



## Convention on Biological Diversity

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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

ASIAN REGIONAL INDIGENOUS AND LOCAL  
COMMUNITY PREPARATORY MEETING  
FOR THE ELEVENTH MEETING OF THE  
CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES  
Chiang Mai, Thailand, 9-12 July 2012

### REPORT OF THE ASIAN INDIGENOUS AND LOCAL COMMUNITY REGIONAL PREPARATORY WORKSHOP FOR COP 11

#### INTRODUCTION

1. At its tenth session, the Conference of the Parties (COP) adopted several decisions relevant to capacity building and effective participation of indigenous and local communities in the work of the Convention. In paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of decision X/40 A the COP, welcomed with appreciation the capacity building efforts for indigenous and local communities by the Secretariat, in partnership with the Government of Spain and the Indigenous Women's Biodiversity Network of the Latin American and Caribbean region, on issues relevant to Article 8(j) and related provisions and Article 15 on access and benefit sharing, and encourages Parties to continue such efforts, including in the other regions. Paragraph 7 of decision IX/13 E, and decision VIII / 5 B, and C and the annex to decision VII/16 and decision V/16 Annex II, Task 4, also refer to, encourage and support capacity building initiatives to ensure effective participation of indigenous and local communities in the Convention's work.
2. Pursuant to these decisions, the Secretariat has organized a series of workshops in 2012, on capacity-building for Indigenous and Local Communities, with focus on preparations for the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in Hyderabad, India, 8-19 October 2012, as well as the Nagoya Protocol. These three regional preparatory meetings for indigenous and local communities in Africa, Asia and Latin America, took place in: Burundi (9-12 June); Thailand (10-13 July) and Paraguay (13-16 August), respectively.
3. This new series of workshops was made possible thanks to the generous financial help of the Governments of Spain and Japan, and the Governments of Germany, Norway and Denmark, the European Union, and the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie, through the multi-donor ABS Capacity Building Initiative. The regional preparatory meeting for the Asian region was organized and facilitated by the Secretariat of the Convention (SCBD) in collaboration with the Asian Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP), the Tebtebba Foundation and the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB) and Natural Justice.
4. The meeting provided an opportunity to build and strengthen the capacity of indigenous and local community representatives, particularly women, to participate effectively in the work of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), especially those issues relevant to Articles 8 (j), 10(c) and Article 15.

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5. The workshop took place in Chiang Mai at the Khum Phaya Resort and Spa, 137 Moo. 5 Tambon Nongpaklang, Amphur Moung, Chiang Mai from 9 to 12 July 2012. Following is the report of the meeting, including a summary of the evaluation by the participants which is contained in annex I and a list of participants which is contained in annex II.

### **ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING**

6. Representatives of the Executive Secretary of the Convention, the Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education (Tebtebba), the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP), made brief opening statements, after which participants introduced themselves.

### **ITEM 2. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

#### ***2.1. Officers***

7. The workshop was facilitated by a representative of the Secretariat and representatives of the Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education (Tebtebba), the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP). Nature Justice also presented.

#### ***2.2. Adoption of the agenda***

8. The facilitators invited the participants to consider and adopt the provisional agenda that has been prepared by the Secretariat for the workshop.

#### ***2.3. Organization of work***

9. The workshop was held in plenary and group sessions, with the methodology of a participatory workshop. Each topic was presented in power point and some items were included, in turn, work in small groups, after which the leaders of each group presented their findings to the plenary.

### **ITEM 3. INTRODUCTION TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY INCLUDING THE PARTICIPATION OF INDIGENOUS AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN THE WORK OF THE CONVENTION**

10. Item 3 commenced with a PowerPoint presentation, including an introduction to the CBD, its history, terminology, process and mechanisms. An in-depth discussion followed on the participation of indigenous and local communities (ILCs) in the work of the Convention at various levels including local, national, regional and international and participants with long experience involving the CBD were asked to share their stories and insights.

11. This item also examined mechanisms and instruments to promote the effective participation of indigenous and local communities in the work of the Convention, which have been established in the decisions of the COP. In particular, the operations of the Voluntary Trust Fund (VF), the website on Article 8 (j) and the portal for traditional knowledge, and digital and print documents.

