



Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/WS-CB-IAS-AFR/1/1
6 December 2011

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

AFRICAN SUBREGIONAL WORKSHOP TO
STRENGTHEN CAPACITY FOR THE CONVENTION
ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY PROGRAMMES OF
WORK RELEVANT TO INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES
Nairobi, 7-9 December 2011

CONCEPT NOTE AND PROGRAMME

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Mainstreaming biodiversity necessitates the integration of conservation and the sustainable use of biodiversity in order to achieve goals such as sustainable development, poverty reduction, climate-change adaptation/mitigation, trade, and international cooperation. The ultimate goal of this workshop is to identify information, tools, and capacity-building needs to address the threats to biodiversity posed by invasive alien species and to discuss opportunities to enhance cooperation among the national focal points and national authorities for sanitary and phytosanitary measures to address invasive alien species in the African region. The workshop supports national efforts to develop/update invasive species strategic and action plans at the national and regional levels as a contribution to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.
2. This workshop contributes to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, primarily target 9 (invasive alien species) and related targets. If sufficient time and expertise are available, this workshop may also consider the strategic implementation of the “Draft Capacity-building Strategy for the Global Taxonomy Initiative” annexed to UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/15/5, which was *welcomed* at the fifteenth meeting of Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) and will be further reviewed by the Subsidiary Body at its sixteenth meeting. The workshop may assist the process of reviewing the draft capacity-building strategy to submit comments to the Secretariat prior to SBSTTA 16 based on the identified capacity needs to address the issue of invasive alien species.
3. Importantly, this workshop also provides an opportunity for participants to communicate and enhance collaboration and cooperation in order to develop the capacity necessary to implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 throughout the region.
4. A complementary workshop, to be held in French, will take place in Dakar in early 2012. The outcome of this workshop will be further discussed at the Regional Workshop for Africa on Updating National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) to be held in Addis Ababa, from 27-29 February 2012.
5. The current workshop is organized by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity with the generous financial contribution of the Government of Japan and in collaboration with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

A. Invasive alien species

6. Invasive alien species¹ are those alien species which threaten ecosystems, habitats or species (see Article 8(h) of the Convention on Biological Diversity). In some ecosystems, especially in island and freshwater contexts, invasive alien species are the leading cause of biodiversity loss. In addition, they can pose a threat to food security, human health and economic development. Globalization of trade and travel increases the risks of biological invasion unless the prevention, eradication, and control of invasive alien species become national priorities.

7. Under the Convention, the Conference of the Parties adopted the “Guiding principles for the prevention, introduction and mitigation of impacts of alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species” annexed to decision VI/23* in 2002. The Conference of the Parties also identified the pathways of introduction of alien species and highlighted the need to address the gaps and inconsistencies of the international regulatory framework in 2006. Further efforts to close the gap in the international regulatory framework have continued through the Conference of the Parties, as well as dialogue among relevant international organizations, for example, the World Trade Organization (WTO) and its standard-setting bodies provide opportunities to develop capacity to implement The Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (“SPS Agreement”), which is highly relevant to addressing invasive alien species.³

8. It is clear that strong cross-sectoral collaboration at the national level is needed to apply the existing international standards to address the issue of invasive alien species. To control the transboundary movement of live species and contaminated goods that threaten biodiversity, it is necessary to implement the Guiding Principles as well as other relevant multilateral environmental agreements.

9. Prevention is the most cost-effective means for addressing invasive alien species. Early detection of entry of alien species and rapid response, ideally eradication of alien species, are also critically important approaches to minimizing the spread and impact of invasive alien species.

10. Credible information on alien species is essential for science-based risk analysis, not only for the pathways described above, but also for planned introductions where countries need to make a decision on whether or not to deliberately introduce a species. The Convention on Biological Diversity and the other relevant organizations call for accurate assessments of the risks of introduction of alien species, and are promoting the creation of information sources and an exchange of information on alien species, their biological and ecological attributes, and potential impacts (both positive and negative). Early detection

¹ The following definitions are used since the Guiding Principles were adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity:

"alien species" refers to a species, subspecies or lower taxon, introduced outside its natural past or present distribution; includes any part, gametes, seeds, eggs, or propagules of such species that might survive and subsequently reproduce;

"invasive alien species" means an alien species whose introduction and/or spread threaten biological diversity (for the purposes of the present guiding principles, the term "invasive alien species" shall be deemed the same as "alien invasive species" in decision V/8 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.);

* One representative entered a formal objection during the process leading to the adoption of this decision and underlined that he did not believe that the Conference of the Parties could legitimately adopt a motion or a text with a formal objection in place. A few representatives expressed reservations regarding the procedure leading to the adoption of this decision (see UNEP/CBD/COP/6/20, paras. 294-324).

