

Biodiversity Capacity Development Update



**Technologies and
Innovative Solutions in
Support of Biodiversity**



**South and Southeast
Asian Countries
Share Experiences
on Incorporating
Ecosystem-based
Solutions in Climate
Change Policy**



Capacity of Key Stakeholders from the Coral Triangle, Northern Africa and the Mediterranean Enhanced on Cross-sectoral Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine and Coastal Biodiversity

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity convened two Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) capacity-building workshops with financial support from the Government of Japan, through the Japan Biodiversity Fund, the Government of Sweden and the Government of France, through the Agence Francaise pour la Biodiversité.

The sub-regional capacity-building workshop for the Coral Triangle was organized, in collaboration with the Government of Indonesia and the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security, in Jakarta, Indonesia, from 31 July to 3 August 2018.



A total of 36 officials, experts and managers in different sectors relevant to coral reefs gathered to identify tools and approaches to support cross-sectoral management of various pressures on coral reefs and associated ecosystems

in the context of Aichi Biodiversity Target 10. Participants also selected existing plans or policies from their country, such as the national Coral Triangle Initiative plan, and developed a strategy to improve its implementation.

The regional capacity-building workshop for Northern Africa and the Mediterranean was convened in Tangier, Morocco, from 15 to 19 October 2018, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Maritime Fisheries, Rural Development, Waters and Forests of Morocco, and various relevant organizations, including the Mediterranean Action Plan and the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean.

This workshop brought together a total of 36 experts, practitioners and managers to discuss opportunities and experiences in cross-sectoral approaches to planning and management of marine biodiversity, including through the use of scientific and technical tools such as the description of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs). Participants developed concrete strategies and action plans to enhance cross-sectoral conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity, with a focus on area-based conservation and fisheries management.

Both workshops allowed participants to

exchange information and experiences on major sub-regional and regional goals, targets and progress towards them, as well as activities to support implementation focusing on cross-sectoral approaches.

Participants also undertook a simulation exercise on cross-sectoral, multi-stakeholder consultation for multi-sectoral planning and discussed steps to enhance implementation for addressing identified gaps, including potential sources of support and how to effectively use existing resources and strengths. Opportunities for future collaboration were also explored to accelerate efforts towards the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets related to marine and coastal areas.

The workshop reports are available on the [Coral Triangle](#) and the [Northern Africa and the Mediterranean](#) webpages.



Biosafety Experts from Latin America, the Caribbean and Central and Eastern Europe Trained on Risk Assessment

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity organized two training courses on risk assessment of living modified organisms for Latin America (20- 24 August 2018 in Panama City) and Central and Eastern Europe (24-28 September 2018 in Minsk, Belarus).

The workshops were organized with support from the Government of the Republic of Korea, through the Korea Biosafety Capacity Building Initiative, and in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment of Panama and the Institute of Genetics and Cytology of Belarus. A total of 51 participants attended.



Both workshops aimed at introducing participants to the risk assessment concepts, steps and methodology as well as providing hands-on training in the evaluation of case studies of environmental

release of living modified organisms, identifying protection goals and application of risk assessment methodology to develop risk scenarios.



Participants delivered short presentations about how they carried out risk assessments in their respective countries and the main challenges encountered along the way. They also discussed lessons learned from the various approaches followed in the implementation of their national biosafety frameworks. During the practical segment of the training, two case studies - an insect-resistant and herbicide-tolerant maize (in Panama) and a herbicide-resistant oilseed rape (in Belarus) - were presented.

The resource persons guided participants on how each of the case studies could be assessed using the concepts and methodologies

learned. Thereafter, participants undertook an assessment of four additional case studies (genetically modified goats, mosquitos and cotton, and rhizomania-resistant sugar beet) and identified protection goals, formulated hypotheses, identified assessment end-points and applied the risk assessment methodology.

In another session, participants were also guided on how to access funding from the GEF and how countries could use their resources under the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR) to develop, inter alia, biosafety projects. Lastly, participants were presented with information on how to use the [Biosafety Clearing House](#), including how to find and upload national records and how to access the roster of experts.

The workshop reports for [Latin America](#) and [Central and Eastern Europe](#) are available on the CBD website.



