



Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/BS/CB-PAC/1/1/Add.1
7 October 2011

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

PACIFIC SUBREGIONAL WORKSHOP ON CAPACITY-BUILDING FOR EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY

Nadi, Fiji, 28-30 November 2011

Item 2 of the provisional agenda*

ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Annotations to the provisional agenda

INTRODUCTION

1. In its various decisions, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP) has underscored the urgent need to assist developing country Parties, in particular the least developed and the small island developing States among them, to build their capacity for the effective implementation of the Protocol. Among other things, the Parties to the Protocol invited Parties to cooperate with and support developing country Parties, in particular the small island developing States, to:

- (a) Assess their capacity-building needs and priorities (BS-1/5, paragraph 9);
- (b) Develop and implement capacity-building activities (BS-1/5, paragraph 12);
- (c) Develop and implement national biosafety frameworks ((BS-II/3, paragraph 16);
- (d) Establish biosafety coordination mechanisms (BS-III/3, paragraph 16);
- (e) Implement the requirements for the documentation and identification of living modified organisms (LMOs), including sampling and detection (BS-III/10, paragraph 12; BS-IV/9, paragraph 3; and BS-V/8, paragraph 4);
- (f) Conduct risk assessment and risk management (BS-III/11, paragraph 18; and BS-IV/11, paragraph 12);
- (g) Conduct independent biosafety-related research (BS-II/3, paragraph 22); and
- (h) Access and use the Biosafety Clearing-House (BS-I/3, paragraph 10; BS-II/2 paragraphs 8 and 9; BS-III/2, paragraph 11; and BS-V/2, paragraphs 10 and 13).

* UNEP/CBD/BS/CB-PAC/1/1

2. Most small island developing States, including those in the Pacific subregion, lack the necessary capacity to implement the Protocol. According to the information provided in the first national reports and the records from the projects database in the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH), few biosafety capacity-building activities have been implemented in the Pacific subregion. Furthermore, while some countries in the subregion have developed draft national biosafety frameworks with funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP),¹ most of them have not yet formally adopted their frameworks and none of them has so far received support for the implementation of those frameworks.

3. This workshop is being organized to contribute to the enhancement of the capacity of Parties in the Pacific subregion to implement the Protocol. Participants will review the status of the implementation of the Protocol in the subregion, identify the priority capacity-building needs of Parties and discuss subregional strategies and a possible programme to strengthen national capacities and foster subregional cooperation and coordination. The specific objectives of the workshop are to:

(a) Promote awareness of the recent developments under the Protocol, including decisions of the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, and understanding of the major issues and processes underpinning the implementation of the Protocol;

(b) Review the status of implementation of the Protocol in the Pacific subregion and share experiences and lessons learned in the development and implementation of national biosafety frameworks;

(c) Identify national and subregional capacity-building needs and priorities and discuss ways to enhance subregional cooperation to address those needs; and

(d) Explore the possibility of developing a Pacific subregional capacity-building programme on implementation of the national biosafety frameworks for funding by the GEF and other donors.

4. The workshop is organized by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). It is being funded by the Government of Japan and hosted by the Government of Fiji. At least 20 participants, including the national focal points, competent national authorities or other officials responsible for biosafety, as well as representatives from regional partners, are expected to attend. The workshop materials and the outcomes of the workshop will be made available through the Protocol website (<http://bch.cbd.int/protocol>).

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE WORKSHOP

5. The workshop will be opened by a representative of the Government of Fiji at 9 a.m. on Monday, 28 November 2011. A representative of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity will also make opening remarks.

ITEM 2. WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES

6. After self-introductions by the participants, a representative of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity will introduce the workshop objectives and expected outcomes, and present for adoption the workshop agenda and the proposed organization of work as contained in the annex to the present document.

¹ As of August 2010, the following States had completed their NBFs: the Cook Islands, Kiribati, Micronesia (Federated States of), Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu (<http://www.unep.org/biosafety>).

ITEM 3. RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND MAJOR ISSUES UNDER THE PROTOCOL

7. Under this agenda item, participants will be updated on the recent developments under the Protocol, including the major decisions taken by the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol. The information presented will build upon previous workshops and meetings on the Biosafety Protocol organized by the Secretariat in the Pacific subregion, including the Workshop on Capacity-building and Exchange of Experiences on Risk Assessment and Risk Management of Living Modified Organisms held in Nadi, Fiji, in July 2010.²

8. Resource persons will also make presentations on the major issues and processes underpinning the implementation of the Protocol. These will include presentations on:

(a) The Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety for the period 2011-2020,³ national reporting and the upcoming second assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Protocol;

(b) The Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;⁴

(c) The Biosafety Clearing-House;⁵

(d) Identification and documentation requirements for shipments of living modified organisms under Article 18 of the Protocol; and

(e) The Action Plan for Building Capacities for the Effective Implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety⁶ and its role in facilitating national and regional level capacity-building efforts.

