



Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/WS-PA/MENA/1/1/Add.1
2 March 2012

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SUBREGIONAL WORKSHOP FOR WEST ASIA AND NORTH
AFRICA ON CAPACITY-BUILDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK ON PROTECTED AREAS
UNDER THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
Dubai, 16–20 April 2012

ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

INTRODUCTION

1. Both the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the international protected area community have hailed the programme of work on protected areas (PoWPA)¹ as the most implemented of the programmes of the Convention on Biological Diversity and a successful initiative. The initiation of regional capacity-building workshops, the designation of PoWPA focal points, the creation of a Global Environment Facility (GEF) early-action granting window for PoWPA implementation, the programming of a major portion of the biodiversity portfolio of the fifth replenishment period of GEF (GEF 5) for PoWPA, and the establishment of the LifeWeb Initiative are all important ingredients of success of PoWPA.

2. In decision X/2, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention adopted the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, in which twenty headline Aichi Biodiversity Targets for 2015 or 2020 are organized under five strategic goals. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties urged Parties to develop national and regional targets, using the Strategic Plan as a flexible framework, and to review, update and revise, as appropriate, their national biodiversity strategies and action plans and to employ them as effective instruments for the integration of biodiversity targets into national development and poverty reduction policies and strategies, national accounting, economic sectors and spatial planning processes.

3. In paragraph 1 (b) of decision X/31, Parties were invited to develop a long-term action plan or update the existing plan for the implementation of PoWPA, including detailing listing of activities, timelines, budgets and responsibilities, with a view to contributing to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. The decision also requested the Executive Secretary to report on the status of such plans to the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting.

¹ Decision VII/28, annex.

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4. Under target 11 of the Strategic Plan, Parties agreed that:

“By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.”

5. The elements of target 11 incorporate the tenets of the programme of work on protected areas; further effective implementation of PoWPA is key for achieving target 11. Implementation of PoWPA also helps toward achieving other targets: 1, 2, 5, 10, 12, 14, 15 and 18.

6. In paragraph 12 of decision IX/18 on protected areas, the Conference of the Parties encouraged Parties, other Governments, relevant intergovernmental organizations, and indigenous and local communities, to enhance activities and resources, towards organizing and forming regional technical support networks to assist countries in implementing PoWPA. In paragraph 3 of decision X/31, the Conference of the Parties invited Parties to foster the formation of regional initiatives and formulate regional action plans, through regional technical support networks, to coordinate funding, technical support, exchange of experiences and capacity-building for implementing PoWPA. In paragraph 7 of the same decision, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to continue to hold regional and subregional capacity-building workshops, with special attention to element 2 (Governance, participation, equity and benefit-sharing) of the programme of work, and other identified priorities in collaboration with relevant partners.

7. Accordingly, the Secretariat, with the generous financial assistance of the European Union, is organizing a subregional workshop for West Asia and North Africa on capacity-building for implementation of the programme of work on protected areas under the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held from 16 to 20 April 2012 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. This workshop is being organized jointly by the Secretariat on Biological Diversity (SCBD), the Technical Secretariat of the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment (CAMRE) of the League of Arab States, the Regional Office for West Asia of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP-ROWA) and the PoWPA Friends Consortium, and is being hosted by the Ministry of Environment and Water of the United Arab Emirates.

8. The objectives of the workshop are to (a) provide an overview and conduct needs assessment of current capacity-building requirements, tools and approaches to implement PoWPA and decision X/31 on protected areas and to achieve target 11 and other targets of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020; and (b) strengthen the skills and knowledge of protected area functionaries and others who implement PoWPA, through an exchange of experiences, sharing of tools and available resources, and capacity-building in (i) protected areas and climate change adaptation and mitigation, including integration of protected areas into wider land- and seascapes and sectors; (ii) developing or revising national action plans for implementing PoWPA; (iii) marine protected areas; (iv) governance; (v) valuing protected area costs and benefits, including their ecosystem services; and (vi) funding opportunities under the fifth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility (GEF 5).

9. A list of documents for the workshop is attached as annex I.

10. The Secretariat will issue an information note for participants containing details of logistical arrangements, including information on travel, visa requirements, accommodation and other matters for the workshop, which can be found along with other workshop documents at

<http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=WSCBPA-WANAFR-01>. The workshop will be held in English and Arabic with interpretation provided.

