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STOCKTAKING SUMMARY OF THE TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION NEEDS OF PARTIES, PREVIOUS WORK CARRIED OUT UNDER THE CONVENTION AND INITIATIVES RELEVANT TO THE BIO-BRIDGE INITIATIVE

Note by the Executive Secretary

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its twelfth meeting, the Conference of the Parties welcomed the Bio-Bridge Initiative (BBI), established by the Government of the Republic of Korea to catalyse and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation (TSC) under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and its Protocols, as an important contribution to enhancing the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the achievement of its Aichi Biodiversity Targets (decision XII/2 B, para. 13 and decision XII/3, para. 5).

2. The CBD Secretariat has developed, with the support of the Quebec Centre for Biodiversity Science (QCBS) and the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), an action plan that will guide the implementation of BBI during the period 2017-2020. The action plan is made available in document UNEP/CBD/COP/13/INF/21.

3. To inform the development of the BBI Action Plan, a stocktaking exercise¹ was undertaken by QCBS and UNEP-WCMC to provide:

(a) An analysis of the requests made by Parties on ways for enhancing and promoting technical and scientific cooperation (TSC) among countries, as expressed in various articles of the Convention and of its Protocols, decisions of the Conference of the Parties and of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meetings of the Parties to the Protocols of the Convention, and relevant documents;

(b) An analysis of technical and scientific needs, as expressed by Parties in their national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) and fifth national reports to assist in identifying specific issues and themes that might require targeted TSC support at the global level, determining the direction for BBI and the functionalities that would be more appropriate to deal with countries' needs and providing information that could facilitate the prioritization of BBI activities for the period 2017-2020;

* UNEP/CBD/COP/13/1.

¹ A detailed report of the stocktaking exercise will be made available on the BBI website: <https://www.cbd.int/biobridge>.

(c) An analysis of partnership agreements between the CBD Secretariat and relevant institutions in order to identify the existing and potential technical assistance providers to support BBI;

(d) An overview of ongoing cooperation among countries as documented by the Secretariat as well as reports from some countries in order to present options on the kinds of support BBI could provide at the regional and subregional levels;

(e) An analysis of a range of initiatives that provide support services to countries on technical and scientific cooperation on biodiversity issues with a view to ensuring that the development and implementation of BBI takes into account the experience and lessons learned by others and identifying potential ways through which BBI could develop synergies and partnerships with other initiatives.

4. The present document summarizes the main findings of the stocktaking exercise that may need to be taken into account in the development and implementation of BBI. Potential components that could underpin BBI implementation and the delivery of its services are summarized in table 1 contained in the annex to this note, while examples of needs identified in NBSAPs and national reports of the 16 countries analysed, which could assist in determining potential BBI strategies and functionalities to deal with countries' needs, are summarized in table 2. Finally, the main components and functionalities of relevant initiatives analysed are presented in table 3 and a general overview of those initiatives, including their relevance to BBI, is presented in table 4.

II. PARTIES' REQUESTS REGARDING TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION CONTAINED IN DECISIONS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

5. The stocktaking process analysed specific TSC needs of Parties as reflected in relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties (COP) and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meetings of the Parties to the two Protocols (COP-MOPs), as well as relevant documents produced by the CBD Secretariat. The main findings included the following:

(a) Despite significant past efforts by the COP and the abundant scientific and technical knowledge existing on a global scale, **it is still challenging for many Parties to find, access, and benefit from the specific knowledge they need.** In decision XII/2 B, Parties requested the Executive Secretary to enhance the availability and accessibility of information that could catalyse TSC among Parties² and in decision XI/2 to develop a coherent, consistent and coordinated approach to technical and scientific cooperation to facilitate the full and effective implementation of the Convention.³ BBI was launched in response to those requests and seeks to promote more systematic and sustainable technical and scientific cooperation among Parties while supporting the implementation of Article 18 and related provisions of the Convention;⁴

(b) **The process of identifying scientific and technical needs has proven to be difficult for a number of Parties to complete without support.** Following the adoption of the programme of work on technology transfer and cooperation at COP 7 Parties were invited to identify and submit their needs to the Executive Secretary.⁵ However, only one Party responded to this request.⁶ In this regard, BBI aims to provide support to Parties to identify and articulate their needs and elaborate requests for assistance;

(c) **The COP requested the Secretariat to enhance its role as a facilitator** by catalysing partnerships to support TSC among Parties while improving communication and information exchange

² Decision XII/2 B, para. 9 (b).

³ Decision XI/2, para. 15.

⁴ UNEP/CBD/COP/12/INF/33.

⁵ Notification 2012/031, <https://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2012/ntf-2012-031-ttcc-en.pdf>.

⁶ The information submitted by Grenada is available in document COP/11/13/Add.1, para. 5.

between Parties and matching Parties' needs with support for technical and scientific cooperation by relevant organizations and initiatives;⁷

(d) **Potential BBI components (i.e. activities and tools)** identified in COP decisions and documents prepared by the Secretariat are: (i) development of a library of good practices,⁸ (ii) development of regional networks⁹ and (iii) facilitation of matchmaking.¹⁰

III. TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION NEEDS IDENTIFIED IN NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS AND NATIONAL REPORTS

6. To complement other analyses undertaken to inform the development of the BBI Action Plan, QCBS and UNEP-WCMC analysed technical and scientific cooperation needs expressed by 16 Parties¹¹ in their national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) and national reports. Parties were selected based on the following criteria:

- (a) Ensure geographical balance;
- (b) Examine only developing countries and countries with economies in transition;
- (c) Include a number of least developed countries (LDCs), small island developing States (SIDS) and megadiverse developing countries, as well as countries with established expertise in biodiversity issues.¹²

