



Convention on Biological Diversity

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REGIONAL BIO-BRIDGE INITIATIVE REGIONAL ROUND
TABLE FOR CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE AND
THE CENTRAL ASIAN REPUBLICS
Minsk, 5-7 December 2017

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Background

1. In paragraph 9 of its decision XII/2 B the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to enhance technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer under the Convention. It also welcomed the Bio-Bridge Initiative, established by the Government of the Republic of Korea to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation under the Convention and its Protocols with a view to enhancing the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets as well as the updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans (decision XII/2 B, para. 13 and decision XII/3, para. 5).

2. The Bio-Bridge Initiative facilitates technical and scientific cooperation by linking Parties that have technical and scientific needs with Parties and institutions that are in a position to provide technical assistance to address the expressed needs through mutual cooperation. Since the launch of the Initiative, the Secretariat has developed a Bio-Bridge Action Plan for 2017-2020, supported pilot projects to test various technical and scientific cooperation approaches, established a help desk to assist Parties in articulating their needs and facilitating matchmaking, and developed online tools, such as the Bio-Bridge web platform, to enable countries and relevant stakeholders to submit requests for assistance, post offers of technical assistance, announce available opportunities and access a wide range of knowledge assets and curated resources.¹

3. In line with the Bio-Bridge Action Plan 2017-2020, the Secretariat has embarked on a communication and outreach programme to publicize the Bio-Bridge Initiative and encourage Parties and partner organizations to engage more actively in technical and scientific cooperation to meet the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Work is also ongoing to develop a network of partners that can support the Bio-Bridge activities in all regions and identify potential sources of assistance that could be matched with requests for assistance received.

B. Purpose and objectives

4. The Secretariat is convening the first regional Bio-Bridge Initiative round table for Central and Eastern Europe and the Central Asian republics to raise awareness of the Bio-Bridge Initiative and its operational modalities (including the project selection criteria and procedures), tools and services; provide

¹ More details about the Bio-Bridge Initiative are available at: <http://www.cbd.int/biobridge>.

updates on recent developments under the Initiative; and facilitate the sharing of experience and lessons learned with respect to technical and scientific cooperation. The round table also aims to facilitate interaction between Parties requiring technical assistance and Parties and/or organizations that could provide such assistance with a view to identifying matchmaking opportunities, fostering partnerships and finding joint solutions. Furthermore, participants will discuss potential opportunities for upscaling Bio-Bridge-facilitated projects by leveraging additional support from relevant initiatives and mechanisms, such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN), the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) and the private sector.

5. It is expected that, at the end of the round table, participants will be better informed about the Bio-Bridge Initiative and equipped to actively use its tools and services to communicate their technical and scientific needs and priorities, find and access available opportunities, identify and link up with potential providers of technical assistance and build partnerships for fostering technical and scientific cooperation for the effective implementation of the Convention and its Protocols. It is also hoped that the participants will learn from each other's experience and good practices and improve their ability to develop good project proposals that meet the criteria and requirements of the Bio-Bridge Initiative and of other relevant initiatives and support mechanisms such as those referred to in paragraph 4 above. It is further expected that more partner organizations and donor agencies will be encouraged to collaborate with the Bio-Bridge Initiative to support countries requesting assistance.

C. Organization and attendance

6. The round table is organized by the Secretariat in collaboration with the Institute of Genetics and Cytology and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of Belarus. Funding is provided by the Republic of Korea through the Ministry of Environment, as part of its overall support for the Bio-Bridge Initiative.

7. The round table will bring together senior government officials (including national focal points, policymakers and practitioners) nominated by Parties in the region, representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities, civil society, researchers as well as representatives of relevant regional and international organizations and donor agencies that could provide assistance.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE ROUND TABLE

8. The Minister of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus will open the round table at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, 5 December 2017, at the main building (the Presidium) of the National Academy of Sciences. A representative of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity will also give opening remarks.

ITEM 2. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS: ELECTION OF THE CHAIR, ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

9. Participants will be invited to elect a chair to moderate the round table on the basis of proposals received from the floor.

10. Participants will then be invited to consider and adopt the provisional agenda of the round table (CBD/TSC/WS/2017/4/1) prepared by the Executive Secretary and to consider the draft organization of work contained in the annex below.

