



Convention on Biological Diversity

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SUBREGIONAL WORKSHOP FOR EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA ON VALUATION AND INCENTIVE MEASURES

Tbilisi, Georgia, 29–31 May 2012

BACKGROUND AND PROGRAMME OF WORK

I. BACKGROUND OF THE WORKSHOP

1. Pursuant to requests of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, the present workshop is organized with a view to support countries in making use of the findings of the global studies on The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB), in integrating the values of biodiversity into relevant national and local policies, programmes and planning processes, and in promoting the exchange among practitioners on practical experiences on valuation and incentive measures, with a view to building or enhancing capacities and to promote common understanding (decisions X/2, paragraphs 17 (e) and (f), X/44, paragraph 7).

2. The future well-being of society depends on the effective conservation and sustainable use of its natural infrastructure. The aforementioned reports highlighted the importance of mainstreaming ecosystems and biodiversity into public policies and private decision-making, making “natural capital” an integral part of those strategic assets that citizens, companies, public administrations and whole nations rely on. Effectively mainstreaming nature needs therefore to include all relevant economic sectors, such as planning, finance, development, energy, agriculture, fishing, health, transportation, education, tourism, infrastructure and mining. It is critical to reach out to and engage all relevant stakeholders, beyond the environment sector and environment ministries, while bearing in mind that framing nature as ‘nature capital’ will also have its conceptual limitations.

3. The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) initiative was launched in 2007 by the G8+5 ministers of environment under the Potsdam Initiative and released its final reports at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, in Nagoya, Japan, in October 2010. The TEEB studies drew attention to the global economic benefits of biodiversity and ecosystem services, highlighting the growing costs of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation by bringing together expertise from the fields of natural sciences, economics and policy in order to enable practical actions moving forward.

4. The workshop is organized by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), through its Regional Office for Europe its coordinating office on The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) in Geneva, as well as the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and its Caucasus Cooperation Centre, with financial support provided by the Government of Japan. The workshop will be hosted by the Government of Georgia.

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5. The workshop seeks to contribute to achieving the following objectives:

(a) To provide decision-makers in the sub-region with economic arguments for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, as well as with information on state-of-the-art tools that enhance the quality of decision-making processes regarding conservation and sustainable use;

(b) To provide a platform for these decision-makers to exchange views and assess the applicability, needs for adaptation, and limitations of these arguments and tools in their countries, with a view to promote common understanding;

(c) To promote synergies and enhanced cooperation among relevant policy areas and sectors by mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services;

(d) To support the revision and review or update of national biodiversity strategy and action plans in light of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, in particular with regard to Aichi Biodiversity Targets 2 and 3, as well as other relevant targets, including through the development of national targets as foreseen by decision X/2.

6. Expected outcomes of the workshop include:

(a) Enhanced understanding of participants of the economic approach to ecosystems and biodiversity, including: (i) the concept of ecosystem services; (ii) the role of valuation and incentive measures as tools for mainstreaming ecosystem services and biodiversity in policy planning and decision-making; (iii) the inner workings, underlying assumptions, and limitations of these tools;

(b) Enhanced capacity of participants to apply this approach and the associated tools within a policy-making context, to assess the situation in their home countries regarding: (i) the identification and appraisal of biodiversity values; (ii) the integration of these biodiversity values in policy planning and decision-making;

(c) Enhanced capacity of participants to develop national targets for translating Aichi Biodiversity Targets 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 into revised and updated NBSAPs, including the identification of possible indicators, milestones, and concrete activities.

7. Participants in the workshop comprise two officials from each of the countries in the region responsible, respectively, for the implementation of the Convention, and for planning, financing and/or development. The following countries were invited to nominate officials: Afghanistan, Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Russian Federation, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan. A number of regional and sub-regional organizations and United Nations organizations based in the region will also send their representatives to this workshop.

8. The Secretariat issued a note for participants containing details of logistical arrangements, including information on travel, visa requirements, accommodation and other matters for the workshop. The note is available at <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=RWIM-EECASI-01>. The language of the workshop will be Russian and English, with interpretation being provided in both languages.

