Early steps towards effective implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020

BUILDING REGIONAL, NATIONAL AND SUB-NATIONAL SUPPORT NETWORKS
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The year 2012 marks the 20th anniversary of adoption of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Furthermore in June 2012, the Rio +20 Conference, commemorating the passing of twenty years since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (the Earth Summit) where the Convention was born, is scheduled to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The summit will discuss sustainable development and transition to a green economy, and I want to stress that rich biodiversity and ecosystem services are cornerstones for their realization.

Meanwhile, biodiversity has been lost at an unprecedented rate over the last twenty years as a result of rapid population growth and economic development throughout the world. Whether we can confidently hand over this beautiful planet to future generations depends on the efforts we take in the next ten years.

Mt. Fuji, for example, rises in my hometown Shizuoka Prefecture with vast forests at its foot, which the Japanese government in collaboration with stakeholders is now working to register as a World Cultural Heritage. It is important not only as a source of water supply in the region, but also as a symbol for providing cultural inspiration in Japan and overseas. Taking into account the impact of its 300,000 visitors a year, which greatly contributes to the local economy, all the relevant local communities are working jointly on our challenge to ensure continued provision of ecosystem services for our future generations in a sustainable manner while reducing impact on the natural environment.

Now is the time to take urgent action towards our shared goal, achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets adopted at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP10), which advocates realization of a society in harmony with nature as a shared vision until 2050. In particular, countries should develop their own national targets based on the Aichi Targets and integrate them into their national biodiversity strategies and action plans, thereby enhancing various measures for biodiversity. Such a process will leverage the engagement of relevant sectors and mainstream biodiversity in society.

The project to provide support for updating and revision of national strategies and action plans in developing countries through the Fund, towards the mid-term review of the Aichi Targets. At a national level, we have been working on the fourth revision of Japan’s national biodiversity strategy, which is expected to be completed in time for COP11, to be held in Hyderabad, India, in order to provide a roadmap toward the achievement of the Aichi Targets at national level. In consideration of recovery from the Great East Japan Earthquake, the focus of the revision work will be restoration and revitalization of Satoyama and Satoumi, together with promotion of engagement by various sectors, including local communities and businesses.

From April through May 2012, the sixteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA 16) and the fourth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention (WGRI-4) will be held as important run-ups to COP11. In particular, WGRI-4 will provide the first opportunity to present the status of setting national targets based on the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

Twenty years after adoption of the Convention, we’ve entered into a new phase, in which the focus is on implementation of the Convention. Let us now consolidate our efforts and take practical steps to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in order to realize a society in harmony with nature.
Mapping out the path towards implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity

by Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias • Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity

Since assuming the post of Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity this past February, I have stated that my priority for the Convention over the UN Decade on Biodiversity can be, quite simply, stated as “implementation, implementation, implementation”. However, what can be stated simply may not be so easily put into practice, and we are all very much aware that full and effective implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, will only be achieved if all Parties to the Convention honour their COP10 commitments over the coming decade. An early, but important, first step on this journey will be to set “SMART” national and regional targets, in line with the global Aichi Biodiversity Targets, by COP-11 in October this year. If Parties commit to ambitious targets, then the Convention, as a family, must live up to that commitment by working together to identify the financial, human and technical resources necessary to implement the activities to achieve these targets by 2020.

Already, this year, thanks to the Japan Biodiversity Fund and other donors, we have made considerable progress in mapping out the path towards implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity. In 2011, almost every Party to the Convention participated in regional workshops to support revision of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, and recent meetings in Quito and Brasilia (see page 19) have made important contributions towards building partnerships between the custodians of biodiversity and those with the technical and financial resources to reverse the current decline in global biodiversity.

Assessment of the actions being taken in relation to national and regional targets, as a contribution to the global targets, and the Strategy for Resource Mobilization will be two key issues to be discussed in the forthcoming fourth meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation, to be held in Montreal this May, and the COP-11 to be held in Hyderabad, India this October.

Each of the articles in this third edition of the Aichi Targets Newsletter describes a step in the implementation “jigsaw” that we in the Secretariat together with Parties to the Convention are piecing together, as we expand the arena for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use beyond the boundaries of protected areas to become an integral part of truly sustainable development based on the recognition of the ecological services that flow from nature.

Full and effective implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 will only be achieved if all Parties to the Convention honour their COP10 commitments over the coming decade.
The Pacific region is endowed with its own unique biological diversity and yet such diversity is facing great danger. Major marine and terrestrial environmental issues identified in the Pacific islands region include impacts from environmental change, habitat loss, effects of coastal modification, invasive species, fishing pressure as well as land-based and marine pollution.

The regional workshop for the Pacific region on updating National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), incorporating work on valuation and incentive measures, was held in Nadi, Fiji from 3 to 7 October 2011, and was organized in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the Government of Fiji. The Secretariat to the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) also organized a subregional capacity-building workshop for implementing the Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA) in parallel to the NBSAP workshop. Some sessions of the NBSAP workshop were held jointly with the participants from the PoWPA workshop.

The workshop offered an opportunity for regional biodiversity actors to contribute and participate in capacity development. Representatives of UNEP, SPREP, IUCN, RARE, ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, Island Conservation, BirdLife International and Secretariat of the Pacific Community were in attendance, together with participants from 14 countries from the region.

