



Organization: Republic of South Africa and the Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

ID: 2979

Title of the side-event: MEAs Different Approaches in support of the implementation of the overall Strategic Plan for Biodiversity

Time: 13h15 – 14h45, 16 October 2013

Summary: The Republic of South Africa and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals hosted a side event on the 16th October 2013 to facilitate discussions and share experiences with different MEA Secretariats, Parties and other institutions on different approaches followed in support of the implementation of the overall Strategic Plan for Biological diversity. The following made presentations on the approaches followed by their respective organisations:

CBD: The executive Secretary of the CBD Dr Braulio Dias attended the side event and shared with the participants information on GEF and how the support can be utilised to support other Biodiversity activities and how Parties should be motivated to make use of such opportunities.

CMS: in the process of elaborating a new strategic plan as per the recommendation made by the Future Shape process to CMS COP10. The Deputy Executive Secretary, Mr Bert Lentern and the Chair of the Strategic Plan Working Group (SPWG), Ms Ines Verleye, elaborated on the process followed and emphasized the fact that the Aichi Biodiversity targets are used as the basis for the development of the migratory species targets. The SPWG decided on linking closely to the overall efforts towards supporting implementation of the Biodiversity Strategy while still retaining migratory species' identity and added-value. The strategic plan is referred to as the Strat Plan for Migratory Species and not the strategy for CMS and is developed in consultation with Parties and other relevant implementing partners and communicated to different other MEAs to enhance synergies.



**Convention on
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Ramsar Convention on wetlands: Prof Nicholas Davidson, Deputy Secretary General for the Ramsar Convention of Wetlands represented the Ramsar Convention in the side event and made a presentation on the approach followed by Ramsar. They are in the process of developing the 4th Strategic Plan not just for Ramsar – but for all those using/working with wetlands. The proposed Scope is wetlands and water, ecosystems (and their services) and people (including their culture) and the proposed title is “Strategic Plan for wetlands and water-related ecosystems and their services”. There is a debate on how to align it with other MEAs and developments such as the 2011/2020 Biodiversity Strategic Plan and Aichi Targets, new CMS Strategic Plan being developed and other relevant processes.

Birdlife international: Dr Leon Bennun, Director of Science, Policy and information made a presentation on how Birdlife International has used Aichi Targets to develop Targets for the Conservation of Birds. He indicated that achieving Aichi Targets will require concerted effort from Government, business and civil society. Just as MEAs are aligning their strategy with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, so are NGOs. BirdLife International adopted a new Strategy for 2013-2020 at its Global Partnership meeting last June. The Strategy is framed around four pillars - Species, Sites and Habitats, Ecological Sustainability and Empowering People - and nine conservation programmes, but the expected outcomes are clearly mapped onto the Aichi Targets, showing how BirdLife actions will support implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity.

BirdLife has taken this thinking further to develop materials that show how bird information, and support from the national civil society organisations in the BirdLife Partnership, can help CBD Parties set, meet and monitor targets within National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans. The publication titled: *Developing and implementing National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans: How to set, meet and track the Aichi Biodiversity Targets* is available as a pdf at <http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/sowb/casestudy/514>. The publication gives examples of indicators based on birds (one of the best known groups of organisms) and numerous case studies, with birds as a focus, of achieving success related to specific Aichi Targets.

CITES: The CITES secretariat could not attend but sent information to be presented in the side event. The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and Aichi Biodiversity Targets have become an important reference point for CITES Parties in putting into context their day-to-day work of ensuring that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants is legal, sustainable and traceable and does not threaten their survival.

UNCCD: The message sent by the UNCCD Secretariat who could not attend highlighted the synergies between the two conventions as follows:

- The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (SPfB) and the UNCCD 10-year Strategy (The Strategy) provide Parties to the CBD and the UNCCD with opportunities to halt and reverse the loss of biodiversity and land degradation in a synergistic manner.

