

Concept Note

International Expert Workshop on Mainstreaming Biodiversity in the Sectors of Energy and Mining, Infrastructure, and Manufacturing and Processing

20-22 June 2018, Cairo, Egypt.

Background

Parties to Convention on Biological Diversity have increasingly focused on the need to “mainstream” biodiversity in the sectors and cross-sectoral policies that have the greatest relevance to biodiversity, from dependencies to potential adverse impacts. At its thirteenth meeting, the Parties adopted a decision on the mainstreaming of biodiversity with a particular focus on the agriculture, forestry, fisheries and tourism sectors (decision XIII/3). In the same decision, the Parties decided that at the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 14), they would consider the mainstreaming of biodiversity in the sectors of energy and mining, infrastructure, manufacturing and processing, as well as health.

Egypt, as host of COP-14 and related meetings (together known as the 2018 UN Biodiversity Conference), has decided to convene the High-level Segment of the conference around the theme of “Investing in Biodiversity for People and Planet”, covering the sectors of energy and mining, infrastructure, manufacturing and processing, and health in the broader context of sustainable development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The High-level Segment will be held from 14-15 November 2018, just prior to the opening of the Biodiversity Conference. Outcomes of the High-Level Segment will include a declaration. In addition, Parties will be invited to announce voluntary commitments relevant to these sectors.

The Government of Egypt will be convening an international expert workshop from 20-22 June 2018 in Cairo, Egypt, on the energy and mining, infrastructure, and manufacturing and processing sectors, with a view to deepening understanding of these issues and the policy implications of mainstreaming biodiversity in these sectors for sustainable development. It will also provide an informal setting in which to discuss actions that could be taken to further mainstreaming of biodiversity in these sectors. The results of the workshop will be provided to the second meeting of the Convention’s Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI) that will take place in July 2018, which will be addressing these issues. In addition to laying the foundation for the deliberations and decisions on these issues at the UN Biodiversity Conference 2018, the outcomes of the workshop will be also shared with the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, which will take place in July 2018 in New York.

Objectives of the workshop

The International Expert Workshop on Mainstreaming Biodiversity in the Sectors of Energy and Mining, Infrastructure, and Manufacturing and Processing will help to prepare for the High-level Segment of the 2018 UN Biodiversity Conference, as well as the discussions on mainstreaming that will take place during COP 14. The workshop will be an opportunity for informal discussion among experts, complementing the more formal meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) and SBI.¹ It will build on the foundation laid by a similar workshop that took place prior COP 13 on mainstreaming in agriculture and other sectors, as well as on the decision that was adopted by COP 13.

¹ The twenty-first meeting of the Convention’s Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-21) in December 2017 in Montreal, Canada examined the technical and scientific aspects of mainstreaming biodiversity in these sectors. The second meeting of the Convention’s Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI) will take place in July 2018, and will focus on the policy implications of mainstreaming biodiversity into these sectors, including a focus on the current policies, tools and practices of Parties, and further options with respect to the mainstreaming of biodiversity in these sectors.

The objectives of the workshop are to:

- Examine current and projected trends in these sectors and other relevant developments and their potential impacts on biodiversity;
- Identify concrete actions to facilitate dialogue and enhanced cooperation among governmental ministries responsible for planning and budgeting, the relevant sectors, and entities responsible for biodiversity;
- Identify leading-edge practices and approaches used by governments and the business sector for addressing biodiversity in these sectors;
- Identify effective tools, policies and practices to mitigate the negative impacts and promote positive impacts, and opportunities to scale up their use ;
- Identify challenges and opportunities for mainstreaming within and across these sectors;
- Highlight linkages with the 2030 Agenda for Development; and
- Identify opportunities to achieve effective outcomes at COP-14 on the mainstreaming of biodiversity in these sectors.

Topics of the workshop:

1. *Latest trends and developments related to the energy and mining, infrastructure, and manufacturing and processing sectors:* potential interventions from country experts, multilateral development banks, industry representatives, non-governmental organizations, associations, UN organizations, and others;
2. *Tools, policies and practices for mainstreaming in energy and mining and infrastructure:* potential interventions from experts (including country experts) on upstream strategic planning, regulatory approaches, and voluntary industry practices, natural or “green” infrastructure mobilizing finance for sustainable investment, spatial planning, and valuation of biodiversity and ecosystem services;
3. *Tools, policies and practices for mainstreaming in manufacturing and processing:* potential interventions from experts (including country experts) on regulatory approaches and voluntary industry practices, supply chain and other policies, and reporting;
4. *New initiatives and methodologies for valuing and business reporting on biodiversity including the Natural Capital Protocol;*
5. *Innovation and financing for mainstreaming biodiversity in these sectors;*
6. *Institutional arrangements: Inter-ministerial, subnational governments, and engagement with stakeholders and Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities;*
7. *Biodiversity and the Sustainable Development Goals: Linking the mainstreaming of biodiversity in these sectors with implementation of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs and implementation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs):*
8. *Implications of mainstreaming for the post-2020 global framework for biodiversity;*

The workshop is planned for three full days. It will be organized through a combination of plenary presentations, question and answer sessions, and discussions in smaller groups, using a variety of effective techniques

Participants:

About 70-80 experts will participate in the workshop including representatives from countries, industry and organizations.