Participants discussed in detail their plans to update NBSAPs and to implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 at national level. By the end of the workshop, they had gained experience with a number of tools and mechanisms that are essential to the NBSAPs revision, including mainstreaming biodiversity, local implementation, resource mobilization, as well as communication, education and public awareness (CEPA). In addition, this workshop had a specific focus on valuation and incentive measures to help facilitate the implementation of Aichi Biodiversity Targets 2 and 3.

A celebration of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity (UNDB), co-hosted by the Government of Fiji, SPREP and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, was held at the same venue.

“The Decade will be a vehicle to support and promote implementation of the objectives of the synergistic Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets at international, regional and national level.”

—Joeli Cawaki, Divisional Commissioner, Nadi, Fiji
Regional workshop for Central Asia on updating national biodiversity strategies and action plans

by Hüsnüye Kilincarslan • Ministry of Forestry and Water Works, Turkey

The Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) from Central Asia region met in Istanbul, Turkey from 17 to 20 October 2011, on the occasion of the series of regional and sub-regional capacity-building workshops being organized by the Secretariat of the CBD (SCBD) with financial support from the Government of Japan and other donors with the aim of building capacity to update national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs). Turkey was honoured to host the workshop and proud to receive representatives of other Central Asian countries, SCBD, UNDP, UNEP-WCMC, plus intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

The participants of the workshop had an opportunity to enhance their understanding of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets with assistance of the SCBD staff and other resource persons. In particular, participants learned about how the Capacity Building Modules provided by the SCBD on Updating NBSAPs could help countries in their efforts to set their own national biodiversity targets in line with the COP-10 outcomes. Setting quantitative and rational national targets and identification of relevant measurable indicators are important challenges in the process of preparation and/or revision of NBSAPs. Therefore, one of the most valuable benefits of the workshop was the building of capacity to set targets and relevant indicators in the scope of NBSAPs through exercises that participants undertook during the workshop sessions.

Countries also benefited from the knowledge provided by resource persons on "valuation of biodiversity and associated ecosystem services" and learned about a new tool “InVEST (Integrated Valuation of Ecosystem Services and Tradeoffs)” that could be adapted in the countries of the region for mainstreaming conservation of biodiversity. Also, during the CEPA session, participants enjoyed learning about ways and means to communicate and raise awareness of biodiversity among the public and decision-makers.

The workshop provided a good opportunity for countries of Central Asia to share experiences, best practices and common challenges on preparation, revision and implementation of NBSAPs. They also heard about the means of access to GEF funds and other financial resources to prepare and/or revise NBSAPs in line with the Strategic Plan and the Aichi Targets.

Turkey revised its NBSAP in 2008 by taking into account national circumstances and international developments. During the preparations of the workshop, goals and targets of the host country’s NBSAP were reviewed from the point of their relevance to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Consequently, it was seen that the Turkey’s NBSAP has substantially relevant goals and targets to fulfil the Aichi Targets, but lacks quantitative national targets.

The workshop has provided experts with the necessary tools to quantify existing national biodiversity targets as a means to contribute to the achievement of global biodiversity targets.
The Caribbean region, although small in territory, is one of the top six of the 25 global biodiversity conservation “hotspots” recognized by Conservation International (CI) and it supports a great variety of ecosystems, with exceptional species endemism.

Unfortunately, as we all know, this region’s biodiversity is at risk from a number of different threats. Invasive species are one of the biggest threats to biodiversity in the Caribbean region. Not only do they impact negatively on native biodiversity, causing 65% of the islands’ known extinctions, but they also negatively affect agriculture, trade and the economy, as well as the livelihood of the people living in this region. Another key driver of biodiversity loss in this region is climate change. Caribbean countries are especially vulnerable to climate change, causing effects such as sea-level rise, deterioration of coastal conditions, and ocean acidification.

With the goal to address these issues, and to strengthen national capacities for the development and implementation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), the CBD Secretariat organized a workshop for the Caribbean region in St. George’s, Grenada which included the following topics: marine protected areas, mainstreaming biodiversity into development planning, economics and incentive measures, stakeholder engagement and other related themes that provided participants with the necessary tools to revise/update their NBSAPs.

The workshop was attended by officials from the environment, development planning and finance ministries of: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Additionally, representatives from indigenous and local communities plus resource persons from the Centre for Agricultural Bioscience International (CABI), the Coastal Zone Management Authority Institute of Belize, the Global Island Partnership (GLISPA), Island Conservation, the Jamaica Environment Trust, the Cropper Foundation, the Nature Conservancy, Turismo y Conservación Consultores, Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) and the University of the West Indies, also attended.

During the workshop, Grenada, the host country, shared with participants the news that they have started the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, by signing the ABS Protocol and by developing a system to manage their protected areas. This system will allow Grenada to fulfill the commitment they expressed during COP-8, “to effectively conserve at least 25% of its near-shore marine area and at least 25% of its terrestrial area by 2020, as a means to contribute to the sustainable livelihoods for its people and to contribute to the protection of the world’s biodiversity.”

