



CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

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CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOP ON NETWORKING AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE FOR NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS AND INDIGENOUS AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN THE LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN REGION

Quito, 14-16 December 2006

ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

INTRODUCTION

1. Under Article 8(j) of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Parties undertake to respect, preserve and maintain the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and promote their wider application with the approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge, innovations and practices.

2. As networking and information exchange are key factors in achieving of these goals, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, in paragraph 6 (a) of its decision VIII/5 D, requested the Executive Secretary “to convene, subject to the availability of financial resources, regional and subregional workshops on new information and web-based technologies to assist indigenous and local communities in their use and to facilitate the establishment of communication networks”.

3. Along the same lines, activity 1.1.1 of the strategic plan of the clearing-house mechanism established pursuant to Article 18, paragraph 3 of the Convention (decision VIII/11, annex II), deals with the organization by the Executive Secretary of “joint technical hands-on workshops with partners and international thematic focal points on new information and web-based technologies to assist in the implementation of the Convention, taking into account the special needs of indigenous and local communities”.

4. In accordance with these decisions, the Executive Secretary is convening a Capacity-building Workshop on Networking and Information Exchange for National Focal Points and Indigenous and Local Communities in the Latin America and the Caribbean Region, with the generous support of the Governments of Spain and the Netherlands. The purpose of the Workshop is to improve the capacity of the countries in the region through the exchange of experiences in networking and information exchange, including new information and web-based technologies, with a focus on the special needs of indigenous and local communities. The Workshop is intended to provide countries of the region with an opportunity to discuss the development and implementation of initiatives by the clearing-house mechanism to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation at the national and regional levels with regard to the Convention’s programme areas and cross-cutting issues, particularly the 2010 target, the transfer of technology and traditional knowledge, innovations and practices.

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5. This Workshop will be held in Quito from 14 to 16 December 2006. Parties and indigenous and local communities were invited by the Executive Secretary on 2 October 2006 through notification 2006-103, to nominate one participant for this meeting, preferably involved in the activities of the national clearing house-mechanism and/or familiar with the information needs of indigenous and local communities. Through notification 2006-56561, on 13 November, the Executive Secretary informed Parties of the list of participants for the workshop.

6. A list of documents for the meeting is attached as annex II.

7. It is expected that the meeting will facilitate enhanced dissemination of information and networking and information exchange between national focal points, clearing house mechanism focal points and indigenous and local communities. In particular, the workshop is expected to produce draft recommendations to refine or improve this series of workshops as well as draft recommendations to improve dissemination of information and networking in order to enhance partnerships for the achievement of the goals of the strategic plan and the 2010 biodiversity target. The recommendations will be communicated to the fifth meeting of the ad hoc open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

8. Registration of participants will commence at 8:30 a.m. on 14 December 2006. The meeting will be opened at 9:00 a.m. by a representative of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

ITEM 2. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Item 2.1 Agenda

9. The participants will be familiarized with the agenda of the meeting on the basis of the provisional agenda prepared by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/WS-CB/LAC/1/1/Add.1).

Item 2.2 Organization of work

10. The proposed organization of work, including any special arrangements will be presented to the participants as attached in Annex I.

ITEM 3. OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

11. The Secretariat will describe the objectives of this capacity-building workshop in the context of decisions VIII/5 and VIII/11 of the Conference of the Parties. The main objective is to enhance the capacity of the Parties in networking and information exchange for the benefit of indigenous and local communities. By bringing together representatives of indigenous and local communities and people in charge of developing national clearing-house mechanisms, it is expected that each side will have a deeper understanding of their role and contribution. After the opening, the participants will be given the opportunity to introduce themselves by briefly describing who they are, where they are from, what they do and what they expect from this workshop.

12. In addition, this workshop will be an opportunity to exchange relevant national experiences within the Latin America and the Caribbean region. By seeing how others have addressed similar challenges, Parties and indigenous and local communities could learn new approaches which could potentially become best practices.

13. Also, given the fact that this joint Article 8(j) and clearing-house mechanism capacity-building workshop is the first of a series, the Secretariat will carefully listen to any recommendations made with a view to improving or fine-tuning the organization of further similar workshops.

14. One output of this workshop will be a set of recommendations/guidelines which will be compiled. This document will be shared through the clearing-house mechanism and communicated to the fifth meeting of the ad hoc Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions, scheduled for 17-21 September 2007 and the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting, to be held in Bonn, Germany, on 19-30 May 2008.

ITEM 4. STRATEGY FOR ARTICLE 8(j) AND THE CLEARING-HOUSE MECHANISM

15. Under this item, the Secretariat will present the strategy for Article 8(j) and the clearing-house mechanism further to the decisions of the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

16. According to its strategic plan, the three goals of the clearing-house mechanism are: (a) the promotion and facilitation of technical and scientific cooperation; (b) the promotion and facilitation of the exchange of information among Parties, other Governments and stakeholders; and (c) the establishment of a fully operational network with participation of all Parties and an expanded network of partners. Within this framework, the special needs of indigenous and local communities have to be taken into account, and be addressed by appropriate activities, such as the present workshop and the development of specific information exchange tools.