11. Registration of participants will commence at 8.30 a.m. on Monday, 16 April 2012.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

12. A representative of the Ministry of Environment and Water of the United Arab Emirates will open the workshop at 9 a.m. on Monday, 16 April 2012. Representatives of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Technical Secretariat of the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment (CAMRE) of the League of Arab States, and the Regional Office for West Asia of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP-ROWA) will welcome the participants and make opening statements.

13. After a brief self-introduction by the participants, the workshop will elect its Chair based on proposals from the floor. Participants will then be invited to consider the provisional agenda prepared by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/WS-PA/MENA/1/1), adopt it following any amendments, if needed, and consider the proposed organization of work for the meeting as contained in annex II below.

14. As a complement to the consideration of the organization of the work and to set the tone of the workshop, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity will describe the purpose, expected outputs of the workshop, and outcomes of decision X/31 and other relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties. The workshop will be organized around a hands-on learning curriculum designed to address key framing questions in technical sessions.

ITEM 2. OVERVIEW AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT CAPACITY-BUILDING TOOLS AND APPROACHES TO IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAMME OF WORK ON PROTECTED AREAS AND DECISIONS ON PROTECTED AREAS ADOPTED AT THE TENTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

15. Under this item, representatives of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) will provide an overview of ongoing capacity-building activities in the region, highlighting the gaps and opportunities for synergy. A representative of the Secretariat will present the PoWPA web page, e-learning modules and other tools. In the country break-out groups, participants will engage in interactive sessions to exchange ideas and identify country-specific capacity-building needs to feed into a regional capacity-building action plan for achieving effective implementation of PoWPA, target 11 and other targets of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. At the beginning of the workshop, participants will identify their capacity-building needs and ongoing capacity-building initiatives in their countries and regionally.

ITEM 3. STRENGTHENING CAPACITIES

16. Sub-items under this item include strengthening capacities for the following: (a) adapting and mitigating climate change, including integration of protected areas into wider land- and seascapes and sectors; (b) developing national action plans for the implementation of the programme of work on protected areas; (c) marine protected areas; (d) governance; (e) valuation of the costs and benefits of protected areas, including ecosystem services; and (f) funding opportunities under GEF 5.

17. Under this item, the workshop will provide practical hands-on tools and training on some of the themes that need greater attention as identified by the Conference of the Parties in decision X/31 and

which form the qualitative aspects of target 11. The Secretariat has developed e-learning modules for each goal of PoWPA in English, French, Spanish, Russian and Arabic. These tutorial modules are aimed to cater to protected area policymakers and officials, including PoWPA focal points. In the workshop these modules will be supplemented with a series of interactive exercises aimed at protected area practitioners who are responsible for implementing specific PoWPA actions within their countries. These supplementary modules can serve as the basis for in-person regional and subregional trainings and “training of trainers” courses.

18. Participants are required to look at the e-learning modules and take some lessons prior to the workshop. Please refer to the “How to Create an E-learning Curriculum Account Guide” under the “other” tab on the meeting website for a visualization of the following process. Using a browser (newer browsers such as Firefox or Chrome work better):

- (a) Go to <http://www.cbd.int/protected/e-learning/>;
- (b) Go to modules 2 (Protected area integration), 8 (lesson 1, Protected area policy environment – Assessing protected area benefits), 17 (Climate Change, which has a corresponding course room), 18 (Marine Protected Areas), and 19 (Implementation);
- (c) Click “Take the course” on any of these modules, whereby you will be redirected to the Conservation Training site;
- (d) Create a new account, with a password of at least eight characters such as “Protected1”, in which a confirmation e-mail will be sent to you;
- (e) Open your e-mail and click on the link in the confirmation e-mail from Conservation Training, whereby you will be directed to the Conservation Training confirmation page;
- (f) Once you have confirmed your account, go to www.conservationtraining.org;
- (g) Enter your username and password, then click on “Login” and then “Catalog” and “Protected Areas”;
- (h) Select the appropriate course and confirm your enrolment; and
- (i) Read the objective before entering the first lesson and complete each lesson, one by one, as instructed.

