



## Convention on Biological Diversity

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REGIONAL BIO-BRIDGE INITIATIVE ROUND TABLE FOR  
WESTERN EUROPE AND OTHERS GROUP  
Brussels, 21 September 2018

### ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

#### I. INTRODUCTION

##### A. Background

1. In its decisions XI/2 and XII/2B, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity requested the Executive Secretary to develop, in cooperation with relevant partner organizations, a coherent and coordinated approach to technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer in support of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. It also welcomed the Bio-Bridge Initiative, an overarching programme established with initial support by the Government of the Republic of Korea, to catalyse and facilitate such cooperation under the Convention and its Protocols (decision XII/2 B, para. 13 and decision XII/3, para. 5). Furthermore, in decision XIII/23, Parties and other Governments were invited to encourage and support relevant national or regional institutions, including scientific, technical and policy institutes, the Consortium of Scientific Partners on Biodiversity, and indigenous peoples and local communities to contribute to technical and scientific cooperation.

2. The Bio-Bridge Initiative (BBI) is an overarching programme offering tools and services linking Parties that have technical and scientific needs with Parties and institutions that are in a position to respond to these needs and provide technical assistance through mutual cooperation and partnerships. Since the launch of the programme, the Secretariat has developed a Bio-Bridge Action Plan to guide implementation between 2017 and 2020, supported 13 pilot and demonstration projects to test various technical and scientific cooperation approaches, established a help desk to assist Parties in articulating their needs and facilitate matchmaking, and developed a web platform through which countries and relevant stakeholders can submit requests for assistance, post offers of technical assistance, announce relevant opportunities and access a range of knowledge assets and curated resources.<sup>1</sup>

##### B. Purpose and objectives

3. In line with the Bio-Bridge Action Plan 2017-2020, the Secretariat is convening the regional Bio-Bridge Initiative round table for Western Europe and Others Group (WEOG) to promote awareness of the Bio-Bridge Initiative and its tools and activities; showcase exemplary technical and scientific cooperation initiatives supported by BBI to date and identify potential opportunities for leveraging additional support to upscale or replicate those initiatives; and encourage Parties and partner organizations in the region to actively engage in technical and scientific cooperation and offer technical

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

assistance to countries in need of support to achieve their national biodiversity targets. The round table also aims to facilitate exchange of views, experiences and lessons learned from different models and programmes on technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer in support of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, including activities of the Consortium of Scientific Partners on Biodiversity (CSP).<sup>2</sup>

4. It is expected that, at the end of the round table, participants will be conversant with the Bio-Bridge Initiative and the opportunities it offers to facilitate technical and scientific cooperation among Parties and relevant organizations for the effective implementation of the Convention and its Protocols. It is also expected that participants will be inspired to collaborate with the Bio-Bridge Initiative to further provide support to countries requesting assistance.

### **C. Organization and attendance**

5. The round table is organized by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in collaboration with the Royal Belgian Institute for Natural Sciences and the European Union and is hosted by the Royal Belgian Institute for Natural Sciences in Brussels. Funding is provided by the Republic of Korea through the Ministry of Environment, as part of its overall support for the Bio-Bridge Initiative.

6. The round table will bring together 40 to 50 senior government officials (including national focal points, policymakers and practitioners) from the European Union member states and other WEOG countries – Australia, Canada, Israel, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, Switzerland, Turkey and United States – as well as representatives of the Consortium of Scientific Partners on Biodiversity, regional and international organizations, civil society, research and academic institutions and the private sector that could provide technical assistance.

7. The round table will be held in English.

8. Documents for the round table will be made available on the Secretariat's website at <https://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=TSCWS-2018-02>.

### **ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE ROUND TABLE**

9. The Director General of the Royal Belgian Institute for Natural Sciences will open the round table at 9 a.m. on Friday, 21 September 2018. The Deputy Director of the Nature Conservation Bureau, Ministry of the Environment of the Government of the Republic of Korea and a representative of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity will also give opening remarks.

### **ITEM 2. REFLECTIONS ON TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION UNDER THE CONVENTION AND ITS PROTOCOLS**

10. Under this item, the Secretariat will deliver a presentation providing the contextual background for the round-table discussions. The presentation will, inter alia, describe the scope of technical and scientific cooperation within the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols, and highlight relevant developments, including previous decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties and various programmes and activities undertaken to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer.

11. The presentation will be followed by a panel discussion on experiences and lessons learned from various technical and scientific cooperation programmes on biodiversity supported by institutions and organizations in the region and a reflection on opportunities and challenges for promoting technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer in support of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the post-2020 biodiversity framework.

