

Biodiversity Capacity Development Update



**IGAD Countries Trained
on the Harmonization of
National Clearing-House
Mechanisms**



**Indigenous
Peoples Trained on
Issues Regarding
Customary Sustainable
Use of Biodiversity**



**National Stakeholders
Trained to Facilitate the
Description of EBSAs in
the Black Sea and the
Caspian Sea Region**



**Francophone African
Countries Trained
to Strengthen
National Clearing-House
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**Youth Trained to Become
“Agents of Change”
in Support of the Aichi
Biodiversity Targets**



**Capacity of Southern
African Countries
to Develop Tourism
Partnerships and
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**Massive Open
Online Course
(MOOC) on Greening
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**Capacity of Pacific
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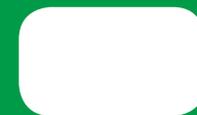
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BCH Training



IGAD Countries Trained on the Harmonization of National Clearing-House Mechanisms

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), in collaboration with the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), facilitated a joint sub-regional training workshop on the harmonization of the CBD Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM) and the IGAD Biodiversity Management Programme (BMP) National Biodiversity Databases from 9 to 13 April 2017 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.



The workshop brought together 34 CHM focal points and technical content managers for national biodiversity databases from Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda. The objectives of the workshop were to strengthen the capacity of participating countries to establish and maintain effective national CHMs in support of the national biodiversity strategies and

action plans (NBSAPs), and to raise awareness of the biodiversity content providers trained within the BMP National Biodiversity Databases project about the Convention and the CHM.

Participants were provided with general guidance on how to develop national CHMs and were briefed on the work of the Secretariat and the status of current CHM initiatives, such as online reporting and the Bioland tool for establishing national CHMs. Participants also exchanged best-practices in compiling information for their national CHMs.

During the practical session of the workshop, participants were trained on the use of the Bioland tool for the establishment and maintenance of their national CHMs. The Royal Belgium Institute also shared lessons-learned from Belgium's assistance to other countries in setting up their national CHMs.

The workshop concluded with a series of recommendations to be implemented by the different partners, namely the IGAD, national CHMs and the Secretariat. Among other things, it was recommended to:

- Include the relationship with the CBD CHM in the IGAD regional protocol on biodiversity;
- Make the information on national biodiversity databases visible on the national CHMs;
- Establish a national coordination mechanism for the CHM comprising national stakeholders of biodiversity; and
- Assist countries that want to use the Bioland tool to set up their national CHMs.

More information on the CHM and the IGAD Biodiversity Management Programme available at www.cbd.int/chm and www.biodiversity.igad.int



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BCH Training



Indigenous Peoples Trained on Issues Regarding Customary Sustainable Use of Biodiversity

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in collaboration with the Tribal Link Foundation hosted the Project Access' Twelfth Annual Global Capacity-Building Training Workshop for Indigenous Peoples at Colombia University in New York, from 19 to 21 April 2017, in the margins of the sixteenth session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII).

The workshop focused on international processes and how to improve indigenous peoples' participation in the UNPFII. One-half day session focused on the Secretariat's work on traditional knowledge and customary sustainable use of biodiversity, as well as indigenous peoples' participation in the Convention's process.



Eighteen indigenous delegates from around the world participated in this intensive 3-day training workshop, which raised awareness about the diverse yet similar issues affecting indigenous peoples' lands and resources at the United Nations (UN).

Following the training, the delegates participated in the sixteenth session of the UNPFII, which was remarkable in itself as it marked the tenth anniversary of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Since 1993, the Tribal Link Foundation, Inc. has been working to support the world's indigenous peoples by organizing events, forums and hospitality programmes that provide enriching cross-cultural exchanges; mobilizing media

professionals to publicize issues critical to traditional peoples; coordinating capacity-building workshops focusing on indigenous peoples' participation within the international system; and ensuring that the vital contribution of indigenous spiritual knowledge is included in major UN events.

More information about the Tribal Link Foundation, Inc. available at triballink.org



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National Stakeholders Trained to Facilitate the Description of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas in the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea Region

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) convened a webinar on 13 April 2017 and a one-day training session on 24 April 2017, to prepare participants for the Regional Workshop to Facilitate the Description of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs) in the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea region, which was held in Baku, Azerbaijan from 25 to 29 April 2017.

EBSA workshops involve intensive expert processes requiring significant scientific and technical preparation. The pre-workshop training was thus organized to orient and equip participants for the five-day workshop exercises and provide stakeholders in various departments of the host government (namely the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, Ministry of Emergency Issues, State Marine Administration, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and National Academy of Sciences) an opportunity to



increase their understanding of the work of the Secretariat on marine and coastal biodiversity. The training brought together 37 national stakeholders and experts from Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Romania, Russian Federation, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and relevant organizations.