17. The Conference of the Parties, at its fifth meeting, adopted the programme of work on the implementation of Article 8(j) and related provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Task 8 of the programme of work cited the need to identify a focal point within the clearing-house mechanism to liaise with indigenous and local communities. As a result of this decision, the Executive Secretary appointed the Head of the CHM, as the focal point for this purpose.

18. At its sixth meeting, the Conference of the Parties requested that the Executive Secretary establish a technical expert group to develop the roles and responsibilities of the thematic focal point within the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention on issues related to Article 8(j) and related provisions, in accordance with task 8 of the programme of work adopted by the Conference of the Parties in its decision V/16.

19. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Traditional Knowledge and the Clearing-House Mechanism met in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, from 24 to 26 February 2003. Recommendations arising from the meeting, including those related to the identification of the roles and responsibility of the thematic focal point within the clearing-house mechanism on issues related to Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity, are found in the report of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Traditional Knowledge and the Clearing-House Mechanism (UNEP/CBD/AHTEG/TK-CHM/1/3).

20. Further guidance pertaining to the role of the thematic focal point under the clearing-house mechanism, was provided by the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Decision VII/16 G, requested the Executive Secretary to further develop the role of the thematic focal point on Article 8(j) and related provisions of the Convention under the clearing-house mechanism with a view to: (a) Assisting national focal points, as appropriate and subject to available resources, to more effectively disseminate and make accessible Convention-related information to indigenous and local communities with particular emphasis on providing information in appropriate and accessible languages of indigenous and local communities; (b) Assisting indigenous and local communities, as appropriate and subject to available resources, in the use of information and communication technologies through the organization of capacity-building and training workshops at the local, national, and sub-regional levels; (c) Compiling

information on existing networks, experts, tools, and resources relevant to meeting the needs of indigenous and local communities.

21. Issues related to the thematic focal point were discussed by the Advisory Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions, which met in Montreal from 11 to 14 July 2005. The Group emphasized the need for other participatory mechanisms including the development of information sharing-tools such as a traditional knowledge information web portal aimed at promoting awareness and enhancing access by indigenous and local communities to information on issues relating to Article 8(j) and related provisions of the Convention.

22. The eight meeting of the Conference of the Parties considered all this and noted with appreciation the work being advanced on the traditional knowledge information portal and related initiatives by the Secretariat, including the provision of other communication tools that are easily accessible for indigenous and local communities. The Parties also noted the need for appropriate and effective funding being made available for the translation of notifications and other information resources, including the traditional knowledge information portal, for indigenous and local communities, as appropriate, into the six official languages of the United Nations, resulting in the Executive Secretary endeavouring to provide informal translations, where possible of relevant documentation, the Article 8(j) homepage and traditional knowledge information portal within the limited resources of the Secretariat.

23. The Executive Secretary was also requested to convene, subject to the availability of financial resources, regional and subregional workshops on new information and web-based technologies to assist indigenous and local communities in their use and to facilitate the establishment of communication networks, resulting in this workshop. Furthermore in response to decision VIII/5, the Executive Secretary has committed to monitoring the use of the Convention website and in particular, the traditional knowledge information portal, and to consult with indigenous and local communities and their organizations, that are participating in the work of the Convention, such as the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity, to identify any gaps or shortcomings and to report to the fifth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-Sessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions; as well as launching subject to available resources, pilot projects in developing countries, in particular the least developed and small island developing States among them, and countries with economies in transition, relating to enhancing the role of the national clearing-house mechanism in providing information to indigenous and local communities.

24. It is expected that subject to the availability of funding, the CHM focal point and programme officer for Article 8(j) will continue to collaborate to provide further workshops to assist CHM national focal points and indigenous and local communities to strengthen communication networks in order to fulfil the goals of the strategic plan. Efforts will also be increased to ensure the Traditional Knowledge Information Portal is fully functional and continues to evolve to meet the needs of indigenous and local communities.

ITEM 5. NEEDS ANALYSIS OF THE NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS AND INDIGENOUS AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES

25. Under this item, the Secretariat will present its findings on the needs of national focal points and indigenous and local communities regarding networking and information exchange. The Secretariat, in considering the new enhanced implementation phase of the Convention, is interested in strengthening strategic partnerships to assist in the implementation of the goals of the Convention and views indigenous and local communities as critical partners and hence seeks their active engagement in identifying their needs particularly in regards to networking and information exchange. It is envisaged that these workshops will continue to evolve subject to input from national focal points and indigenous and local communities.

