



COMMUNIQUÉ

Capacity-Building Workshop for the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy Members on Updating National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans

Montreal, 4 July 2011 – Last week, in Geneva, biodiversity experts and officials from 14 European countries met for two days to work towards implementing the Nagoya Biodiversity Compact. The Regional Workshop on Updating National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), organized by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), with the financial support of the Government of Japan, and in collaboration with the Regional Office for Europe of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS) Bureau, took place on 30 June and 1 July 2011.

The Regional Workshop on Updating National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans for PEBLDS member States aimed to strengthen national capacities for the development, implementation, reviewing, updating, and communication of NBSAPs; help facilitate national implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020; and translate it into national targets and commitments.

The workshop was attended by experts and officials from Albania, Armenia, Belarus, Croatia, Finland, Georgia, Montenegro, Norway, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Switzerland, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. Representatives of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, and the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) also participated.

Opening remarks were made by Mr. Tsutomu Mizutami, speaking on behalf of Japan Permanent Mission in Geneva, highlighting the importance of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the associated Aichi Biodiversity Targets, describing the contributions Japan has made to the implementation of the Nagoya Accord, and stressing the importance of all countries working together to achieve the 2020 goals of the Plan.

Further opening remarks were made by Mr. Robert Lamb, speaking on behalf of the Government of Switzerland as the Chair of the PEBLDS Bureau, who highlighted the role of the Strategic Plan as an over-arching framework for all of the biodiversity-related conventions and welcomed the focus of this meeting on promoting synergies between these conventions; and by Mr David Duthie, Senior Programme Officer, speaking on behalf of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, who mentioned the urgent need to ratify the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing and the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress in Biosafety. He also thanked the UNEP Regional Office for Europe and the PEBLDS Bureau for co-organizing the workshop. He further noted that the Pan-European region covering a total of 54 countries, would be an important component of achieving the global for reaching the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

During the two days of the workshop, participants reviewed the findings of the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook and their relevance to the Aichi-Nagoya outcomes; reviewed progress with updating

of NBSAPs, especially with regard to mainstreaming, and discussed synergies between the biodiversity-related conventions in the context of the Strategic Plan, focusing on national experience with CITES and Ramsar in particular. Participants also considered the relation between target and indicators and undertook a number of group exercises in NBSAP revision in the light of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2022.

Following meetings in Botswana, Germany, Lebanon, China, Senegal, the Republic of Congo and Rwanda, this meeting is the latest in a series of regional and subregional capacity-building workshops to strengthen national capacities for the development, implementation, reviewing, updating, and communication of national biodiversity strategies and action plans. The next meeting will be held in Quito from 5 to 8 July 2011.

For additional information, please see: www.cbd.int/nbsap/workshops2.shtml.