Participants were introduced to the global and regional contexts of marine biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, including EBSAs and the Sustainable Ocean Initiative; the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (ABTs), the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the regional and subregional efforts to facilitate achievement of the ABTs and SDGs. Participants were also introduced to the science behind ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (including the scientific criteria, the description of areas,

and the use of EBSA information to support implementation of the ecosystem approach). In the final session, participants engaged in a small-group exercise on using scientific data to describe areas meeting the EBSA criteria.

The webinar session explained the purpose of the training, introduced the EBSA process and explained the ways in which participants could prepare for the workshop. The technical support team from the Marine Geospatial Ecology Lab at Duke University provided briefings on the EBSA criteria, the types of information that could be used to apply the criteria, potential information sources, and gave examples of EBSA areas.

More information on EBSAs and the work of the Secretariat on marine and coastal biodiversity available on the [CBD website](#).



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Francophone African Countries Trained to Strengthen National Clearing-House Mechanisms

The Belgian CHM National Focal Point (CHM NFP), in collaboration with the Togolese CHM NFP and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), organized a capacity-building workshop for francophone partner countries in Africa, from 2 to 5 May 2017 in Lomé, Togo. Ten partner countries, namely Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Morocco, Niger, and Togo, took part in the workshop.

Since 1999, the Belgian Clearing-House Mechanism, hosted by the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, has developed a partnership through which more than 30 developing countries, many of them from Africa, have been assisted to strengthen their capacity to implement national CHMs and various CHM-related projects. This partnership has now become a component of Belgium's Capacities for Biodiversity and Sustainable Development ([CEBios](#)) programme.

This programme is carrying out capacity-building activities for partners funded by the Belgian Cooperation in the field of biodiversity conservation and sustainable management. It works in the framework of Belgium's international obligations under the CBD, the European Union's biodiversity strategy to 2020, and the Belgian biodiversity strategy until 2020.

The objectives of the workshop were to review the progress made by the partner countries in the implementation of their national CHMs established using the European CHM Portal Tool Kit (PTK), and to further build the capacity of their CHM-NFPs on using the Bioland tool. The PTK and the Bioland tool are two web-based platforms aimed at facilitating the establishment and maintenance of national CHMs.

The PTK was developed about 10 years ago thanks to the support of the European Environment Agency, and it is being used by many countries, particularly in Europe and Africa.

The Bioland tool was recently developed by the CBD Secretariat with the support of the Japan Biodiversity Fund (JBF), to provide a more modern platform for establishing new national CHMs while also allowing existing national CHMs based on the PTK to migrate to it.

The CBD Secretariat provided a resource person for the workshop to introduce the new Bioland tool and collect feedback from interested countries on the migration path from the PTK to this new tool. Participants were given an overview of the Bioland tool which was followed by hands-on training sessions, in which participants were able to test various features.

The training concluded with a roundtable discussion about first impressions of this new tool, its features and the potential challenges of migrating existing content to it. The participating countries promised to continue evaluating Bioland and provide feedback. In addition, the Burundian CHM NFP shared its plan to collaborate with the Secretariat's CHM team and the Belgian CHM NFP to create a test migration plan for its national CHM. This will be used to evaluate the migration timeline, to further customize the Bioland tool, and to determine the necessary capacity-building support for other countries.



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Youth from Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean trained to become “Agents of Change” in support of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets

In May 2017, the Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN) organized the first two workshops of a series of regional capacity-building workshops to be held in 2017 and 2018 as part of the project Youth Voices. The “Regional Youth Capacity-Building Workshop on Biodiversity for Latin America and the Caribbean” was hosted by the Alexander von Humboldt Institute in Bogota, Colombia from 2 to 5 May 2017, and the “Regional Youth Capacity-Building Workshop on Biodiversity for Asia” was hosted by the National Parks Board of Singapore, in Singapore, from 22 to 27 May 2017.



and project management to develop or enhance projects that contribute to the implementation of the Strategic Plan and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Participants also had the opportunity to learn and exchange information about their national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) and explored best practices and possible actions to engage themselves in the implementation of NBSAPs in their respective countries.

Both workshops resulted in the development of youth initiatives, including national, sub-regional and regional networks, which will be implemented in collaboration with governmental and/or non-governmental actors and in complementarity with other activities under Youth Voices. News about these workshops were widely shared on GYBN’s social networks and their results will be

presented to the delegates of the CBD Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) at their next meeting later this year. The next regional workshop will be held in South Africa in August 2017.

