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REGIONAL WORKSHOP FOR SOUTH, SOUTH-EAST AND EAST ASIA ON CAPACITY-BUILDING FOR NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLANS AND MAINSTREAMING OF BIODIVERSITY

Singapore City, Singapore, 14-18 January 2008

ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

INTRODUCTION

1. In paragraph 6 of decision VIII/8, the Conference of the Parties recommended that regional and/or subregional workshops be convened to discuss national experiences in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the integration of biodiversity concerns into relevant sectors, including consideration of obstacles and ways and means for overcoming the obstacles. In its recommendation 2/1, the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention at its second meeting, held in Paris from 9 to 13 July 2007, re-emphasized the importance of organizing such regional workshops (UNEP/CBD/COP/9/4, annex).

2. In response, the Executive Secretary is organizing a series of regional/subregional workshops on capacity building for national biodiversity strategies and action plans during 2008. The regional workshop for South, Southeast and East Asia is the first of the series. With financial support from Norway, Canada, Japan, Singapore and the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, the Executive Secretary is organizing this Workshop from 14 to 18 January 2008 at the Botanic Gardens, Singapore City, Singapore.

3. The purpose of the Workshop is to strengthen national capacities for the development, implementation, reviewing and updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the integration of biodiversity considerations into relevant national policies, strategies and planning processes. These include cross-sectoral national strategies such as those for development, poverty reduction, the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, adaptation to climate change and combating desertification. Sectoral strategies, such as those for agriculture, forestry, fisheries and tourism, and national and local planning processes are also included. The Workshop will promote the exchange of experiences and training on the use of relevant tools and mechanisms, and provide an opportunity for countries to identify ways and means for overcoming challenges in the development and implementation of NBSAPs and mainstreaming. The outcomes of the workshop will provide inputs to the ongoing review of implementation of goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan to be considered at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in May 2008.

4. Participants in the workshop comprise officials from each of the countries in the region responsible for the development and/or implementation of NBSAPs, as nominated by the CBD national

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focal points as well as resource persons selected for their expertise and experience in supporting the development and implementation of NBSAPs or for integrating biodiversity into national development strategies and planning processes. As indicated in the notification for this workshop, the nominated participants “should be in a position to prepare and present a report on progress made in the development, implementation, reviewing and updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, as well as and the integration of biodiversity concerns into relevant sectors (for example, by using the voluntary guidelines annexed to decision VIII/8). Moreover, following the workshop, the representative should be in a position to translate the capacity gained into concrete actions in support of national implementation.” Accordingly, nominated participants are requested to undertake some preparatory activities as set out in annex III below.

5. The Secretariat is issuing an information note for participants containing details of logistical arrangements including information on travel, visa requirements, accommodation and other matters for the workshop. The information note is available at www.cbd.int/doc/meeting.aspx?mtg=NBSAPCBW-SEASI-01. The language of the Workshop will be English.

6. Registration of participants will commence on site at 8.30 a.m. on Monday, 14 January 2008.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING AND ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

7. A representative of the host Government will open the meeting at 9 a.m. on Monday, 14 January 2008. The Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Executive Director of the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity will also welcome the participants and make opening statements.

ITEM 2. OVERVIEW OF THE OBJECTIVES AND PROGRAMME FOR THE WORKSHOP

8. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity will give an overview of the objectives, the programme and the expected outcomes of the Workshop.

9. The provisional agenda of the Workshop prepared by the Executive Secretary is available in document UNEP/CBD/NBSAP/CBW-SE-ASI/1/1. The proposed organization is provided in annex I below. The following provides an overview of the proposed Workshop programme:

Day 1: Status of development and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans in the region; and

Updating and improvement of national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

Day 2: Integrating biodiversity considerations into sectoral and cross-sectoral plan, programmes and policies including national development strategies, strategies for achieving the Millennium Development Goals and national and local planning processes;

Day 3: Visits to Singaporean agencies involved in mainstreaming and field trips to Singaporean nature reserves;

Day 4: Tools and guidance available for integrating biodiversity considerations into sectoral and cross-sectoral plan, programmes and policies; and

Communication and reporting;

Day 5: Ways forward and next steps in implementing and updating and on mainstreaming of biodiversity.