9. In preparing for the workshop, participants are encouraged to review their country's fourth national report and national biodiversity strategy and action plan, and identify any item therein pertinent to the valuation of biodiversity and ecosystem services, and to the design and implementation of incentive measures. They may also identify, and bring with them, any relevant tools or guidelines, or studies, reviews or progress reports generated at the national level on these topics. Sharing national information, in particular practical experiences and good practices will be an important contribution towards the success of the workshop. Participants are also encouraged to familiarize themselves with their country's national development strategies, poverty reduction plans, or equivalent instruments, as well as any sectoral development plans with prospective impacts on ecosystems and biodiversity.

10. The agenda of the workshop is available as document UNEP/CBD/WS-RW-IM-EECASI/1/1. The emphasis of the workshop will be on exchange and active learning. With this in mind, the workshop

format features a mix of presentations with question and answer sessions, discussions in small working groups, and interactive sessions to introduce relevant tools and training modules. A detailed programme of the workshop is provided below.

11. The registration of participants will commence at the meeting venue at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, 29 May 2012.

II. DETAILED PROGRAMME

Time	Session	Agenda item number
DAY 1 – Tuesday , 29 May		
8:30 a.m.	Registration	1
9:00 a.m.	Welcome Welcome remarks by Mr. George Khachidze, Minister of Environment Protection of Georgia Opening remarks by organisers	1
9:45 a.m.	Overview of workshop background, objectives and process	1
9:50 a.m.	Icebreaker session, expectations and self-introductions by participants	1
10:30 a.m.	Tea/coffee break	
I.	VALUATION: APPROACHES AND METHODOLOGIES	
10:45 a.m.	The TEEB approach to the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services Genesis and making of the TEEB studies, methodology, and main results: presentation Q&A	2 (a)
11:30 a.m.	Valuing ecosystem services and biodiversity: valuation methods	2 (b)
12:30 p.m.	LUNCH	
1:30 p.m.	Valuing ecosystem services and biodiversity: experiences and approaches taken in the region Presentation, Q&A	2 (b)
3:15 p.m.	Tea/coffee break	
3:30 p.m.	Valuing ecosystem services and biodiversity: experiences and approaches taken in the region (continued) Presentations, plenary discussions	2 (b)
5:00 p.m.	Evening break	
Tbc	Welcome reception hosted by the Ministry of Environment Protection of Georgia	

Time	Session	Agenda item number
DAY 2 – Wednesday, 30 May		
9:00 a.m.	Catch of the day: review of the previous day’s main points	
9:30 a.m.	Scenario development and appraising Nature’s benefits The ‘TEEB stepwise approach’ Presentation, q&a	2 (c)
10:15 a.m.	Tea/coffee break	
10:30 a.m.	Scenario development and appraising Nature’s benefits (cont.) Group work (by table)	2 (c)
11:45 a.m.	Reporting back from group work and plenary discussion on how to integrate the values of ecosystems and biodiversity	2 (c)
12:30 p.m.	LUNCH	
II	ADDRESSING INCENTIVES HARMFUL FOR BIODIVERSITY	
2:00 p.m.	Redirecting incentives I: the reform of harmful incentives Presentation: global experiences and TEEB results Q&A	3 (a)
3:15 p.m.	Tea/coffee break	
3:30 p.m.	Addressing harmful incentives: a case from the region Q&a, plenary discussion	3 (a)
5:00 p.m.	Evening break	
DAY 3 – Thursday, 31 May		
9:00 a.m.	Catch of the day: review of the previous day’s main points	
III	PROMOTING POSITIVE INCENTIVE MEASURES	
9:30 a.m.	Promoting positive incentives: the global perspective Cases and lessons learned from TEEB studies Presentation, q&a	3 (b)

Time	Session	Agenda item number
10:30 a.m.	Tea/coffee break	
10:45 a.m.	Positive incentive measures: recent experiences and approaches taken in the region Presentations and general discussion	3 (b)
12:30 p.m.	LUNCH	
2:00 p.m.	Group work: addressing harmful incentives and promoting positive incentives	3 (a) and (b)
3:15 p.m.	Tea/coffee break	
3:30 p.m.	Reporting back from group work and plenary discussion: state of affairs in countries of the sub-region	3 (a) and (b)
4:15 p.m.	International support for next steps TEEB phase III IUCN Plans	4
4:45 p.m.	Evaluation and closure	5
5:00 p.m.	Evening break	
