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WORKSHOP FOR ASIA AND HORN OF AFRICA ON THE PREPARATION OF THE FOURTH NATIONAL REPORT UNDER THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Manama, Bahrain, 12-15 April 2010

Item 1 of the provisional agenda*

ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

INTRODUCTION

1. In paragraph 6 of decision VIII/14, the Conference of the Parties recommended that regional and/or sub-regional workshops be convened to facilitate the preparation of national reports. In paragraph 18 (d) of the same decision, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to enhance the facilitation of support to Parties and to promote capacity-building for the preparation of national reports, in cooperation with relevant international organizations.
2. In response, with the support from the Government of Japan and the Regional Office for West Asia of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP ROWA), the Executive Secretary is organizing a Workshop for Asia and Horn of Africa on the Preparation of the Fourth National Report under the Convention on Biological Diversity. The workshop will take place in Manama, Bahrain, from 12 to 15 April 2010.
3. The purpose of the workshop is to facilitate the finalization and submission of the fourth national reports by reviewing draft chapters or reports prepared by some countries primarily from the Gulf region, Central Asia and North Africa. The workshop also aims to strengthen national capacities for monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the Convention, through promoting exchange of national experiences in preparing national reports and introducing relevant tools and best practices.
4. Participants in the workshop will comprise officials or experts from the countries mentioned above responsible for the preparation of the fourth national report, as nominated by their national focal point for the Convention, as well as resource persons selected for their expertise and experience in supporting the preparation of national reports as well as monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the Convention, including development and use of indicators for monitoring and reporting. As indicated in the notification for this workshop as sent by the Executive Secretary, 1/ the nominated participants “should be in a position to revise/finalize the fourth national report within four weeks after the workshop”. Accordingly, nominated participants are requested to undertake some preparatory and follow-up activities as set out in annex III below.
5. The Secretariat has issued an information note for participants containing details of logistical arrangements including information on travel, visa requirements, accommodation and other matters for

* UNEP/CBD/4NRCBW-AHA/1/1.

1/ <https://www.cbd.int/reports/notifications/>.

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the Workshop. ^{2/} The primary language of the workshop will be English. Resource persons who can speak Arabic will be invited to help Arabic-speaking countries participating in this workshop.

6. Registration of participants will be done on arrival of each participant at the venue of the Workshop.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING AND ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

7. A representative of the host Government will open the meeting at 9 a.m. on Monday, 12 April 2010. A representative of the Secretariat and UNEP Regional Office for West Asia will also welcome the participants.

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

8. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity will give an overview of the objectives, the programme and the expected outcomes of the workshop. Participants will be invited to briefly express their expectations from this workshop.

9. The provisional agenda of the workshop prepared by the Executive Secretary is available as document UNEP/CBD/4NRCBW-AHA/1/1. The proposed organization of work is provided in annex I below. A list of documents for the workshop can be found in annex II below.

10. The emphasis of the workshop will be on exchange, active learning and actual work to improve draft reports or chapters. 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 among resource persons and country representatives to improve draft chapters and reports. Participants will have the opportunities to work further on draft chapters or reports for improvement and the Secretariat and resource persons will be at hand to provide support in this regard. This is arranged to help the countries concerned finalize their fourth national reports for timely submission.

ITEM 3. THE PROCESS OF AND TOOLS AVAILABLE FOR PREPARING THE FOURTH NATIONAL REPORTS

11. In the guidelines for the fourth national report, ^{3/} it is recommended that Parties should involve various stakeholders in the preparation of the fourth national report to mobilize public awareness of and participation in the implementation of the Convention. Also to this end, the guidelines also recommend that countries launch their fourth national reports on some important dates such as the International Day for Biological Diversity. This is particularly important in the International Year of Biodiversity in 2010. These recommendations have in fact been emphasized in a number of related decisions of the Conference of the Parties (for example, decisions V/19 and VII/25).

12. Before selected countries introduce their national processes of preparing the fourth national report, the Secretariat of the Convention or resource persons will introduce the guidelines, tools and proposed steps for preparing the fourth national report.

13. Following that, participants will be invited to report very briefly on the status of the preparation of the fourth national report by marking one of the milestones contained in annex IV below. Two countries will be invited to provide a more detailed introduction of the process of preparing the fourth national report, focusing on stakeholders involved, mechanisms established, plans or milestones developed.