7. This assessment was meant to assist in identifying specific needs, issues and themes that might require targeted support at the global level, determining the appropriate direction for BBI and the functionalities needed to deal with countries' needs and providing information that could contribute to the prioritization of BBI activities for the period 2017-2020. The results of the analysis revealed the following:

(a) **NBSAPs and national reports provide valuable information on technical and scientific needs that can be addressed through TSC (see table 2 annexed to this note).** Although they do not include an explicit list or a thorough analysis of technical and scientific needs, NBSAPs and national reports do refer to areas of work that should be strengthened at the domestic level and identify specific actions that should take place in order to achieve national and or global biodiversity related targets;

(b) **NBSAPs and national reports highlight a number of generic areas where support is needed to build the necessary infrastructure for implementing the Convention and its Protocols at the national level and accelerating progress towards achieving national biodiversity targets.** These needs generally relate to governance issues such as strengthening institutional frameworks and enforcement of legislation, with an emphasis on coordination at the cross-sectoral level. Other needs include increasing public awareness and education, as well as improving monitoring systems and data sets;

⁷ Decision XII/2, para. 9 (c).

⁸ Decisions IX/8, IX/14, X/16 XI/2, XII/2.

⁹ UNEP/CBD/COP/12/INF/33; UNEP/CBD/COP/11/9; UNEP/CBD/COP/11/13/Add.1; UNEP/CBD/WGRI/5/INF/2; UNEP/CBD/COP/12/INF/39; UNEP/CBD/COP/12/INF/33.

¹⁰ UNEP/CBD/COP/12/INF/33; UNEP/CBD/AHTEG-TTSTC/3/add.1; UNEP/CBD/COP/10/18/Add.1/Rev.1; UNEP/CBD/COP/11/INF/9; UNEP/CBD/COP/11/13/Add.1; UNEP/CBD/WG-RI 5/3/Add.1.

¹¹ These included 4 countries from Africa (Angola, Nigeria, South Africa and Tanzania); 6 countries from Asia-Pacific (India, Maldives, Nepal, Samoa, Thailand and Viet Nam); 1 from Central and Eastern Europe (Bosnia and Herzegovina); and 5 from Latin America and the Caribbean (Antigua and Barbuda, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guyana and Mexico).

¹² For instance, Colombia, Costa Rica, India, Mexico and South Africa were considered.

(c) **Some of the thematic priorities highlighted across the NBSAPs and national reports reviewed** include the following:

- (i) Protected areas networks and management;
- (ii) Research into technical biodiversity problems (climate change, invasive alien species, genetic diversity);
- (iii) Enhanced methods, guidance and information sharing on topics related to access and benefit-sharing and traditional knowledge;

(d) **The results of the reviews of NBSAPs and national reports were corroborated by other sources.** The indicative needs identified in the stocktaking exercise are similar to needs identified in other reports such as “National Capacity Self-Assessments Results and Lessons Learned for Global Environmental Sustainability”¹³ and “Analysis of Biodiversity Policies and Initiatives in ASEAN Member States”;¹⁴

(e) **National needs assessments might be a valuable step in the future implementation of BBI.** In addition to the identification and articulation of specific needs that can result from the National Capacity Self-Assessments (NCSAs), the needs assessment process itself brings together sectors and institutions to work collaboratively towards common objectives;

(f) **The terms “need” and “technology” need to be clearly defined and consistently applied throughout NBSAPs and national reports.** Lack of consistency in definitions of terms such as “need” and “technology” made mining the NBSAPs and national reports for information on needs challenging. NCSAs, in contrast, are oriented towards the identification of needs and based on clear guidance. The NCSA reports present results on capacity needs more clearly, according to themes or categories considered to be appropriate by each country for addressing the three Rio Conventions. If the NCSA’s methodology for identifying needs could be adapted to the CBD reporting processes, Parties would have a standardized method for articulating their scientific and technical needs.

IV. RELEVANT PARTNERSHIPS AND COOPERATION AMONG COUNTRIES ESTABLISHED TO ADDRESS VARIOUS ISSUES UNDER THE CONVENTION AND ITS PROTOCOLS

8. How BBI will develop and maintain partnerships will be crucial to ensuring its success. In this regard, the stocktaking exercise reviewed different partnership agreements and networks established over the last few years to address various thematic areas under the Convention and its Protocols. In particular, it examined partnership agreements established between the CBD Secretariat and a wide range of institutions and organizations, including existing agreements that explicitly consider TSC and South-South cooperation in their texts. The main relevant findings of this analysis include the following:

(a) There is a wide range of partnerships addressing specific themes or cross-cutting issues related to the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols. **BBI could build upon these partnerships to develop a well networked group of technical assistance providers** to address the Parties’ technical and scientific needs on a wide range of issues;

(b) **BBI could build on the success of existing networks and partnerships**, such as the Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA) Friends Consortium and the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation, to build an active network of technical assistance providers without having to put in place new formal partnership agreements;

¹³ UNDP Bureau for Development Policy (2010). “National Capacity Self-Assessments (NCSA) Results and Lessons Learned for Global Environmental Sustainability” Available from <https://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/publication/NCSA-SR-web-100913.pdf>.

¹⁴ ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity and Korea Environment Institute (2015). “Analysis of Biodiversity Policies and Initiatives in ASEAN Member States”.