Other commonalities between the SPfB and The Strategy are that:

- The SPfB, through the Aichi targets, especially targets 5, 7, 10, 11, 14 and 15, contributes to the mandate of the UNCCD.
- The UNCCD 10-year strategy contributes to the mandate of the CBD, through its Strategic Objectives: To improve the living conditions of vulnerable populations (SO 1), To improve

conditions of degraded ecosystems (SO 2), To generate positive effects on the global environment (SO 3).

The UNDP: The UNDP representative Mr Nick Sekhran spoke on the support they provide the Parties to review and update their NBSAPs

Participants' comments: Dr Jake Rice, National Senior Ecosystem Science Adviser: Fisheries and Oceans was concerned about the minimum attention always given to marine and coastal issues. After discussions there was a proposal for him to follow up with some issues he raised with the CMS Secretariat. Amy Fraenkel, Principal Officer: mainstreaming, Partnerships and Outreach indicated her appreciation of the work covered through the side event and that she will be working with most of the participants as what was done was in line with her area of work.

The previous Chairs of SBSTTA: Prof Alfred Oteng Yeboah, Dr Senka and Professor Spencer Thomas provided support and advice on the importance of science in the implementation of the 2011/2020 Biodiversity Strategic Plan and Aichi Targets

Conclusion

It came out of the discussions that the participants are in favour of the need for implementing the 2011/2020 strat plan and Aichi targets and the fact that it is a development that needs to be considered in the review of strategic plans.

Follow up activities

Communication with Participants of the side event and other relevant partners is planned to continue to ensure that by 2020 most partners have contributed in the implementation of the 2011/2020 strategic plan and Aichi targets.

CBD SBSTTA-17, Montreal, Canada

Side event: Strategic Planning for biodiversity: MEAs' different approaches

Wednesday 16 October 2013, 13:15 - 14:45

UNCCD STATEMENT

The Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is honored to participate in this side event in the margins of the CBD SBSTTA-17 focusing on “*Strategic Planning for Biodiversity: MEAs' different approaches*”.

As we are all aware, **the degradation and loss of biodiversity** adversely affects the productivity of the land, human and livestock health, and economic activities such as ecotourism, water management and the availability of sources of energy. The loss of vegetation and the resulting desertification and land degradation contributes to climate change by reducing carbon sequestration and can lower all forms of resilience. At the same time, the demand for food, energy and water is constantly increasing, which in turn increases the competition for alternative uses of land and will lead to price increases and thus increased social unrest, migration, hunger and poverty.

Without healthy land/soil no healthy ecosystems! Land is the earth's very infrastructure for life and is crucial for human well-being, social inclusion and environmental sustainability. Thus, **conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity is a very crucial component in the UNCCD implementation process.**

It is well noted that the **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)** share many **potential synergies** at international, regional, national and local level and that it is important to take advantage of them through effectively and efficiently institutionalization and thereby promoting the joint implementation of these Conventions. The **Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (SPfB) and the UNCCD 10-year Strategy (The Strategy)** provide Parties to the CBD and the UNCCD with opportunities to **halt and reverse the loss of biodiversity and land degradation in a synergistic manner**. In fact, there are many commonalities between the SPfB and The Strategy:

- The **SPfB**, through the **Aichi targets**, especially targets 5, 7, 10, 11, 14 and 15, contributes to the mandate of the UNCCD.
- The **UNCCD 10-year strategy** contributes to the mandate of the CBD, though its **Strategic Objectives**: To improve the living conditions of vulnerable populations (SO 1), To improve conditions of degraded ecosystems (SO 2), To generate positive effects on the global environment (SO 3).

However important this aspect is, it has neither received the necessary attention nor has it been treated with the seriousness it deserves. Notwithstanding this, **recent developments – especially with regards to ecosystem restoration - are positive and most welcome:**

- 1) The need for ecosystem restoration is prominently highlighted in various paragraphs of the final outcome document of the **United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio+20, “The Future We Want”**. One of the outstanding imperatives identified for ecosystem restoration is the resolve of the international community to achieve a **land degradation neutral world**, to be pursued with the implementation and promotion of **sustainable land management (SLM) practices** worldwide.
- 2) The **CBD COP.11** in Hyderabad approved the “*Hyderabad call for Ecosystem Restoration*” (**Decision XI/16. on Ecosystem Restoration**) in which Parties to the CBD call for CBD-UNCCD

collaboration to enhance and harmonize efforts in ecosystem restoration and avoid duplication. More than 2 billion hectares of land worldwide are suitable today for rehabilitation through forest and landscape restoration and can therefore contribute to achieving a land degradation neutral world.