Officials from Eastern Europe, Central Asia and West Africa Trained on Establishing Access and Benefit-sharing Legal Frameworks

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the International Development Law Organization (IDLO) convened two training courses for Eastern Europe and Central Asia (10-14 September 2018 in Minsk, Belarus) and West Africa (17-21 September 2018 in Dakar, Senegal).

These were the last in the series of regional training courses organized in the context of the project “Capacity-Building Programme to Support the Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol”, supported by the Government of Japan, through the Japan Biodiversity Fund, which supports the development of national legal frameworks. The workshops built on the experience and the e-learning materials developed under the project.



Forty-four participants from 26 countries took part in the mandatory six-week preparatory

e-learning sessions, a five-day intensive face-to-face workshop, and committed to participate in a follow-up peer-to-peer learning and knowledge sharing through an online discussion and networking forum. The same blended approach and the e-learning materials developed in the previous phase of the project, including the course on “Establishing Legal Frameworks to Implement the Nagoya Protocol”, were used in the four previous training courses held in Central Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Pacific Islands.

During the mandatory preparatory e-learning sessions held six weeks prior to the face-to-face workshops, participants gained access to course rooms set up on the [Biodiversity E-learning Platform](#), completed eight e-learning modules and participated in a welcome teleconference session. In the face-to-face workshop, participants learned about the core requirements of the Protocol on access and benefit-sharing (ABS); shared national experiences on the design of ABS measures; and strengthened their leadership and communication skills to engage stakeholders.

Participants also identified a number of challenges faced in implementing the Protocol, including difficulties in raising awareness and building high-level political support. They also identified areas where more capacity was required to support the implementation of the Protocol, namely negotiating

skills or techniques, contract drafting, monitoring the utilization of genetic resources, addressing non-compliance, traditional knowledge and ABS, digital sequence information, intellectual property rights and communication strategies.

The training course in Belarus was organized in collaboration with the Government of Belarus, while the one in Senegal in collaboration with the ABS Capacity-Development Initiative and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

More information on the above courses and on [capacity-building](#) for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol is available on the CBD website.



Technical and Scientific Cooperation: The Key to Accelerating the Aichi Biodiversity Targets

In line with the [Bio-Bridge Action Plan 2017-2020](#), the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in collaboration with the Royal Belgian Institute for Natural Sciences, convened a Regional Bio-Bridge Initiative Round Table for Western Europe and Others Group on 21 September 2018 in Brussels, Belgium.

This was part of the first series of [regional round tables](#) held in 2017 and 2018. A total of 31 participants, comprising of policymakers, practitioners, members of the Consortium of Scientific Partners on Biodiversity (CSP) and representatives of regional and international organizations and the private sector, attended.

The round table explored technical and scientific opportunities from the supply side and facilitated the exchange of views, experiences and lessons learned from different models and programmes on technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer in support of the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

Participants were introduced to exemplary technical and scientific cooperation initiatives supported by the Bio-Bridge Initiative, including the Belarus, Colombia, [India](#) and [Morocco](#) projects and were encouraged to identify

potential opportunities for leveraging additional support to upscale or replicate these initiatives.

Participants also shared information about their activities and expertise, highlighting the technical solutions they could offer to countries requiring assistance. They also discussed ways in which coordination and collaboration could be enhanced to maximize available resources and reflected on the opportunities and challenges for promoting technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer in support of the development of a post-2020 biodiversity framework.

Furthermore, participants were introduced to the work of the CSP, the Biodiversity Innovation and Solutions Fair and the BioStories project, which are all contributing to the facilitation of technical and

scientific cooperation by promoting awareness and demonstrating the potential of using technologies to facilitate decision-making and catalyse action around issues aggravating biodiversity challenges.

The round table was organized with the financial support from the Government of the Republic of Korea, through the Ministry of Environment as part of its overall support for the Bio-Bridge Initiative.

More information on [technical and scientific cooperation](#) is available on the CBD website.



African Officials Trained to Develop National Action Plans to Address Traditional Knowledge

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), in collaboration with the Government of Morocco and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Morocco, convened a regional training workshop for the African region from 8 to 12 October 2018 in Marrakesh, Morocco.

Prior to the face-to-face training workshop, participants, consisting of government officials and representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs), took part in an online course in July and August 2018 to gain background information on the Convention and the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing, with a particular focus on Aichi Biodiversity Targets [18](#) and [16](#).

