



Convention on Biological Diversity

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REGIONAL CAPACITY-DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP
FOR CENTRAL ASIA ON NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY
STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS AND
BIODIVERSITY MAINSTREAMING

Ramsar, Islamic Republic of Iran, 9-13 March 2009

REVISED ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

INTRODUCTION

1. In paragraph 6 of its decision VIII/8 and paragraph 17 of decision IX/8, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity recommended that regional and/or subregional workshops be convened to discuss national experiences in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs), and the integration of biodiversity concerns into relevant sectors, including consideration of obstacles and ways and means for overcoming the obstacles to the implementation of the Convention at the national level.
2. In response, the Executive Secretary is organizing a series of regional and subregional capacity-development workshops on these issues.
3. The workshop for Central Asia, organized by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, jointly with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iran and the Ramsar Regional Centre, will be held in Ramsar, Islamic Republic of Iran, from 9 to 13 March 2009.
4. The purpose of the workshop is to strengthen national capacities for the development, implementation, review and updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and for integration of biodiversity considerations into relevant national policies, strategies and planning processes, in line with decisions VIII/8 and IX/8 of the Conference of the Parties.
5. The results of the workshop will be communicated to the Convention's Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention (WGRI).
6. The following Parties members of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) are invited to participate in the workshop: Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.
7. Participants in the workshop will comprise officials from each of the countries in the region responsible for the development and/or implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, as nominated by the Convention national focal points, as well as resource persons selected for their expertise and experience in supporting the development and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, for integrating biodiversity into national development strategies and planning processes. As indicated in the notification for this Workshop, the nominated participants should be in a position to prepare and present a report on progress made in the development, implementation, reviewing and updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, as well as the integration of biodiversity concerns into relevant sectors (for example, by using the voluntary guidelines annexed to decision VIII/8). Moreover, following the workshop, the representative should be in a position to translate the capacity gained into concrete actions in support of national implementation.

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8. Participants are requested to bring two copies of their country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan, both in printed and electronic formats, to the Workshop. Secondly, participants are requested to provide the Secretariat (as electronic files, web addresses, or by mail to secretariat@cbd.int) with any useful documents prepared by their country in relation to the national biodiversity strategy and action plan and its implementation. This might include information on tools and guidelines for the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, reviews or progress reports generated at the national level on the national biodiversity strategy and action plan for purposes of monitoring and evaluation, communication strategies, and case-studies illustrating how biodiversity has been integrated into economic sectors and national strategies for sustainable development, poverty eradication and to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), as well as national programmes to combat desertification. The Secretariat will draw on these national examples and experiences throughout the workshop, and will also incorporate information provided into the Convention's clearing-house mechanism.

9. The Secretariat is preparing an information note for participants giving details of logistical arrangements, including information on travel, visa requirements, accommodation and other matters. The information note is available at <https://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=NBSAPCBW-CASI-01>. The workshop will be conducted in English only.

10. Registration of participants will take place on Monday, 9 March 2009, from 8.30 to 9 a.m.

11. Additional information about the Workshop will be posted at: <http://www.cbd.int/nbsap/workshops/central-asia.shtml>.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE WORKSHOP

12. The workshop will be opened at 9 a.m. on Monday, 9 March 2009. Representatives of the host Government and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity will address the participants.

ITEM 2. OVERVIEW OF THE OBJECTIVES AND PROGRAMME FOR THE WORKSHOP

13. The emphasis of the workshop will be on the exchange of national experiences 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, interactive sessions to introduce relevant tools, and a field study visit. The programme will be carried out in a flexible manner to best meet the needs of the participants and is therefore subject to change. To facilitate work in small groups, participants will be seated around small tables (each sitting 5 to 7 participants).

14. Under this agenda item, participants will be invited to introduce themselves and present their expectations for the workshop.

15. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity will present an overview of the objectives, the programme and the expected outcomes of the workshop, and provide background information on the implementation of the Convention, the 2010 biodiversity target and decisions of the Conference of the Parties concerning national biodiversity strategies and action plans and biodiversity mainstreaming.

16. Participants will be invited to consider the provisional agenda of the workshop, prepared by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/NBSAP/CBW-CA/1/1), as well as the proposed programme of work as contained in annex I below. A list of documents for the workshop is attached as annex II.