- 3) **UNCCD COP11** in Windhoek decided to **establish an intergovernmental working group to operationalize the concept of land degradation neutral world** as agreed upon at Rio+20 (Draft Decision L.19 on the Follow-up to Rio+20). This recent development has a **strong potential to support the restoration of ecosystems**. Indeed, the UNCCD is fostering the conservation and restoration of ecosystems to achieve both, goal and target. It also established a new Science-Policy Interface mechanism to harness in the body of knowledge on sustainable land management that could be used for the development of targets for the convention, in a synergistic approach as envisaged by the Rio+20 outcome. This SPI is expected to interact with CBD, CMS other biodiversity – related conventions and agreements, as well as with the IPBES.

The **land degradation neutrality concept** as highlighted at Rio+20 and the UNCCD COP11 will **help deliver a future where SLM practices help reverse and prevent desertification/land degradation** and mitigate the effects of drought leading to poverty reduction, increased environmental sustainability and green growth - which in essence **imply ecosystems restoration and enhancing biodiversity**.

In concluding, let me say this: the future demands for food, energy and water will be a major challenge for the global community to deal with – as they are bound to exert more pressure on the already overstretched natural ecosystem. If we **join forces with like-minded groups to support the restoration of degraded land** as a way to meet these new and growing demands, half of the battle is already won.

MEAs different approaches in support of implementation of the overall Strategic Plan for Biodiversity

Statement by CITES Secretary-General, John E. Scanlon

At CBD CoP10, the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) spoke for four biodiversity-related conventions in expressing support for the adoption of an inclusive Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and set of Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Thereafter, the CITES Standing Committee oversaw the revision of the CITES Strategic Vision to take into account the Strategic Plan and its Targets, with the proposed amendments being adopted by the Conference of the Parties to CITES held in Bangkok, Thailand from 3 to 14 March 2013 (CoP16).

CITES Parties have historically opted for short and concise strategic visions and in keeping with this tradition, CoP16 decided to adopt only a few changes to the structure of the Convention's Strategic Vision in order to align it with the Strategic Plan and Aichi Targets. Significantly, it was the first time the CoP had ever incorporated into its decisions a decision taken in another forum.

The goals and objectives of the CITES Strategic Vision are preceded by a vision statement. This was amended to include an express reference to the Convention's significant contribution to relevant Aichi Biodiversity Targets by preventing the overexploitation of wild animal and plant species through international trade.

The CITES Strategic Vision has three simple goals: to ensure compliance with and implementation and enforcement of its provisions; to secure the necessary financial resources and means for its operation and implementation and to ensure that the Convention and other multilateral instruments and processes are coherent and mutually supportive.

Before CoP16, the Goal 3 on linkages with other bodies and targets made specific reference to international financial mechanisms, relevant international environmental, trade and development organizations, relevant international organizations and agreements dealing with natural resources, the Millennium Development Goals and the sustainable development goals set at WSSD. At CoP16, references to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and Aichi Biodiversity Targets were added to the objectives under Goal 3. This inclusion emphasized that CITES' contribution to the Plan and its Targets would be strengthened through its ongoing efforts to ensure that international trade in wild fauna and flora is conducted at sustainable levels.

A decision was also taken at CoP16 to align the dates of the CITES Strategic Vision to coincide with those of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, hence the CITES Strategic Vision will now run until 2020.

Recognized at Rio+20 as an international agreement that stands at the intersection between trade, environment and development, CITES has always had a wide range of partners within the trade, socio-economic and well as environmental spheres.

The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and Aichi Biodiversity Targets have however become an important reference point for CITES Parties in putting into context their day-to-day work of ensuring that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants is legal, sustainable and traceable and does not threaten their survival.