NBSAP regional workshop for the Caribbean region
Lecciones aprendidas en el taller regional para Mesoamerica sobre la actualización de las EPANBs

por Lesbia Sevilla ● Sistema Nacional de Áreas de Conservación, Ministerio de Ambiente, Energía y Telecomunicaciones, Costa Rica

El taller se llevó a cabo en Costa Rica del 28 de noviembre al 2 de diciembre del 2011 y contó con la participación de funcionarios de Gobiernos, responsables de la formulación y revisión de las EPANB de Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, México, Nicaragua, Panamá y República Dominicana, además de contar con representantes de comunidades indígenas y de expertos regionales en diversos campos de la diversidad biológica.

Este Taller constituyó una excelente plataforma para impulsar la aplicación del Plan Estratégico para la Diversidad Biológica 2011-2020, así como para ayudar a los países a planificar acciones que conduzcan a emprender medidas para una actualización e implementación eficaz de las estrategias nacionales de biodiversidad, incorporando el Plan Estratégico de acuerdo con las prioridades y necesidades nacionales, en función del desafío que representan las Metas de Aichi; y con ello abordar las causas y los impulsores directos de la pérdida de diversidad biológica.

Costa Rica inició el proceso de actualización de la “Estrategia Nacional de Conservación y Uso Sostenible de la Biodiversidad” mediante la presentación al GEF del documento “Request for biodiversity enabling activity – Proposal for Funding Under the GEF Trust Fund”.

Esta propuesta comprende 3 grandes componentes:

1. **Estado de situación en planificación** (aplicación de la ENB, estado de la biodiversidad, esfuerzos generales de país con énfasis en mecanismos en aplicación) y establecimiento de metas nacionales, desarrollando una propuesta de cómo el país adoptará y priorizará las metas de Aichi.

2. **Actualización de la ENB y su plan de acción en forma participativa e integración intersectorial.** Validación. La participación debe ser amplia, intersectorial, interinstitucional y multidisciplinaria.

3. **Implementación y seguimiento, monitoreo y mecanismos de intercambio:** divulgación, planes de implementación (plan necesidades de capacidad y de tecnología, plan de movilización de recursos), monitoreo y seguimiento e informes (V Informe de País), Clearing House Mechanism, y estrategia de comunicación.

Costa Rica busca dar un paso más allá y convertir la ENB en un
instrumento real de toma de decisiones de cada sector y el mecanismo de implementación de la Política Nacional en el tema.

La actualización de la ENB es una oportunidad para avanzar e innovar como país y sobre todo, lograr que la estrategia sea un instrumento eficaz de planificación de todos los sectores e instituciones del país pertinentes. La oportunidad que brinda al país el actualizar la ENB, es única y llega en el momento adecuado.

Como resultados del taller, se ha entendido que la ENB no debe ser un documento más, sino que debe ser un documento de planificación, debe contener elementos que se integran a la planificación y a las actividades de todos los sectores cuyas actividades pueden tener un impacto sobre la biodiversidad, que la integración requiere de un proceso participativo que incluya todos los actores y sectores sociales y económicos interesados y que el proceso de actualización debe ser un proceso dinámico.

El taller sirvió para entender que la planificación de la biodiversidad es un proceso a largo plazo, cíclico y flexible y que requiere monitoreo, evaluación-revisión y continua adaptación.

El proceso de actualización conllevará un ejercicio de priorización de las Metas de Aichi, lo que incluirá la consulta a expertos o grupos focales especializados, información que será imprescindible a considerar en todo el proceso de actualización.

La actualización de la Estrategia también permitirá abordar temas con todos los sectores involucrados relacionados con el Protocolo de Nagoya sobre ABS y el Protocolo Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur sobre Responsabilidad y Compensación.

El taller desarrollado en el país permitió entender que las EPANB:

1. Son herramientas clave para la implementación del Convenio y deben abordar sus tres objetivos.
2. Deben destacar y tratar de mantener la contribución de la biodiversidad y de los servicios ecosistémicos al bienestar humano.
3. Son un instrumento estratégico para el logro de resultados concretos, y no sólo un estudio.
4. Su actualización debe ser desarrollada en conjunto con todos los actores interesados y pertinentes. Además se debe promover su apropiación y sentido de pertenencia. La EPANB actualizada debe también contar con el apoyo del gobierno al más alto nivel.
5. Debe incluir medidas para integrar la biodiversidad en los planes, políticas y programas sectoriales e intersectoriales.

Todos estos temas serán tomados en cuenta una vez que se inicie el proceso de consulta, para la actualización de la EPANB.

ENGLISH ABSTRACT

NBSAP Sub-Regional Workshop for Mesoamerica

Nine countries met in Costa Rica from 28 November to 2 December 2011 to discuss their plans to update and revise their NBSAPs. Participants shared their experiences in elaborating their strategies and gained knowledge on different issues such as: the ABS Protocol, establishing national targets, mainstreaming biodiversity into planning processes and the importance of using TEEB.

Costa Rica has already started the process to update the strategy and has elaborated a plan with a main objective, expected achievements and products to be developed. The three main components of the plan are:

- Report on the status of biodiversity and establishment of national targets.
- Updated NBSAP – elaborated through a participatory process.
- Implementation of the NBSAP, as well as monitoring and follow-up mechanisms.

Costa Rica wants to take a step further and use the updated Strategy as a real tool for decision-making for all relevant sectors in the country.
Countries from Central and Eastern Europe have met in Minsk to discuss prospects and ways of updating national biodiversity strategies and action plans

by Natalya Minchenko  Ministry of natural resources and environmental protection, Republic of Belarus

The Capacity-building Workshop on Updating National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) for CEE countries took place at the end of 2011 (5 to 8 December) in Minsk, the capital of the Republic of Belarus. The workshop was organized by the CBD Secretariat in collaboration with the Ministry of natural resources and environmental protection of the Republic of Belarus with financial support from the Government of Japan and other donors.