Using the train-the-trainer approach, the workshop provided an opportunity for participants to share experiences where indigenous peoples and local communities have established rights to grant access to genetic resources, as well as information on national policy measures, including customary laws, community protocols and procedures to build capacity to develop national action plans to address traditional knowledge.

Participants also had the opportunity, in preparation for the 2018 UN Biodiversity Conference, to discuss the post-2020 biodiversity

framework and to identify possible major elements that would ensure a fully integrated programme of work in the post-2020 biodiversity framework.



Some recommendations include: 1) enhancing government's commitment in working with IPLCs and recognizing their role in contributing to the CBD programme of work; 2) enhancing the role of the African Union to ensure the inclusion of IPLCs in their work; 3) building capacity and awareness, particularly on establishing environmental legal instruments and institutional engagement; and 4) mainstreaming traditional knowledge into national policies and action plans.

This workshop was organized in the context of the project [Capacity development programme](#) on national arrangements for achieving traditional knowledge elements of Target 18 and 16 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 funded

by the Government of Japan, through the Japan Biodiversity Fund, and builds on previous trainings on community protocols, indicators and customary sustainable use of biodiversity organized in 2017.

A total of 43 participants from Algeria, Botswana, Burundi, Central African Republic, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Guinea, Kenya, Morocco, Niger, Tanzania, Togo, Seychelles, South Africa, Sudan, and the Union of the Comoros, attended the workshop.

More information on [traditional knowledge](#), innovations and practices relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity is available on the CBD website.



Technologies and Innovative Solutions in Support of Biodiversity

Recognizing that science and technology are rapidly transforming society and expanding the frontier of possibility, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) organized the first [Biodiversity Innovation and Solutions Fair](#) in the margins of the 2018 UN Biodiversity Conference in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, from 17 to 29 November 2018.

Sixteen entrepreneurs, innovators and pioneers, ranging from small businesses, UN-backed global projects and several data platforms, showcased different technologies and solutions that can be leveraged to address key biodiversity challenges. The Fair showcased the following exhibitors, who interacted with nearly 4,000 delegates who attended the Conference:

- The [BioStories](#) project: the demo version of the first chapter of the video game focuses on the issue of rhino poaching.
- NatureMetrics Ltd (United Kingdom): environmental DNA sampling kits.
- Smart Parks (Netherlands): monitoring tool to track animals in parks and wildlife reserves.
- Key Conservation (United States): mobile application to help conservationists gain global support and funding.

- Savannah Tracking (Kenya): LionShield human wildlife conflict deterrent and detection system.
- Max Planck Institute for Ornithology (Germany): International Cooperation for Animal Research Using Space (ICARUS) project.
- UNDP: the UN Biodiversity Lab.
- The World Economic Forum and the Carnegie Mellon University CREATE Lab (United States): EarthTime.
- WWF (United States): development of applications to record legal and illegal fishing activities in real time.
- Nature Conservation Egypt: the Wadi Degla Virtual Museum.
- Ain Shams University (Egypt): techniques in the treatment of saline water and wastewater using bacterial and algal compounds.
- The Global Biodiversity Information Facility (Denmark): informatic solutions on alien invasive species.
- The Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle (France): the role of collections as a source for long-term monitoring and conservation of fauna and flora.

- The Natural History Museum (United Kingdom): PREDICTS, which aims to develop global models of how local biodiversity responds to land-use change and related pressures.
- The Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (Belgium): CEBioS programme, which carries out capacity building in the field of biodiversity conservation and sustainable management.
- AEON (Japan): Environmental Foundation and Biosphere Reserve.

In addition, some of the exhibitors engaged in panel discussions, around crucial topics, such as data protection, anti-poaching methods and capacity-building, to explain how their solutions are contributing to the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols. Two [side-events](#) were held on 19 and 25 November 2018 for that purpose.

As a follow-up and in preparation for COP15, the Secretariat will continue to engage with these exhibitors and others to promote innovative solutions and technologies in support of biodiversity.

More information on [technical and scientific cooperation](#) is available on the CBD website.

South and Southeast Asian Countries Share Experiences on Incorporating Ecosystem-based Solutions in Biodiversity and Climate Change Policy

Building on the experience of previous regional multi-actor dialogues, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and SwedBio at the Stockholm Resilience Centre organized the Asia Multi-Actor Dialogue Seminar to Build Social-ecological Resilience through the Incorporation of Ecosystem-based Solutions in Nationally Determined Contributions from 9-12 October 2018 in Manila, Philippines.

