



World Health Organization



Organização Pan-Americana da Saúde
Pan American Organization of Health



Ministerio da Saúde
FIOCRUZ
Fundação Oswaldo Cruz
Brasília



GOVERNO FEDERAL
BRASIL
PAIS RICO E PAIS SEM POBREZA

CONCEPT NOTE FOR THE REGIONAL CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOP TO ADDRESS ISSUES RELEVANT TO BIODIVERSITY AND HEALTH

THE AMERICAS REGION

(LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN AND NORTH AMERICA)

A. Introduction

1. At its tenth meeting in October 2010, in paragraph 17 of decision X/20, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) requested the CBD Executive Secretary to further strengthen collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), as well as other relevant organizations and initiatives, to promote the mainstreaming of biodiversity issues in health programmes and plans and to investigate how implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (see Annex 1) can best support efforts to address global health issues, including avenues for bridging gaps between work on the impacts of climate change on public health and the impacts of climate change on biodiversity.

2. “Mainstreaming biodiversity” is the integration of conservation and the sustainable use of biodiversity in sector-specific plans such as health, agriculture, fisheries, forestry, science, technology, education and others and in cross-sectoral plans such as sustainable development, poverty reduction, climate change adaptation/mitigation, trade and international cooperation. It implies advances in development models, strategies and paradigms.

3. Accordingly, the CBD Secretariat, with the generous financial contribution from the Government of Japan in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), is co-convening a number of regional capacity-building workshops to address issues relevant to biodiversity and health. The workshop for the Americas, being Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC) and North America, is to be held in partnership with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), with the support of the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (FIOCRUZ), in Manaus, Brazil, from Tuesday 3 September to Thursday 6 September 2012.

4. The regional workshop invites representatives from Ministries of Environment, via relevant national focal points to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and representatives from Ministries of Health to attend the workshop with the objectives of sharing national and regional best practices, building capacity and mainstreaming biodiversity into the health sector. A small number of organizations with regional expertise will also be invited to make presentations on the subject.

5. Importantly, the workshop also provides an opportunity for participants to explore ways of enhancing future collaboration and cooperation in order to develop necessary capacity to implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and address regional health concerns throughout GRULAC and North America.

B. Workshop context and objectives

6. This health and biodiversity capacity-building workshop shall seek to:

- (a) Identify policy information gaps on the links between health and biodiversity;



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- (b) Examine inter-Ministry health and biodiversity implementation opportunities, priority activities that may achieve health and biodiversity co-benefits and ways to overcome challenges in developing countries with a focus on these inter-linkages;
 - (c) Facilitate the integration of health and biodiversity linkages into updated National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and facilitate broad-based implementation; and
 - (d) Facilitate cross-sectoral communication and collaboration particularly between Ministries of Health and Ministries of Environment and to explore long-term regional support mechanisms.
7. Participants will use the capacity-building workshop as an opportunity to exchange national or sub-national experiences and practices for implementation, and to pursue new areas of regional cooperation to address issues relevant to health and well-being, thereby contributing to the fulfilment of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Participants will also use the workshop to build capacity to integrate information on the ecosystems services upon which health, livelihoods and well-being depend, which is essential in both developed and developing countries.
8. A number of existing collaborative mechanisms will be discussed during the workshop, with a focus on strengthening existing appropriate mechanisms for collaboration or exploring new health and/or biodiversity mechanisms in order to facilitate greater cross-sector dialogue.
9. Participants will be encouraged to:
- (a) report back on the workshop in their countries;
 - (b) include issues relevant to health and well-being in their NBSAPs;
 - (c) contact the focal points of other environmental conventions and focal points for health to collaborate on health and biodiversity issues in an effort to encourage cross-sectoral communication; and
 - (d) discuss ways for continuing collaboration and support for ongoing dialogue on health and biodiversity issues.

C. Other matters

10. A basic introduction to the scope, governing body and strategic directions of the Convention on Biological Diversity as it pertains to human health is provided in Annex 1.
11. A detailed draft agenda for this workshop is provided in Annex 2.
12. A discussion paper to assist participants to prepare for the workshop and to inform discussions during the workshop is available. The discussion paper, other relevant documents and references are available for download at: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=WSHB-AM-01>



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ANNEX 1- Introduction to the Convention on Biological Diversity

1. Scope of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

- The CBD opened for signature at the 1992 Earth Summit at Rio and entered into force on 29 December 1993. The CBD currently has 192 member States (countries) and the European Commission.
- CBD objectives: 1) The conservation of biological diversity 2) The sustainable use of the components of biological diversity, and 3) The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.

2. Governing Body

- The Conferences of the Parties (COP) is the Convention's governing body that meets every two years to review progress of the Convention, to examine programmes of work, and to provide policy guidance.
- The COP has established seven thematic programmes which correspond to some of the major biomes on the planet such as agricultural, dry and sub-humid land, forest, inland waters, marine and coastal, island and mountain biodiversity. In addition, there are also cross-cutting initiatives that provide bridges between the thematic programme areas, such as climate change, biodiversity for development, protected areas, monitoring, gender, and traditional knowledge and practices.

3. The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 -2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets

- At the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP10), in October 2010 in Japan, Parties adopted a revised and updated 2011 – 2020 Strategic Plan for Biodiversity. The rationale for the new Strategic Plan is that biodiversity underpins ecosystem functioning and the provision of ecosystem services essential for human well-being. The Strategic Plan is comprised of a shared vision, a mission, strategic goals and 20 ambitious yet achievable targets, collectively known as the Aichi Targets.
- The Strategic Plan and Aichi Targets serve as a flexible framework for the establishment of national and regional targets, specifically through the development of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), to be developed, adopted as a policy instrument and commenced implementation by 2015.
- Many of the 20 Aichi Targets demonstrate the commitment of the CBD Parties to improving the health of people and biodiversity by working collaboratively to understand these complex linkages. For example:
Target 1: By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably;

Target 11: By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.

Target 14: By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.

Target 17: By 2015 each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan (NBSAP).

Target 19: By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.



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