9. The presentations will be followed by a brief session of questions and answers and discussions.

ITEM 4. CAPACITY-BUILDING FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROTOCOL IN THE PACIFIC SUBREGION

10. Under this agenda item, a representative of UNEP will present the summary outcomes of the UNEP-GEF regional workshop on review and closure of the national biosafety framework projects, which was held in Nadi, Fiji from 27 June to 1 July 2011. Participants will then be invited to further identify and prioritize national and subregional capacity-building needs and brainstorm on possible strategies to address those needs. Prior to the workshop, participants will be requested to complete the capacity-building needs assessment common format which will be used to facilitate the discussion.⁷

11. A representative of UNEP will also present the draft concept note for the “Subregional Capacity-Building Programme on Biotechnology and Biosafety for Sustainable Agriculture and Environment in the Pacific Islands”. After a brief discussion in plenary, participants will be invited to break into small groups to discuss various components of the subregional capacity-building programme. The groups will then present their outcomes to the plenary for further discussions.

² <http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/meetings/documents.shtml?eventid=3675>

³ Decision BS-V/3.

⁴ Decision BS-V/11, annex.

⁵ See: <http://bch.cbd.int/>.

⁶ http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/cpb_art22_actionplan.shtml

⁷ The capacity-building needs assessment common format can be download or completed online through the BCH at: <http://bch.cbd.int/managementcentre/edit/capacityBuildingNeeds.shtml>.

**ITEM 5. SUBREGIONAL COOPERATION AND COORDINATION OF BIOSAFETY
CAPACITY-BUILDING EFFORTS IN THE PACIFIC SUBREGION**

12. Under this item, a resource person will give a presentation on “Experiences and lessons learned from subregional and regional biosafety capacity-building initiatives”. The participants will then discuss opportunities and measures for promoting subregional cooperation and coordination of biosafety capacity-building efforts in the Pacific, including mechanisms for sharing existing human resources and facilities in the subregion, exchanging information, sharing national experiences and mobilizing resources. Participants will be invited to suggest other possible opportunities for subregional cooperation and coordination in addition to the proposed “Subregional Capacity-Building Programme on Biotechnology and Biosafety for Sustainable Agriculture and Environment in the Pacific Islands”.

ITEM 6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

13. Under this item, participants who wish to raise any other matters relevant to the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and its Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress will be invited to do so.

ITEM 7. ADOPTION OF THE WORKSHOP REPORT

14. Participants will discuss and adopt the conclusions and recommendations from the workshop.

ITEM 8. CLOSURE OF THE WORKSHOP

15. The workshop is expected to end on Wednesday, 30 November 2011 at 5 p.m.

Annex

PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK

28 November 2011	
8.30 a.m. – 9 a.m.	Registration of participants.
9 a.m. – 9.30 a.m.	<i>Agenda item:</i> 1. Opening of the workshop
9.30 a.m. – 10 a.m.	<i>Agenda item:</i> 2. Workshop objectives and expected outcomes
10 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.	Coffee/tea break
10.30 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.	<i>Agenda item:</i> 3. Recent developments and major issues under the Protocol: (a) Overview of the main decisions of the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol Questions and answers
11.30 a.m. – 1 p.m.	<i>Agenda item:</i> (b) Major issues and processes underpinning the implementation of the Protocol: (i) Overview of the Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, national reporting and the upcoming assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Protocol (ii) Introduction to the Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress Questions and answers
1 p.m. – 2 p.m.	Lunch break
2 p.m. – 3.45 p.m.	<i>Agenda item:</i> Major issues and processes underpinning the implementation of the Protocol (continued): (iii) The Biosafety Clearing-House (iv) Introduction to the identification and documentation requirements for shipments of living modified organisms under Article 18 of the Protocol (v) The global Action Plan for Building Capacities for the Effective Implementation of the Protocol and its role in guiding national and regional level capacity-building efforts Questions and answers
3.45 p.m. – 4.15 p.m.	Coffee/tea break

4.15 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.	<p><i>Agenda item:</i></p> <p>4. Capacity-building for the implementation of the Protocol in the Pacific subregion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Summary outcomes of the UNEP-GEF regional workshop on review and closure of the National Biosafety Framework projects, held from 27 June to 1 July 2011 in Nadi, Fiji (b) National and subregional capacity-building needs and priorities and a possible subregional strategic framework for addressing those needs
29 November 2011 9 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.	<p><i>Agenda item:</i></p> <p>4. Capacity-building for the implementation of the Protocol in the Pacific subregion (<i>continued</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (c) Subregional Capacity-Building Programme on Biotechnology and Biosafety for Sustainable Agriculture and Environment in the Pacific Islands <p>Questions and answers</p>
10.30 a.m. – 11 a.m.	Coffee/tea break
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	<p><i>Agenda item 4 (continued):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group discussions on various components of the subregional capacity-building programme
1 p.m. – 2 p.m.	Lunch break
2 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.	<p><i>Agenda item 4 (continued):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of the group discussion reports
3.30 p.m. – 4 p.m.	Coffee/tea break
4 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.	<p><i>Agenda item 4 (continued):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plenary discussion on the subregional capacity-building programme
30 November 2011 9 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.	<p><i>Agenda item:</i></p> <p>5. Subregional cooperation and coordination of biosafety capacity-building efforts in the Pacific subregion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation on experiences and lessons learned from various regional and subregional capacity-building initiatives • Discussion on measures to foster cooperation and coordination of biosafety capacity-building efforts in the Pacific subregion
10.30 a.m. – 11 a.m.	Coffee/tea break
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	<p><i>Agenda item:</i></p> <p>6. Conclusions and recommendations</p>
1 p.m. – 2 p.m.	Lunch break
2 p.m. – 5 p.m.	<p><i>Agenda item:</i></p> <p>7. Adoption of the workshop report</p> <p>8. Closure of the meeting</p>