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**AD HOC OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON  
REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE  
CONVENTION**Second meeting  
UNESCO, Paris, 9-13 July 2007**REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOPS ON  
IMPLEMENTING NBSAPS AND MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY***Note by the Executive Secretary***I. INTRODUCTION**

1. Decision VIII/8 sets out the mandate for an in-depth review of the implementation of goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan, where Goal 3 states: "NBSAPs and the integration of biodiversity concerns into relevant sectors serve as an effective framework for the implementation of the objectives of the Convention". Achieving Goal 3 of the Strategic Plan is arguably the most important goal Parties have yet set for themselves under the Convention, as the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and the fair and equitable sharing of its benefits can only occur if Parties systematically design and wholeheartedly put into action national strategies to these ends.
2. Central to this review process is a series of regional workshops on capacity building for NBSAPs. Decision VIII/8 (6) recommended regional and/or sub-regional meetings be held to discuss national experiences in implementing NBSAPs, the integration of biodiversity concerns into relevant sectors, obstacles, and ways and means for overcoming these obstacles.
3. Subject to the availability of financial support, workshops will be held in Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, and Europe. Workshops may be regional or sub-regional depending on the demand from Parties, interests expressed by donors and host countries, and opportunities to organize workshops in conjunction with relevant meetings already scheduled.
4. Originally, it was anticipated that the workshops would be held prior to the second meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention, and a report compiled to be considered by the Working Group. However, given the scheduling of WGRI-2 in July 2007, this proved not to be possible. The series of workshops will now be organized as soon as the necessary financial resources become available. It is hoped to hold the workshops prior to the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

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5. These meetings will provide an excellent opportunity to support Parties in targeted capacity-building. They will be structured to not only elicit up-to-date and comprehensive information on the implementation of Goal 3, but also to serve as an important capacity-building exercise, and thereby support implementation of decisions adopted at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties on capacity building for national reporting (Decision VIII/14 paragraph 18 (e)), Communication, Education and Public Awareness (Decision VI/6, short list of priority activities)).

6. Regional workshops will respond to this mandate and will support the enhanced phase of implementation of the Convention by addressing core issues, among others:

(a) mainstreaming biodiversity considerations into national planning processes such as Millennium Development Goal (MDG) strategies, Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs), sectoral strategies, and strategies to adapt to climate change and combat desertification;

(b) integrating the 2010 Biodiversity Target into NBSAPs;

(c) cross-cutting issues such as the ecosystem approach and agrobiodiversity;

(d) assessing and monitoring implementation of national programmes of action on critical biodiversity issues;

(e) updating and consolidating guidance for the development, revision, and implementation of NBSAPs; and

(f) the global initiative on Communication, Education, and Public Awareness.

7. The envisioned outcome is strengthened capacity among Parties to develop, implement and evaluate NBSAPs thereby contributing to achievement of the 2010 target.

8. The Conference of the Parties will consider the results of the regional and sub-regional meetings, as well as the in-depth review of the implementation of goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan, at its ninth meeting in May 2008.

## **II. PLANS FOR THE SERIES OF REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL WORKSHOPS ON CAPACITY-BUILDING FOR NBSAP IMPLEMENTATION AND MAINSTREAMING**

9. The workshops provide an opportunity to directly support Parties in their implementation and mainstreaming efforts. This will be achieved through the exchange of experiences, dissemination of best practices, an active learning approach, and the targeting of key biodiversity issues high on the political agenda for the specific region or sub-region.

### ***A. Objectives***

10. Specifically, the workshops aim to:

(a) Enhance awareness of the importance of biodiversity, the role of NBSAPs, and the need to mainstream biodiversity across economic sectors.

(b) Disseminate best practices for planning, updating, implementing and mainstreaming NBSAPs through training and the exchange of country experiences.

(c) Support the enhanced capacity within Parties to develop, implement, and evaluate NBSAPs, and to integrate biodiversity planning across sectors.

(d) Facilitate the exchange of experiences and lessons learned among countries and facilitating south-south exchanges and networks.

(e) Provide an opportunity for active learning among the Convention's national focal points or persons in charge of implementing NBSAPs in their country.

(f) Identify steps forward for each sub-region that encourage effective mainstreaming of biodiversity planning at national levels.

(g) Collect region-specific information for the purpose of contributing to the in-depth review of goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan.

11. Outcomes of the workshops will be:

(a) a critical and comprehensive analysis to be made available to the Conference of the Parties on the status of NBSAP development and implementation in the region or sub-region, main challenges and gaps, and effective national-level practices and policy instruments;

(b) enhanced capacity within Parties to develop, implement and evaluate NBSAPs, and to integrate biodiversity across sectors;

(c) opportunities for regional cooperation more clearly identified; and

(d) a wider range of people made aware of the importance of NBSAPs, and committed to supporting their development and implementation.

### ***B. Workshop focus and themes***

12. While the workshops will target capacity building for NBSAP planning and updating, implementation, and mainstreaming, each of the workshops will have a specific theme. For example, the sub-regional workshop planned for southern and eastern Africa will have as the theme mainstreaming biodiversity for poverty reduction. Linkages to other key national plans and strategies, such as PRSPs, will be emphasized.

13. The rationale of the thematic focus is:

(a) to be able to target discussions, presentations, and workshop activities by focusing on one sector and/or issue,

(b) concentrate on a specific issue that is high on the political agenda for the particular sub-region, and

(c) to form a complete series that at the end would cover a range of issues central to NBSAPs and their mainstreaming.