10. 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 list of documents for the workshop is attached hereto as annex II.

ITEM 3. STATUS OF DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS

11. In decision VIII/8 (paragraph 10 (a) (ii)), the Conference of the Parties decided to conduct an in-depth review of the implementation of goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan to be focused on the status of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, their implementation and updating, and the extent to which biodiversity concerns are effectively integrated into relevant sectors and have been effectively mainstreamed in accordance with Article 6(b) of the Convention. As mentioned above, this series of Workshops is envisaged to contribute to that process.

12. Under this agenda item, participants will be invited to consider:

(a) A global overview of the status of NBSAPs, drawing upon the preparation for and the conclusions of the second meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention, 13-17 July, 2007, Paris; ^{1/}

(b) A regional overview of the status of NBSAPs, drawing upon national reports, NBSAPs, and the experience of UNEP, UNDP and other organizations.

(c) Presentations on the status of NBSAPs by some participating countries.

13. Participants will then discuss national experiences and lessons learned in the development and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, focusing on:

(a) Status of NBSAPs or similar strategies and programmes;

(b) Major Features of NBSAPs;

(c) Priority actions identified for implementing NBSAPs;

(d) Mechanisms identified for implementing NBSAPs;

(e) Obstacles encountered in the implementation of NBSAPs; and,

(f) Reviews undertaken of the implementation of NBSAPs and assessment of the effectiveness of the strategy;

13. Participants from all countries of the region will have the opportunity to present their NBSAPs during the course of the week. As preparation for the workshop, participants are requested to undertake a self-review of their NBSAPs using the guidelines annexed to decision VIII/8 (see also annex III).

14. This agenda item will be complemented by a poster session during the workshop where participating countries could display their posters on development and implementation of national or local biodiversity strategies and action plans. To ensure consistency approaches in developing posters, countries are requested to follow the guidelines which are available at <http://www.cbd.int/meetings/wgri-02/poster-guidelines.shtml>.

^{1/} Document UNEP/CBD/NBSAP/CBW-SE-ASI/1/2; see also UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/2, UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/2/ADD.1, UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/INF.9, UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/INF.10, and WGRI recommendation 2/1 (UNEP/CBD/COP/9/4, annex).

ITEM 4. UPDATING AND IMPROVEMENT OF NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS

15. Under this item, the Secretariat will introduce the guidance provided by the Conference of the parties and the recommendation 2/1 from the second meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation concerning the development, implementation and updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

16. A few countries in the region, which are updating or have updated their NBSAPs, will be invited to share their experiences and perspectives with workshop participants.

17. Participants, working in small groups will analyse their countries' NBSAP in the light of recent guidance developed under the Convention with a view to identifying ways of improving the NBSAP and its implementation. Particular focus will be on identifying national targets within the framework developed by the Conference of the Parties.

ITEM 5. INTEGRATING BIODIVERSITY INTO SECTORAL AND CROSS-SECTORAL PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND POLICIES

18. The importance of integrating biodiversity considerations into relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral strategies, plans and programmes is underlined in Article 6(b) of the Convention and has been stressed in many decisions of the Conference of the Parties, including at its eighth meeting, when, in considering the implications of the findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, it urged Parties and other Governments to promote dialogue among different sectors, to mainstream biodiversity, at the regional and national levels including, when appropriate, through the processes of the Convention, to address linkages between the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and, among others, international trade, finance, agriculture, forestry, tourism, mining, energy and fisheries. The Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention, when considering guidance for NBSAPs has made further recommendations in this regard.