17. By the end of this session of the workshop, participants are expected:

(a) To have an understanding of the status of implementation of the Convention globally, of the challenges to achieve the 2010 biodiversity target, and of the need to mainstream biodiversity across sectors;

- (b) To be familiar with the updated guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties concerning the development, implementation and updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- (c) To have a common understanding of the purpose of the workshop.

ITEM 3. STATUS OF DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS AND BIODIVERSITY MAINSTREAMING IN THE REGION

18. Article 6 of the Convention on Biological Diversity requires each Party to develop or adapt national strategies, plans or programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and to integrate, as far as possible and as appropriate, the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies. In considering this item, participants will have before them a note by the Executive Secretary containing an overview of the status of national biodiversity strategies and action plans globally and in the region (UNEP/CBD/NBSAP/CBW-CA/1/2). The Conference of the Parties has recently adopted consolidated guidance for the development, updating and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans (decision IX/8; see document UNEP/CBD/NBSAP/CBW-CA/1/3). In addition, many Parties have developed useful tools and methodologies for developing and implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

19. Under this agenda item, participants from each Party represented will present a brief overview of the main features of the national biodiversity strategy and action plan in their country, its implementation, and biodiversity mainstreaming. 1/ Each presentation should be brief (no more than 10 minutes in length) and focused on the following issues:

- (a) The main features of the national biodiversity strategy and action plan (or equivalent policy document), highlighting elements that make it strategic. *There is no need to provide general background information about the country and its biodiversity;*

- (b) The main improvements and changes made if the national biodiversity strategy and action plan has been revised or updated;

- (c) The status of implementation of the national biodiversity strategy and action plan. Participants are asked to review progress made in implementation, based on the framework provided by their own national biodiversity strategy and action plan. Progress should be considered in terms of concrete outcomes. Obstacles may also be identified. Given the short time available for the presentation, participants may wish to choose some examples to illustrate implementation. These might include case-studies of activities that contribute to the achievement of the 2010 biodiversity target; 2/

- (d) How biodiversity considerations have been taken into account within other national policies, programmes and planning processes, including:

- (i) Other economic sectors such as agriculture, forestry, fisheries, tourism, mining and oil exploration, trade and industry;

1/ Participants are encouraged to use the guidance from the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity available at <https://www.cbd.int/nbsap/guidance.shtml>, particularly the "Proposed voluntary guidelines to Parties for review of national biodiversity strategies and action plans", annexed to decision VIII/8 at <http://www.cbd.int/convention/decisions.shtml?m=COP-08&id=11020&lg=0>, as tools in preparing for the Workshop.

2/ Such cases of progress towards the achievement of the 2010 biodiversity target should demonstrate significant reductions in the loss of biodiversity (or a specific component) within a defined scale. The case-study will be most useful if it contains lessons that are more widely applicable. The following information should be provided: (i) full description of the reduction in biodiversity loss; (ii) measures taken to achieve the change; (iii) relevant external factors that may have influenced the rate of biodiversity loss or likely to do so in the future; (iv) measures in place or planned to ensure that the reduction is sustained; and (v) conclusions and lessons learned. Besides being included in the presentations, such case-studies might be prepared as part of NBSAP posters, or separately, or incorporated into the fourth national reports.

- (ii) National strategies for sustainable development, Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, strategies to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and national programmes to combat desertification;
- (iii) Planning process at national, provincial and local levels.

The presentation should highlight the role of the national biodiversity strategy and action plan in such biodiversity mainstreaming, as well as the use of other tools, such as strategic environmental assessment, integrated planning processes, etc.

(e) The use of communication, education and public awareness activities in the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the further needs and challenges in this regard.

20. Participants will then discuss the national experiences presented, and, working in plenary and in small groups, will exchange lessons learned in the development and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and biodiversity mainstreaming, focusing on:

- (a) Case-studies of good practice, including examples of progress towards the 2010 Biodiversity Target;
- (b) Elements of national biodiversity strategies and action plans that makes them strategically successful (referring to the *strategy*);
- (c) Examples of where the national biodiversity strategy and action plan has made a difference (referring to the implementation of the *action plan*);
- (d) Tools and methodologies for national biodiversity strategies and action plans developed by the various countries;
- (e) Obstacles encountered in the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and means to address them;
- (f) Reviews undertaken of the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and assessment of the effectiveness of the strategy.