19. Upon completion of each module, you will receive a printable certificate. Furthermore, a course room has been enabled on the topic of protected areas and climate change (for module 17). The course room topic may be changed depending on regional capacity. All participants have been pre-registered and contacted to take part in the online discussion, which is guided by mentors. If any assistance is needed regarding the online courses please e-mail help@conservationtraining.org with the subject line “PoWPA Training”.

20. Each sub-theme of item 3 is structured into: (i) running a lesson of an appropriate module or delivering a presentation on the topic; and (ii) country break-out groups for interactive sessions to exchange case-studies, ideas and prepare national work plans including regional strategies for addressing key issues. In the interactive sessions, the participants will be provided with key framing questions for each topic to describe the current status of PoWPA implementation and a future plan of action. A rapporteur from each country group will make a presentation on the outcome of the interactive sessions to the plenary.

21. Participants will be provided with a USB key of all the documents listed, including the e-learning module lessons available for all the themes.

A. *Adapting and mitigating climate change, including integration of protected areas into wider land- and seascape and sectors*

22. Protected areas can serve as important elements of climate-change adaptation as unbroken blocks of intact habitat which can increase the resilience of ecosystems to climate change. Ecosystems with high biodiversity and intact structural components recover more easily from climatic disturbances. Shifting of ranges to higher altitudes or latitudes is predicted to be one of the most common responses of species to the impacts of climate change. Protected areas and their surrounding landscapes, particularly ecological corridors, will have an important role to play in providing habitat to facilitate such shifts so as to maximize the natural adaptive capacity of biodiversity. Better managed, better connected, better governed and well financed protected areas are recognized as key to both mitigation and adaptation responses to climate change.

23. In paragraph 14 (a) of decision X/31, the Conference of the Parties invited Parties to achieve goal 1.2 of the programme of work to address climate change impacts and increase resilience to climate change. Goal 1.2 of the programme of work on protected areas specifically calls for integrating protected areas into broader land- and seascapes and sectors to maintain the structural and functional viability of ecosystems. For the e-learning modules on climate change please visit <https://www.conservationtraining.org/course/view.php?id=118>) and for PoWPA goal 1.2 on integration visit <https://www.conservationtraining.org/course/view.php?id=47&page=96>); these two modules explain the step-by-step approach for undertaking the required activities.

B. *Developing national actions plans for the implementation of the programme of work on protected areas*

24. In paragraph 1 (b) of decision X/31, Parties were invited to develop a long-term action plan or update existing plans for the implementation of PoWPA, including, where appropriate, a detailed list of activities, timelines, budgets and responsibilities, with a view to contributing to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties also requested the Executive Secretary to report on the status of such plans to the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting.

25. E-learning module 19 (<https://www.conservationtraining.org/course/view.php?id=66>), on implementation, provides detailed step-by-step guidance on developing an action plan for PoWPA. The fourth national reports to the Convention on Biological Diversity, national biodiversity strategy and action plan documents, and PoWPA reporting frameworks submitted in 2009, among other sources, provide information for developing action plans for implementing PoWPA. Participants are requested to update existing plans or develop plans using the template provided by the Secretariat incorporating the requirements emanating from decision X/31 and target 11, suggesting timelines, indicative budget, responsibilities, etc., through an interactive exercise if they have not already submitted it in response to notification SCBD/STTM/SBG/lj/78771 (2012-018) issued 26 January 2012 by the Secretariat. To date, Kuwait has submitted its action plan in response to the notification and this is provided to participants on the USB key as an example.

C. *Marine protected areas*

26. Although the terrestrial protected-areas coverage exceeds 12 per cent of the world's terrestrial surface, marine protected areas (MPAs) cover only 6.3 per cent of the worldwide territorial waters, growing at a mean annual rate of 4.6 per cent. Taking this into account, the Conference of the Parties, in paragraph 22 of decision X/31, emphasized the need to enhance efforts towards achieving the 2012 marine target. The e-learning module on marine protected areas provides a step-by-step approach for establishing, managing, good governance and other aspects of MPAs.