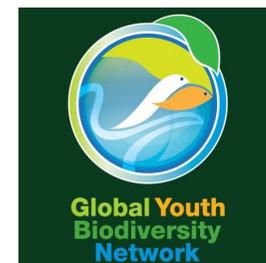
The Youth Voices project is a multiyear and multi-stakeholder project implemented by the Global Youth Biodiversity Network, in collaboration with the Umwelt und Entwicklung/DNR Forum, with support from the CBD Secretariat and funding from the Japan Biodiversity Fund and other partners and donors, including the Governments of Canada, Colombia, Germany, Mexico, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Spain, South Africa and the European Commission.

More information on the Youth Voices project and the GYBN available at:

www.cbd.int/youth/gybn

www.gybn.org

www.facebook.com/thegybn



During these workshops, over 50 young leaders learned about the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. They also deepened their knowledge of advocacy, communication

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Capacity of Southern African Countries to Develop Tourism Partnerships and Concessions in Protected Areas Enhanced

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), through its Tourism and Protected Areas Specialist (TAPAS) Group and in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, organised a series of training workshops in Southern Africa in May and June in the context of the project entitled “Tourism Partnerships and Concessions in Protected Areas: Cooperating for Success”.

The first training workshop took place at the iSimangaliso Wetland Park World Heritage Site in South Africa from 30 May to 2 June 2017. The second workshop, hosted by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, was held in Windhoek, Namibia from 20-21 June 2017, and the third workshop, hosted by the Administração Nacional das Areas de Conservação (ANAC), was held in Maputo, Mozambique from 27-28 June 2017.

A total of 32 participants from 12 countries: Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe took part in the workshops. They included representatives from the ministries of tourism and environment, protected area agencies, and tourism boards.

These workshops provided participants the opportunity to share their experiences and success

stories, and discuss the challenges they face in improving tourism concessions and partnerships in their protected areas. Regional technical support was provided by the iSimangaliso Wetland Park Authority, which offered insight on improving investment, community issues and the type of infrastructure needed to enhance visitors’ experiences in protected areas.



The project was funded by the German Ministry of Environment and the cooperation component was supported by the Government of the Republic of Korea, as a pilot project under the Bio-Bridge Initiative. The project aims at building capacity and awareness on tourism and concessions for protected areas through training workshops; developing guidelines to support protected area authorities in their effort to develop and

use of tourism partnerships and concessions to contribute financially and technically to protected areas management through sustainable tourism. It also seeks to promote technical and scientific cooperation among agencies in various countries on the development of tourism concession policies within national park systems.

The resulting “Guidelines for Tourism Partnerships and Concessions for Protected Areas: Generating Sustainable Revenues for Conservation and Development” will become available on the Secretariat’s website at www.cbd.int/tourism.

More information on the ongoing efforts undertaken by the Secretariat under the Bio-Bridge Initiative is available at www.cbd.int/biobridge.



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Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on Greening Consumption and Production Organized



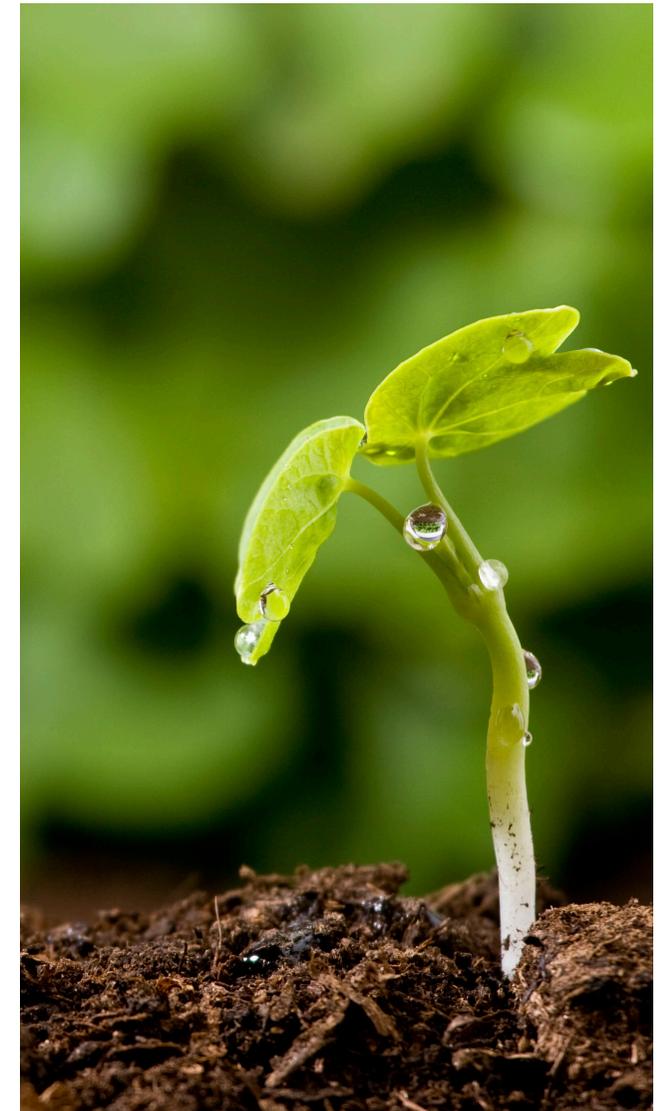
The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in collaboration with Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the NBSAP Forum and The Nature Conservancy (TNC), organized a six-week massive open online course (MOOC) on “Greening Consumption and Production” from 31 May to 12 July 2017. The course was hosted on TNC’s [Conservation Training website](#).