(c) **Some partnership agreements of particular relevance to the BBI, such as the one establishing the Consortium of Scientific Partners on Biodiversity (CSP), could be scaled up or adapted to support BBI.** The mandate of the CSP clearly supports the aims of the BBI and the CSP has expressed an interest in being involved in the planning and implementation of BBI. However, clarifications are needed on how and whether the expertise of the CSP and other relevant partnerships can cover the scope of expertise the BBI aims to address. Furthermore, the current membership of those partnerships would need to be geographically balanced. Currently CSP has a majority of its members from developed countries, and membership may need to be reviewed and expanded in order to better promote South-South cooperation and support, in particular when promoting technical and scientific cooperation within regions;

(d) Another agreement that is highly relevant to BBI is the inter-agency agreement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets Task Force (ABTTF) concerning achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Building on this agreement could provide potential opportunities for BBI such as making use of this agreement to share relevant information and to enhance coherence in related activities, seeking synergies and avoiding duplication. Additionally, ABTTF members could be explicitly approached with respect to identifying good practices and bright spots, sharing experience of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation, and with building networks of supporting organizations (including through the networks that some of the member organizations have, and working with their regional offices). Such agreements may be worth exploring further to explore the potential for supporting Parties engaged in South-South cooperation, among other things.

9. BBI will also more likely be successful if it builds on the work already contributing to the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets at different scales. The stocktaking exercise examined ongoing cooperation between countries focused on addressing biodiversity issues to identify examples of regional networks already promoting technical and scientific cooperation. The main findings and conclusions can be summarized as follows:

(a) Collaboration between neighbouring countries, through regional centres with expertise in biodiversity and through bilateral or multilateral cooperation agreements (official agreements between countries in the same region), have proven successful on a range of issues, including for example, the establishment and management of transboundary protected areas and control of illegal wildlife trade;

(b) When selecting institutions to assist in the implementation of national biodiversity plans and programmes, countries often tend to initially engage institutions that work domestically before looking for support from other countries. This fact needs to be taken into account when developing the BBI action plan and the follow-up activities to promote TSC among countries;

(c) There are significant ongoing efforts in many countries and regions to build collaborative initiatives to support the achievement of national and global biodiversity-related goals and targets. To access more information on such efforts, it is important for BBI to engage in discussions with key actors from the networks, institutions and mechanisms identified in this stocktaking exercise. This would allow BBI to gain a better understanding of the landscape and to further explore opportunities for collaboration;¹⁵

(d) There are a number of national and regional organizations dealing with biodiversity issues that could be used to support BBI implementation. Organizations from the United Nations system as well as other international organizations such as the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) already have national and regional offices that BBI could partner with to develop regional networks of technical assistance providers.

¹⁵ Stocktaking Exercise Informing BBI Development, sections 7 and 8 of the full document. The full document will be made available at <https://www.cbd.int/biobridge/>.

V. ANALYSIS OF RELEVANT INITIATIVES AND PROGRAMMES

10. There are a number of initiatives and programmes within and outside the CBD already promoting and facilitating TSC on biodiversity-related issues, which BBI could work with and/or learn from. This analysis examined a sample of such initiatives and programmes, including their main characteristics, mission or purpose, emerging experiences and lessons learned that could benefit the development and implementation of BBI as well as potential opportunities for collaboration with BBI.

11. Some of the initiatives analysed included the following: the CBD clearing-house mechanism (including the national CHM network), the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH), the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House (ABSCH), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN), NBSAP Forum, the Sub-Global Assessment Network (SGA Network), the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF), the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network (BES-Net), the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) matchmaking facility and capacity-building task force, the Sustainable Development Goals Technology Facilitation Mechanism (SDG TFM), and CBD LifeWeb Initiative. The main components and functionalities of these initiatives are presented in table 3 and a general overview of those initiatives including their relevant to BBI is presented in table 4 annexed to this note.

A. Clearing-house mechanism

1. Mission

12. The clearing-house mechanism (CHM)¹⁶ aims to contribute to the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, through effective information services and other appropriate means to promote and facilitate scientific and technical cooperation, knowledge sharing and information exchange, and to establish a fully operational network of CBD Parties and partners.

2. Lessons learned

13. Funding is critical to the success and sustainability of any of the components of the CHM network. A minimum level of sustained resources is needed to ensure that the CHM network continues to provide relevant and up to date information.

14. Conversely, the CHM needs to demonstrate real benefits in order to attract sufficient levels of investment at all levels. Those who provide the resources need to be convinced of the return on investment.

15. Rosters of experts established under the CBD and its Protocols have had limited success, but communities of practice appear to be growing. BBI should not rush into establishing such rosters without carefully examining the reasons why. It may also wish to consider drawing on experts available through other biodiversity-related communities of practice and networks.

16. Databases for case studies and good practices accessible via the CBD website are not linked, and many of them have not been updated since they were compiled. Developing and maintaining databases require time and resources. BBI must be aware of this.

17. The CHM has developed a network of national CHMs to facilitate the sharing of knowledge and information. BBI should explore ways to make maximum use of this network.

3. Opportunities for collaboration between BBI and the CHM

18. As the CHM is considered by Parties to be the main entry point to the biodiversity information and knowledge networks, BBI has to be developed as part of it and staff implementing BBI should work closely with the CHM team.

¹⁶ <https://www.cbd.int/chm>.

19. The development of BBI tools should take into account the web strategy (UNEP/CBD/COP/13/14/Add.1),¹⁷ which is under consideration.
20. BBI personnel should consider participating in meetings of the informal advisory committees (IAC) on the CHM and ABSCH. BBI could be added as one of the agenda items of the IAC meetings to discuss opportunities for collaboration.
21. The central CHM has no help desk or human resources specially dedicated to facilitating TSC. BBI could be developed as a programme that complements the CHM for the promotion of TSC by providing help desk services.
22. BBI could utilize and build on CHM searchable databases on case studies and good practices instead of developing a new database of bright spots. CHM staff would be well positioned to provide advice and support in the expansion of those databases to serve BBI purposes.
23. Non-Internet access to BBI services and resources is important to some Parties. Since access to the Internet is not equally available across the world, BBI should consider investigating alternative ways of delivering its services to countries where there is no reliable access to the Internet. The BCH team could be a source of information in this regard.