D. Governance

27. Programme element 2 of the programme of work on protected areas calls for a number of actions related to protected-area governance issues, including ensuring the participation of indigenous and local communities and other stakeholders, initiating measures for equity in benefit-sharing, respecting rights and recognizing responsibilities of indigenous and local communities and promoting a broad set of governance types. In section B of decision X/31, the Conference of the Parties invited Parties to give greater attention to the implementation of programme element 2 of PoWPA, to diversify and strengthen protected-area governance types and to recognize co-managed protected areas, private protected areas and indigenous and local community conserved areas within the national protected area system (paragraph 32). In paragraph 23 of the same decision, the Conference of the Parties encouraged Parties to incorporate good governance principles in the management of marine protected areas. The capacity-building session on this topic will provide a framework for assessing the implementation of these issues, opportunities for countries to showcase innovative ways, and means for coming up with a broad roadmap for enhanced implementation.

E. Valuation of the costs and benefits of protected areas, including ecosystem services

28. Protected areas, besides being cornerstones of biodiversity conservation, constitute an important stock of natural, cultural and social capital, yielding flows of economically valuable goods and services that benefit human populations. The positive contribution of protected areas to the livelihoods of the poorest and most vulnerable sectors of society is very high indeed. Protected areas also provide key support to the maintenance of cultural traditions and the building of social capital. Unfortunately, their value is poorly understood and greatly undervalued by markets, decision makers and the general public. Their value does not register in conventional markets and they are therefore not considered to be real economic assets by policymakers. As a result, protected areas do not receive crucial national budget prioritization. There is a need to improve understanding of the significance and importance of the benefits and values of protected areas, particularly of the ecosystem services that they provide; showcase best practices in assessing and promoting protected area values; integrate these issues into national economies; and create innovative finance mechanisms.

29. In paragraph 29 (a) of decision X/31, Parties were invited to increase the understanding of and communicate the role, importance and costs and benefits of protected areas at all levels. Lesson 1 of e-learning module 8 on protected area policy environment provides details on methodology and technical know-how for valuing the costs and benefits of protected areas (<https://www.conservationtraining.org/mod/scorm/player.php?a=408&scoId=2962>).

F. Funding opportunities under the fifth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility (GEF 5)

30. In paragraph 10 of decision X/31, the Conference of the Parties invited Parties to develop and implement sustainable financing plans for protected-area systems by 2012 and to timely and appropriately use the biodiversity allocations of the fifth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (GEF 5) using their national action plans for implementing PoWPA as the basis for accessing funds. In paragraph 13 of the same decision, the Conference of the Parties urged GEF and its implementing agencies to streamline disbursement delivery and to align the projects to national action plans for PoWPA for appropriate, focused, sufficient and harmonious interventions and continuity of projects.

31. Through presentations and interactive exercises the workshop will discuss the following: the relevance of GEF 4 proposals and projects; GEF 5 allocations and ways and means to access the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR) and enabling activity funds; tailoring of projects to

achieve target 11 and PoWPA goals; prioritizing projects within the overall framework of the PoWPA action plan; and integrating the PoWPA action plan into the national biodiversity strategy and action plan.

ITEM 4. OTHER MATTERS

32. Under this agenda item participants will be invited to raise any other matters of relevance to the subject matter of the workshop.

ITEM 5. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT AND CLOSURE OF THE WORKSHOP

33. Participants will be invited to consider and adopt the report of the workshop on the basis of a draft report to be prepared and presented by the Chair.

34. The workshop is expected to be closed at 5 p.m. on Friday, 20 April 2012.

Annex I

**LIST OF DOCUMENTS FOR THE SUBREGIONAL WORKSHOP FOR WEST ASIA AND
NORTH AFRICA ON CAPACITY-BUILDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
CONVENTION ON BIODIVERSITY PROGRAMME OF WORK ON PROTECTED AREAS**

Official documents

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
UNEP/CBD/WS-PA/MENA/1/1	Provisional agenda
UNEP/CBD/WS-PA/MENA/1/1/Add.1	Annotations to the provisional agenda

Tools and resources and information documents

Decision X/31 on protected areas

<http://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-10/cop-10-dec-31-en.doc>

Decision X/29 on marine and coastal biodiversity

<http://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-10/cop-10-dec-29-en.doc>

Decision IX/18 on protected areas

<http://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-09/cop-09-dec-18-en.doc>

Decision IX/20 on marine and coastal biodiversity

<http://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-09/cop-09-dec-20-en.doc>

CBD Technical Series No. 44: *Making Protected Areas Relevant: a guide to integrating protected areas within wider landscapes, seascapes and sectoral plans and strategies*

<http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-44-en.pdf>

CBD Technical Series No. 18: *Towards Effective Protected Area Systems. An action guide to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity programme of work on protected areas*

