



Convention on Biological Diversity

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Regional dialogue on national biodiversity strategies and action plans for countries in the Middle East and North Africa

Amman, 16–19 January 2024

Item 2 of the provisional agenda*

Introduction and overview of the objectives and programme of the dialogue

Annotated provisional agenda

Introduction

1. By its decision [15/4](#), the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and noted that its implementation would be supported by decisions [15/5](#), [15/6](#), [15/7](#), [15/8](#), [15/9](#) and [15/13](#), which it affirmed to be of equal standing to the Framework. The Conference of the Parties also noted that the implementation of the Framework would be supported by relevant decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meetings of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization, in particular the Implementation Plan for the Cartagena Protocol and the Capacity-building Action Plan for the Cartagena Protocol.¹
2. By its decision 15/6, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention adopted an enhanced multidimensional approach to planning, monitoring, reporting and review, with national biodiversity strategies and action plans, revised or updated in alignment with the Framework and its goals and targets, as the main vehicle for the implementation of the Framework. The Conference of the Parties requested Parties to revise and update said strategies and plans, aligned with the Framework and its goals and targets, and to submit them by its sixteenth meeting. In decision 15/7, the Conference of the Parties encouraged Parties to develop, update and implement national biodiversity finance plans or similar instruments, on the basis of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans. In decision 15/8, it urged Parties to integrate capacity-building and development components in those strategies and plans, while updating them in line with the Framework, and/or to develop dedicated biodiversity capacity-building and development action plans, and programmes, as appropriate.
3. In decision 15/6, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to support the operationalization of the enhanced multidimensional approach to planning, monitoring, reporting and review, including by collaborating with relevant partners to provide necessary capacity-building and other support and by supporting the Subsidiary Body on Implementation in the further development and piloting of a modus operandi of an open-ended forum for the voluntary country review of implementation. In decision 15/8, it also requested the Executive Secretary to support and

* CBD/NBSAP/OM/2024/1/1.

¹ Decisions CP-10/3, annex, and CP-10/4, annex, respectively.

advise Parties on ways to integrate capacity-building and development components into their national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

4. With generous funding from the Government of Japan, provided through the Japan Biodiversity Fund, and from the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the European Union, the Secretariat is supporting the overall organization of a series of regional or subregional dialogues in 2023 and 2024 aimed at facilitating the sharing of experiences and mutual learning related to the revision or updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans in alignment with the Framework, including by setting and aligning national targets with the Framework. The dialogues will be organized at the regional or subregional levels with the support of specific partners and donors identified for each dialogue.

5. With the support of the Ministry of Environment of Jordan, the present regional dialogue for countries in the Middle East and North Africa will be held in Amman, from 16 to 19 January 2024. A number of representatives of relevant United Nations and regional organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities and stakeholder groups will also be invited to attend. The dialogue will provide participants with an opportunity to share experiences and lessons learned in the revision or updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, including good practices and ways and means to address challenges in this regard. It will also contribute to the further piloting of the open-ended forum for the voluntary country review of implementation, under the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, requested in decision 15/6. The dialogue will include breakout sessions related to financing of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans, capacity-building and development, and the integration of the provisions of the Protocols and relevant multilateral environmental agreements, which will feed into the overall discussion. The discussions will be aimed at addressing challenges that countries are facing, identifying opportunities and providing information that will enhance the overall development and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans. The annex contains a detailed proposed organization of work.

Item 1

Opening of the meeting

6. The dialogue will be opened at 9 a.m. on 16 January 2024. A recorded address by the Acting Executive Secretary will be shown. The Minister of the Environment of Jordan or a representative of the Ministry will make opening remarks.

Item 2

Introduction and overview of the objectives and programme of the dialogue

7. Participants will be presented with the objectives of the dialogue and the proposed organization of work (see annex). They will also be briefed on logistical arrangements.

8. Participants will be invited to briefly introduce themselves.

9. By its decision 15/6, the Conference of the Parties adopted an enhanced planning, monitoring, review and reporting mechanism, with a view to strengthening the implementation of the Convention, building on the existing multidimensional review approaches. In the decision, national biodiversity strategies and action plans are reaffirmed as the main instruments for the implementation of the Convention at the national level. The Secretariat will provide an introduction to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and associated decisions adopted at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol and the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol.

