



High-level Panel (Phase II)  
Second Teleconference  
7 October 2013

## **REPORT OF THE SECOND TELECONFERENCE OF THE HIGH-LEVEL PANEL ON GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF RESOURCES FOR IMPLEMENTING THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR BIODIVERSITY 2011-2020**

1. The second teleconference of the High-Level Panel was held to summarize progress since the first teleconference on 2 August 2013 with regards to the regional assessments, plans for the next physical meeting in December, and outreach.
2. Mr. Ravi Sharma (SCBD) was the Chair of the teleconference.
3. Owing to the broad geographic spread of the participants, the call was made at 14:00 GMT to allow for full participation. This report compiles the discussions of the teleconference. A list of those that participated in the call is provided in the annex.

### **SUMMARY**

4. Mr. Ravi Sharma led the discussion on progress since the first High-Level Panel teleconference, which included an update on the regional assessment approach, the preparations for the second High-Level Panel meeting, and outreach.
5. All of the regional assessments are underway with interim reports due shortly. Some contracts started late, but most information will hopefully be due on time for the second meeting of the High-Level Panel on 2-4 December 2013 in Chennai, India. Review of the interim and final regional reports is requested from the Panel on any gaps and methodological issues. Links to the BIOFIN and GBO-4 processes are expected, although the various timelines do not always align neatly.
6. Preparations for the next physical meeting of the High-Level Panel are progressing with invitation letters being sent out and a draft agenda developed. A half-day joint session with the Expert Group on Biodiversity for Poverty Eradication and Development is also expected with a presentation on green accounting in India confirmed. Other possible presentations were also discussed.
7. The revised webpages for the High-Level Panel are available, as well as a summary document for dissemination. Powerpoint slides which also talk about the work of the Panel are also about to be shared online. The next steps include linking with some of the larger NGOs whose work is relevant to the Panel.

## TELECONFERENCE REPORT

### Opening remarks

8. Mr. Ravi Sharma (SCBD) opened the teleconference by thanking the participants for their time, and inviting them to propose any further agenda items. An additional item on the budget of the Panel was then included.

### Research: Regional assessments

9. On behalf of the Research Team, Ms. Sarah Smith (WCMC) reported that the work on the regional assessments is underway with all contracts in place and interim reports now due. A template for reporting had been designed following the discussions at last teleconference, and has been circulated. It is now being used by all consultants. There are teleconferences scheduled with each of the consultants and the regional Panel members during this and next week.
10. The feedback on the interim reports, which focuses on highlighting gaps and methodological issues, is expected to be completed by 18 October. The final version of the regional reports will then be submitted in early-to-mid November to feed into the draft full report due on 22 November.
11. The approach of the consultancies is to look for evidence and not necessarily to carry out a regional aggregation, especially where information is patchy. Owing to the late start of some contracts, those regional reports may not be as complete as would be preferable. It may therefore be necessary to finish some regional assessments after the second High-Level Panel meeting.
12. The Research Team had a teleconference recently with the “Building Transformative Policy and Financing Frameworks to Increase Investment in Biodiversity Management” (BIOFIN) project team. BIOFIN is using a pilot country approach, with some examples that may be published. Therefore, since it is still in its early stages and there will be constraints in the availability of suitable information during the High-Level Panel timeframe, there is a need to maintain good communications between the two initiatives. Certainly, BIOFIN would welcome cooperation with the Panel, including on cost-effectiveness. It was also noted that it would be good to link with NBSAP Forum<sup>1</sup>. Mr. James Vause (UK) asked as to how the High-Level Panel process could leverage information from BIOFIN countries. Ms. Smith responded that notifications to Parties could be an approach.
13. Mr. Vause asked for an update on the link to the drafting process of the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO-4). Ms. Smith responded that there was a recent meeting on GBO-4 in Cambridge, and agreement has been made with the GBO-4 writing team on the contribution from the Panel. The overall contribution depends on when the results from the High-Level Panel will be available. Currently the GBO-4 draft is using results from the first phase of the Panel, especially owing to its target-by-target approach. There is scope in the contract between WCMC and the CBD Secretariat on supporting the High-Level Panel to allow for tailored information for GBO-4. However, for the moment, the GBO-4 team is only expecting to see the draft report. The GBO-4 team has also requested feedback from the Panel on the draft GBO-4 report. Mr. Vause then asked whether there will be any contribution of information from

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<sup>1</sup> <http://nbsapforum.net/>

GBO-4 to the Panel, especially on benefits. However, it was considered that it would be more of a one-way contribution from the Panel, mainly due to the timeframe, but there could be something from the scenarios being developed for GBO-4.