B. Climate Technology Centre and Network

1. Mission

24. The Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN)¹⁸ aims to stimulate technology cooperation and enhance the development and transfer of technologies to UNFCCC developing country Parties upon request through “a network of national, regional, sectoral and international technology networks, organizations and initiatives”. CTCN’s main functions include supporting countries in developing articulated proposals on climate technologies; providing technical support for development of technology needs assessments and development of technology action plans; and matching needs to available support and facilitating access to support.

2. Lessons learned

25. CTCN was launched in 2014. The following lessons learned from its operations to date could be useful in informing the development and implementation of BBI:

(a) A strong and explicit COP mandate is important as it broadens ownership and enables resource mobilization. **If BBI is to become an effective operative mechanism of the Convention and its Protocols, it should be guided by COP decisions and funded through the CBD core and/or voluntary budget.** The CTCN mandate includes explicit language on the funding model (financing mechanism and voluntary bilateral support);

(b) **A purposeful approach is required to identify and engage experts and institutions.** CTCN has a large and open pool of Network Members which Parties can choose from. However this has resulted in a large network that is challenging to keep actively and systematically engaged. Also the network does not cover all relevant sectors or geographical regions;

(c) **Responding to requests for assistance on a regular basis is resource intensive and requires fully dedicated staff.** The number of staff dedicated to reviewing, refining and designing responses has to be regularly reviewed as the number of requests submitted increases. On average, CTCN receives 6 requests for assistance per week;

(d) CTCN has dedicated staff out-posted in UNEP Regional Offices in Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia-Pacific and Africa to support the development of requests for assistance, conduct

¹⁷ Pending decision from the COP on this matter (draft decision included in document UNEP/CBD/COP/13/2).

¹⁸ <https://www.ctc-n.org>.

outreach activities, and organize and attend meetings and capacity development events in the region. **This regional presence has allowed CTCN to leverage ongoing work**, identify potential synergies with other ongoing initiatives and have an overview of issues and priorities at the regional level. On the other hand, however, this presence also constitutes an additional political layer and administrative challenge;

(e) To participate in the CTCN Technical Assistance process, a National Designated Entity (NDE) must be established to manage and facilitate requests for assistance to the CTCN, ensure that requests reflect their national circumstances and priorities and also ensure that support provided by the CTCN is well coordinated at the national level with other processes. **However, it may be necessary to identify a more flexible approach to getting national government support for the submission of requests for technical assistance under BBI to avoid making submission of requests through national focal points a burdensome and time consuming requirement.** Options might include obtaining the national focal point acknowledgement or endorsement on a “non-objection” basis and establishment of a specific period of time for response as a useful measure to avoid unnecessary delays in the submission of requests;

(f) **Focusing effort on projects that leverage future action can be valuable.** Focusing technical assistance on conducting “vision-to-concept” studies (including feasibility studies, vulnerability assessments, sectoral studies, policy reports, policy reforms, etc.) or developing “concept-to-financing” proposals (for submission to the UNFCCC financial mechanism, bilateral donors or private funders) can help ensure value added and relevance of technical assistance to the requesting countries, and real use of the outputs of the technical assistance;

(g) **It may be helpful to develop alternative approaches to identifying technical and scientific needs and not rely entirely on requests for assistance.** In some cases, CTCN identified potential needs from UNFCCC planning processes such as NDCs or TNAs, NAPs or NAMAs and then submitted these to national focal points for their consideration and approval as requests to CTCN. BBI could then explore if a similar approach could be undertaken by identifying potential requests derived from the NBSAPs (and other relevant documents) and submit to the national focal points for their consideration. It should be noted that this approach is labour intensive.

3. *Opportunities for collaboration between BBI and the CTCN*

26. There are many opportunities through which BBI and CTCN could collaborate. For example:

(a) BBI and CTCN could organize a series of joint workshops and webinars to discuss synergies between ecosystem-based technologies to address climate change and biodiversity loss. BBI could also collaborate on adding content to the CTCN Regional Forums, with a focus on ecosystem-based approaches;

(b) Both initiatives could share online resources that are relevant to common thematic areas. This could entail, for example, ensuring that all content related to ecosystems on the CTCN technology library is systematically shared with BBI, and vice versa;

(c) Some of the requests for assistance submitted to CTCN address biodiversity and ecosystem services from the perspective of ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change. This is an area where synergies between BBI and the CTCN could be explored, specifically with a view enabling countries to take advantage of the particular areas of expertise of each initiative;

(d) BBI could examine ways to foster its engagement in specific activities undertaken by CTCN through UNEP regional offices. Considering the experience already gained by CTCN in working with UNEP regional offices, CBD Secretariat could explore ways to test this approach for BBI. Initially, organizing joint activities within already planned activities could be explored;

(e) BBI could explore ways to access climate funds for projects focused on ecosystem-based approaches to be implemented in partnership with CTCN. Countries that are Parties to both CBD and UNFCCC could consider ways to make efficient use of the funds available under the financial mechanisms of both conventions. For example, they could consider implementing activities that contribute to the achievement of their combined objectives;

(f) Both initiatives could be represented in each other's institutional arrangements. BBI could invite CTCN's Chair to join the Advisory Committee, and CTCN could invite a BBI representative to join their Advisory Board;

(g) BBI could explore ways to benefit from CTCN's broad network of experts and organizations working in key areas related to BBI's work.

