



## Convention on Biological Diversity

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### AD HOC OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

Fourth meeting

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Item 3.2 of the provisional agenda\*

### **SUMMARY REPORT OF THE CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOPS ON NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS (NBSAPS)**

*Note by the Executive Secretary*

1. As one of the most important follow-up activities to implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (decision X/2), a series of regional and subregional capacity-building workshops was organized during 2011 and early 2012 to: (i) assist countries establish, by the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 2012, “SMART<sup>1</sup>” national targets within the framework of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and (ii) revise and update their National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs), in line with the new Strategic Plan, and adopt the NBSAP as a policy instrument with integration into national planning processes by the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties or the twelfth meeting in 2014. This series of workshops will be ongoing throughout 2012, primarily in the form of follow-up workshops, and continues to be supported by generous financial support provided via the Japan Biodiversity Fund and other donors.

2. Fifteen workshops were held in 2011, covering 14 regions (Southern Africa, Europe, North Africa and the Middle East, East, South and Southeast Asia, West Africa, Central Africa, East Africa, South America, Pacific, Caribbean, Central Asia, Meso-America, and Central and Eastern Europe). Although not a part of the official 2011 calendar of workshops, the Secretariat also took the opportunity to organize a workshop for 14 Pan-European countries in Geneva, in June 2011, back-to-back with the Council Meeting for Members of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS). The first follow-up workshop in the series was held in December 2011 for the region of East, South and Southeast Asia.

3. Two workshops have already been held in 2012, including a workshop for the Mediterranean region in January 2012, and the second follow-up workshop in February 2012 for countries of Sub-Saharan Africa, bringing the total count of workshops held so far in this series to seventeen.

\* UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/4/1.

<sup>1</sup> Targets that are “SMART” are Specific, Measurable, Ambitious, Realistic and Time-bound.

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*General format*

4. The workshops are attended predominantly by government-nominated officials of countries in the region, responsible for the development and/or implementation of NBSAPs, and where possible also by a representative from the finance, economic or development planning ministry, who is in a position to share experiences on mainstreaming biodiversity into national development plans. Moreover, further to the agreement by the heads and representatives of five international conventions on biodiversity (CBD, CMS, CITES, Ramsar, WHC) and major conservation organizations, in September 2010, on a common approach to address the biodiversity crisis, based on the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, the Secretariat is taking advantage of the opportunity presented by the workshops to promote synergies among the MEAs and reflect commonalities in the NBSAPs. In this regard, representation of these institutions at the workshops is encouraged. For example, at the recently held workshop for Africa, the UNEP Division of Law and Conventions and the Ramsar Secretariat funded the participation of 19 Ramsar Convention National Focal Points, in order to promote synergies between the two conventions at the national level. Additionally, the adoption of the 2011-2020 United Nations Decade on Biodiversity by the 65th Session of the United Nations General Assembly further emphasizes a United Nations system-wide approach to implementation of the Strategic Plan. Invitations are also regularly extended to regional and subregional organizations, indigenous and local communities and non-governmental organizations. Resource persons are recruited locally or regionally to facilitate agenda items and share their expertise on regional issues with participants.

5. A primary objective of the workshops is to facilitate active learning opportunities and peer-to-peer exchanges for National Focal Points and persons in charge of implementing and revising NBSAPs. A generic set of presentations, tailored to regional characteristics, is delivered at all workshops, highlighting the findings of the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook, main outcomes of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, focusing on the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Further presentations outline the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing and the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress, including the actions needed to achieve the early entry into force of these instruments. Others introduce NBSAPs and lessons learned in implementation, the biodiversity planning process, biodiversity mainstreaming and national target-setting within the framework of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

6. To optimize cost-effectiveness and coordination at various levels, several of the workshops have been held in parallel with workshops on capacity-building for the implementation of the Convention's programme of work on protected areas (PoWPA). To date, this has been done for the regions of West Africa, Pacific and East, South and Southeast Asia.

