



## Convention on Biological Diversity

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FRIENDS OF THE CBD WORKSHOP ON  
MECHANISMS TO SUPPORT REVIEW OF  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION  
Bogis-Bossey, Switzerland  
21-23 March 2016

### BACKGROUND

The 4th edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*, as well as the updated information on the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets that will be made available to the 20th meeting of SBSTTA and the first meeting of Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI), underscore the need to urgently scale up efforts to implement the Strategic Plan for 2011-2020 if the Aichi Biodiversity Targets are to be met by 2020 and the implementation of the Convention is to be advanced. For many years, Parties and the Executive Secretary have advocated a focus on implementation under the Convention and the recent establishment of SBI provides a unique opportunity to further enhance the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. The terms of reference for SBI were adopted by decision XII/26. For the current decade, the work of SBI should support the COP in reviewing progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan for 2011-2020 and achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (decision XII/26, para 5).

The Friends of the CBD workshop, to be hosted with the generous support of the Government of Switzerland, provides an ideal opportunity for open, meaningful dialogue in an informal setting among experts from governments and other partners of possible approaches to enhance review of implementation.

### Objectives

The overall question for discussions at the workshop will be: “What existing or new mechanisms under the Convention could be used to strengthen implementation of the Convention by enhancing review?”

### Outcome

The main outcome will be a report compiling views and perspectives of the participants on how to enhance the review of implementation to facilitate subsequent discussions at SBI and afterwards. The report of the meeting would be made available as an information document for SBI.

In order to achieve the objectives, the workshop will address the following:

1. What can we learn from the experience of other processes in this regard?

The experiences of processes under other international processes including the UNFCCC, OECD and the biodiversity-related conventions will be presented. Evidence for the effectiveness of review processes will be considered.

2. How can we build upon existing processes under the Convention?  
The experiences of the reporting process under the Convention and its protocols, and the recently-launched voluntary peer-review process, including possible options for next steps, will be presented and discussed.
3. What further elements for a review process could be developed?  
The ideas and options contained in the note by the Executive Secretary on the matter will be presented and participants will be invited to discuss these in light of other processes under the work of the Convention and its protocols, and to identify opportunities for alignment and streamlining. The need for possible inter-sessional mechanisms and processes will also be considered.
4. How can Parties further strengthen review of implementation at the national level?  
Experiences of Parties in audits and related national processes will be reviewed.

## Participants

Based on nominations received, and taking into account the need for a regionally balanced representation and relevant expertise, approximately 45 participants have been selected to attend the workshop. The participants represent members of the COP Bureau and other government representatives, including the incoming COP 13 Presidency (Mexico). Participants will also include experts from other Conventions and organizations that can present relevant experience, including from UNCCD, UNFCCC, OECD, the Ozone Secretariat, the biodiversity-related conventions and the Rio Conventions.

## Agenda

The two and a half day dialogue workshop will have the following sessions managed by a professional facilitator through interactive panel discussions, followed by targeted group work that allows for critical reflection:

### PANEL 1: Review mechanisms under other international processes

The objective of this session is to increase awareness of experiences to date with review mechanisms that are being implemented under other international processes, through better understanding of the process and costs involved in each, and the contribution that such performance reviews make towards achievement of the overall outcomes. This session will serve as a reference point for discussion of review mechanisms for implementation within CBD. Presentations will be given on the UNHCR's Universal Periodic Review; UNFCCC's monitoring and review framework; OECD's environmental performance review; WTO's trade policy review; NEPAD country review and INTOSAI biodiversity audits.

*Note for the presenters: The presenters are requested to provide a 10 minute presentation on the process, costs and outcome of the relevant review process, preferably using a few PowerPoint slides (maximum 12 slides). A preparatory meeting of the panel members has been scheduled for 8 pm on 20<sup>th</sup> March (Sunday) at the Chateau de Bossey. Please confirm your attendance. Presenters can join the preparatory meeting on skype, if it is not possible for them to be present physically. Please contact Ms. Lydia Zemke ([Lydia.zemke@cbd.int](mailto:Lydia.zemke@cbd.int)) to confirm attendance and to receive further details on connecting to the meeting via skype*

## PANEL 2: Review mechanisms under the biodiversity related conventions and protocols

Having discussed experiences under other international processes, the objective of this session is to shine the spotlight on review mechanisms that are more directly related and that are currently being implemented under the biodiversity related conventions and protocols, through better understanding of the process and costs involved in each and the contribution that they make towards achievement of the outcomes of the conventions and protocols. Presentations will be given by CITES, CMS, Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols

Note for the presenters: *The presenters are requested to provide a 10 minute presentation on the process, costs and outcome of the relevant review process, preferably using a few PowerPoint slides (maximum 12 slides). A preparatory meeting of the panel members has been scheduled for 8 pm on 20<sup>th</sup> March (Sunday) at the Chateau de Bossey. Please confirm your attendance. Presenters can join the preparatory meeting on skype, if it is not possible for them to be present physically. Please contact Ms. Lydia Zemke ([Lydia.zemke@cbd.int](mailto:Lydia.zemke@cbd.int)) to confirm attendance and to receive further details on connecting to the meeting via skype*

## PANEL 3: Voluntary peer review of the NBSAPs

The overall objective of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) voluntary peer-review process of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs) is to help Parties to improve their individual and collective capacities to more effectively implement the Convention. Specifically the peer review is to assess national progress toward the current CBD Strategic Plan and produce specific recommendations for the Parties under review; provide opportunities for peer learning; and creates greater transparency and accountability to the public and other Parties. The experience of the peer review initiated on a pilot basis will be shared by countries and experts involved in the process.

Note for the presenters: *The presenters are requested to provide a 10 minute presentation on the process, costs and outcome of the relevant review process, preferably using a few PowerPoint slides (maximum 12 slides). A preparatory meeting of the panel members has been scheduled for 8 am on 2<sup>1st</sup> March (Monday) at the Chateau de Bossey. Please confirm your attendance. Presenters can join the preparatory meeting on skype, if it is not possible for them to be present physically. Please contact Ms. Lydia Zemke ([Lydia.zemke@cbd.int](mailto:Lydia.zemke@cbd.int)) to confirm attendance and to receive further details on connecting to the meeting via skype*

## PANEL 4: Strengthening implementation at the national level, including reporting

The effectiveness of review mechanisms depends to a large extent on the quality and quantity of the information available. The objective of this session is to gain a better understanding of the ways in which implementation is being strengthened at the national level, particularly with regards to reporting, which in turn will enrich the dialogue on the review mechanisms.

Note for the presenters: *The presenters are requested to provide a 10 minute presentation on the challenges in preparing national reports, including suggestions to further improve it to provide meaningful input to the review of implementation by the SBI, preferably using a few PowerPoint slides (maximum 12 slides). A preparatory meeting of the panel members has been scheduled for 12.30 pm on 21st March (Monday) at the Chateau de Bossey.*

## Documents

The following documents provide background information necessary for the participants to join the discussions. The documents, which can be accessed on the CBD webpage at <https://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=SBI-01> are the following:

- (a) Further options for mechanisms to support the review of implementation (UNEP/CBD/SBI/1/10/Add.3);
  - (b) Voluntary peer-review mechanism for national biodiversity strategies and action plans (UNEP/CBD/SBI/1/10/Add.1);
  - (c) Guidelines for the sixth national reports (UNEP/CBD/SBI/1/11/Add.1).
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