C. NBSAP Forum

1. Mission/Purpose

27. The NBSAP Forum¹⁹ was launched at COP 11 to provide online support for Parties revising and implementing NBSAPs. It aims to help countries find the information they need to develop and implement effective NBSAPs, develop their capacity and share best practices. The NBSAP Forum web portal hosts a library of tools and resources that can be freely accessed by anyone.

2. Lessons learned from the NBSAP Forum

28. The Forum's online portal has enabled interested stakeholders to create communities of practice for sharing experiences and lessons learned, ask for advice and access relevant tools and resources.²⁰ In reality, however, this method of cooperation has not yet reached its full potential and extensive online discussions have not happened. One of the possible reasons for this is that countries have been unwilling to formally discuss challenges they face in such a transparent forum.

29. NBSAP Forum members have also not regularly used the Forum's member list to proactively search for expertise or assistance. The NBSAP Forum help desk has had to take a proactive approach to offer assistance and provide expertise to meet members' needs.

30. The main incentive for individuals and institutions to register as members of the Forum seems to be the promotion of their work and experience.

31. Keeping the database of good practices up-to-date has required significant investments. In order to ensure that all key information is collected easily and presented precisely and with sufficient detail to be useful, good practices should be compiled using a template and only a limited number of thematic areas should be assigned to each good practice.

32. The biggest challenge facing the Forum is the sustainability of its help desk service because the direct technical support functions are managed by project staff, and so there may be a hiatus when the project ends. The website is itself hosted on CBD Secretariat servers, so sustainability of the accumulated online resources is appropriately secured.

3. Opportunities for collaboration between BBI and the NBSAP Forum

33. The NBSAP Forum will soon be supporting Parties to implement their NBSAPs, an activity that is directly relevant to and potentially overlaps with BBI's aim to support matchmaking to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Given this, the NBSAP Forum is open to exploring how it could share its resources and tools to facilitate achieving BBI's objectives. For example:

(a) The NBSAP Forum could share resources with BBI around capacity development and help promote TSC opportunities with a focus on South-South exchanges through outreach;

(b) BBI could be invited to contribute to the NBSAP Forum's repository of best practices and resources that are relevant to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets;

¹⁹ <http://nbsapforum.net>.

²⁰ See Background Information: An overview of existing initiatives for enhancing coordination and collaboration at various levels across the biodiversity-related. Available from <https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/biodiv/brcws-2016-01/other/brcws-2016-01-uneq-02-en.pdf>.

(c) Synergies could be developed between the two programmes to avoid the duplication of work on matching Parties' needs with providers of expertise. The NBSAP Forum provides some matchmaking services through a help desk to support Parties in the context of the development and in the future implementation of their NBSAPs;

(d) The possibility of adding a BBI interface to the NBSAP Forum could be discussed. This could include links to help desk services, document repositories and access to an already existing web portal;

(e) Ways to harness the NBSAP Forum experience as a community of practice could be considered;

(f) Ways could be explored for BBI to benefit from access to experts and organizations from the NBSAP Forum, which are working in key areas related to BBI's work.

D. Sub-Global Assessment Network

1. Mission

34. The Sub-Global Assessment Network (SGA Network)²¹ is a community of practice that connects and supports individuals and organizations involved in ecosystem assessments at regional, subregional, national and subnational levels. The SGA Network aims to build the capacity of its members (which include practitioners, researchers and policymakers), to undertake and use assessments and support relevant global processes.

2. Lessons learned from the SGA Network

35. The SGA Network is recognized as a useful community of practice that is connected to a variety of initiatives of relevance for BBI. For example, the SGA Network is working with the IPBES capacity-building task force to ensure lessons from the network experiences are shared effectively.

36. The regional hubs have been an important means to ensure wide dissemination of information and activities regardless of the language spoken in each region. Language has been one of the main barriers/challenges encountered by the SGA Network. However, the regional hubs have played a key role, for example in organizing webinars that are widely accessible in the local language.

37. Having a regional mandate and understanding of regional circumstances are important criteria for selecting institutions that could play the role of a regional hub. BBI could consider selecting regional hubs that are further engaged in the wider landscape of biodiversity-related TSC. This could help to build synergies and avoid duplication of efforts.

3. Opportunities for collaboration between BBI and the SGA Network

38. BBI should explore options to make use of the SGA Network regional hubs, taking into consideration the close links that exist between capacity development and technical and scientific cooperation.

39. BBI could also consider ways to benefit from access to experts and organizations from the SGA Network, which are working in key areas related to BBI's work.

E. Standards and Trade Development Facility

1. Mission

40. The Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF)²² is a global partnership that supports developing countries in building their capacity to implement international sanitary and phytosanitary

²¹ <http://www.ecosystemassessments.net>.

²² STDF was established by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the World Bank, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Trade Organization (WTO): <http://www.standardsfacility.org>.

standards, guidelines and recommendations as a means to improve their human, animal and plant health status and ability to gain and maintain access to markets.

41. To achieve its mission, the STDF implements the following interventions:

- (a) Exchange of information among providers of SPS capacity-building and promotion of dialogue among relevant stakeholders;
- (b) Dissemination of good practices to support SPS capacity-building;
- (c) Conducting thematic practical research, needs assessments, feasibility studies and project proposals related to SPS capacity-building;
- (d) Supporting SPS capacity-building projects.