### Second High-Level Panel meeting

14. Mr. Tristan Tyrrell (SCBD) reported that a draft two-and-a-half day agenda has been developed, followed by a half-day joint session with the second meeting of the Expert Group on Biodiversity for Poverty Eradication and Development. Invitation letters to the Panel members and observers have either already been shared or are about to be sent. The joint session is expected to include a presentation on green accounting in India, as well as technical presentation possibly from Research Team. Ms. Tone Solhaug (Norway) asked about what other presentations could be made, such as on the World Bank-led Wealth Accounting and the Valuation of Ecosystem Services (WAVES) initiative. The UK stated that they could present on their own experiences of national green accounting. It was noted that the World Bank representative is unlikely to attend the meeting.
15. Mr. Jeremy Eppel (UK) asked as to whether there had been any indication on how complete the report will be by the 22 November deadline? Ms. Smith and Mr. Matt Rayment (GHK) reported that early indications are that coverage is good, but would need to see once all the interim reports are submitted next week. The challenge will then be in bringing all the information together into a coherent single report. They stated that there could be a challenge in re-engaging the consultants after the India meeting, and would therefore need to ensure that the current work is as comprehensive as possible.

### Outreach

16. Mr. Tyrrell reported on progress made in communications and outreach. He reported that the revised webpages for the High-Level Panel have been released<sup>2</sup>. He said that comments were welcome on the text, including on what is currently there as well as what is missing. One page where feedback is particularly sought is that for 'Related initiatives'. Information has been provided on the work of the GEF, UNDP (BIOFIN), UNEP, the Post-2015 process within the UN, and WAVES. The next step is to seek reciprocal linkages from such agencies and initiatives in order to raise the profile of the work of the Panel in their work. Equally, further engagement is to be sought with some of the larger non-governmental organizations whose work is relevant to resource mobilization and to that of the Panel.
17. Also available through the 'Relevant documents' webpage is a three-page summary of the High-Level Panel, which can be shared by those associated with the Panel. Equally a series of Powerpoint slides will shortly be posted and can be adapted for use either for stand-alone presentations or as required.
18. Through the CBD Secretariat, as part of the wider UN negotiation process, there is engagement with a number of Post-2015 processes. Of particular relevance are the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing and the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (especially related to its eighth session in February 2014).

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.cbd.int/financial/hlp/>

### Budget

19. Mr. Sharma reported on the status of the budget of the High-Level Panel. He acknowledged the generous support provided by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Japan Biodiversity Fund. He also reported that preliminary interest was expressed by the Governments of Norway and Sweden in supporting the work of the Panel.
20. Mr. Eppel requested a summary report of expenditure on the High-Level Panel, which can also include estimates for costs in 2014.

### Closing remarks

21. Mr. Sharma closed the call by thanking the participants for their time and contributions. The call was ended at 14:50 GMT.

## 22. ANNEX

**Participants of the second teleconference of the High-Level Panel on  
Global Assessment of Resources for Implementing the Strategic Plan**

7 October 2013

<b>HIGH-LEVEL PANEL MEMBERS</b>		
<b>Chair</b>		
<i>Mr. Ravi Sharma, Principal Officer, Technical Support for Implementation, CBD Secretariat</i>		
<b>RESEARCH TEAM REPRESENTATIVES</b>		
UNEP-WCMC	Ms. Sarah Smith	Senior Programme Officer Conventions and Policy Support
ICF GHK	Mr. Matt Rayment	Principal Consultant
	Ms. Mavoureen Conway	Senior Consultant
<b>GOVERNMENT OBSERVERS</b>		
Japan	Mr. Rikiya Konishi	Deputy Director Global Biodiversity Strategy Office, Nature Conservation Bureau, Ministry of the Environment
	Mr. Yasukuni Shibata	Global Biodiversity Strategy Office, Nature Conservation Bureau, Ministry of the Environment
Norway	Ms. Tone Solhaug	Senior Adviser Department for Biodiversity, Outdoor Recreation and Cultural Heritage, Ministry of Environment
United Kingdom	Mr. Jeremy Eppel	Deputy Director International Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Evidence Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
	Mr. James Vause	Economist, Biodiversity Natural Environment Economics Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
	Mr. Richard Earley	International Biodiversity Policy Advisor Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
European Commission	Mr. Strahil Christov	Biodiversity Unit Directorate General for the Environment
<b>SECRETARIAT OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY STAFF</b>		
Mr. Ravi Sharma		Principal Officer Technical Support for Implementation
Mr. Tristan Tyrrell		HLP Project Manager (Consultant)