### **ITEM 4. INTRODUCTION TO ARTICLES 8(j), 10(c), AND RELATED PROVISIONS**

12. Item 4 commenced with a power point presentation focussing on the Article 8(j) programme of work and on draft decisions emerging from the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Working Group on Article 8(j) and related provisions (7WG8j). Participants were divided into small groups, where roles were assigned for an improvisation designed to provide an experience of lobbying at CBD meetings, including how to draft and present arguments and on how to work towards consensus. Amongst other things, this improvisation aimed to build preparation and communication skills. Various roles were assigned including as representatives of developing and developed world governments, diverse indigenous peoples and local communities, non-governmental organizations, etc. Having assumed a character, participants studied the draft decisions and developed their positions and then engaged in a lobbying exercise with the aim (for ILCs) of strengthening the draft decisions. Each group was given one draft decision each and practiced/rehearsed and then presented their improvisation to the plenary and afterwards discussed what they learned from the experience. This activity included both Articles 8(j) and 10(c). Participants

presented their improvisation and afterwards there was plenary discussion on strengths and weaknesses, as well as related experiences.

**ITEM 5. STRATEGY FOR BIODIVERSITY 2011-2020 AND THE AICHI TARGETS**

13. This item commenced with a review of the Global Biodiversity Outlook III (2010), to draw the participant's attention to the global state of the Earth's environment. Participants were encouraged to share their local environmental issues at this time. Under this item, the participants were provided with an overview of the revised Strategic Plan 2011-2020 and its' Aichi Targets (1 to 20), with a focus of the targets most relevant to ILCs. The item was introduced through a power point presentation, which was followed by a full discussion in plenary.

14. The participants made concrete links between local environmental problems in their communities and issues and the global level. Many participants identified the accelerating effects of climate change on environmental degradation and loss of biological diversity.

**ITEM 6. INTRODUCTION TO THE NAGOYA PROTOCOL ON ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING (ABS)**

15. This agenda item was introduced by the Secretariat, who provided some background and a brief overview of the Nagoya Protocol (NP), with an emphasis on provisions of particular relevance to ILCs. A brief update on the international process was also provided. ILCs directly involved in the NP's negotiations provided views and comments on the Nagoya Protocol and international process in the form of a panel discussion. Nature Justice also assisted with an introduction to the concept of access and benefit sharing, as well as community protocols.

16. Following the presentations, participants also contributes their experiences and ABS measures, as well as discussed related issues including the recognition of customary laws, the establishment by communities of processes for prior and informed consent, as well as mutually agreed terms and benefit sharing arrangements.

**ITEM 8. INDIGENOUS AND LOCAL COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES' PREPARATORY DISCUSSIONS FOR COP 11**

17. This agenda item was designed to provide ILCs with a full day's opportunity for an internal discussion concerning preparations for COP 11. The SCBD, AIPP and Tebtebba Foundation, as well as Natural Justice were be available and participated on request as resource people. This agenda item greatly assisted ILCs in identifying who may be planning to participate in Cop 11 and possible priorities, as well as divisions of labour. This item was chaired by representatives of the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity.

**ITEM 9. OTHER MATTERS - EVALUATION OF THE TRAINING WORKSHOP**

18. Participants were invited to give their opinions concerning the preparation and facilitation of the workshop and proposals for future opportunities. This item is designed to provide feedback to the SCBD and presenters to improve future workshops and is also designed to assist donors by providing concrete outcomes, both quantitative and qualitative, in order to assess effective use of funding and will assist in future planning. The evaluation forms were distributed early on the third day and collected at the end of the third day and a summary of the findings is provided in Annex I.

**ITEM 10. CLOSURE OF THE WORKSHOP**

19. The workshop closed at 5 p.m. on 12 June, 2012.

*Annex I***EVALUATION OF THE CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP***Introduction*

1. In order to obtain feedback aimed at improving future workshops and providing essential information to donors and potential donors, participants were requested to complete an evaluation form for the workshop, which covers various areas, including: familiarity with the CBD before and after the workshop; gender; mother tongue; workshop expectations; the quality of the various presentations; and targeted questions including the applicability of new learning on current work; also the style and pace of presentations and the quality of the facilitation of the workshop.
2. Participants were also asked to identify any missing content or to suggest other methods of delivery which could be effective or how the current methodology could be improved.
3. Participants were also requested to provide feedback on the substantive new knowledge areas and where asked if the workshop enhanced understanding of biodiversity/traditional knowledge/Nagoya Protocol/Strategy Plan/and COP 11 and how it achieved this, as well as other advice about how the workshop could be improved.