2. Lessons learned from the STDF

42. The STDF comprises a help desk tasked with supporting needs articulation and project development, organization of thematic meetings, dissemination of good practices, maintenance of online resources and a platform for information exchange, and development of work programmes for each year. Some of the lessons most which are relevant to BBI include the following:

(a) **Help desk services require adequate dedicated staff.** STDF has five staff members who run the help desk and respond to an average of 100 requests a year, in addition to other tasks including implementation of projects, monitoring and evaluation, outreach, thematic research and events organization), and this is considered understaffed. STDF proposes that 7 or 8 staff is a more reasonable number to able to respond to this quantity of requests. Some of the requests are general brief queries while others, such as the development of project proposals, require extensive support;

(b) **The capacity of countries to write high quality proposals is a critical factor to the success of the programme.** Although countries have access to a number of online resources, they often need one-to-one support for project design. Some of the skills needed include elaboration of a logical framework with SMART²³ monitoring indicators, alignment with broader policies and sustainability of the projects;

(c) **It is important to ensure transparency regarding the selection of proposals.** This element is crucial for maintaining credibility and ensuring that countries continue investing resources in the facility;

(d) **Face-to-face activities are important for catalysing new cooperation partnerships.** Meetings have been an important means for creating new partnerships between organizations conducting SPS-related capacity-building. In addition to providing a space for sharing information and experiences, meetings have also enhanced collaboration among various actors.

3. Opportunities for collaboration between BBI and the STDF

43. Some of the requests for assistance the STDF receives address biodiversity-related issues. This is an area where synergies between BBI and the STDF could be explored.

F. Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network

1. Mission or purpose

44. The Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network (BES-Net)²⁴ is a capacity-building “network of networks” that aims to promote dialogue between science, policy and practice for more effective management of biodiversity and ecosystems, contributing to long-term human well-being and sustainable development.

²³ Specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and time-bound.

²⁴ <http://besnet.world/about>.

2. *Lessons Learned from BES-Net*

45. BES-Net is in the early stages of development so few lessons learned could be identified.
46. BES-Net is aligned with the thematic areas of work and capacity-building priorities of IPBES. In addressing these needs, BES-Net collaborates with relevant MEAs and draws on the support of many other partner organizations.

3. *Opportunities for collaboration between BBI and BES-Net*

47. Given that the CBD Secretariat is a member of the BES-Net Advisory Committee, there is ample space for fostering collaboration between BBI and BES-Net as they evolve.
48. BES-Net has suggested that its multi-stakeholder dialogue meetings, when up and running, may provide the BBI with the opportunity to “piggyback” on its regional outreach meetings and round tables.
49. The following BES-Net’s evolving networking tools could also be of relevance for BBI:
- (a) The BES-Net Web Portal, which provides a “one-stop shop” for policy-relevant information and learning material, could be linked to BBI’s web platform to allow mutual exchanges;
 - (b) The BES-Net matchmaking facility, which will host the online component of the IPBES Capacity-Building Matchmaking Facility, could allow BBI to access a wide range of experts and institutions that could provide technical assistance to countries requiring support;
 - (c) BES-Net’s knowledge products and best practices could also be shared through the BBI web portal using the thematic modules and methodological areas of the BES-Net web portal, and new modules could be developed jointly.

G. Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services capacity-building task force and the proposed “matchmaking facility”

1. *Mission or Purpose*

50. The IPBES task force on capacity-building²⁵ was established in 2014 to support the achievement of IPBES deliverables on identifying and prioritizing capacity-building needs related to the IPBES work programme and helping to identify technical and financial resources for meeting those needs. This includes catalysing financial and in-kind support and capacities needed to implement the IPBES work programme through implementing a “matchmaking facility”.
51. The task force on capacity-building also supports IPBES in undertaking capacity-building activities to address the identified priority needs, including providing technical assistance, training workshops, fellowship and exchange programmes and support for the development of national, subregional and regional science-policy networks, platforms and centres of excellence.

2. *Lessons learned from the IPBES task force on capacity-building and matchmaking facility*

52. The IPBES task force on capacity-building, with the support of the IPBES Technical Support Unit, is considering the most effective means to develop the “matchmaking facility”.²⁶ This includes working with the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network (BES-Net) to consider options for an online approach, and a trial call for proposals and pledges of support for capacity-building projects and activities issued in July 2015, which resulted in 88 submissions.
53. The approach to matchmaking (including the beta version of a prototype online tool) was considered at the first meeting of the, which was held in October 2015 in Dehradun, India. The forum advised that, in piloting matchmaking approaches, the task force should develop a business model or concept for matchmaking, including a value proposition, a governance scheme and an action plan, including the development of processes and criteria for the review, acceptance and entry of proposals in

²⁵ <http://www.ipbes.net/work-programme/capacity-development>.

²⁶ http://www.ipbes.net/sites/default/files/downloads/IPBES-4-6_EN.pdf.

any associated online tools, identification of the role of IPBES subsidiary bodies and strategic partners in matchmaking, as well as identification of ways in which strategic partners can be identified and engaged.

54. Some of the lessons learned so far include the following:

(a) Before investing significant time in development of a matchmaking function, it is important to consider carefully the intended outcomes, the available resources, and the experience of others;

(b) Care needs to be taken not to raise expectations about the scope, mandate and funding of proposals, especially in communication with potential beneficiaries and with potential collaborators;

(c) Managing a matchmaking process takes time, and perhaps a stepwise approach might work more effectively, first seeking/identifying needs and priorities and then marketing opportunities;

(d) In addition to web tools, there is a need for facilitating activities;

(e) There is a need to focus on building of experience and learning from others who are carrying out similar activities, and developing liaison with them and to showcase successful projects, so as to illustrate what works and what does not under different circumstances.

3. Opportunities for collaboration between BBI and IPBES task force on capacity-building

55. BBI can collaborate on how to build and use communities of practice as a means for finding experts to support key activities, including the promotion of TSC.