<http://www.biodiv.org/doc/publications/cbd-ts-18.pdf>

CBD Technical Series No. 15: *Biodiversity Issues for Consideration in the Planning, Establishment and Management of Protected Area Sites and Networks*

<http://www.biodiv.org/doc/publications/cbd-ts-15.pdf>

Governance briefing note: Governance as key for effective and equitable protected area systems

http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/governance_of_protected_areas_for_cbd_pow_briefing_note_08_1.pdf

Indigenous and community conserved areas briefing note: Recognising and supporting indigenous & community conservation – ideas & experiences from the grassroots

http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/ceesp_briefing_note_9_iccas.pdf

Guidelines for Applying Protected Areas Management Categories, IUCN (see chapter on Governance, pp. 25-32)

<http://data.iucn.org/dbtw-wpd/edocs/PAPS-016.pdf>

CBD-UNEP Issue Paper No. 6 on Protected Areas and Climate Change

<http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/unep-cbd-issue-papers/unep-cbd-issue-papers-06-en.pdf>

Annex II

DRAFT ORGANIZATION OF WORK²

[illegible]

² The revision of the organization of work will be handed out to participants on the first day of the meeting.

3 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.	Coffee/tea break	
3.30 p.m. – 5 p.m.	Item 3. Strengthening capacities for developing national action plans for implementing PoWPA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Action plan introduction - Group work 	Sarat Gidda – SCBD
Reception hosted by the Ministry of Environment and Water of the United Arab Emirates (TBD)		
TUESDAY, 17 APRIL 2012		
9 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.	Item 3. Strengthening capacities for adapting and mitigating climate change <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Integrating protected areas into the wider landscape and seascapes and sectors (IPAWLS) presentation - Group exercises 	Jamison Ervin – UNDP
10.30 a.m. – 11 a.m.	Coffee/tea break	
11 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.	Item 3. IPAWLS, continued	Jamison Ervin – UNDP
12.30 p.m. – 1.30 p.m.	Lunch	
1.30 p.m. – 3 p.m.	Item 3. IPAWLS, continued	Jamison Ervin – UNDP
3 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.	Coffee/tea break	
3.30 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.	Item 3. Strengthening capacities for marine protected areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Marine presentation - Group exercises 	IUCN
WEDNESDAY, 18 APRIL 2012		
9 a.m. – 12 noon	Field Trip	TBD
12 noon – 1 p.m.	Lunch	
1 p.m. – 4 p.m.	Field Trip, continued	TBD
THURSDAY, 19 APRIL 2012		
9 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.	Item 3. Strengthening capacities for governance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Governance presentation - Group exercises 	Mr. Taghi Farvar – IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP)
10.30 a.m. – 11 a.m.	Coffee/tea break	
11 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.	Item 3. Governance, continued	Mr. Taghi Farvar – IUCN CEESP
12.30 p.m. – 1.30 p.m.	Lunch	
1.30 p.m. – 3 p.m.	Item 3. Governance, continued	Mr. Taghi Farvar – IUCN CEESP
3 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.	Coffee/tea break	

3.30 p.m. – 5 p.m.	Item 3. Strengthening capacities for valuation of the costs and benefits of protected areas - Valuation presentation - Group exercises	Jamison Ervin – UNDP
5 p.m. – 6 p.m.	Item 3. Strengthening capacities for developing national action plans for implementing PoWPA - Capacity-building and reporting framework - Group exercises	Sarat Gidda – SCBD
FRIDAY, 20 APRIL 2012		
9 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.	Item 3. Strengthening capacities for funding opportunities - Presentation on the fifth allocation of GEF	Sarat Gidda – SCBD
10.30 a.m. – 11 a.m.	Coffee/tea break	
11 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.	Item 3. Action plans continued - Group work continued	Sarat Gidda – SCBD
12.30 p.m. – 1.30 p.m.	Lunch	
1.30 p.m. – 3 p.m.	Item 3. Action plans continued - Group work and reporting	Sarat Gidda – SCBD
3 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.	Coffee/tea break	
3.30 p.m. – 5 p.m.	Item 5. Adoption of the report and closure of the workshop - Adoption of the report - Closure of the workshop	Representatives of the United Arab Emirates, CAMRE, SCBD and UNEP-ROWA
