity: TEEB's stepwise approach to appraising nature's benefits Presentation (based on TEEB D2 quick guide) Q&A	2 (c)
3 p.m.	Group exercise: applying the TEEB stepwise approach (by countries or table)	2 (c)
4 p.m.	EVENING BREAK	

Time	Session	Agenda item number
DAY 2 – Wednesday, 22 February		
8:30 a.m.	Reporting back from group exercise	
9 a.m.	Environmental accounting as a mainstreaming tool Presentation, question and answers	2 (d)
10 a.m.	TEA/ COFFEE BREAK	
10:15 a.m.	Redirecting incentives I: addressing harmful incentives Presentation: global experiences and TEEB results Questions and answers	3 (a)
11 a.m.	Presentation: The reform of harmful incentives: insight from practice	3 (a)
11:45 a.m.	Group exercise	3 (a)
12:30 p.m.	LUNCH	
2 p.m.	Redirecting incentives II: promoting positive incentives Presentation: global experiences and insights from TEEB; including linkages to innovative finance Questions and answers	3 (b)
3 p.m.	Redirecting incentives III: experiences from the region Morocco's compensation mechanism for forest ecosystem services ABS as an incentive for conservation and sustainable use: the case of Morocco Eco-tourism in Lebanon	3 (c)
4 p.m.	EVENING BREAK	
DAY 3 – Thursday, 23 February		
8:30 a.m.	Catch of the day: review of the previous day's main points	
8:45 a.m.	Towards implementation I : The broader picture TEEB and the green economy TEEB on the Road to Rio+20 Presentations and general discussion	4 (a)

Time	Session	Agenda item number
9:45 a.m.	TEA/ COFFEE BREAK	
10 a.m.	Towards implementation II: Working together in implementing multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) Kickoff presentations on experiences in the region Ecosystem vulnerability analyses and adaptation to climate change Incentives in achieving sustainable land management	4 (b)
Noon	Towards implementation III: TEEB phase 3 Presentation: general overview Roundtable or presentations: state of affairs and planned next steps in countries of the region	4 (c)
12:30 p.m.	LUNCH	
2 p.m.	Towards implementation IV: TEEB, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and the NBSAP revision process Presentation, questions and answers Group exercise	4 (c)
3:30 p.m.	Evaluation and closure	5
4 p.m.	EVENING BREAK	