^{2/} See <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=4NRCBW-AHA>
^{3/} See <http://www.cbd.int/reports/guidelines-nr-04.shtml>

ITEM 4. PREPARATION OF THE CHAPTERS OF THE REPORT

(a) Assessing the status and trends of, and threats to, biodiversity (Chapter I of the fourth national report and use of indicators)

14. At the very beginning, the Secretariat and resource persons will present suggestions on the preparation of chapter I.

15. Following a question-and-answer session, one or two countries will introduce their draft of chapter I of their fourth national report, highlighting the approaches employed, key findings, challenges encountered as well as gaps or potential areas for improvement.

16. Participants will then be invited to provide suggestions or comments on the draft chapters presented, in particular on how the gaps could be filled. Following the discussion, participants, with the support of resource persons, will undertake a group exercise on threat analysis, using the framework of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. The result of this exercise can be used directly in chapter I of the report.

(b) Implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans (Chapter II of the fourth national report)

17. The Secretariat and resource persons will present suggestions on the preparation of chapter II. The Secretariat may also present guidance from the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting concerning the development, implementation and updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans as well as proposed plans to update them in response to the outcomes of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

18. Following the question-and-answer session, two countries will be invited to introduce their national reviews of implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans as well as their draft chapter II. Presenters are invited to share the approaches employed for such reviews and key findings from such reviews, including successful stories and challenges.

19. Participants will then be invited to provide suggestions or comments on the draft chapters presented and do an exercise in small groups to highlight by using a table key objectives of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans, key actions taken to implement them, key outcomes as well as indicators to measure them if any.

(c) Mainstreaming of biodiversity (Chapter III of the fourth national report)

20. Under this item, the Secretariat and resource persons will present suggestions on the preparation of chapter III. One or two countries will present their draft chapters III. Following that, there will be a question-and-answer session and small group discussions on how to prepare chapter III.

(d) Assessing progress towards the 2010 biodiversity target and goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan as well as targets in Global Strategy for Plant Conservation and programme of work on protected areas (Chapter IV and appendix III of the fourth national report)

21. The Secretariat and resource persons will introduce suggestions on the preparation of chapter IV and appendix III. Resource persons will introduce methods or approaches used by some countries for assessing progress towards the 2010 target and goals and targets included in the Strategic Plan, the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation and the programme of work on protected areas.

22. Under this item, two countries will be invited to introduce the assessments they have undertaken or are undertaking, as well as their draft of chapter IV of their fourth national report, highlighting the approaches or methods employed, key findings, challenges encountered and gaps as well as indicators used if any.

23. Participants will then be invited to work in small groups to identify cases and signs of progress towards the 2010 target using the framework provided in annex to decision VIII/15.

24. Under this item, one or two countries will be also invited to present their draft appendix III on the implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation and the programme of work on protected areas.

ITEM 5. PREPARATION OF THE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

25. Under this item, the Secretariat and resource persons will make an introduction on how to write an executive summary of the report. Following that, participants will work in small groups to discuss about how to write and improve an executive summary. Then country representatives will be given opportunities to work further on the executive summaries they had prepared or write an executive summary if they have not prepared one, with the support from the Secretariat and resource persons.

26. After having gone through all chapters and appendix III, countries will be given time to work in small groups and individually to improve their draft reports or chapters with the support of the Secretariat and resource persons.

ITEM 6. NEXT STEPS: FINALIZATION OF THE FOURTH NATIONAL REPORT, AND KEY EVENTS IN 2010, INCLUDING USING THE FOURTH NATIONAL REPORT AS A COMMUNICATION TOOL FOR THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF BIODIVERSITY IN 2010

27. All participating countries will be invited to present briefly their plans to prepare and finalize their fourth national reports, focusing on specific work that leads to finalization of the reports and the possible dates that the reports can be finalized and submitted to the Secretariat. Participants could also highlight the key difficulties that may delay the finalization and submission of the fourth national report, and identify key needs for support.