Mr. Tsalko, Minister of natural resources and environmental protection of the Republic of Belarus, noted that one of the reasons why this regional workshop was held in Belarus was the fact that Belarus could offer good examples related to conservation of biodiversity. Belarus is also one of the first counties which adopted the revised national biodiversity strategy in November 2010, a few weeks after the COP-10.

The workshop was attended by government-nominated officials from twelve countries from Central and Eastern Europe region. Representatives from indigenous and local communities as well as various resource persons from the region representing national and international organizations contributed their expertise in mainstreaming biodiversity, local implementation, resource mobilization, and communications, education and public awareness strategies as well as their skills and experience with working with other biodiversity-related Conventions.

“We have the same problems and it is wonderful when we can solve them together.”

The main aims of the workshop were to get an insight into how the Aichi Biodiversity Targets can be implemented and integrated into national strategies, and to exchange experiences and expertise on targets achievement, formulation of biodiversity-related activities and on the implementation and revision of NBSAPs.

Practical examples of the mainstreaming of biological diversity into planning processes and economic sectors (restored peatland «Bartenikha» and national reserve «Nalibokskaya Pushcha») were included in an unforgettable field trip, organized by the Ministry of natural resources and environmental protection of the Republic of Belarus with the support of UNDP Belarus.

The following main messages emerged from the workshop:

- It is necessary to make the NBSAP relevant not only to the CBD, but also to other biodiversity-related conventions and agreements.
- It is essential to set up multi-sectoral working groups and to convince governments/decision-makers of the economic importance of biodiversity conservation to gain their support for mainstreaming.
- It is useful to have examples of best practices and the analysis of the country’s main gaps in NBSAP revision process as well as more practical examples of the work undertaken in the area of strategic planning.

Participants also expressed the need to hold similar workshops at more regular intervals.
Global launch of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity 2011-2020
Supporting developing countries to implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets

by Aya Takatsuki • United Nations University (UNU)

Via its role as the academic “think-tank” of UN organizations, the United Nations University’s research and outreach activities in the area of conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity have been closely linked with those of the Secretariat of the CBD and the Japanese government to achieve the objectives of the Convention. As a part of its effort to raise the awareness of biodiversity, UNU has organized meetings and symposiums in conjunction with the major events such as the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) and the International Day of Biodiversity. UNU is also advancing the International Satoyama Initiative to rebuild a sound relationship between humans and nature in Asia and contributing to Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS), which aims to safeguard and support the world’s agricultural heritage systems and landscapes.

The United Nations Decade on Biodiversity (UNDB) was launched in Kanazawa, Japan, on 17 December 2011, in a commemorative ceremony organized by the United Nations University, in collaboration with the Ministry of the Environment of Japan, Ishikawa Prefecture, Kanazawa City and the CBD Secretariat. The idea of declaring 2011-2020 the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity was initiated by Japan and endorsed at the COP10 in Nagoya, Japan, in October 2010. The event was intended to both promote public awareness of the UNDB and also to support developing countries implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs).

The commemorative ceremony was held with over 600 people in attendance from United Nations agencies, Parties to the CBD, local governments, academia, NGOs, the private sector and the general public. In his message addressed to participants, delivered by Mr. Kiyotaka Akasaka, Under-Secretary-General, United Nations Department of Public Information, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations, called on “all the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and to all the biodiversity-related conventions, as well as all members of the United Nations system, the private sector, civil-society groups and individual citizens and consumers worldwide, to rally to the call of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity.” In conclusion, he stated, “Let us work together to live in harmony with nature, let us preserve and wisely manage nature’s riches for prosperity today and for the future we want.”

The three-day event also included a workshop on NBSAPs, a commemorative forum and excursions. Major recurring themes during the three days included: recognition of developing diverse NBSAPs among countries and the need for cooperation; integration of biodiversity into development policy that also takes into account local communities’ needs and stimulates action at the local level; advancement of the understanding of the green economy; engagement from all sectors; spreading public awareness of this pressing issue. The time to act is now, and the protection of biodiversity can only be truly realized with the active participation of each and every one of us. The United Nations University will continue to contribute to the protection of biodiversity through various research and education activities. 

The time to act is now, and the protection of biodiversity can only be truly realized with the active participation of each and every one of us.
The regional Mediterranean workshop to strengthen collaboration between national and local governments, and to foster regional cooperation in the Mediterranean Basin to reinforce the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 in the region was held in Montpellier, France, from 17 to 20 January 2012.

Its goal was to review progress with, and assist Mediterranean Parties in reviewing their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and national biodiversity targets, by fostering cooperation at the regional level in line with the Strategic Plan and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Another objective was the establishment of a Mediterranean network of cities and local authorities engaged in biodiversity management, in order to support the national level implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The workshop was prepared by the CBD Secretariat and the Mayor’s office of Montpellier’s City Hall with the support of the Japan Biodiversity Fund. In all, 55 participants from 17 countries attended the meeting. Ms. Monique Barbut, Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), also attended the workshop.