Item 3

Experiences and lessons learned in revising or updating national biodiversity strategies and action plans, including national targets

10. The representatives of each participating country will be provided with an opportunity to share national experiences and lessons learned in updating or revising the national biodiversity strategies and action plans, including by setting or revising the national targets in alignment with the goals and targets of the Framework. Country presentations and associated discussions will be organized around the following five topics:

- (a) Whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach;
- (b) Integration of the provisions of the Protocols into national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- (c) National target setting or revision;
- (d) Development of a national monitoring plan;
- (e) Challenges and opportunities for the overall revision or updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

11. Under each of the first four topics, the representatives of countries will be invited to share progress made to date, good practices implemented and challenges encountered. Following those presentations, discussions aimed at understanding common challenges faced by countries in the region and at identifying possible opportunities and solutions will be held. Specifically, under topic A, discussions will be focused on institutional arrangements or mechanisms established for updating or revising national biodiversity strategies and action plans, approaches employed for mainstreaming and integrating the provisions of other multilateral environmental agreements and for engaging relevant ministries, sectors, indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant stakeholders, challenges encountered and possible ways to enhance coordination and engagement. Under topic B, participants will address how the provisions of the Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols can be integrated into the national biodiversity strategies and action plans. Under topic C, they will look at progress made in setting or revising national targets, including by identifying gaps in ambition, the process followed and the challenges encountered, as well as support needed. Under topic D, they will discuss the steps and challenges in the development of national monitoring plans, including indicators as part of the revised or updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans, for example by identifying monitoring needs and the use of headline indicators.

12. Under topic E, participants will discuss other issues and challenges and opportunities for the overall revision or updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and will attempt to identify possible solutions or opportunities to address the issues and challenges. They will prepare a summary of regional findings that captures the key messages from the discussions held and contributes to the overall recommendations stemming from the dialogue. Representatives from relevant organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities and stakeholders will be invited to contribute to the discussions, including by sharing their experiences and perspectives.

Item 4

Breakout sessions on capacity-building and development and national biodiversity financing

13. At its fifteenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopted decision [15/7](#) on resource mobilization and decision [15/8](#) on capacity-building and development and technical and scientific cooperation. Those decisions are of equal standing to the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and outline the need for capacity-development action plans and biodiversity financing plans to accompany national biodiversity strategies and action plans. An overview presentation of how the two decisions are related to such strategies and plans will be made, after which participants will hold breakout sessions on: (a) capacity-building and development; and (b) biodiversity financing

planning. Participants will be invited to join the groups, with one country representative in each group.

14. Each breakout session will comprise introductory presentations, facilitated group discussions and group exercises on the development of national capacity-development action plans or national biodiversity financing plans. Participants in the breakout sessions are expected to report in plenary session key findings from the discussions that will contribute to the overall recommendations of the dialogue.

Item 5

Recommendations of the dialogue

15. Participants will discuss and prepare a summary of recommendations from the dialogue on the basis of the discussions held in both plenary and breakout sessions. Representatives of countries will be also invited to share their plans for the next steps, including possible timelines for completing the revision or updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, for example, by submitting national targets before the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and outlining the further support that their countries may need in this regard. The recommendations of the dialogue will contribute to the preparation by the Secretariat of relevant documents for forthcoming meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and the Conference of the Parties and the pilot open-ended forum for the voluntary country review.

Item 6

Closure of the meeting

16. The meeting is scheduled to be closed at 5 p.m. on 19 January 2024, with closing remarks by representatives of the Ministry of Environment of Jordan and the Secretariat.

Annex

Proposed organization of work

<i>Time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Description</i>
Tuesday, 16 January 2024		
8–9 a.m.	Registration	n/a
9–9.50 a.m.	Item 1. Opening of the meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Opening remarks by representatives of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Ministry of Environment of Jordan. – Group photo.
9.50–10.30 a.m.	Item 2. Introduction and overview of the objectives and programme of the dialogue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Presentation by a representative of the Secretariat on the objectives and programme of work of the dialogue. – Introductory presentation by a representative of the Secretariat on the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.
10.30–10.45 a.m.	<i>Coffee break</i>	
10.45 a.m.–12.45 p.m.	Item 3. Experiences and lessons learned in revising or updating national biodiversity strategies and action plans, including national targets	<p><i>Topic A: whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Presentations by the representatives of three countries of national experiences with the revision or updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, the institutional arrangements that exist to promote the whole-of government and whole-of-society approach and the engagement of various sectors and stakeholders, including through the integration of the provisions of relevant multilateral environmental agreements into the strategies and plans (10 minutes each). The presentations may include examples of good practices, successes and challenges. – Presentations by two to three representatives of organizations, non-State actors and indigenous peoples and local communities (5 minutes each). – Facilitated discussion aimed at understanding common challenges and identifying opportunities and solutions.
12.45–2 p.m.	<i>Lunch break</i>	
2–3.15 p.m.	Item 3 (<i>continued</i>)	<p><i>Topic B: integration of the provisions of the Protocols into national biodiversity strategies and action plans</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Introductory presentations by a representative of the Secretariat on the integration of the Protocols into the national biodiversity strategies and action plans. – Presentations by the representatives of two countries on experiences, key lessons and best practices in integrating the provisions of the Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols, including elements of national biosafety frameworks, into national biodiversity strategies and action plans. – Facilitated discussion aimed at understanding common challenges and identifying opportunities and solutions.