56. The IPBES task force on capacity-building is already working closely with the SGA Network and with the BES-Net initiative, and could work in a similar way with BBI. The task force is actively seeking out potential partners, and has already reached out to BBI.

57. BBI can develop synergies with IPBES matchmaking efforts as they develop, as both aim to find ways to support implementation through matching identified needs with technical or financial support for capacity-building to address them.

58. BBI can foster collaboration and build synergies through the IPBES capacity-building task force meetings as CBD Secretariat is a resource organization to this task force.

H. Sustainable Development Goals Technology Facilitation Mechanism

1. Mission or purpose

59. The Sustainable Development Goals Technology Facilitation Mechanism (SDG TFM)²⁷ aims to promote the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies. It was established under paragraph 70 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by facilitating multi-stakeholder collaboration and partnerships through the sharing of information, experiences, best practices and policy advice among Member States, civil society, the private sector, the scientific community, United Nations entities and other stakeholders.

2. Lessons learned from the SDG TFM

60. No lessons learned could be identified because the TFM is in the early stages of development.

3. Opportunities for collaboration between BBI and the TFM

61. The SDG TFM has been recently launched with its final features and characteristics to be defined in the medium term. This situation creates opportunities for both initiatives to collaborate so that their resources are more widely disseminated. The following avenues for future collaboration between BBI and the SDG TFM could be explored:

²⁷ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/TFM>.

(a) Establishment of links between CBD Secretariat and the United Nations Inter-agency Task Team (IATT) on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals. The IATT offers a venue where United Nations agencies discuss and share information on activities they undertake in relation to science, technology and innovation. The CBD Secretariat should explore engagement in the IATT;

(b) Creation of links between BBI and SDG TFM online platforms. This would enable sharing of information with a broader community and so help countries access material to meet their technical and scientific needs.

I. LifeWeb Initiative

1. Mission or purpose

62. The LifeWeb Initiative²⁸ was established with the aim to facilitate financing that helps secure livelihoods and address climate change through supporting the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas. It is important to note that funding for the LifeWeb Initiative ended in May 2016 and therefore it is currently not an active initiative of the CBD.

2. Lessons learned from the LifeWeb Initiative

63. The LifeWeb Initiative model can be considered relevant for BBI, as it provided a help desk and matchmaking service that supported countries in implementing parts of the Convention. However, it is worth noting that matchmaking was primarily focused on finding donors. The main lessons learned that could be of benefit for development and implementation of BBI include the following:

(a) Use a country-driven approach: This is an increasing trend in international cooperation, and is relevant to BBI's intention of responding to Parties' needs and requests for assistance (Party demand-driven);

(b) Government endorsement was important both donor interest, project implementation and the sustainability of project outcomes. It was also intended to ensure that projects proposed were consistent with national protected area priorities and related national planning efforts. However, this was in some cases burdensome and time consuming and required LifeWeb staff to intervene to obtain the required support from national focal points;

(c) Effective project design was important for finding co-funding, but countries often needed support in project development. Although working directly with governments facilitated the endorsement by the national focal points, capacity to develop projects was found to sometimes be limited in developing countries;

(d) Donor and project round tables were considered a necessary means to bring diverse stakeholders together. Since they were organized under the auspices of the CBD and there were other important partners involved, they were seen as an effective way to build partnerships, and for donors to commit funding.

3. Opportunities for collaboration between BBI and the LifeWeb Initiative

64. Considering that the LifeWeb Initiative has been completed, there are no opportunities for future collaboration with BBI. However, the BBI website could build upon LifeWeb's web infrastructure.

²⁸ <https://lifeweb.cbd.int>.

Annex

Table 1. Potential components that could enable BBI implementation and the delivery of its services²⁹

| Potential BBI component | Requests from COP or COP-MOPs |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Library of good/best practices | 5 |
| Facilitation of matchmaking | 3 |
| Development of regional networks | 2 |
| Support for the articulation of Parties' needs | 2 |
| Financial support for enhancing TSC | 2 |
| Facilitation of communication between Parties | 2 |
| Pilot projects | 2 |
| Database of user needs | 1 |
| Roster of expertise providers | 1 |
| Help desk | 0 |

²⁹ Potential BBI components are categorized according to the frequency and type of document in which they are mentioned.

Table 2. Examples of general and thematic needs identified from NBSAPs and national reports of 16 countries analysed

| Examples of expressed needs of Parties | Africa | | | | | Asia-Pacific | | | | | | Eastern Europe | Latin America and the Caribbean | | | | |
|--|--------|---------|-----------------------------|--------------|-------|--------------|-------|-------|----------|----------|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|------------|--------|--------|--|
| | Angola | Nigeria | United Republic of Tanzania | South Africa | India | Maldives | Nepal | Samoa | Thailand | Viet Nam | Bosnia and Herzegovina | Antigua and Barbuda | Colombia | Costa Rica | Guyana | Mexico | |
| Examples of general needs | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Need for information to generate reliable trends on the conservation status of species | | | | | | | | | | | | | • | | | | |
| Need to support the implement the actions outlined in the NBSAPs | | | • | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Need for technical expertise in a number of specific areas | | | | | | | | • | | | | • | • | | | | |
| Need for cross-sectoral coordination | | | | | | | | • | | | | | | | | | |
| Need for improved institutional arrangements and coordination mechanisms among institutions | | | | | | | | | | • | • | | • | | | | |
| Need to increase engagement of diverse sectors in the implementation of measures for the achievement of the objectives of the Convention | • | | | • | | | | | | | | | • | | | | |
| Need for more comprehensive data sets, monitoring capabilities, and monitoring systems | | | | | | • | | | | | • | • | | • | | | |
| Need for improved legislation and enforcement of environmental policies and legislation | | | | | | | | | | • | | | | | • | | |
| Need for financial resources | • | | | | | | | | | • | • | | | | | | |
| Need to increase public awareness | | | | | | • | | | | | | | | | • | | |
| Need to develop mechanisms for making biodiversity data more freely available | | | | | | | | • | | | | | | | | | |
| Need for improved information sharing between national agencies, organizations and focal points | • | • | • | • | • | | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | |
| Examples of thematic needs | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Need for improvement of protected areas networks and management | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | |
| Need for further research in order to improve understanding of impacts of climate change on biodiversity | | | | | • | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Need for further research in order to improve understanding of conservation of crop species (genetic diversity) | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | |
| Need for further research in order to improve understanding of invasive alien species | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | |
| Access and benefit-sharing | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | |
| Methods for preserving traditional knowledge | | | | | | | | • | | | | | | | | | |
| Methods for guidance on bio-prospecting | | | | | | | | • | | | | | | | | | |
| Methods for repatriation of information and resources held by other nations | | | | | | | | | | | | • | | | | | |