In the workshop, national authorities and local authorities from Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Egypt, France, Israel, Lebanon, Macedonia, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Serbia, Spain and Tunisia gathered in order to define what were the most important issues they had to face in order to strengthen the protection of biodiversity in the Mediterranean region. Representatives agreed on the fact that the Mediterranean basin was dealing, not only with a political crisis, but also with a lack of funding and representation of local authorities at a national level.

Participants to the workshop have agreed on four main challenges that would be the first steps of the activities of the Network: (1) mainstream biodiversity at a local scale; (2) share information; (3) create a knowledge interface; and (4) reduce the Ecological Footprint.

At the end of the workshop, Ms. Hélène Mandroux, Mayor of Montpellier, delivered the Montpellier Declaration. The Network “MEDIVERCITIES” was created, and a steering committee agreed to implement collaborative work among local authorities and to expand the network as well as to create a strong interface for local stakeholders to interact. The workshop equipped experts from the Mediterranean region with skills for conserving and protecting its renowned biodiversity, in preparation of the City and Biodiversity Summit that will be held in Hyderabad, India, in parallel with the COP11.

Creation of a Mediterranean network of local authorities to protect biodiversity

From local to national action

Déclaration de Montpellier sur la Biodiversité dans la Méditerranée

Nous, représentants des gouvernements nationaux, sous-nationaux et locaux, organisations non gouvernementales, et autres décideurs clés du Bassin Méditerranéen, accueillons avec satisfaction et félicitons l’initiative de la ville de Montpellier d’accueillir les ateliers régionaux méditerranéens pour les stratégies nationales et plans d’action pour la biodiversité, et le réseau méditerranéen des villes et autorités locales pour la biodiversité, en partenariat avec le Secrétariat de la Convention sur la Diversité Biologique et ICLEI – Gouvernements Locaux pour la Durabilité, du 17 au 20 janvier 2012. Nous sommes conscients que les gouvernements locaux et sous-nationaux jouent un rôle essentiel dans l’aménagement du territoire, dans l’utilisation durable, la valorisation, la conservation et la restauration de la biodiversité et des services écosystémiques, même si leur rôle est limité dans les processus internationaux de coopération au développement.

NOUS RECONNAISSONS:
La richesse exceptionnelle de la biodiversité du Bassin Méditerranéen et son rôle dans l’approvisionnement en service écosystémique et leur régulation qui augmente la sécurité alimentaire, hydrique et de l’énergie, contribue à l’adaptation et à l’atténuation du changement climatique et améliore la santé humaine dont dépend la prospérité de la région;

L’ampleur des menaces sur les services écosystémiques causées par l’augmentation des pressions anthropiques et climatiques dans la région;

Les acquis, le potentiel important et la responsabilité des villes méditerranéennes, des gouvernements locaux et sous-nationaux, comme moteurs de changement, pour faire face efficacement à l’érosion de la biodiversité;

L’importance et la nécessité d’une approche participative comme moyen le plus sûr de stopper la perte de biodiversité et la dégradation des écosystèmes dans la région méditerranéenne;

L’opportunité de mobiliser et conforter une dynamique, en s’appuyant sur les déclarations déjà existantes de Curitiba, Erfurt, Durban, Nagoya et Bonn, ainsi que sur les initiatives en cours telles que l’Action Locale pour la Biodiversité initiée et portée par ICLEI et UICN (LAB), Pioneer Project, et d’autres réseaux intégrant nrg4SD, NALAS et MedCites.

En accord avec le « Plan d’Action pour les Gouvernements sous-nationaux, les Villes et Autres Autorités Locales 2011-2020 », approuvé par les 193 Parties à la Convention sur la Diversité Biologique, nous nous engageons donc à :

Initier et soutenir et mobiliser des ressource pour maintenir le réseau Méditerranée des gouvernements locaux et régionaux de la Méditerranée pour la biodiversité et la gestion des écosystèmes qui feront progresser l’intégration de la biodiversité dans l’aménagement du territoire, et les différentes politiques sectorielles et inter sectorielles, l’innovation dans la planification urbaine, les infrastructures vertes, le développement social et le bien-être, la recherche de croissance verte et la complémentarité des divers réseaux existants œuvrant pour le développement durable dans la région;

Collaborer à la réalisation et la compilation des évaluations de la biodiversité et des écosystèmes, ainsi qu’aux stratégies et plans d’action, aux différents niveaux de gouvernance, dans le but d’assurer une cohérence, de créer des synergies, et d’optimiser les résultats;

Mettre en place et lorsque nécessaire développer une plateforme de collecte de données sur la biodiversité à échelle locale afin d’établir des systèmes de suivi et d’évaluation des plans sur le long terme et pour faciliter la prise de décision et l’accès aux informations à tous les niveaux;

Intégrer les mécanismes de données existantes concernant la biodiversité afin d’améliorer les efforts de recensement de données au niveau local pour établir des systèmes de suivi utiles pour la planification sur le long terme, améliorer la prise de décisions et la communication à tous les niveaux.