7. Workshop agendas also generally incorporate elements related to the development of a country-specific resource mobilization strategy for financing NBSAP implementation, and an update on progress towards the establishment of targets for the resource mobilization strategy to be adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting. Matters related to the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) and the use of the Ecosystem Approach as a mainstreaming tool are also addressed. Eligible Parties are encouraged to apply for GEF funds for updating and revising the NBSAPs and preparing the fifth national report at the earliest opportunity.

8. Although initially focused on promoting awareness of the Nagoya outcomes, each of the workshops has been designed to respond to regional priorities or specific requests received from the region. The following workshop summaries provide examples (this information is not exhaustive) of the main topics addressed by workshops held in the different regions. All presentations made at the workshops, in addition to summary reports, are available at: <http://www.cbd.int/nbsap/workshops2.shtml>.

9. The first workshop was held in March 2011 for countries of Southern Africa and focused on, among other matters, integrating biodiversity into relevant national and local planning processes. A representative of ICLEI (Local Action for Biodiversity) delivered a presentation on the crucial role of local authorities in implementing targets under Strategic Goal A. The objective of a field study visit to three different sites (Kalepa Community Trust, Chobe Enclave Conservation Trust, Chobe National Park) organized for participants was to demonstrate how biodiversity is being integrated in district-level planning. Strategic communication for NBSAPs, stakeholder engagement and gender mainstreaming in NBSAPs, South-South and regional cooperation were other topics covered by the workshop. The workshop was supplemented by two additional days specifically focused on biodiversity economic valuation and incentive measures.

10. The workshop for countries of East, South and Southeast Asia held in Xi'an, China, in May 2011, had a special focus on Aichi Target 2 related to how the economic valuation of biodiversity and ecosystem services and the application of incentive measures can be used to communicate and mainstream biodiversity in sectors such as agriculture, forestry, mining, transport and energy. Presentations were made on the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) study, the experiences of Japan in undertaking valuation and applying incentive measures, and on China's recent work in integrating ecosystem services into land-use planning using the InVEST mapping tool, as well as into national environmental accounting. The workshop also addressed the use of national and regional CHMs as a tool for scientific and technical cooperation. The ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity provided suggestions for the content of a national CHM and shared the content of the regional CHM developed for ASEAN, and introduced activities for scientific and technical cooperation among ASEAN member states in regard to fields such as wildlife enforcement, information sharing, protected areas management, taxonomy, and access and benefit-sharing.

11. The workshop held in May 2011 for countries of North Africa and the Middle East emphasized actions for achieving Aichi Target 9, at national and regional levels, through the identification and management of threats posed by invasive alien species. Due to a significant increase in economic activity within the region, and between the region and other parts of the world, and due also to the adoption of increasingly liberal trade policies and higher volumes of tourism, more biological invasions will undoubtedly occur. Risks are exacerbated by a considerable lack of awareness of the severity of the problem, especially among policymakers, as well as limited capacity. Participants highlighted the need for cooperation between the countries of the Arab region and the significant role the League of Arab States (LAS) could perform in leading this cooperation. The workshop included one session focused on the scope for developing a regional strategy on invasive alien species, including matters related to the development of a regional clearing-house mechanism dedicated to the issue, awareness-raising and legislation, among others.

12. As indicated above, a second European workshop for 14 Pan-European countries was held in Geneva, in June 2011, back-to-back with the Council Meeting for Members of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS). A main focus of this workshop was on the identification of synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions within the context of implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity. Presentations were also made by representatives of both CITES and Ramsar.