Table 3. Summary of functionalities of the various initiatives

| Status | Initiatives | Support provided through... | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|-------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------|--|---------------------------|
| | | Services | | | | Information sharing and outreach | | | Regional networks and cooperation | |
| | | Web portal | Help desk or similar | Workshops and other meetings | Matchmaking | Community of practice | Good practices, libraries of tools | Webinars | Network of institutions and/or experts | Regional hubs or presence |
| In operation | CHM | • | | • | | | | | | |
| | CTCN | • | • ³⁰ | | • | | • | • | • | • |
| | NBSAP Forum | • | • | | | • | • | • | • | |
| | SGA Network | • | | • | | • | • | • | • | • |
| | STDF | • | • | • | • | | • | | • | |
| Under development | BES-Net | • | | • | | | | | • | |
| | IPBES task force on capacity-building | | | • | • | • | • | • | | |
| | SDG TFM | • | | | | | | | • | |
| Completed | LifeWeb | • | • | • | • | | | | | |

³⁰ CTCN does not have a help desk but has a technical assistance facilitation mechanism that is responsible for dealing with the requests submitted by national designated entities.

Table 4. Various initiatives in a nutshell

| Status | Initiatives | Mission or purpose | Examples of why it is relevant for BBI |
|--------------------------|--|--|---|
| In operation | CHM | To contribute significantly to the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, through effective information services and other appropriate means in order to promote and facilitate scientific and technical cooperation, knowledge sharing and information exchange, and to establish a fully operational network of CBD Parties and partners. | The CHM is intended to be an overarching mechanism to support implementation of the Convention with respect to Article 18, and therefore the BBI will need to be closely integrated with CHM objectives and infrastructure. |
| | CTCN | To stimulate technology cooperation and enhance the development and transfer of technologies to UNFCCC developing country parties at their request. | CTCN works with developing countries meet their UNFCCC objectives through supporting the articulation of needs, matchmaking, having a regional presence and developing a strong network of partners. |
| | NBSAP Forum | To support countries in finding the information they need to develop and implement effective NBSAPs | The NBSAP Forum will soon be supporting Parties implement their NBSAPs, an activity which is directly relevant to, and potentially overlaps with, BBI's aim to support needs articulation and matchmaking to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Targets. |
| | SGA Network | To provide ongoing support to sub-global assessments catalysed either during the course of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment or in its wake. | SGA Network strong global and regional presence and thematically relevant and active network of experts in ecosystem assessments are directly relevant to the BBI as two of its potential components are the development of a network of expert partners and the development of regional networks. |
| | STDF | The STDF is a global partnership that supports developing countries in building their capacity to implement international sanitary and phytosanitary standards, guidelines and recommendations as a means to improve their human, animal and plant health status and ability to gain and maintain access to markets. | The experience of the STDF in providing support for countries to articulate their needs is an area of striking importance for BBI. Furthermore, based on the close relationship between some of the issues tackled by the STDF and some of those necessary to implement the Convention and its Protocols, opportunities for mutual collaboration are evident. |
| Under development | BES-Net | To promote dialogue between science, policy and practice for more effective management of biodiversity and ecosystems, contributing to long-term human well-being and sustainable development. | The development of BES-Net's multi-stakeholder dialogue meetings, when up and running, may provide the BBI with the opportunity to "piggyback" on relevant meetings. BES-Net's networking web tools could allow the BBI to have access to a wide scope of experts and expert institutions which could be of relevance for matchmaking. |
| | IPBES task force on capacity-building | To support the achievement of deliverables of IPBES work programme, under which priority capacity-building needs to implement the Platform's work programme are matched with resources through catalysing financial and in-kind support and capacities needed to implement the work programme are developed. | IPBES Matchmaking facility aims to support countries through matching them with technical or financial support for capacity-building to implement IPBES work programme. Relevance of the IPBES matchmaking facility for BBI is evident as it aims to engage in matchmaking on biodiversity-related issues. |
| | SDG TFM | To promote the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies. | Considering the close links between implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, progress achieved in any of those will have a positive impact into the other. Given this, fostering collaboration with the SDG TFM could prove beneficial to the BBI. |
| Completed | LifeWeb | To facilitate financing that helps secure livelihoods and address climate change through supporting the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas. | The LifeWeb Initiative supported matching Parties' needs for addressing area-based Aichi Biodiversity Targets with financing. BBI aims to engage in matchmaking on a broader range of topics while addressing both expertise and financing. |