19. Under this item, participants will hear a number of presentations on mainstreaming biodiversity into relevant sectoral strategies, plans and programmes. These include national experiences and lessons learned in mainstreaming and cases in economic evaluation of biodiversity and payment for ecosystem services, which provide an important basis for mainstreaming biodiversity into relevant sectors. A few representatives from local governments and non-governmental organizations will introduce how relevant stakeholders are involved in mainstreaming biodiversity. UNDP and UNEP will also introduce their work in the region on helping countries mainstream biodiversity and possible support to continued work in this regard.

20. Relevant tools and case studies on how to mainstream biodiversity into relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral strategies, plans and programmes will be introduced. Working in small groups participants will have the opportunity to examine the various tools and approaches.

21. A field trip will be arranged by the Singapore National Parks Board, the local organizer of the Workshop during one of the days of the Workshop. The field trip includes visits to some Singaporean agencies involved in mainstreaming biodiversity into relevant sectors as well as a visit to some national parks in Singapore.

ITEM 6. COMMUNICATION AND REPORTING

22. Clearly communicating the importance of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and enhancing public education and awareness of these strategies and action plans are very important for mobilizing public support for and public participation in their development, implementation and updating as well as mainstreaming biodiversity into relevant sectors. Reviewing and reporting on the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans are also important for assessing the

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effectiveness of the strategies and, on that basis, updating NBSAPs and further enhancing the implementation of NBSAPs.

23. Under this item, countries are invited to share their plans for and approaches to communicating NBSAPs and enhancing public awareness of and participation in the development, implementation and updating of NBSAPs. Workshop participants will hear a few presentations on the role of the Convention's clearing-house mechanism in supporting the development, implementation and updating of NBSAPs as well as communicating NBSAPs.

24. The Secretariat will introduce the guidelines for the fourth national report, which focus on implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and progress towards the 2010 Biodiversity Target. The Secretariat will also introduce a reference manual developed to assist with the preparation of the fourth national report. Support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for the fourth national reports will be outlined. The ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity will also present its possible assistance to some ASEAN countries for preparing their fourth national reports.

ITEM 7. THE WAY FORWARD: NEXT STEPS IN IMPLEMENTING AND UPDATING NBSAPS AND ON MAINSTREAMING OF BIODIVERSITY

25. Building upon work in earlier sessions, workshop participants will examine ways forward and key next steps for implementing and updating NBSAPs and mainstreaming biodiversity in national strategies and planning processes. Workshop participants will be divided into several groups to discuss about ways forward. A panel will be selected to lead discussions in plenary.

ITEM 8. CONSIDERATION OF THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE WORKSHOP

26. Participants will be invited to consider the conclusions of the Workshop and possible inputs that could be provided to the in-depth review of goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic pLan by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting, to be held in Bonn from 19 to 31 May 2008.

ITEM 9. CLOSURE OF THE WORKSHOP

27. The Workshop is expected to close at approximately 2.30 p.m. on Friday, 18 January 2008.

*Annex I***PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK****MONDAY, 14 JANUARY 2008**

0900 - 1000	1	Opening of the workshop Opening Statements (Singapore, CBD, ASEAN biodiversity centre) Self-introductions of Participants
1000 - 1030	2	Overview of the objectives and programme for the workshop Introduction (SCBD) Plenary discussion
1030 - 1100		<i>Coffee break</i>
1100 - 1230	3	Status of development & implementation of NBSAPs in the region Global perspective: In-depth review of implementation of Strategic Plan Goals 2 & 3 (SCBD) Regional perspectives: Experience and lessons learned in the development and implementation of NBSAPs (UNDP) National perspectives (country presentations) Plenary discussion
1230 - 1400		<i>Lunch break</i>
1400 - 1530	4	Updating and improving NBSAPs COP guidance and WGR1 recommendations (SCBD) National perspectives (country presentations)
1530 - 1600		<i>Tea break</i>
1600 - 1800		Analysis of NBSAPs (Work in small groups) Plenary discussion
[1800– 2000]		<i>Reception, courtesy of National Parks, Singapore</i>