21. By the end of this session of the Workshop, participants are expected:

- (a) To have evaluated the progress made in their countries and in the region;
- (b) To have identified cases of good practice, tools and guidance;
- (c) To have identified some mechanisms to overcome or mitigate obstacles; and
- (d) To be inspired and enabled to apply lessons learned from experiences in the region.

ITEM 4. ENHANCING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS AND INTEGRATING BIODIVERSITY INTO SECTORAL AND CROSS-SECTORAL PLANS, PROGRAMMES, POLICIES AND LOCAL PLANNING PROCESSES

22. The importance of integrating biodiversity considerations into relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral strategies, plans and programmes is underlined in Article 6(b) of the Convention and has been stressed in many decisions of the Conference of the Parties. For example, at its eighth meeting, the Conference of the Parties, in considering the implications of the findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, urged Parties and other Governments to promote dialogue among different sectors, to mainstream biodiversity, at the regional and national levels including, when appropriate, through the processes of the Convention, to address linkages between the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and, among others, international trade, finance, agriculture, forestry, tourism, mining, energy and fisheries.

23. Under this item, workshop participants, building upon the experience presented under agenda item 3, will further explore the opportunities and challenges of mainstreaming, and the role of communication, through a group exercise.

24. Participants will also hear a number of presentations on mainstreaming biodiversity into relevant sectoral strategies, plans and programmes, and on the use of some tools and methodologies for this purpose. These will include:

- (a) Examples of the integration of biodiversity into various sectors such as agriculture and wetland management and water management;
- (b) The role of relevant regional and international programmes;
- (c) The use of the ecosystem approach and examples of strategic environment assessment and integrated ecosystem assessment;
- (d) Tools to address threats from land degradation and desertification.

25. A field-study visit will be arranged by the host institutions and local partners during the third day of the workshop to illustrate some of the challenges and opportunities for mainstreaming biodiversity.

26. Through this session, it is expected that participants will:

- (a) Have identified some cases of the integration of biodiversity into broader national policies and planning processes, for example, wetland management, tourism and land planning;
- (b) Have an improved understanding of the Ecosystem Approach and tools for its application, including strategic environment assessment and the framework of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment linking biodiversity, ecosystem services and human well-being;
- (c) Be familiar with some tools and methodologies that can be employed in order to better integrate biodiversity into broader national policies, programmes and planning processes and to use national biodiversity strategies and action plans as strategic tools for this purpose (including strategic environmental assessment);
- (d) Be familiar with some tools and methodologies that can be employed to address threats from land degradation and desertification;
- (e) Aware of some approaches and methodologies for the strategic communication of national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

ITEM 5. PREPARATION OF THE FOURTH NATIONAL REPORTS

27. All Parties to the Convention are required to prepare their fourth national report by 30 March 2009. The information in fourth national reports will provide critical information for assessing progress towards the 2010 biodiversity target and provide important inputs to the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook.

28. Under this agenda item, the Secretariat will introduce the guidelines for the fourth national report, which focuses on implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and progress towards the 2010 biodiversity target. The Secretariat will also introduce a reference manual developed to assist with the preparation of the fourth national report. Support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for the fourth national reports will be outlined. Countries that have begun the process of developing their fourth national reports will be invited to share their progress with other countries.

29. Participants will also hear presentations on the role of the clearing-house mechanism in supporting the exchange of information within and between countries.

30. Finally, the posters linking the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans to the 2010 biodiversity target will be presented. ^{3/}

31. Through this session, participants are expected to:

(a) Understand the needs for the fourth national report, as agreed by the Conference of the Parties, and the assistance available to countries to facilitate preparation of the report;

(b) Understand the relationship between the preparation of the fourth national reports and the revision and updating of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans and how these processes can be linked efficiently and effectively;

(c) Understand the role of the clearing-house mechanism under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

ITEM 6. THE WAY FORWARD TO 2010: UPCOMING EVENTS RELATED TO THE CONVENTION

32. The next two years – 2009 and 2010 – will be particularly significant for the Convention on Biological Diversity. At its tenth meeting, which will be held in 2010, the Conference of the Parties is expected to review progress towards the 2010 biodiversity target and agree on an updated and revised Strategic Plan with an updated post-2010 target. The Conference of the Parties has indicated that all Parties should have national biodiversity strategies and action plans in place by then, updated, if necessary. The year 2010 is also the International Year of Biodiversity, providing opportunities to promote public awareness about biodiversity and the Convention. As noted above, the deadline for the preparation of fourth national reports is 30 March 2009.