28. The Secretariat will introduce the key events in 2010, including updates on revising the Strategic Plan of the Convention for the post-2010 period and preparations for upcoming important meetings in 2010, such as the third meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation and the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Secretariat will briefly introduce the strategy for celebrating the International Year of Biodiversity in 2010, including suggestions on how to use the fourth national report as a communication tool. Participants are encouraged to share their thoughts or plans for the International Year of Biodiversity and further use of the fourth national report for communication, education and public awareness.

ITEM 7. CLOSURE OF THE WORKSHOP

27. The Workshop is expected to close at 12.30 p.m. on Thursday, 15 April 2010. Before that participants may look at draft recommendations from the workshop if any. A short field trip may be arranged after the workshop is closed.

7 p.m. – 9 p.m.		<i>Reception hosted by SCBD/UNEP ROWA/Bahrain CBD NFP (tentative)</i>
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TUESDAY, 13 APRIL 2010

9 a.m. - 9.15 a.m.	2	Overview of the objectives and programme for the Workshop <i>(continued)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief recap of day one and overview of plans for day two
9.15 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.	4(d)	Chapter IV, appendix III of the report: Assessing progress towards the 2010 biodiversity target and goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan as well as targets in the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation and the programme of work on protected areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction by SCBD or resource persons Country presentations on draft chapter IV and appendix III Questions and answers and discussion in Plenary
10.30 a.m. – 11 a.m.		<i>Coffee break</i>
11 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.	4(d)	Chapter IV, appendix III of the report: Assessing progress towards the 2010 biodiversity target and goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan as well as targets in GSPC and the programme of work on protected areas (continued) Group exercises to identify cases and signs of progress towards the 2010 target, using the framework contained in decision VIII/15
12.30 a.m. – 2 p.m.		<i>Lunch break</i>
2 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.	5	Preparation of the executive summary of the Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction by SCBD or resource persons Question-and- answer session and discussion in Plenary Work in small groups or individually to improve or write the executive summary
3.30 p.m. – 4 p.m.		<i>Tea break</i>
4 p.m. – 6 p.m.	4.	Preparation of the report Time for all the country representatives to work further on draft chapters I, II, III, IV and appendix III with support of the Secretariat and resource persons

WEDNESDAY, 14 APRIL 2010

9 a.m. - 9.15 a.m.	2.	Overview of the objectives and programme for the workshop <i>(continued)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief recap of day two and overview of plans for day three
9.15 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.	4.	Preparation of the Report <i>(continued)</i> Time for all the country representatives to work further on draft chapters I, II, III, IV and appendix III with support of the Secretariat and resource persons
10.30 a.m. – 11 a.m.		<i>Coffee break</i>

11 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.	4.	Preparation of the report (<i>continued</i>) Time for all the country representatives to work further on draft chapters I, II, III, IV and appendix III with support of the Secretariat and resource persons
<i>12.30 a.m. – 2 p.m.</i>		<i>Lunch break</i>
2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	4.	Preparation of the report (<i>continued</i>) Time for all the country representatives to work further on draft chapters I, II, III, IV and appendix III with support of the Secretariat and resource persons
<i>3:30 p.m.- 4 p.m.</i>		<i>Coffee break</i>
4 p.m. –5:30 pm.	5.	Preparation of the executive summary Time for all the country representatives to work further on the executive summary with the support of the Secretariat and resource persons

THURSDAY, 15 APRIL

9 a.m. - 9.15 a.m	2.	Overview of the objectives and programme for the workshop (<i>continued</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief recap of day three and overview of plans for day four
9.15 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.	6.	Next steps: finalization of the fourth national report and key events in 2010 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Countries to present their plans and steps for finalization of the fourth national report for timely submission by middle of May 2010 • Introduction by SCBD about the strategy for IYB and key events in 2010 • Countries to share their plans for celebrating IYB in 2010 including using the fourth national report as a communication tool.
<i>10.30 a.m. – 11 a.m.</i>		<i>Coffee break</i>
11 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.	7.	Closure of the workshop <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussions about recommendations from the workshop • Closing remarks by the Convention Secretariat and the UNEP Regional Office for West Asia
<i>12.30 a.m. – 2 p.m.</i>		<i>Lunch break</i>
2 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.		A field trip to a nature reserve selected by the host (tentative)