Explorer et poursuivre toute opportunité de collaboration, telle que la définition de partenariats et de projets concrets, pour renforcer la mise en œuvre du Plan d’Action Stratégique pour la Biodiversité 2011-2020 et les Objectifs d’Aichi pour la Biodiversité dans la région, dans la perspective du Sommet Ville et Biodiversité à Hyderabad, et des sommets à venir;

Inviter tout type de bailleur de fonds et les partenaires de développement, à investir dans le développement durable dans la région méditerranéenne et de soutenir ce réseau pour permettre une meilleure prise en compte des gouvernements locaux et sous-nationaux en tant qu’agents d’une action effective locale et régionale et à inclure et à les impliquer dans les processus de prise de décision et de mise en œuvre des stratégies.
Asian countries met again to accelerate planning for 2020

It does not just suffice to set targets for 2020 and incorporate them into updated NBSAPs. They must be also included in relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral strategies, plans and programmes to ensure their broadest possible acceptance and more importantly, concerted efforts by all relevant stakeholders to achieve them. Therefore, it is very important to use NBSAPs as an instrument for mainstreaming biodiversity into relevant sectors. The workshop looked at approaches to mainstream biodiversity, including integrating biodiversity into landscape planning and management, linking biodiversity conservation with poverty reduction at local level and using economics to make the case for investment in biodiversity. Participants were also provided training on how to develop local biodiversity strategies and action plans, which are essential for local governments and communities to deliver actions and outcomes to implement NBSAPs and achieve 2020 targets.

NBSAPs, no matter how well they are formulated, will lie on bookshelves if adequate resources to implement them are not made available in a timely manner. Resource mobilization is critical for achieving targets and outcomes identified in NBSAPs. The workshop discussed in detail how to mobilize resources from various sources for implementing NBSAPs and the Strategic Plan.

The workshop also elaborated on linking indicators development with updating NBSAPs, while recognizing the importance of monitoring and reporting for updated NBSAPs. Participants were not only briefed about outcomes from the Ad-Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on 2020 Indicators and the recently-held SBSTTA 15, but also introduced some key methods for indicator development recommended by a regional workshop organized for East African countries by UNEP-WCMC.

One outstanding feature of this workshop, as indicated by many participants, was that participants benefited considerably from work in groups or individually on workshop exercises, as these group discussions and exercises provided countries good opportunities to think about their national situation and possible strategies to address some issues, including possible targets and possible elements of NBSAPs, using suggestions from lead presentations. Building on that, some countries had almost completed their outlines of NBSAPs, with some key elements identified. This would accelerate national processes of updating NBSAPs as indicated by many participants.

Overall, participants were of the view that training and tools provided by this workshop would be of great help to strengthen their capacities and accelerate the updating of NBSAPs. The participants also visited Rajaji National Park to have a first hand experience of wildlife management and community engagement challenges in an important landscape for elephant and tiger conservation.
Regional follow-up workshop for Africa

The great African city of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia played host to the regional follow-up workshop for Africa on revising and updating National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) from 27 February to 1 March 2012. Addis Ababa was a fitting location for the workshop which brought over 44 African countries together (including Africa’s newest state, Southern Sudan) given its historical, diplomatic and political significance for the continent of Africa. Ethiopia has a wide diversity of ecosystems ranging from Afroalpine to aquatic wetland and mountain grassland to desert and semi-desert, reflecting a sample of ecosystems found elsewhere on the continent.

African countries have a rich diversity of ecosystems, species and genes which remain relatively intact however, threats to, and pressures on biodiversity are on the increase and African countries have to ensure that these are mitigated in order to minimize biodiversity loss. Recognizing that biodiversity is an asset for poverty eradication and development, many African countries also realize that NBSAPs have the potential to be viable instruments for mainstreaming sustainable development into national and sectoral development planning processes. The follow-up workshop which focused on mainstreaming biodiversity and encompassed valuation and incentive measures was useful to countries in their efforts to make the case on the value of biodiversity to national development planners.

The workshop was organized by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) as a follow-up to the sub-regional workshops for Southern Africa, West Africa, Central Africa and East Africa in 2011. It aimed to assist African Parties in reviewing their national biodiversity strategies and action plans, identifying national and regional targets, and fostering cooperation at the regional level in line with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Targets.

“We must keep in mind that it is our great mission to put the Nagoya outcomes into action”

—Hajime Kitaoka, Minister, Embassy of Japan in Ethiopia
At COP-10 (Japan, 2010) it was recognized that implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets cannot be achieved by governments alone. Therefore, building on earlier work, a decision calling for the direct engagement of business, together with other stakeholders, was adopted by the Parties as Decision X/21 on Business Engagement. The decision called upon the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to:

- Encourage the establishment of national and regional business and biodiversity initiatives.
- Compile and disseminate information on best available practices for mainstreaming ecosystem services.
- Encourage the development and application of tools and mechanisms that can further facilitate the engagement of business in integrating biodiversity conservation into their practices.
- Monitor implementation of private sector progress in mainstreaming ecosystem services and assess the effectiveness of tools and mechanisms in use for this purpose; and
- Encourage businesses that support the Convention’s objectives in communicating their biodiversity-relevant activities to their consumers, customers, and other stakeholders.

Working from this decision, the business programme of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity is planning on making use of the Japan Biodiversity Fund for business engagement during 2012. The programme of work will include analysis of standards and other mechanisms, strengthening the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity, and preparing for major activities such as Rio+20 and COP 11.