33. Under this agenda item, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity will present a brief overview of these upcoming events. Building upon work in earlier sessions, workshop participants will then examine ways forward and key next steps for implementing and updating national biodiversity strategies and action plans. A panel will be selected to lead discussions in plenary.

ITEM 7. CONSIDERATION OF THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE WORKSHOP

34. Under this item, participants will be invited to consider the conclusions of the workshop, which will be incorporated into the final report.

ITEM 8. CLOSURE OF THE WORKSHOP

35. Prior to the closure of the workshop, participants will be invited to discuss the results of the workshop in comparison to their expectations expressed at the beginning of the workshop. Participants will also be asked to anonymously complete an evaluation form. The feedback provided in these forms is used to improve the planning and organization of subsequent workshops.

36. Following brief closing statements by the organizing partners, the workshop is expected to end at approximately 1 p.m. on Friday, 13 March 2009.

^{3/} An online poster generation tool has been developed by the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) that enables users to easily create posters from their own computer. These posters will offer a further opportunity to share national experiences in implementing the Convention through national biodiversity strategies and action plans at the Workshop. The guidelines for developing posters using the online tool are available at <http://www.cbd.int/meetings/wgri-02/poster-guidelines.shtml>. (The tool itself is available at <http://nbsaps.onlinegeneration.com>). Posters presented at the second meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention (Paris, July 2007) and at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Bonn, May 2008) can be viewed at <http://www.cbd.int/meetings/wgri-02/poster-session.shtml>.

*Annex I***PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE WORKSHOP****MONDAY, 9 MARCH 2009**

9 - 9.30 a.m.	<p><i>Item 1. Opening of the workshop</i></p> <p>Opening statements by the organizers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran • Representative of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
9.30 -10 a.m.	<p><i>Item 2. Overview of the objectives and programme for the workshop</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction (David Cooper, SCBD and Asghar Fazel, UNEP-WCMC) <p>General discussion</p>
10 - 10.30 a.m.	<i>Coffee break and group photo</i>
10.30 a.m.- 12.30 p.m.	<p><i>Item 3. Status of development and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and of biodiversity mainstreaming in the region</i></p> <p>Country presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pakistan (Mr. Naeem Ashraf Raja) • Iran (Ms. Mahboobeh Tohidi) • Azerbaijan (Mr. Ceyhun Pashayev Yaqub) • Turkey (Mr. Adem Bilgin) <p>Discussion and group exercises: identification of good practices and obstacles to implementation</p>
12.30- 2 p.m.	<i>Lunch break</i>
2-3.30 p.m.	<p>Country presentations (continued):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kazakhstan (Ms. Gulzhazira Rysbaeva) • Turkmenistan (Dr. Shirin Karryeva) • Uzbekistan (Mr. Nodirjon Yunusov) <p>Discussion and group exercises: identification of good practices and obstacles to implementation</p>
3.30 – 4 p.m.	<i>Tea break</i>
4– 5.30 p.m.	<p>Country presentations (<i>continued</i>):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kyrgyzstan (Mr. Yrysbekov Almaz) • Tajikistan (Mr. Khisrav Shermatov) • Afghanistan (Mr. Rohullah Yaqini) <p>Discussion and group exercises: identification of good practices and obstacles to implementation</p> <p>General discussion and summary by the facilitators</p>
7:30-8:30 p.m	<i>Reception (to be confirmed)</i>