The dialogue was organized in collaboration with the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) and with support from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Climate Change Commission of the Philippines. It gathered 25 experts, from nine South and Southeast Asian countries, representing ministries and organisations that are concerned with climate change and biodiversity, as well as representatives from indigenous peoples and local communities.

Participants exchanged views and national experiences on the role of ecosystem-based approaches in mitigating the effects of climate change, and identified potential entry points to incorporate ecosystem-based solutions in nationally determined contributions (NDCs), as well as integrating climate change and biodiversity.

Through a recorded video [presentation](#), the CBD Secretariat emphasized the benefits of

having policy coherence in climate change and biodiversity. Some of the benefits highlighted include having a more holistic approach to addressing environment and development issues; having an efficient national report preparation process; being able to contribute to the achievement of multiple international obligations; and being able to facilitate the efficient use of human, technical and financial resources.

The Secretariat also suggested potential entry points for policy coherence at the national level, including national processes for implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, implementation of ecosystem-based approaches, national development planning activities, sustainable land or drought management and ecosystem restoration.

Participants were encouraged to reflect on their respective biodiversity and climate change policies and to identify opportunities for integrating ecosystem-based solutions. They also identified the following as possible entry points to incorporate ecosystem-based solutions in NDCs:

- Stakeholder participation in the development and implementation of national plans and policies;
- Sectoral coordination to ensure policy coherence;

- Traditional knowledge as a useful tool to generate information that can contribute to ecosystem-based approaches;
- Financing mechanisms as a tool to enhance capacities, and institutionalise climate change and biodiversity in government actions.

The four-day dialogue-seminar also included a visit to the nature reserve of Las Piñas-Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area. More information on [integrating climate and biodiversity action](#), including the [Dialogue report](#), is available on the CBD website.



Building Capacity Beyond 2020



The 2018 UN Biodiversity Conference (consisting of COP 14, COP-MOP 9 and COP-MOP 3) held from 17 to 29 November 2018 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, agreed to accelerate action to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and to begin a comprehensive and participatory process for developing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework ([decision XIV/34](#)), as a follow-up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, to safeguard nature and biodiversity.

The Parties also agreed to initiate a process for preparing a long-term strategic framework for capacity-building beyond 2020 and requested the Executive Secretary to support the process ([decision XIV/24](#)).

Emphasizing the importance of careful prioritization of capacity-building needs and moving capacity-building beyond “business as

usual” towards a more integrated approach focusing on implementation and monitoring progress, the CBD Secretariat will lead the preparatory process to develop the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building.

Through a series of regional consultations, the Secretariat will support Parties to the Convention as they reflect on their capacity-building experiences over the past decade, with a view to identifying strategic priorities at the global level, long-term outcomes and indicators for the development of the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building.

The preparatory process will culminate with a draft long-term strategic framework for capacity-building beyond 2020, which will be submitted for consideration of the Open-Ended Inter-Sessional Working Group to

support the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its third meeting (July 2020) and ultimately to the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting (last quarter 2020).

More information on [capacity-building](#) and the preparatory process for the [post-2020 global biodiversity framework](#) is available on the CBD website.



Bulletin Board

Opportunities

Call for nominations [Equator Prize 2019](#). Deadline: 26 February 2019

Call for proposals [European Commission Grants](#) to create microorganism communities for plastics biodegradation and to foster societal resilience and protect the environment. Deadline: 5 March 2019

Call for proposals [Government of Canada Grants](#) to facilitate the role of women as agents of change in the Americas. Deadline: 13 March 2019

Call for nominations [Rising Star Award](#) to African Research Leaders. Deadline: 4 April 2019

Call for applications Institute of Current World Affairs' [Fellowship Programme 2019](#). Deadline: 15 June 2019

Open-ended call for proposals for [The Ocean Foundation](#) grants, capacity-building and research support to organisations mitigating and reversing the trend of the destruction of the oceans worldwide.

Upcoming Events

Regional Consultation on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework for the Western European and Others Group and Other Members of the European Union, Bonn, Germany, 19 - 21 March 2019

Regional Consultation on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework for Africa, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 2-5 April 2019

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. Previous issues of BioCAP are available on the [CBD website](#).