26. Comments or additional contributions from the participants will be welcomed to ensure that these identified needs match the reality. In particular, needs analysis will take into account the outcomes of the Global Forum on Indigenous Peoples and the Information Society, which provided advice and input into the World Summit on the Information Society, on indigenous and local communities, new technologies and communication, as well as direct input provided through this workshop.

ITEM 6. PRESENTATIONS OF NATIONAL EXPERIENCES

27. The purpose of this item is to promote the exchange of national experiences and good practices. Parties will be invited to share their national experience which could be relevant for this workshop. For instance presentations of initiatives related to indigenous and local communities or in the field of networking and information exchange will be welcome. Parties facing certain obstacles or challenges are also invited to present them to make all participants aware of these issues which could be specifically addressed during the group discussions.

ITEM 7. GROUP DISCUSSION ON THE ROLE OF THE CLEARING-HOUSE MECHANISM IN THE PARTICIPATION OF INDIGENOUS AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES

28. Given its mandate and strategic plan, the clearing-house mechanism has an important role to play in enhancing the participation of indigenous and local communities. This group discussion will invite participants to elaborate on this issue and further define the type of activities that would be appropriate to respond to identified needs. During their discussion, it is important that the participants take into account the outcomes of items 5 and 6 of this meeting.

ITEM 8. TRAINING SESSION ON NETWORKING AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE (INCLUDING THE USE OF THE WEB PORTAL ON TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE)

29. This training session will be convened by the Secretariat to present various tools and mechanisms that could contribute to the enhancement of networking and information exchange. This session will consist of two parts. The first part of the training will be a general overview of information exchange mechanisms, including web-based technologies. The second part will focus on the CBD website and the web portal on traditional knowledge.

ITEM 9. GROUP DISCUSSION ON BUILDING NETWORKS AND IMPROVING INFORMATION EXCHANGE

30. Further to the training session, the participants will be invited to comment and discuss the application of various tools and mechanisms in building networks and improving information exchange for the benefits of indigenous and local communities. It is expected that the outcome of this discussion will provide detailed guidance to recommend a particular course of action.

ITEM 10. DEVELOPMENT OF RECOMMENDATIONS/GUIDELINES ON THE APPLICATION OF THE CLEARING-HOUSE MECHANISM TO INDIGENOUS AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES

31. Participants will be invited to formulate recommendations or guidelines based on the outcome of the group discussions.

ITEM 11. OTHER MATTERS

32. The meeting may wish to consider other matters agreed upon for consideration.

ITEM 12. CONCLUSIONS

33. Participants will consider and adopt the report of the meeting, on the basis of the draft report of the meeting and draft recommendations to be presented by the Secretariat.

ITEM 13. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

34. It is expected that the meeting will be closed at 5 p.m. on 16 December 2006.

Annex I

**PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK FOR THE CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOP
ON NETWORKING AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE FOR NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS
AND INDIGENOUS AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN THE LATIN AMERICA AND THE
CARIBBEAN REGION**

Quito, 14-16 December 2006

Thursday, 14 December 2006

Morning

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organizational matters:
 - 2.1 Agenda.
 - 2.2 Organization of work.
3. Objectives of the workshop.
4. Strategy for Article 8(j) and the clearing-house mechanism.
5. Needs analysis of national focal points and indigenous and local communities.

Afternoon

6. Presentations of national experiences.
7. Group discussion on the role of the clearing-house mechanism in the participation of indigenous and local communities.

Friday, 15 December 2006

Morning

8. Training session on networking and information exchange (including the use of the web portal on traditional knowledge).

Afternoon

9. Group discussion on building networks and improving information exchange.

Saturday, 16 December 2006

Morning

10. Development of recommendations/guidelines on the application of the clearing-house mechanism to indigenous and local communities.

Afternoon

11. Other matters.
12. Recommendations.
13. Closure of the meeting.

Annex II

**DOCUMENTATION FOR THE CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOP ON NETWORKING
AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE FOR NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS AND INDIGENOUS
AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN THE LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN REGION**

Official documents

Provisional agenda

UNEP/CBD/WS-CB/LAC/1/1

Annotated provisional agenda

UNEP/CBD/WS-CB/LAC/1/1/Add.1

Information documents

UNEP/CBD/WS-CB/LAC/1/INF/1

The concept of indigenous peoples - Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

UNEP/CBD/WS-CB/LAC/1/INF/2

Report of the Global Forum of Indigenous People and the Information Society

UNEP/CBD/WS-CB/LAC/1/INF/3

Report of the ad hoc technical expert group on traditional knowledge and the Clearing-house Mechanism

UNEP/CBD/WS-CB/LAC/1/INF/4

Power-point presentation – Update on Article 8(j) after COP 8

UNEP/CBD/WS-CB/LAC/1/INF/5

Who are local communities?

Other documents

UNEP/CBD/WS-CB/LAC/1/Info-Part

Information note for participants