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<sup>2</sup> See details about the Consortium of Scientific Partners at: <https://www.cbd.int/cooperation/csp>

**ITEM 3. UPDATE ON THE BIO-BRIDGE INITIATIVE AND OTHER PROGRAMMES CONTRIBUTING TO THE PROMOTION OF TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION**

12. Under this item, the CBD Secretariat will introduce the Bio-Bridge Initiative including its Action Plan 2017-2020, operational framework and tools and services (e.g. including the help desk, the web platform and the round tables) and provide an update on the main achievements so far. The presentation will also highlight requests for assistance received by the Secretariat and the main priority needs identified during the four regional round tables held in 2017 and 2018. This will be followed by a panel discussion by representatives of institutions and organizations that have implemented BBI pilot and demonstration projects highlighting the main results of their projects and the lessons learned.

13. The Secretariat will also introduce other strands of work contributing to the facilitation of technical and scientific cooperation, namely: the work of the Consortium of Scientific Partners on Biodiversity, the "Biodiversity Technology Fair" to be held at the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt in November 2018 to showcase technologies that could be leveraged to solve vexing biodiversity challenges; and the development of a video game to promote awareness and demonstrate the potential of using technologies to facilitate decision-making and catalyse action around issues underpinning the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

**ITEM 4. CURRENT AND POTENTIAL PROVIDERS OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF BIODIVERSITY**

14. Under this item potential providers of technical assistance in the region, including national institutions, regional and international organizations, members of the Consortium of Scientific Partners on Biodiversity, donor agencies and private sector entities, will also be invited 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. This will provide a general picture of who the providers are and what type of assistance is already being provided. Participants will be invited to identify other prospective providers of assistance that support Parties on different thematic areas. Participants will also discuss ways to enhance coordination and collaboration among various providers of technical assistance to maximize the available resources, identify opportunities for joint programming and delivery and reinforce the impact of technical and scientific cooperation programmes.

**ITEM 5. OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MODALITIES AND LEVERAGING ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION**

15. Under this item, participants will discuss opportunities for improving the technical assistance modalities and for leveraging additional resources to scale up and replicate technical and scientific cooperation projects initiated with Bio-Bridge seed funding in support of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the post-2020 biodiversity framework. They will be invited to identify different models for supporting technical and scientific cooperation with developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition, including triangular cooperation or support for south-south cooperation.

**ITEM 6. CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS**

16. Under this item, participants will discuss the main conclusions of the round table and identify the possible next steps to advance technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer in support of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the post-2020 biodiversity framework.

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

**ITEM 7. CLOSURE OF THE ROUND TABLE**

18. The round table will close at 5 p.m. on Friday, 21 September 2018.

## PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Date and time	Session/activity
<b>Friday, 21 September 2018</b>	
9.00 – 9.15 a.m.	<p><b>Item 1. Opening of the round table</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opening of the round table by the Director General of the Royal Belgian Institute for Natural Sciences</li> <li>• Opening remarks by the Deputy Director of the Nature Conservation Bureau, Ministry of the Environment of the Government of the Republic of Korea</li> <li>• Opening remarks by a representative of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity</li> </ul>
9.15 – 9.45 a.m.	<p><b>Item 2. Reflection on technical and scientific cooperation under the Convention and its Protocols</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation and short discussion on technical and scientific cooperation within the context of Convention and its Protocols: overview of major developments and initiatives</li> </ul>
9.45 – 10.30 a.m.	<p><b>Item 3. Update on the Bio-Bridge Initiative and other programmes contributing to the promotion of technical and scientific cooperation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation of the Bio-Bridge Initiative: its Action Plan for 2017-2020, operational model and achievements to date</li> </ul> <p>Questions and answers</p>
10.30 – 10.45 a.m.	<b>Coffee/tea break</b>
10.45 – 12.15 p.m.	<p><b>Item 4. Current and potential providers of technical assistance for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Short presentations by institutions represented</li> <li>• Identification of other potential providers of technical assistance</li> </ul>
12.15 – 1.15 p.m.	<b>Lunch</b>
1.15 – 2.00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group discussions on how the Bio-Bridge Initiative could be improved to respond more effectively to the needs and priorities of countries</li> <li>• Presentation of group discussion results</li> </ul>
2.00 – 3.00 p.m.	<p><b>Item 5. Opportunities for improving technical assistance modalities and leveraging additional resources for technical and scientific cooperation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group discussion on modalities, opportunities and support models to catalyse technical and scientific cooperation</li> </ul>
3.00 – 3.30 p.m.	<b>Coffee/tea break</b>
3.30 – 4.45 p.m.	<p><b>Item 6. Conclusion and next steps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summary of next steps</li> <li>• Meeting evaluation</li> </ul>

Date and time	Session/activity
4.45 – 5.00 p.m.	<b>Item 7. Closure of the round table</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="422 262 1510 325">• Closing remarks by representatives of the Royal Belgian Institute for Natural Sciences and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity</li></ul>

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