14. It is recognized that different countries not only have differing levels of capacity related to updating and mainstreaming NBSAPs, but also have distinct mechanisms and institutions supporting NBSAP implementation. Additionally, some countries may have a strategy or an action plan but not a

combined document. Therefore the workshops will vary slightly in content and organization in order to best address the specific needs and realities of the sub-region.

### *C. Format and Content*

15. Each workshop will be structured as a four to five-day event in order to allow sufficient time for in-depth and substantive consideration of the range of issues to be addressed. A retreat venue is envisioned in order to best facilitate active and participatory learning activities. An experienced facilitator from the region will be identified in order to assist in maintaining focused discussion periods and leading participatory sessions. Sessions will fall under two principle topic areas:

- (a) planning, producing, and updating NBSAPs, and
- (b) mainstreaming.

16. The proposed programme is designed to be flexible, offering participants the opportunity to focus on sessions most relevant to their interests and needs. Evenings will be loosely structured, the objective being to offer additional opportunities for participants to interact and network. An example is illustrated in Box 1.

17. Participants are envisioned to be those closely involved in NBSAP planning and mainstreaming. The workshops will draw on the expertise of resource people from the region who will present NBSAP best practices and lessons learned, as well as training sessions on tools for implementation. These will be experts who have played central roles in preparing NBSAPs, who have been involved at the policy level in mainstreaming initiatives, who have experience at the programme or project level in implementing components of NBSAPs, or who have experience in building related public awareness and communication strategies for biodiversity planning.

### **Box 1. Example of a workshop programme**

#### Day One

The first substantive day will address the planning and updating processes as well as the associated package of tools that would support capacity-building in these areas. These include tools and approaches for identifying root causes of biodiversity loss, priority setting for planning, updating NBSAPs to include the 2010 biodiversity target, and methods for greater stakeholder engagement in the process.

#### Day Two – Field Session

In order to demonstrate activities and initiatives being implemented on the ground relevant to the selected workshop theme, a field session will be organized in partnership with the host organization.

#### Day Three

Under the mainstreaming topic, sessions will focus on tools to support the effective integration of biodiversity planning across sectors as well as ways in which such planning can support poverty reduction. Relevant issues include communication, education and public awareness (CEPA) strategies and tools, harmonization with planning at sub-national levels, and strategic environmental assessment.

#### Day Four

The workshop will conclude with an examination of ways forward and key next steps for mainstreaming biodiversity planning. A panel will be selected to lead discussions. This session is envisioned to be highly participatory.

18. The emphasis of the workshops will be on exchange and active learning. This suggests a workshops format featuring a mix of presentations with question and answer sessions, discussions in small working groups, and structured skill-building modules.

- *Presentations* - Specific Parties will be invited to give presentations, based on particular successes they have achieved, or the fact that their country faces obstacles common to many others. Representatives of international organizations, NGOs or other groups that have direct experience in implementation and integration of biodiversity issues will also be invited to share best practices.
- *Discussions* - All Parties will have ample opportunity to comment on presentations and share their own experience. This exchange could be in the form of smaller working groups and/or to the entire group.
- *Training modules* - Government representatives and key resource people (including where appropriate members of the Secretariat) will also be invited to develop and lead practical modules for building knowledge and skills that relate to the implementation of NBSAPs, and the integration of biodiversity across sectors. Selected training modules, developed in partnership between the Secretariat, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations University (UNU) and World Conservation and Monitoring Centre (IUCN), will be offered.

19. There are a vast range of topics of direct relevance to the implementation of NBSAPs, and the integration of biodiversity concerns across sectors. In developing the content for the workshops, the Secretariat will draw on available information to develop a programme that matches Parties' needs and priorities. Potential topics addressed at workshops could include:

- (a) Evaluating Status and Trends: biodiversity monitoring; information management; threat identification; data analysis
- (b) Updating NBSAPs: prioritizing activities; integrating national targets
- (c) Legislation: translating CBD provisions into national law
- (d) Parliamentary engagement
- (e) Mainstreaming biodiversity concerns into other policy instruments (e.g., PRSPs, National Development Plans, MDG Strategies, national action programmes (NAPs), and national adaptation programmes of action) NAPAs)
- (f) Mainstreaming biodiversity into key economic sectors such as Agriculture, Tourism, Fisheries, Forestry, etc.
- (g) Planning for biodiversity: using the Ecosystem Approach; landscape-level planning; strategic environmental assessments, scenario modelling
- (h) Creating buy-in: engaging stakeholders, including the private sector;
- (i) Developing a strategic communication strategy for NBSAPs
- (j) Using NBSAPs as a tool for communication, education and public awareness
- (k) Resource mobilization for NBSAPs
- (l) Optimizing efforts: Synergies with other Conventions; Linking National Reporting processes to NBSAP evaluation and updating.

#### ***D. Partners***

20. The workshops will be planned and organized in close collaboration with relevant partners including

- UNEP, UNDP and other relevant UN organizations
- Other conventions
- Regional organizations
- Development Cooperation Agencies

### *E. Funding*

21. Donor support is required to hold the series of workshops. Detailed funding for the workshops is still to be determined, and will depend on location and in-kind contributions. The main costs are for travel and subsistence of participants. Efforts will be made to reduce these through advance purchasing of tickets and securing reasonable-cost venues.