³ The Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF), a joint initiative in capacity-building and technical cooperation aiming at raising awareness on the importance of sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) issues, provides SPS-related assistance, and mobilizing resources to assist developing countries enhance their capacity to meet SPS standards <http://www.standardsfacility.org/en/index.htm>. The WTO organized two regional SPS seminars in November 2010 for Latin America and for Asian and Pacific Countries. Approximately 50 government officials attended each of these seminars deepening their knowledge of SPS measures, international standards and their link to trade. Both workshops were enriched by the technical expertise, regional knowledge and up-to-date information of representatives from **Codex, IPPC and OIE**. <http://www.scribd.com/doc/54038201/WTO-STDF-Newsletter-10-Mar-2011-En>.

and management of the entered alien species also requires the correct identification of the species. The capacity to find and apply taxonomic information tools is a basic need both in developing and developed countries.

11. Information sharing and communication within the Government and between the Government and stakeholders is needed to support every aspect of invasive alien species prevention, eradication, and control.

B. The taxonomic imperative

12. Taxonomic information is essential for agencies and border authorities for the detection, management, and control of invasive alien species. However, effective measures can only be implemented when alien species are correctly and promptly identified. Misidentifications can waste valuable resources when rapid decisions need to be taken.

13. Networking and sharing experiences, information, and expertise can aid in lowering the costs associated with invasive alien species and reduce the need for eradication programmes with early detection and prevention. When eradication is needed, taxonomists can offer expertise that is central to developing the most effective yet economic and environmentally benign eradication measures.

14. Increased capacity-building, especially for developing countries, is necessary to identify, record and monitor invasions; provide current and accessible lists of potential and established invasive alien species; identify potential threats to neighbouring countries; and access information on taxonomy, ecology, genetics and control methods. It is vital that adjacent countries, and all countries along a particular pathway for invasive alien species, can recognize such species and concur on their nomenclature. Baseline taxonomic information on native biota at the national level is also important to ensure that invasive alien species can be recognized and distinguished from naturally present species⁴.

15. To develop such needed capacity, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted the programme of work for the Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI) at its seventh meeting in 2004. The planned activities for invasive alien species and for protected areas were added to the programme of work by the Conference of the Parties in 2006. The deliverables of the planned activities, such as biodiversity information and informatics tools, are rapidly accumulating. The application of these deliverables to the process of decision-making on the implementation of the Convention has been successfully carried out in some countries in the region.⁵ Mainstreaming biodiversity can be facilitated with the engagement of the science and education sector in the planning process of national and regional policy development. The limited capacity in taxonomy to underpin the implementation of the Convention used to be described as the *taxonomic impediment*. However, the best practices for the GTI in other parts of the world (e.g., Latin America, East and Southeast Asia) clearly demonstrated that the application of knowledge, science and technologies relating to biodiversity has strongly supported national decision-making and the measures to address the issues posed by invasive alien species. Looking into the success of these cases, the capacity-building strategy for the GTI (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/15/5) proposed 10 actions for Parties to develop such centres of excellence (COE) for biodiversity at the national level. Furthermore, networking of the national COEs in biodiversity

⁴ For more information on the importance of taxonomy in the biodiversity context, see: <http://www.cbd.int/gti/importance.shtml>.

⁵ One of the best practices in the African region to apply biodiversity science to address invasive alien species – a case for plant health. See <http://www.icipe.org/plant-health.html>. The work of the ICIPE in Kenya, in plant health contributes to improving sustainable food security and environmental health through developing IPM options for pre- and post-harvest pests, and for parasitic weeds (such as striga). All technology development involves farmer participation to ensure farmers' needs are met. The agenda of plant health research covers four domains: Staple Food Crop Pests, which is covered by the Habitat Management (HM) and the Noctuid Stem-borers Biodiversity (in collaboration with the Institut de recherche pour le développement) programmes; Horticultural Crop Pests, which is dealt with by the Fruit Fly, Leafminer, Thrips and Red Spider Mites research programmes; Locusts and Other Pests, which deals with African and Malagasy migratory locusts and the armyworm; and the IPM in Legumes research.

science is crucial to achieve national and regional targets. Taxonomic capacity-building is therefore an imperative (“the Taxonomic Imperative”).

II. PROGRAMME

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE WORKSHOP

16. The workshop registration will be opened on Wednesday, 7 December at 9 a.m. at the IUCN Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office, Wasaa Conservation Centre, Mukoma Road (off Magadi Road, City Square) P. O Box 68200, 200 Nairobi, Kenya.

17. The workshop will be opened at 9.30 a.m. by representatives of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Kenya, followed by welcoming remarks by the representatives from the Government of Japan, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

18. Geoffrey Howard of the IUCN, the Chair of this workshop, will explain its goals, and the proposed agenda. Presentations will be in English.

19. Participants will be invited to approve the suggested organization of work.

20. Each participant will have 2-3 minutes to introduce themselves, describe their relevant expertise, and express their expected outcome of this workshop.