*Summary*

4. Regarding “Expectations”, as in previous workshops most of the participants rated the workshop as very good, they wrote that the workshop went beyond their expectations. Some said that it increased their knowledge and understanding of process, programs and strategic plans of the CBD at all levels. The preparation for COP11 helped them understand the issues that are going to be discussed and the impacts they will have on their work and lives. They also appreciated the fact that they could get information from various countries and be involved at the local and national levels. They all expressed a strong desire to learn more because this is a new thing for many of them. Many participants realised that they are already working on CBD related matters but had not made the link before the workshop. Some stated that knowing how they deal with the issues at international level will help them finding ways to deal with related issues at the local level, as they will replicate the lessons learnt.
5. They said they obtained very good information and background of the CBD process and the thematic topics of interest to Asia and Pacific ILCs. They also said that their learning outcomes far exceeded what they had expected. Before attending the workshop most of them had little knowledge about the CBD and how it works, and afterwards could make concrete connections to both environmental issues and the implementation of the Convention both international national and local levels. They said that knowledge UN laws and international commitments do not usually reach the field and respective government representatives, but this time they will do their best so that the information learnt reaches the ground in order to sensitise communities in protecting their resources under obligations arising from the CBD. They were eager to know more about the Nagoya Protocol and how it opens up opportunities for Indigenous and local communities to protect and promote their rights.

*Detailed Feedback*

6. From the 32 participants 25 had heard of the Convention on Biodiversity and approximately 60% of the participants were women. The workshop was delivered in English and all the participants had a working knowledge in English, however it is interesting to note that the mother tongues of the participants are Kurukh, Santali, Luhyia, Karen, Mbororo, Toraja, Tagalag, Kadazan, newari, Paze, Galo, Vietnamese, Malay, Tangkhul, Thami, Maasai, wapichama, Palaman, Oria, Khadia, Bengali, Chakma and Simbala.
7. In regards to the expectations of the participants some direct quotes may help to capture the significance of the workshop to the participants. One participant said and many agreed “*The learning far exceeded what I had expected*”; many participants reiterated that they “*had learned a lot but still want to learn more*”; many felt the workshop “*Increased their knowledge and understanding of process,*

*programs & strategic plan of CBD*". One participant said that *"Before attending the workshop I had little knowledge about the CBD and how it works, now I understand how it works with Indigenous Peoples"*; another said *"I wanted to know more about the Nagoya Protocol and how it opened up opportunities for Indigenous Peoples to protect and promote their rights"*. Other participants said the workshop *"answered many questions and clearly explained important issues"*. *"The value of traditional knowledge I learned from this workshop will be included in my next lectures as after this I will be able to help ILCs of my country"*. *"The participatory tools can be applied in many aspects of my work, especially to assess and capture the perception of communities"*. *"The lessons learnt on customary laws, TK, Community Protocols really changed my attitude and I will immediately integrate them into my organization"*. *"The Sui Generis System was not clear to me before but now I understand it as a unique rule developed by communities to protect their TK and it has close link with customary laws"*.

8. When asked if what they learned was applicable to their daily work and activities, three out of four participants said it was fully applicable and one in four said it was partly applicable. Participants found the workshop was very useful and straight forward as they learnt practical information that they will be able to use to protect their Traditional Knowledge, better conserve Indigenous Peoples Community lands, biodiversity and how to dialogue with governments on CBD targets and assessments. They also appreciated the fact that they learnt many specific terms that will allow them to better understand the Convention. Many felt they had obtained a better understanding of the CBD and the need for its effective implementation at the local level. Many promised to keep following the CBD process through ILC regional caucuses. They underlined the fact that the information and understanding of the CBD and ABS will greatly strengthen their community work and they will work with their communities to share what they have learnt at the workshop. Many participants were deeply thankful for the amount of vital and important information they will leave the workshop with, including resources made available by the Secretariat and its partners, and noted they could be used by participants for further training back home in their communities. One participant stated that the presentations provided and updated on the key thematic issues relevant to ILCs, as well as the emerging issues for COP11.