The MOOC, held in English, Spanish and French, targets policymakers and practitioners working in the area of sustainable consumption and production (SCP). More than 1,371 participants from 138 countries registered for the course and were introduced to key SCP concepts and principles, and to mechanisms to facilitate SCP at the international and national levels. Participants will also learn about some of the approaches to greening key production sectors (agriculture, forestry and fisheries), sustainable commodity supply chains, and mainstreaming biodiversity into national development planning.

This course also conveyed the ecosystem approach, a founding principle of the CBD, to a wider scope of industries and sectors outside biodiversity conservation, such as fishery, forestry, agriculture and urban planning. It emphasized the importance of an integrated approach and holistic thinking in the management of biodiversity and ecosystems, which will contribute to capacity development for the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (especially [Target 4](#) on Sustainable Consumption and Production) and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (especially Goal 12).

Through the 18 webinar sessions, participants will also have the opportunity to interact with world-known specialists from the private sector, international and non-governmental organizations, and national ministries, and will be encouraged to critically think about their consumption patterns in the context of international, national and local approaches to greening consumption and production. A certificate of completion will be granted to participants who complete all the assignments at the end of the course.

More information on the course is available at bit.ly/2uWvDSd.



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Capacity of Pacific Countries to Effectively Participate in the Biosafety Clearing-House Strengthened

UN Environment, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, organised the Pacific Regional Training Workshop for Biosafety Clearing-House National Focal Points from 20 to 23 June 2017 in the city of Nadi, Fiji. Fifteen participants from the islands of Fiji, Marshall Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Kiribati attended. The workshop was convened to enhance the capacities of Pacific Island nations to effectively participate in the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH) as part of the BCH III project, which is funded by the Global Environment Facility and implemented by UN Environment.



The BCH is a mechanism that facilitates the exchange of information on living modified organisms and assists Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to better comply with their

obligations under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. The objective of the BCH III project is to sustain the effective implementation of the Cartagena Protocol by Parties through the BCH.



The theme for the workshop was “One PASIFIKA” sharing common understandings and experiences to build a stronger network for capacity-building within the Pacific region in order to meet each country’s obligations under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. The workshop enabled participants to establish a baseline of information regarding the implementation of biosafety measures under the Cartagena Protocol, identify the challenges preventing island nations from publishing information on the BCH and their capacity-building needs, and discuss actions for national and regional networking

and effective participation in the BCH III project.

By the end of the workshop, participants unanimously adopted the “One PASIFIKA Biosafety Roadmap” for island nations to effectively put in place biosafety measures beyond the BCH III project. This roadmap consists of four main components: enhancing capacity, establishing sustainable administrative systems, improving compliance with the Cartagena Protocol, and enhancing collaboration within the region. All Parties agreed to move forward united as One PASIFIKA to promote the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and therefore attaining sustainable development.

More information on the BCH III project is available at bit.ly/2v5S1JA.



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Bulletin Board

Opportunities and Resources

The next application window for [The Christensen Fund Grants](#) is 1 to 31 August 2017.

Calls for applications for the [2018 Conservation Leadership Programme Awards](#) expected to be announced in September 2017.

Applications for the [Darwin Initiative Funding Schemes](#) expected to open in late July 2017. The deadline for applications will be in December 2017.

[Selected countries](#) to participate in the project on “Integrated implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress”.

Upcoming Events

Capacity-building Workshop for Caribbean Small Island Developing States towards Achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 9, Kingston, Jamaica, 18 - 22 September 2017.

Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) Training of Trainers Workshop, Seocheon, Republic of Korea, 25 - 29 September 2017.

Capacity Development Workshop for Central, Eastern and Southern Africa on the Restoration of Forests and other Ecosystems to Support the Achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, Pietermaritzburg, South Africa, 25 - 29 September 2017.

About BioCAP

BioCAP: Biodiversity Capacity Development Update has been developed to provide periodic updates on the implementation of the short-term action plan on capacity-building adopted in Cancun by the Conference of the Parties, with a particular focus on the main outcomes of the capacity development and technical and scientific cooperation activities facilitated and supported by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in collaboration with partners. The inaugural issue of BioCAP is available on the [CBD website](#).



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