21. The emphasis of the workshop will be on exchange and active learning among the focal points to the Convention on Biological Diversity or the participants nominated by the Convention on Biological Diversity national focal points in the African subregion. With this in mind, the workshop format features a mix of presentations with question and answer sessions and plenary discussions. In addition, there will be opportunities for one-on-one discussions between participants, resource persons and staff members of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the IUCN and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

ITEM 2. INTRODUCTION TO THE PROGRAMMES OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

22. A representative of the Convention on Biological Diversity will introduce the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (decision X/2), and the cross-cutting issues under the Convention, invasive alien species and the Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI)⁶ and its draft capacity-building strategy for the GTI.

23. Following questions and answers, Jamie K. Reaser will provide information on *Draft toolkits to address invasive alien species* and the taxonomy imperative to connect the two programmes under the Convention and the work at national and regional levels.

24. Participants will be invited to ask questions and the facilitator will initiate communication among the presenters and other participants.

ITEM 3. BEST PRACTICES IN ADDRESSING INVASIVE SPECIES

25. Each participant will be invited to make a short presentation on the current status of implementation of the invasive species strategies and action plans at national level along the line of the questionnaire circulated prior to the workshop.

26. Participants will be invited to ask questions and to take notes on the advantages and disadvantages of best practices in these countries in comparison with the circumstances of each country.

⁶ Decision X/39.

27. Participants will be invited to identify existing capacity and needed capacity in taxonomy and other relevant biodiversity sciences and to further discuss this matter under agenda items 5 and 6.

ITEM 4. BEST PRACTICES OF CAPACITY-BUILDING IN AFRICA

28. Helida Oyieke, from the National Museum of Kenya, will present the best practices of capacity-building in taxonomy to underpin the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 taking into account the existing capacity in African region.

29. Participants will be invited to ask questions and to take notes for later communication and discussion.

30. Participants who wish to share the information of best practices are invited to make presentations.

ITEM 5. OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES IN CAPACITY-BUILDING TO ADDRESS INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES

31. Walter Masiaga and Antoine Maillard will present up-to-date information on the work of the OIE relevant to invasive alien species, and the role of the Subregional Representation of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) for Eastern and the Horn of Africa.

32. John Ngugi, Senior Programme Officer of Japan International Cooperation Assistance (JICA) Kenya Office will present on bilateral developing assistance relevant to conservation and the sustainable use of biodiversity.

33. Esther Mwangi of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Global Environment Facility (GEF) will present on the national biodiversity strategy and action plan (NBSAP) workshops in the African region and the GEF-5 strategy as an opportunity for mainstreaming biodiversity.

34. Participants are invited to discuss the following questions:

(a) Are there GEF-funded projects or other projects supported by other donors related to mainstreaming biodiversity/addressing invasive alien species in the region?

(b) What are the challenges and any lessons learned to address invasive alien species in the projects above?

(c) What are the elements to be included in the NBSAP to address invasive alien species?

(d) What are the next steps for the region to achieve Aichi Target 9/GEF Indicator 2.3: IAS management framework operational?

ITEM 6. IDENTIFYING CAPACITY NEEDS TO ACHIEVE AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS IN THE REGION, IN PARTICULAR TO ADDRESS INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES AND TO EXPLORE OPTIONS TO INTEGRATE SUCH ELEMENTS INTO THE UPDATED NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS (NBSAP) AS A CONTRIBUTION TO THE CBD STRATEGIC PLAN FOR BIODIVERSITY 2011-2020.

35. Participants will be invited to discuss:

(a) Are there additional best practices to share?

(b) What capacity exists in the African region?

(c) What capacity is further needed? and

(d) How can the needed capacity be developed?

ITEM 7. SUGGESTIONS TO SUBMIT TO THE FOLLOW-UP MEETINGS

36. The facilitator will briefly summarize the discussion points in item 6 of the agenda.
37. Participants will be invited to discuss suggestions or the provision of information to the upcoming Regional Workshop for Africa on Updating National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, 27-29 February 2012, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
38. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity will project the points and suggestions that have emerged from various sessions to the screen.
39. Participants will be invited to further discuss the effective presentation of the outcome of this workshop and will modify the text, as appropriate.

ITEM 8. ADOPTION OF THE SUGGESTIONS

40. Participants will look at all the points and suggestions that have been compiled from the discussions and, if applicable, adopt the conclusions of the workshop.
41. Prior to the closure of the workshop, every participant will be invited to express what capacity was gained during this workshop and/or future needs in relation to their expectations expressed at the beginning of the workshop. Participants will also be asked to anonymously complete an evaluation form. The feedback provided in these forms is used to improve the planning and organization of subsequent workshops.

ITEM 9. CLOSING OF THE WORKSHOP

42. The representative of Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity will provide information on the follow up activities.
43. The workshop is expected to close at approximately 12.30 p.m. on Friday 9 December 2011.

FIELD TRIP (THURSDAY AFTERNOON)

44. Participants will be invited to visit a nature reserve at Nairobi National Park, 10 km from Nairobi. Bus transportation to the park is provided. During the field trip experts will guide you to identify the known invasive alien species in African region. The official web site for the park is at <http://nairobinationalpark.wildlifedirect.org/>.