9. The participants appreciated the participative style of the workshop but would like to have more time to discuss and learn more from each one other. The quality was rated as very good by most of the participants. The Secretariat's anecdotal approach to discuss complicated issues was a useful strategy. It brought experiential understanding to the dimensions of the issues. The presentations were clear and short which facilitated good understanding.

10. The participants were also asked what was missing in terms of content or methods. In their responses some noted that some presentations were too fast for those who are not familiar with CBD and ABS. Participants also requested more time for participants' presentations about what they are doing in their communities and in each country so that everyone are more able to learn from each other. Some participants requested more information on topics such as: Report & monitoring systems under CBD, political analysis of the whole CBD process; Global Taxonomy Initiative; concrete Regional experiences. Some participants also asked for more case studies and time allocation to various topics. They would also like to have CBD materials in the languages of the IPs.

11. Participants were asked in particular, if the workshop enhanced their understanding of the biodiversity/ traditional knowledge/Nagoya Protocol/Strategy Plan/ and/or COP 11.

12. One participant poignantly stated; *"Now I have broader understanding of CBD process, but still need to have more clear technical process under CBD"*. Another one wrote *"It has enhanced my understanding of the relationship between the CBD and the Nagoya Protocol. This has provided a very meaningful preparation for COP11"*.

13. The participants were in general very happy with their participation and stated they learnt many new concepts and became more aware of ways to protect their traditional knowledge. They very well appreciated the opportunities that the Nagoya Protocol opens on access and benefit sharing. They understood the importance of the COP decisions and the impacts they can have on them, especially the coming COP11. One participant wrote that *"The workshop has been and eye opener to opportunities that*

*are within the indigenous and local communities; and best practices in creating awareness about the Convention*". They also underlined the importance of the participatory approach used for the workshop, that allowed them to better digest the concepts, especially with the role play that allow them to walk in the shoes of different interest groups. The materials and sharing of information from different countries was also much appreciated. They were eager to go back to their communities and share what they have learnt, one participant put it in these words *"In terms of biodiversity and Traditional Knowledge I can explain more to our community regarding how important this knowledge and rights of Indigenous Peoples are"*. Still underlining the importance of this type of workshop one participant wrote *"There were good presentations that gave a good overall background of the CBD; this is much needed for Asia where we need to know how to better engage in the implementation of CBD targets and national CBD policies"*. Along the same line another one added *"The workshop helps me reflect on my experience working with communities and these can be used for lobbying and advocacy"*. Another stated *"In this workshop I understood how TK's genetic resource ownership can be strengthened in respective national laws and benefit can be shared among the people"*. To continue participants promised to keep learning by stating *"It helped me discover CBD's website, now I visit it regularly and will do so almost every day as I want to keep learning about biodiversity, Traditional Knowledge, Nagoya Protocol and the Strategic Plan"*.

*In the evaluation, participants were asked to describe one significant thing that they have experienced or learned from the workshop and explain how it will help change the way that they will be doing their work in future?*

14. One participant stated that now she will be able to organise public awareness and capacity building workshops in her area while applying ABS and protecting the actual geographical indicators of living creatures/genomes/bio-organisms that are sometimes violated. Another one promised to convey this message to government and people for common understanding. They also recognised that Multi-stakeholders partnerships are keys to the realisation of their projects as they will enable diversification of information and approaches in achieving their goals and objectives. They went on saying that this experience gave the spirit to fight harder to do something for ILCs because there are many others who are supporting them. Communities will realize that the CBD, the Nagoya Protocol and COP11 are not really distant but close to their concerns and issues. It informs communities that their traditional customary materials form the soul, spirit and interest of the CBD.

15. As a summary, participants, committed to sharing what they learnt with their communities, including telling them that their knowledge is very important and that they have to protect it when a researcher wants to access their TK, especially medical herbs, they should not let him do whatever he wants. They have learned about assessing CBD documents and reports, and to follow the updates during the Intersession meetings so that they can follow the CBD process more proactively. They promised to promote ABS safeguards that exist and may not yet be known, and generate awareness form in their core work at the local level. They will consider advantages and possible disadvantages of documenting their traditional knowledge, genetic resources, customary law, and traditional seeds under guidance from the Convention and WIPO.