*Annex II***LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

Document symbol	Document title
UNEP/CBD/4NRCBW-AHA/1/1	Provisional agenda
UNEP/CBD/4NRCBW-AHA/1/1/Add.1	Annotations to the provisional agenda
Relevant COP decisions, supporting tools and background documents	
Decision VIII/14	National reporting and the next edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook
Decision VIII/8	Implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Plan
Decision IX/8	Review of implementation of goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan
Decision IX/33	International Year of Biodiversity
	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
	All the final fourth national reports received by end of March 2010 available at https://www.cbd.int/reports/search/?type=nr-04 .
	CBD training module A-3: An Introduction to National Reporting https://www.cbd.int/nr4/guidelines/training.shtml
	Report of Regional Capacity Development Workshop for South, East and Southeast Asia on the Preparation of the Fourth National Reports https://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=4NRCBW-ASI-01
	Report of Workshop for Least Developed Countries on the Preparation of the Fourth National Report available at https://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=4NRCBW-LDC-01 .
	Report of Regional Workshop for Mesoamerican and Caribbean Countries on the Preparation of the Fourth National Report and Updating the Strategic Plan of the Convention available at https://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=WS4NRSP-CCA-01 .

Annex III

PREPARATIONS FOR AND FOLLOW-UP TO WORKSHOP

1. As indicated in the official notification for the workshop (available at <https://www.cbd.int/reports/notifications/>), participants are requested to prepare for the workshop in a number of ways.
2. Firstly, participants should prepare a 10-minute presentation at the workshop on at least one draft chapter or appendix III of their fourth national report, focusing on the approaches employed, key findings, challenges encountered and gaps or possible areas for improvement. The Secretariat will select some countries for presentations at the workshop. All participating countries are required to bring draft chapters or whole draft reports to the workshop for further work during the sessions, with the support of the Secretariat and resource persons.
3. Secondly, two country representatives will be invited to prepare a brief introduction or presentation on the processes adopted for the preparation of the fourth national report, focusing on stakeholders involved, mechanisms established and plans or milestones developed for preparing the report and disseminating the report and its by-products if any.
4. Thirdly, participants are invited to share in plenary and group discussions relevant practices, tools and approaches for preparing different chapters and appendices of the fourth national report, in particular those for reviewing implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and assessing progress towards the 2010 target and goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan as well as the targets contained in the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation and the programme of work on protected areas. If publications of such tools and practices are available, participants are encouraged to bring copies to the workshop for distribution. Participants are also encouraged to forward relevant web links if any to these tools and practices to the Secretariat before you go to attend the workshop.
5. Finally, after the workshop, participants are required to finalize their fourth national reports for submission latest by end of May 2010.

Annex IV

MILESTONES FOR PREPARATION OF THE FOURTH NATIONAL REPORT

1. GEF funding request has been submitted, or approved or funds have been received (eligible countries).
2. Organization assigned overall responsibility for report coordination and preparation has been identified.
3. Cross-sectoral steering committee has been established to:
 - Identify a representative group of biodiversity stakeholder organizations, including biodiversity-related conventions, who will participate in report preparation;
 - Establish a draft methodology for report preparation (e.g., face-to-face meetings, email exchanges, telephone conferences) and a draft timetable;
 - To coordinate the translation, if applicable, of reporting guidelines and other documents.
4. First general meeting of all above participants or national workshop has been convened to establish methodology, timetable, thematic working groups, etc.
5. Draft reports of thematic working groups have been submitted to the steering committee.
6. Steering committee has compiled a draft fourth national report and circulated it to all participants for comments.
7. Second general meeting or national workshop has been held to agree conclusions (chapter IV) of information provided by thematic working groups.
8. Outstanding items will be resolved (if impossible, report should reflect where no consensus was reached) and the report will be finalized before the end of May 2010.
9. Report has been adopted by all stakeholders (coordination among relevant departments completed).
10. Report has been submitted to relevant authorities for internal approval or draft report has been submitted to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity for this workshop.
11. Report has been submitted to Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
12. Party has publicized to the general public the positive outcomes for biodiversity identified in the report, and the obstacles and challenges that remain. A plan has been developed for the celebration of the International Year of Biodiversity, using the fourth national report.