11. Thereafter, the Secretariat will present the objectives and the expected outcomes of the round table and will invite participants to state their expectations from the round table.

12. The meeting will be held in English with interpretation into Russian.

13. Documents for the round table will be made available on the Secretariat's website at <https://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=TSCWS-2017-04>.

ITEM 3. INTRODUCTION TO TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION FOR THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION AND ITS PROTOCOLS

14. Under this item, a keynote presentation will be made to provide the contextual background for the round-table discussions. The presentation will, inter alia, provide an overview of technical and scientific cooperation within the context of Article 18 of the Convention on Biological Diversity and highlight the role of such cooperation in fostering the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the national biodiversity strategies and action plans. The presentation will also outline relevant developments, including decisions of the Conference of the Parties relating to the implementation of Article 18 of the Convention and the different approaches to technical and scientific cooperation adopted by various Governments and organizations.

15. After the presentation, a panel discussion on experiences and lessons learned from major technical and scientific cooperation initiatives on biodiversity will be conducted by representatives of relevant regional and international organizations. This will be followed by a knowledge café on opportunities and challenges for promoting technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer to augment the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the role the Bio-Bridge Initiative could play in this regard.

ITEM 4. OVERVIEW OF THE BIO-BRIDGE INITIATIVE ON TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION

16. Under this item, the Secretariat will introduce the Bio-Bridge Initiative including its vision, mission and objectives, guiding principles and provide updates on the status of implementation of its core activities, tools and services as described in the Bio-Bridge Action Plan 2017-2020. The Secretariat will also describe the Initiative's operational framework, rules and procedures, including the process for submission and review of requests for assistance and the assessment criteria. Participants will be invited to provide feedback to improve the assessment criteria and procedures. Furthermore, the Secretariat will demonstrate how the Bio-Bridge web platform can be used to submit and access information, including requests for assistance, providers of assistance, offers of technical assistance and other opportunities, and relevant tools and resources.

17. Furthermore the Secretariat will provide an overview of the progress and achievements made so far, including the requests for assistance (proposals) received by the Bio-Bridge Initiative, the projects supported as well as proposals for Bio-Bridge demonstration projects awaiting funding and other support.

18. After the presentations representatives of organizations that implemented Bio-Bridge pilot and demonstration projects will take part in a panel discussion to highlight the main outcomes of their projects and share the experience and lessons learned. Countries and organizations that have submitted requests for assistance or used the Bio-Bridge web platform and other tools will also be invited to share their experiences and lessons learned from their engagement with the Initiative. Participants will also be invited to exchange ideas and suggestions on how Bio-Bridge operations could be improved to respond more effectively to the needs and priorities of countries in the region.

ITEM 5. DIALOGUE BETWEEN COUNTRIES SEEKING ASSISTANCE AND POTENTIAL PROVIDERS OF ASSISTANCE FOR THE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF BIODIVERSITY

19. Under this item, countries requiring technical assistance will be invited to highlight their priority technical and scientific needs related to the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols, particularly those related to the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and national targets. Potential providers of technical assistance, including representatives of regional and international organizations, donor agencies and private sector entities, will also be invited to take part in a panel discussion to share information about their activities, expertise, experiences and lessons learned with

respect to biodiversity-related technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer and highlight the kind of support or technical solutions they could offer to countries requiring assistance.

20. The presentations will be followed by a round-table discussion on the key national and regional priority needs and potential opportunities for enhancing technical and scientific cooperation, including through South-South cooperation.

**ITEM 6. OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEVERAGING ADDITIONAL SUPPORT
FOR TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION FOR THE
CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF BIODIVERSITY**

21. Under this item, participants will be introduced to initiatives and mechanisms, such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) and private sector initiatives, which could provide additional support to scale up technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer projects initiated with Bio-Bridge seed funding and matchmaking facilitation. Representatives from such initiatives and mechanisms will be invited to take part in a panel discussion to share information about their support activities, the requirements for accessing their support and potential opportunities for collaboration with the Bio-Bridge Initiative. They will also be invited to share relevant experiences and lessons learned from their operations.