With regard to the analysis of standards and other tools and mechanisms, this continues the work that was started in 2011 in conjunction with UNEP-WCMC. The initial report on this work was published as CBD Technical Series #63. The next stage of work will aim to develop a final set of recommendations for strengthening biodiversity criteria in business standards, highlighting those of highest priority, as well as assessing the level of inclusion of ecosystems services in standards and certification schemes. The study will also explore the opportunities for developing best practice target guidelines for inclusion in standards and certification schemes.

The Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity is comprised of national and regional initiatives that are brought together to share best practices, facilitate dialogue between businesses, government and other stakeholders, and help companies to mainstream the ideals of the Convention and the Aichi Targets. For 2012, the Partnership will be further strengthened through regional workshops and publication of materials for use by the various national and regional initiatives.

For Rio+20, the CBD Secretariat is planning to hold, in conjunction with partner organizations, a business day at the Rio Pavilion as well as a business and biodiversity workshop. At COP 11, there are a variety of activities planned, including: a green business exhibition; business and biodiversity awards; a high-level event on business and biodiversity (Ministers/CEOs); the second meeting of the Global Partnership; and a business day at the Rio Pavilion.

The SCBD business programme will be directly cooperating with the Japan Business Federation, commonly known as “Keidanren”, and the Japan Business and Biodiversity Partnership at Rio+20 and COP 11, and the Business Partnership is actively involved in the ongoing planning for the strategic direction of the Global Partnership.
In decision X/15 on the clearing-house mechanism (CHM), the Conference of the Parties encouraged Parties to continue to take the necessary steps to establish, strengthen, and ensure the sustainability of national clearing-house mechanisms (CHM Strategy Goal 2).

To contribute to this goal, the Governments of Japan and Belgium have provided generous support to convene a subregional capacity-building workshop for South Asia on the clearing-house mechanism from 12 to 16 December 2011 in Dehradun, India. This event was organized in collaboration with the Government of India and the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP). It was held back-to-back with a regional workshop on national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs).

The overall objective was to build capacity and provide guidance on how to establish and sustain effective national clearing-house mechanisms, in line with decision X/15 and in support of NBSAPs. The objective was also to contribute to the establishment of a regional clearing-house mechanism for SACEP member countries and to facilitate cooperation among them.

The workshop was attended by 17 government-nominated officials involved in the clearing-house mechanism and in the national biodiversity strategy and action plan process. Participants included representatives from Bangladesh (2), Bhutan (2), India (6), Maldives (2), Nepal (2), Pakistan (1), and Sri Lanka (2). Additionally, two representatives from the SACEP attended.

Each country shared its experience and vision related to the development of its national clearing-house mechanism. This enabled participants to have a good understanding of the situation and challenges in a particular national context.

Over the years, establishing and maintaining websites has evolved into a multidisciplinary process covering many aspects such as information and communication technology (ICT), graphical design, project management and content management. Therefore, the workshop included a session on best practices and tools commonly used to establish and maintain high-impact websites.

The European Clearing-House Mechanism has developed a toolkit to facilitate the establishment of national CHM websites. This toolkit is being used by most European and African clearing-house mechanism websites. The toolkit and its features were introduced to the participants through a hands-on training which was a major component of this capacity-building workshop. This computer-based training session was conducted by the Belgian Clearing-House Mechanism. While this session was technical, it also had a strategic importance because it allowed the participants to have a deep understanding of the features and potential of the toolkit, so as to assess its suitability for a particular country.

The workshop also included a general group discussion to compile recommendations which focused primarily on the process of establishing effective and sustainable clearing-house mechanisms in South Asia.
From 12 to 15 December 2011, a meeting of the Expert Group on Biodiversity for Poverty Eradication and Development was convened in Dehradun, India. The meeting was co-hosted by the Ministry of Environment and Forest and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity at the Indian Council of Forest Research and Education. The meeting was made possible because of the generous financial contributions of Japan, Germany and France.

Thirty-one participants attended, including twelve government-nominated delegates in addition to nineteen observers from different United Nations organizations, research institutes, and NGOs. The meeting served to discuss, in detail, how best to integrate, value, monitor and develop capacity to mainstream biodiversity and ecosystem services into poverty eradication and development processes, and vice versa.

The experts requested that the meeting’s combined body of work (preparatory documents, presentations, results of group work and plenary exercises, and final reports) be considered a capacity development framework on mainstreaming biodiversity into poverty eradication and development processes. This capacity development framework includes the identification of concrete solutions for scaling up good practices and lessons learned on mainstreaming, offering solutions for sharing knowledge with a maximum number of stakeholders and providing guidance and priorities for key actors at all levels. The meeting was concluded with a one day field trip to Rajaji National Park which provided an example of how biodiversity, ecosystem services, poverty reduction processes and development issues are intertwined.

The participating experts were so passionate about this subject that they continue to work together months after the closing words were pronounced in Dehradun. A small group has drafted an information document on the identification of root causes of poverty that are possibly linked to biodiversity loss and the interlinkages between poverty and biodiversity. Participants have also worked to finalize the most notable outcomes of the discussions and group work to formulate the “Dehradun Recommendations”.