<i>Time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Description</i>
3.15–3.30 p.m.	<i>Coffee break</i>	
3.15–5 p.m.	Item 3 (<i>continued</i>)	<p><i>Topic C: national target setting or revision</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Presentation by the Secretariat on the guidance for revising or updating national biodiversity strategies and action plans contained in annex I to decision 15/6. – Presentations by the representatives of three countries on how existing national targets have been revised or new targets set to be aligned with the goals and targets of the Framework.
Wednesday, 17 January		
9–11 a.m.	Item 3 (<i>continued</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Facilitated group discussions aimed at understanding common challenges in revising or setting national targets and identifying opportunities and solutions. – Reporting back by the groups in plenary session. – Demonstration of the online tool to submit national targets.
11–11.15 a.m.	<i>Coffee break</i>	
11.15 a.m.–12.45 p.m.	Item 3 (<i>continued</i>)	<p><i>Topic D: development of a national monitoring plan</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Presentation by the Secretariat on the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. – Presentations by the representatives of two to three countries of experiences in the development of national monitoring plans for national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the use of headline indicators in those strategies and plans – Presentations by the representatives of organizations or non-State actors. – Presentation by representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities on other forms of knowledge. – Facilitated discussions on common challenges, opportunities and solutions, including on how research institutions, citizen or community monitoring entities and other non-State actors can contribute to improved monitoring.
12.45–2 p.m.	<i>Lunch break</i>	
2–3.30 p.m.	Item 3 (<i>continued</i>)	<p><i>Topic E: challenges and opportunities for the overall revision or updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Presentation by a representative of Jordan on the updating of the country’s national biodiversity strategy and action plan, including good practices and lessons learned. – Group discussions on challenges and opportunities for the revision or updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans based on the presentations made and discussions held under topics A to D.
3.30–3.45 p.m.	<i>Coffee break</i>	

<i>Time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Description</i>	
3.45–4.45 p.m.	Item 3 (<i>continued</i>)	Summary of regional findings: – Group discussions on regional findings. – Reporting back from the groups in plenary session.	
4.45–5 p.m.	Item 4. Breakout sessions on capacity-building and development and national biodiversity financing	– Introduction of the breakout sessions: (a) Capacity-building and development; (b) Biodiversity finance planning. – The breakout sessions will comprise presentations, group exercises and group discussions.	
Thursday, 18 January			
9–10.30 a.m.	Item 4 (<i>continued</i>)	<i>Breakout groups</i>	
		<i>(a) Capacity-building and development</i>	<i>(b) Biodiversity finance planning</i>
		National capacity-development assessments for the implementation of the Framework.	Overview of relevant international financial mechanisms and policy frameworks.
10.30–10.45 a.m.	<i>Coffee break</i>		
10.45 a.m.–12.45 p.m.	Item 4 (<i>continued</i>)	National capacity-development assessments for the implementation of the Framework (<i>continued</i>).	Biodiversity expenditure reviews and costing of actions in national biodiversity strategies and action plans.
12.45–2 p.m.	<i>Lunch break</i>		
2–3 p.m.	Item 4 (<i>continued</i>)	Formulating a national capacity-development action plan for the implementation of the Framework.	Developing a national biodiversity financing plan.
3–3.15 p.m.	<i>Coffee break</i>		
3.15–5 p.m.	Item 4 (<i>continued</i>)	Formulating a national capacity-development action plan for the implementation of the Framework (<i>continued</i>).	Financing opportunities and solutions for national biodiversity strategies and action plans.
Friday, 19 January			
9–10.30 a.m.	Item 4 (<i>continued</i>)	<i>Capacity-building and development and finance at the national level</i> The representatives of each country will prepare and give a presentation on their countries' capacity and finance needs or draft plans for capacity-building and development and financing including resource needs and potential sources of resources.	

<i>Time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Description</i>
10.30–10.45 a.m.	<i>Coffee break</i>	
10.45 a.m.–12.45 p.m.	Item 4 (<i>continued</i>)	Country teams will be invited to develop a timeline and activities on the next steps. It is assumed that this exercise will have to be repeated at the national level with all relevant stakeholders.
12.45–2 p.m.	<i>Lunch break</i>	
2–3.30 p.m.	Item 5. Recommendations of the dialogue	Participants will discuss and prepare the recommendations from the dialogue, including challenges, opportunities and solutions. This session will be aimed at summarizing key points from all the previous sessions for inclusion in the report on the dialogue.
3.30–3.45 p.m.	<i>Coffee break</i>	
3.45–5 p.m.	Item 5 (<i>continued</i>) Item 6. Closure of the meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The representatives of each country will present their countries' plans for the next steps, including possible timelines for completing the revision or updating of its national biodiversity strategy and action plan. – Closing remarks by the representatives of the Ministry of Environment of Jordan and the Secretariat.