TUESDAY, 10 MARCH 2009

8.30– 9 a.m.	Review of the Monday session
9–11 a.m.	<p><i>Item 4. Enhancing the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and integrating biodiversity into sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes, policies and local planning processes</i></p> <p>Mechanisms for capacity development and exchange of experience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lessons learned from national capacity self-assessments • The role of the clearing-house mechanism <p>General discussion and group exercises</p>
11–11.30 a.m.	<i>Coffee break</i>
11.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.	<p>The challenge of mainstreaming</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductory presentations • Integration of biodiversity into national poverty reduction papers and national programmes to combat desertification • Addressing threats to biodiversity from land degradation and desertification <p>General discussion and group exercises</p>
12.30- 2.30	<i>Lunch break</i>
2.30– 4 p.m.	<p>Tools for enhancing implementation and mainstreaming</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ecosystem approach (Mr. David Cooper, SCBD) • Strategic environmental assessment (Resource person) <p>Discussion and group exercises</p>
4–4.30 p.m.	<i>Tea break</i>
4.30–5 p.m.	<p>Strategic communication for national biodiversity strategies and action plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductory presentation (Resource person) <p>Discussion and group exercises</p>
5 –5.30 p.m.	Preparation for the field study visit

WEDNESDAY, 11 MARCH 2009

<i>All day</i>	Field study visit
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THURSDAY, 12 MARCH 2009

9 – 9.30 a.m.	Review of the Tuesday and Wednesday sessions
9.30–11 a.m.	<p><i>Item 5. Preparation of the fourth national reports</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductory presentation (Mr. David Cooper, SCBD) • Preparation of the fourth national reports (country examples) • Preparation of NBSAP posters (Mr. David Cooper, SCBD) <p>Discussion</p>
11–11.30 a.m.	<i>Coffee break</i>

11.30 a.m.- 12.30 p.m	<p>Item 6. The way forward to 2010: upcoming events related to the Convention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The road to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the International Year of Biodiversity (Mr. David Cooper, SCBD and Asghar Fazel, UNEP-WCMC) <p>Panel discussion and consideration of open questions concerning the implementation and updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans</p>
12.30-1.30 p.m.	<p><i>Lunch</i></p>
1.30-2.30 p.m.	<p>Item 7. Consideration of the conclusions of the workshop</p> <p>Evaluation of the workshop</p> <p>Item 8. Closing of the workshop</p>
2.30 p.m.	<p><i>Departures</i></p>

*Annex II***LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

Document Number	Document Title
UNEP/CBD/NBSAP/CBW-CA/1/1	Provisional agenda
UNEP/CBD/NBSAP/CBW-CA/1/Add.1	Annotations to the provisional agenda
UNEP/CBD/NBSAP/CBW-CA/1/2	Status and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans
UNEP/CBD/NBSAP/CBW-CA/1/3	Updating national biodiversity strategies and action plans, mainstreaming biodiversity, communication and reporting
Information and background documents (Previously available)	
Decision IX/8	Review of implementation of goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan

Background materials:

Global Biodiversity Outlook-2

Ecosystem Assessment, a guide for decision makers

Mainstreaming biodiversity workshops on national biodiversity strategies and action plans

<https://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-brochure-nbsap-ws-en.pdf>

Resource materials for the preparation of the fourth national reports:

Guidelines for the fourth national reports <https://www.cbd.int/reports/guidelines/>

Reference manual for preparing the fourth national reports

<https://www.cbd.int/nr4/guidelines/manual.shtml>

Guide to assist countries in undertaking assessment of progress towards the 2010 Biodiversity Target (UNDP/UNU/CBD/UNEP/Countdown 2010) <https://www.cbd.int/nr4/guidelines/2010-guide.shtml>

Sample chapters of the fourth national report prepared by South Africa, Sri Lanka, Australia, Rwanda, Finland, the Czech Republic, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Thailand and Costa Rica <https://www.cbd.int/nr4/guidelines/sample/>

CBD training module A-3: An Introduction to National Reporting

<https://www.cbd.int/nr4/guidelines/training.shtml>

Report of the Regional Workshop for South, South-East and East Asia on the Fourth National Report

CEPA background materials

The Agenda for Action - Short list of Priority Activities for the Programme of Work for CEPA (available at: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop/cop-09/information/cop-09-inf-03-en.doc>)

Draft report of the workshop on Biodiversity and Education (available at:

<http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop/cop-09/information/cop-09-inf-23-en.doc>)

International Year of Biodiversity - Action Plan

CEPA Toolkit (available at: <http://www.cbd.int/cepa/toolkit/2008/cepa/index.htm>)