22. After the panel discussion, participants will engage in group discussions to identify opportunities for collaboration with other relevant initiatives to scale up and replicate biodiversity-related technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer projects in the region, including through incorporation of technical and scientific activities into broader projects and programmes funded by the above initiatives and mechanisms and bilateral and multilateral development cooperation agencies.

ITEM 7. CONCLUSION AND THE WAY FORWARD

23. Under this item, participants will discuss the main conclusions of the round table and identify the possible next steps to advance biodiversity-related technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer in the region within the context of the Bio-Bridge Initiative, including opportunities for south-south cooperation.

24. Participants will also be invited to complete an evaluation form to inform and help to improve the organization of future round tables.

ITEM 8. CLOSURE OF THE ROUND TABLE

25. The round table will close at 4 p.m. on Thursday, 7 December 2017.

Annex

PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Date and time	Session/activity
Tuesday, 5 December 2017	
9.00 – 9.30 a.m.	Item 1. Opening of the round table <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opening of the round table by the Minister of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus Opening remarks by a representative of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity
9.30 – 9.45 a.m.	Item 2. Organizational matters: election of the Chair, adoption of the agenda and organization of work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Election of the Chair Adoption of the provisional agenda and the organization of work Workshop objectives and expected outcomes Participants' expectations
9.45 – 10.30 a.m.	Item 3. Introduction to technical and scientific cooperation for the effective implementation of the Convention and its Protocols <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keynote presentation on technical and scientific cooperation within the context of Convention and its Protocol: overview of major developments and examples of successful initiatives and approaches Questions and answers
10.30 – 10.45 a.m.	Coffee/tea break
10.45 – 11.30 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge Café on emerging experiences, good practices and lessons learned from relevant biodiversity-related technical and scientific cooperation initiatives
11.30 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group discussions on opportunities and challenges for promoting technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer to facilitate the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in Central and Eastern Europe and the Central Asian republics Presentation of reports from the group discussions
1.00 – 2.00 p.m.	Lunch break
2 – 2.45 p.m.	Item 4. Overview of the Bio-Bridge Initiative on Technical and Scientific Cooperation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation of the Bio-Bridge Initiative: its mission and objectives, guiding principles and Action Plan for 2017-2020 Questions and answers
2.45 – 3.30 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation of the Bio-Bridge operational framework: overview of the process for submission and review of requests for assistance and the assessment criteria. Questions and answers

Date and time	Session/activity
3.30 – 4.00 p.m.	Coffee/tea break
4.00 – 5.00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstration of the use of the Bio-Bridge web platform to submit and search for information Feedback on possible improvements to the Bio-Bridge web platform
Wednesday, 6 December 2017	
9.00 – 10.30 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Panel discussion on Bio-Bridge pilot/demonstration projects and related cooperation initiatives: main outcomes, experience gained and lessons learned Round-table discussions with the panellists
10.30 – 11.00 a.m.	Coffee/tea break
11 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group discussions on how the Bio-Bridge Initiative could be improved to respond more effectively to the needs and priorities of countries in the region Presentation of group discussion results
12.30 – 1.30 p.m.	Lunch break
1.30 – 3.00 p.m.	<p>Item 5. Dialogue between countries seeking assistance and potential providers of assistance for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short presentations by countries requiring technical assistance on their priority technical and scientific needs related to the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols Questions and answers/points of clarification
3.00 – 3.30 p.m.	Coffee/tea break
3.30 – 5 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Panel presentations by potential providers of technical assistance and donor agencies Round-table discussion with the panellists
Thursday, 7 December 2017	
9.00 – 10.30 a.m.	<p>Item 6. Opportunities for leveraging additional support for technical and scientific cooperation for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Panel session on support activities, emerging experiences and lessons learned by relevant initiatives and mechanisms Round-table discussion with the panellists
10.30 – 11.00 a.m.	Coffee/tea break
11.00 – 12.30 p.m.	<p>Item 7. Conclusion and the way forward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plenary round-table discussions on strategic steps to advance technical and scientific cooperation for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the region
12.30 – 2.00 p.m.	Lunch break
2.00 – 3.30 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consideration of the conclusions and recommendations of the round table Evaluation of the round table

Date and time	Session/activity
3.30 – 4.00 p.m.	Item 8. Closure of the round table <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Closing remarks by representatives of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