The meeting was successful and the Expert Group is willing to continue its work toward the creation of a roadmap for action and implementation by developing strong linkages with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) processes in order to fully contribute to the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.
National experiences in implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020

A Global Workshop on National experiences in implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 was held in Brasilia, Brazil from 12 to 14 March 2012. The workshop was generously funded by the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs of the United Kingdom and co-hosted by the Ministry of Environment of Brazil. The workshop provided an opportunity for representatives of more than 50 CBD Parties, and representatives of international organisations to meet and take stock of the progress made towards implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and to identify the major challenges to successful implementation. Participants addressed five main themes: (i) Revision of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) or their equivalent; (ii) National target-setting to contribute to the global Aichi Biodiversity Targets; (iii) Mainstreaming NBSAPs into landscapes, sectors and development policy (national experience); (iv) The resource challenge – finance, participation and partnerships; and (v) Aggregation – scaling-up reporting on national progress towards the global Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The final report of the meeting will be made available as an Information document for the forthcoming fourth meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation.

Quito seminar on scaling up biodiversity finance

The Dialogue Seminar on Scaling up Biodiversity Finance, 6-9 March 2012, in Quito, Ecuador, was convened by the governments of Sweden, Ecuador, Norway, India and Japan, and the CBD Secretariat to explore and contribute to understanding and seek to clarify areas of convergence and divergence regarding ways to scale up the mobilization of financial resources to support the achievement of the 2020 Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The dialogue covered the broad area of financing for biodiversity, including the role and nature of “innovative financial mechanisms” (IFM). The seminar did not draft formal recommendations, but rather sought to enhance understanding among participants with a view to facilitate discussions at WGRI-4 in Montreal in May 2012 and COP-11 in Hyderabad, India, in October 2012. The seminar included a mix of keynote presentations, case studies and small group discussions. Participants included about 80 representatives from governments, development agencies, UN organizations, non-governmental organizations, social movements, farmer organizations, local communities and indigenous people’s organizations, scientists and the private sector, all with experience of financial resources mobilization for the protection of biodiversity. Full outputs of the meeting can be found at: http://www.dialogueseminars.net/.
The term “socio-ecological production landscape” (SEPL) was coined to describe the heterogeneous landscapes and seascapes created and maintained through interactions between humans and nature. These landscape mosaics may include villages, farmland, and adjacent woods, grasslands and coasts. SEPLs are indispensable for providing food, water, and livelihoods; they nurture culture and tradition, while aiding the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. SEPLs can be found in many places across the world – see http://satoyama-initiative.org/en/category/case_studies-2/.

The Satoyama Initiative, which was started through joint collaboration between the Ministry of the Environment of Japan (MOEJ) and the United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS), is well-positioned to promote the maintaining and rebuilding of SEPLs using a three-fold approach of (i) consolidating wisdom on securing diverse ecosystem services and values, (ii) integrating traditional ecological knowledge and modern science to promote innovations, and (iii) exploring new forms of co-management systems. At the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP10), Decision X/32 was adopted recognizing the Satoyama Initiative as a “potentially useful tool to better understand and support human-influenced natural environments for the benefit of biodiversity and human well-being.”

During the COP10, the International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative (IPSI) was formed to promote the activities identified by the Satoyama Initiative. IPSI is open to organisations dealing with SEPLs who seek to foster synergies in the implementation of their respective activities, as well as other activities planned under the Satoyama Initiative. Since its founding, the number of organisations within the diverse IPSI membership has more than doubled from 51 to 117.

A number of collaborative activities have already been developed and successfully initiated under IPSI. Among others, the Community Development and Knowledge Management for the Satoyama Initiative (COMDEKS) project was officially launched last year. COMDEKS is implemented by UNDP and supported by the Japan Ministry of Environment, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD), and UNU, and consists of two main activities. One focuses on community development in SEPLs in developing countries through providing grants to communities using the existing UNDP Small Grants Programme delivery mechanism. The other focuses on the compilation and management of knowledge to be used for capacity building and replication of SEPL activities. In support of the Satoyama Initiative, the Government of Japan has made an initial allocation of $2 million for the first year of the 5-year programme through the Japan Biodiversity Fund established in the SCBD. Small grants will be disbursed to community organisations through UNDP-GEF.

Another successful product generated through IPSI is a set of indicators for assessing the resilience of SEPLs developed jointly by UNU and Biodiversity International. These indicators are meant to serve as a guide to understanding and strengthening resilience of SEPLs through measuring interrelated practices and institutions.

IPSI just held its Second Global Conference (IPSI-2) on 13-14 March 2012 at the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) in Nairobi, Kenya. The conference was organized under the theme of “Strategy for Realising Societies in Harmony with Nature”. Representatives from a wide range of IPSI member organizations delivered presentations and participated in discussions to identify areas for collaboration and future action. As the Second Global Conference ended, the Partnership was stronger than ever and bolstered by a set of concrete actions to be initiated over the coming months. Progress on implementing these actions will be reported back to the membership at its next conference (IPSI-3), which is planned to be held back-to-back with CBD COP11 in Hyderabad, India in October 2012. For more information on IPSI, its vision and its membership, please visit the website at http://satoyama-initiative.org/en/.

Status of signature for the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

(as of April 16, 2012)

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*(as of April 16, 2012)*

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Revised NBSAPs received since the first issue of the Aichi Targets Newsletter (June 2011)

- Democratic People’s Republic of Korea
- Spain (revised to include the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020)
- Ireland (revised to include the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020)
- United Kingdom (revised to include the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020)

Further details available at:
http://www.cbd.int/nbsap/about/latest/

Global NBSAP status available at:
http://www.cbd.int/doc/nbsap/nbsap-status.doc