*Participants were also asked for other suggestions or recommendations they may have for improving the workshops*

16. They recommended having clearer and focused group discussions including on related local issues. They would like to have more time allocated to different topics. They would like the Voluntary Fund capacity to be increased in order to bring more participants to CBD meetings. They would also like to have more ice breaking activities in future workshops. They would also like to involve more ILC community leaders, and have more community friendly audio-visual materials such as videos/short films as they make understanding easier. They would like to have the links of the documents in advance because some participants are new and want to be familiar with the documents in advance. The improvisation role-play to get people actively engaged in the workshop sessions was excellent and helped them to understand how to participate in processes at subsidiary CBD meetings and at COP. The participants would have like more sharing from countries on their experiences in the implementation of the CBD. This would also helpful in understanding what is being done in the field and how ILCs can

contribute at the local level. They concluded by asking for more capacity building activities for ILCs to facilitate a better and speedy implementation of CBD decisions, which would make ILCs better partners with Governments in the implementation of the Convention.

*Annex II***LIST OF PARTICIPANTS****List of Selected participants for the Regional workshop for indigenous and local community representatives of Asia and the Pacific in preparation for COP 11,**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Name</b>
1.	Australia	Foundation for Aboriginal and Islander Research Association (FAIRA)	Neva Danielle Collings
2.	Bangladesh	Unnayan Onneshan-The Innovators (Centre for Research and Action on Development)	Mohamed Abdul Baten
3.	Bangladesh	Bangladesh Indigenous Women Network (BIWN)	Sumanika Dewan
4.	Bangladesh	Centre for Integrated Program and Development (CIPD)	Bimalendu Chakma
5.	Bangladesh	UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues	Mr. Raja Devasish Roy
6.	Bangladesh	Maleya Foundation	Mr. Dipujjal Khisa
7.	China	TARA-Ping Pu	Jason J. Pan
8.	India	People's Organisation for Development Action (DULALA)	Kalicharan Marandi
9.	India	Integrated Rural Development and Training Institute (KIRDTI)	Sri Kapil Deo Murmu
10.	India	Jharkhand Save the Forest Movement	Xavier Vincent Kujur
11.	India	Centre for Cultural Research & Documentation	Moji Riba
12.	India	Zo Indigenous Forum	C. Lalremruata
13.	India	Amajik Seva Sadan	Ms. Veronica Dung Dung
14.	Indonesia	Indigenous Women Council	Romba Marannu Saba Sombolinggi
15.	Malaysia	PACOS Trust	Rojieka Mahin
16.	Malaysia	PACOS Trust	Nasiri Bin Sabiah
17.	Nepal	National Indigenous Women's Federation	Shreejan Pradhan
18.	Nepal	Association of Nepalese Indigenous Nationalities Journalists	Tahal Thami
19.	Papua New Guinea	MAKATA's Sea Turtle Restoration Project	Mr. Wenceslaus Magun
20.	Philippines	Koalisyon Ng Katutubo At Samahan Ng Pilipinas (Coalition of Tribal Organizations of	Giovanni Soliman Bete Reyes

		the Philippines)	
21.	Philippines	Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education	Jocelyn (Joji) Carino
22.	Philippines	Daguitan, Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education in	Ms. Lorenza Mayocycoc
23.	Samoa	O le Siosiomaga Society Inc	Mr. Fiu Mata'ese Elisara
24.	Solomon Island	Network of the Indigenous Peoples-Solomons (NIPS)	Mr. Donald Marahare
25.	Sri Lanka	Nirmanie Development Foundation	Mr. Nimalasiri Hewanila
26.	Thailand	Intermountain Peoples Education and Culture in Thailand Association (IMPECT)	Udom Charoennyomphrai
27.	Thailand	Indigenous Knowledge and Peoples Foundation	Mr. Prasert Trankansuphakon
28.	USA	Waikiki Hawaiian Civic Club	Gina Malia S.L. Nobrega
29.	Vietnam	Centre for Sustainable Development in Mountainous Areas (CSDM)	Hoang Kim Ngoc
30.	Viet Nam	Forestry University of Viet Nam	Ms. Do Thi Huong
<b><u>RESSOURCE PERSONS</u></b>			
31.	Canada	SCBD	Mr. John Scott
32.	Thailand	Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact	Mr. Gam Shimray
33.	Thailand	Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact	Joan Carling
34.	Thailand	Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact	Ale
35.	Thailand	Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact	Shree Kumar Maharjan

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