13. With a view to strengthening national and regional capacities, the workshop for countries of South America was held immediately following a workshop organized by the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), in July 2011, for the eight ACTO countries, which examined a common approach for biodiversity protection in these countries and the further development of the Amazon Regional Biodiversity Strategy, with consideration given to supporting implementation of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Sub-topics presented by the ACTO Secretariat included: monitoring and control of wildlife species of fauna and flora threatened by trade; protected areas; sustainable use of biodiversity and

promotion of biotrade; research, technology and innovation in Amazon biodiversity. A representative of ACTO informed the NBSAP workshop of the possibility of integrating the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in ACTO's 2004 "Manaus Declaration" and that short-term actions for implementing ACTO's Strategic Plan had been discussed at the recent workshop. A representative of the Comunidad Andina presented on the 2002 Strategy on Biodiversity for Tropical Andean Countries, while the Representative of Argentina stated that the 2006 MERCOSUR Biodiversity Strategy required updating and alignment with the new Strategic Plan and that support from international bodies would be required in this regard.

14. The workshop held in October 2011 for countries of the Pacific region had a specific focus on valuation and incentive measures to help facilitate the implementation of Aichi Targets 2 and 3 under Strategic Goal A, as well as other Aichi Targets and decisions adopted at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and their translation into national targets and commitments. The workshop also had a session on the programme of work on island biodiversity, and on assisting Parties to review, revise and update their NBSAP with consideration given to how the NBSAP can serve as an effective tool for mainstreaming biodiversity into broader national policies and for implementing the programmes of work on island biodiversity.

15. The workshop for countries of the Central Asian region was held in Istanbul, in October 2011, with participation from most countries in the region. The workshop reviewed the main Nagoya outcomes and focused on national target-setting, economic valuation using tools such as InVEST, and mainstreaming into both production landscapes and economic sectors. A field trip was provided by the Government of Turkey to demonstrate the integration of biodiversity into land use planning on the shores of the Bosphoros close to Istanbul.

16. The workshop for countries of Central and Eastern Europe was held in Minsk, Belarus, in December 2011. The workshop built on the previous workshops held for European countries and reviewed progress made with NBSAP revision and national target-setting with a focus on promoting synergies between the biodiversity-related conventions. The Government of Belarus provided a field trip highlighting the ecological restoration of peatlands for both conservation and carbon sequestration purposes.

17. The first follow-up workshop on progress with revision of NBSAPs was held in December 2011 for countries of East, South and Southeast Asia. The workshop addressed three key issues related to NBSAP revision: target-setting, mainstreaming and resource mobilization. Participants were also able to engage in more in-depth discussion on target-setting, in line with Aichi Target 11, with participants to the protected areas workshop which was held in parallel. Having identified climate change as a major threat at both the national and regional levels, discussion also focused on mainstreaming issues related to Aichi Biodiversity Target 15. Views were also shared on sectoral and cross-sectoral mainstreaming approaches, including how to link biodiversity management with poverty reduction at the local level and the development of local biodiversity strategies and action plans (LBSAPs). Other topics included the promotion of biodiversity investment through an economics argument, sources from which resources could be mobilized, and the importance of engaging and coordinating input from all relevant stakeholders. The importance of monitoring and reporting and linking the development of indicators to the NBSAP revision process was also underscored.

18. In January 2012 in Montpellier, France, a workshop was convened for countries of the Mediterranean region with the goal of increasing cooperation among national and local-level authorities, as well as fostering regional cooperation, in regard to implementing the Strategic Plan and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The workshop was organized by the Secretariat, in cooperation with the City of Montpellier and ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability) and included delegates from both the national and local levels of government of the Mediterranean region. Discussions were focused on the provisions of decision X/22 on the Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity which promotes collaboration in planning among subnational and local

governments, thereby supporting national-level (NBSAP) implementation. An important outcome of the workshop was the delivery of the “Montpellier Declaration” by the Mayor of Montpellier, through which the “MEDIVERCITIES” Network, comprised of cities and local government authorities, was created. The first four issues to be addressed by the Network are: mainstreaming at the local level, information-sharing, creation of a knowledge platform and activities to reduce the region’s Ecological Footprint.

19. Documents and presentations made at all of the above workshops are available at the corresponding webpage accessible at: <http://www.cbd.int/nbsap/workshops2.shtml>. Details concerning the dates and locations of the upcoming workshops in this series will be made available at this webpage upon confirmation.

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