TUESDAY, 15 JANUARY 2008

0830 - 0900	2	Overview of the objectives and programme for the workshop (continued) Brief recap of day one and overview of plans for day two
0900 - 1030	3	Status of development & implementation of NBSAPs in the region (continued) National perspectives (country presentations) Plenary discussion
1030 - 1100		<i>Coffee break</i>
1100 - 1230	5	Integrating biodiversity into sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies National perspectives (country presentations) Support from international organizations (UNDP, UNEP) Ecosystem assessments, economic valuation, payment for ecosystem services, and other tools for mainstreaming (Resource persons and organizations) Plenary discussion
1230 - 1400		<i>Lunch break</i>

1400 - 1530	5	(continued) Tools and approaches for Integrating biodiversity into sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies (work in small groups)
1530 - 1600		<i>Tea break</i>
1600 - 1800		Tools and approaches for Integrating biodiversity into sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies (work in small groups, continued) Plenary discussion

WEDNESDAY, 16 JANUARY 2008

0830 - 0900	2	Overview of the objectives and programme for the workshop (continued) Brief recap of day two and overview of plans for day three, including introduction to the field trip
0900 - 1030	3	Status of development & implementation of NBSAPs in the region (continued) National perspectives (country presentations) Plenary discussion
1030 - 1100		<i>Coffee break</i>
Rest of the day	5	Integrating biodiversity into sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies (continued): FIELD TRIP Visits to Singapore Agencies illustrating biodiversity mainstreaming Visit to Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve

THURSDAY 15 JANUARY 2008

0845 - 0900	2	Overview of the objectives and programme for the workshop (continued) Overview of plans for day four
0900 - 1015	3&5	Communicating and Reporting on NBSAPs Developing a communication strategy for NBSAPs (t.b.d.) The Fourth National Reports (SCBD) National perspectives (country presentations) Plenary discussion
1015 - 1045		<i>Coffee break</i>
1045 - 1230	6	(continued) Developing a communication strategy for NBSAPs (work in small groups) Preparation of the Fourth National Reports (work in small groups) Finalization of posters (work in small groups)
1230 - 1400		<i>Lunch break</i>
1400 - 1530	6	(work in small groups, continued)
1530 - 1600		<i>Tea break</i>
1600 - 1800	6	Poster session Plenary discussion

FRIDAY, 18 JANUARY 2008

0830 - 1000	3	The way forward: next steps in implementing and updating NBSAPs and on mainstreaming of biodiversity Upcoming events under the Convention (SCBD) Plenary discussion Identification of ways forward (work in small groups)
1015 - 1045		<i>Coffee break</i>
1045 - 1200	7	The way forward: next steps in implementing and updating NBSAPs and on mainstreaming of biodiversity Panel discussion
1200 - 1300		<i>Lunch break</i>
1300 - 1400	8	Consideration of the Conclusions of the Workshop
1400 - 1430	9	Closing of the Workshop
<i>Afternoon</i>		<i>Optional visit to the Botanic Gardens and to other National Parks sites</i>

*Annex II***LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

Document Number	Document Title
UNEP/CBD/NBSAP/CBW-SE-ASI/1/1	Provisional agenda
UNEP/CBD/NBSAP/CBW-SE-ASI/1/1/Add.1:	Annotations to the provisional agenda
UNEP/CBD/NBSAP/CBW-SE-ASI/1/2	Status and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans
UNEP/CBD/NBSAP/CBW-SE-ASI/1/3	Updating NBSAPs, mainstreaming biodiversity, communication and reporting.
Information and background documents (Previously available)	
UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/2	Status of implementation of goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan focussing on implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and availability of financial resources -- an overview
UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/2/Add.1	Synthesis and analysis of obstacles to implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, lessons learned from the review, effectiveness of policy instruments and strategic priorities for action
UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/INF/1	Updated synthesis of information contained in third national reports
UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/INF/2	Regional preparatory meetings on implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans and mainstreaming biodiversity
UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/INF/9	National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans: A Meta-Analysis of Earlier Review
UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/INF/10	Review of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, Biodiversity Mainstreaming and Implementation of the Convention: A Bibliography
Decision VIII/8	Implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Plan
Decision VIII/9	Implications of the findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment
WGRI Recommendation 2/1	Implementation of goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan

CBD Training modules:

A-1. Guide to the Convention on Biological Diversity

A-2. Role of the CBD National Focal Point

A-3. An Introduction to National Reporting

B-1. An Introduction to National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans

B-2. How to prepare and update a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

B-3. Mainstreaming biodiversity into sectoral and cross-sectoral strategies, plans and programmes

B-4. Setting national biodiversity targets, making use of the CBD framework for the 2010 biodiversity target

B-5. Ensuring stakeholder engagement in the development, implementation and updating of NBSAPs

B-6. Getting political support for the NBSAP and financing its implementation

B-7. Communication Strategy for NBSAPs

Other Resources:

Guidelines for the fourth national reports

Draft reference manual for preparing the fourth national reports

*Annex III***PREPARATION FOR THE CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOPS**

1. As was indicated in the official notification for the Workshop available at <http://www.cbd.int/nbsap/workshops.shtml>, participants are requested to prepare for the Workshop in a number of ways.
2. Firstly, participants are requested prepare some information on their country's NBSAP that could be shared with other participants within the context of workshop discussion sessions. The voluntary guidelines for review of NBSAPs annexed to decision VIII/8 are being used as a tool in preparing for the workshop. (<http://www.cbd.int/convention/decisions.shtml?m=COP-08&id=11020&lg=0>.) Participants are requested to bring with them a copy of their country's NBSAP, both in printed and electronic versions. Participants will be invited to give a brief presentation on their NBSAP, either as a short Power Point presentation, or in the form of a poster. Power Point presentations should ideally be limited to 5 - 10 slides focusing on: (i) description of the NBSAP; (ii) preparatory process/ stakeholder involvement; (iii) examples of achievements in implementation; (iv) how the NBSAP is related to mainstream national strategies and planning processes; (v) national targets included in the NBSAP; and (v) evaluation and updating of the NBSAP. Poster presentations should follow the guidelines referred to below. In particular, Participants are invited to prepare case studies of activities that contribute to the achievement of the 2010 biodiversity target. Such cases should demonstrate significant reductions in the loss of biodiversity (or a specific component) within a defined scale. The case will be most useful if it contains lessons that are more widely applicable. The following information should be provided: (i) full description of the reduction in biodiversity loss; (ii) measures taken to achieve the change; (iii) relevant external factors that may have influenced the rate of biodiversity loss or likely to do so in the future; (iv) measures in place or planned to ensure that the reduction is sustained; and (v) conclusions and lessons learned.
3. Secondly, participants are requested to provide the Secretariat (as electronic files, web addresses, or by mail to the address below) any useful documents prepared by their country in relation to the NBSAP and its implementation. This might include information on tools and guidelines for NBSAP implementation, reviews or progress reports generated at the national level on the NBSAP for purposes of monitoring and evaluation, communication strategies, and case studies illustrating how biodiversity has been integrated into economic sectors and national strategies for poverty eradication. We will be drawing on these national examples and experiences throughout the workshop, and will incorporate information on approaches and best practices into the clearing-house mechanism.
4. Thirdly, participants are encouraged to develop a poster on their NBSAP and the linkage to the 2010 Biodiversity Target. An online poster generation tool has been developed by the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit* (GTZ) that enables users to easily create posters from their own computer. These posters will offer a further opportunity to share national experiences in implementing the Convention through NBSAPs at the Workshop. The posters will be incorporated into a poster session on this same subject that is being planned for the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to be held in May 2008 in Bonn, Germany. The guidelines for developing posters using the online tool are available at <http://www.cbd.int/meetings/wgri-02/poster-guidelines.shtml>. (The tool itself is available at: <http://nbsaps.onlinegeneration.com>) Posters presented at the second meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention, which took place in July 2007 in Paris, can be viewed at: <http://www.cbd.int/meetings/wgri-02/poster-session.shtml> .

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