

Biodiversity Capacity Development Update



Government Officials
Learn and Share
Experiences on
Mainstreaming
Ecosystem-Based
Approaches into Climate
Change-related Work



African Countries
Trained on Forest
Restoration to Support
the Achievement of Aichi
Targets 5, 14 and 15



Countries from Asia,
Africa, Latin America
and the Caribbean
Identify Priorities for
Technical and Scientific
Cooperation



European Countries
Discuss How to
Mainstream Biodiversity-
Health Linkages into
Relevant National
Strategies and Plans



Asian Countries
Coached on
Mainstreaming Biosafety
at the National Level



Online Forum on
Traditional Knowledge
Conducted to Promote
the Implementation
of Aichi Biodiversity
Targets 18 and 16



Caribbean Countries
Learn About the Access
and Benefit-Sharing
Clearing-House and
Contract Development



Countries Guided on the
Preparation of the Sixth
National Reports

Government Officials Learn and Share Experiences on Mainstreaming Ecosystem-Based Approaches into Climate Change-related Work

Biodiversity and climate change experts, policy makers and practitioners from Eastern and Southern Africa, the Pacific and South America took part in regional dialogues and learning missions to discuss opportunities, challenges and solutions for mainstreaming ecosystem-based approaches in nationally determined contributions (NDCs) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, as well as related policies and actions under the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, other multilateral environmental agreements, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



The Regional Dialogue and Learning Missions were jointly organized by the CBD Secretariat and SwedBio at the Stockholm Resilience Centre for

Eastern and Southern African region in Durban, South Africa, from 2 to 6 October 2017; for the Pacific Island countries in Suva, Fiji, from 23 to 27 October 2017; and for South America in Bogota, Colombia, from 27 November to 1 December 2017.



The dialogue seminars provided an informal setting for open discussions on existing approaches, challenges and opportunities for improved policy making and implementation and the field visits allowed host countries to showcase concrete examples of the linkages between policy and action.

Participants exchanged experiences of integrating ecosystem-based approaches in climate-related work and identified potential synergies among those approaches for delivering benefits related to multiple NDC objectives.

They also discussed existing relevant plans, including the National Biodiversity Strategies and Actions Plans (NBSAPs), as well as the challenges and possible solutions for implementing and mainstreaming ecosystem-based approaches. The participants gained a greater understanding of the divergent viewpoints, opportunities and challenges of incorporating ecosystem-based approaches into NDCs.

A total of 120 participants and 43 countries were represented in the three regional dialogues. It is anticipated that similar dialogues and learning missions will be organized for Central America and the Caribbean, West and Central Africa, and Asia in 2018.

More information available at cbd.int/climate



African Countries Trained on Forest Restoration to Support the Achievement of Aichi Targets 5, 14 and 15

As part of the implementation of the Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative (FERI), the CBD Secretariat in collaboration with the Government of South Africa organised a capacity development workshop for Central, Eastern and Southern Africa on the restoration of forest and other ecosystems to support the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Targets 5, 14 and 15. The workshop was held in Durban, South Africa from 2 to 6 October 2017.



Through plenary presentations, discussions and practical sessions led by the CBD Secretariat and experts from other agencies, participants learned how to integrate biodiversity considerations in restoration activities across deforested or degraded landscapes, through integrated and collaborative planning, implementation and reporting. They also learned how to develop national ecosystem restoration plans, guided by

the [CBD Short Term Action Plan on Ecosystem Restoration](#), with a focus on efforts to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Targets 5, 14 and 15 and related targets.



During the workshop, participants reviewed their national commitments and progress with the implementation of Targets 5, 14 and 15. They also conducted a peer-review of the targets under Target 5 and worked together on drafting elements for specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-bound (SMART) national targets.

Furthermore, participants identified likely drivers of forest loss or degradation, prioritized restoration areas and discussed trade-offs, through an interactive exercise using data layers and ground level information. They also shared best practices and lessons learned from relevant global and regional initiatives, including how they integrate biodiversity and ecosystem considerations within their activities

and the tools they use to support implementation and tracking of country commitments.

Towards the end of the workshop, participants went on field visits to the townships of Buffelsdraai and iNanda, where they learned about the programmes offered by the [Environmental Education Centre at Buffelsdraai](#), viewed forest restoration areas and nurseries supported by the [Buffelsdraai Landfill Site Community Reforestation Project](#), and met with Trepreneurs from the community. They also visited the Springfield Wetland, where they discussed wetland rehabilitation projects and associated data collection, restoration safeguards and standards.

This workshop was part of a series of activities being organized by the CBD Secretariat with the generous financial support of the Government of the Republic of Korea through the Korea Forest Service. More information is available on the [workshop webpage](#) and the [FERI website](#).



Countries from Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean Identify Priorities for Technical and Scientific Cooperation on Biodiversity

In October and November 2017, the CBD Secretariat convened three regional Bio-Bridge Initiative (BBI) round tables for [Asia-Pacific \(15-18 October in Incheon Republic of Korea\)](#), [Africa \(7-9 November in Entebbe, Uganda\)](#) and [Latin America and the Caribbean \(27-29 November in Bogota Colombia\)](#). The round tables aimed to promote awareness of the Initiative (including its Action Plan for 2017-2020, its operational procedures, criteria and support tools) and share experiences and lessons learned with respect to technical and scientific cooperation for biodiversity.

The round tables also provided an opportunity for countries requiring assistance to highlight their priority technical and scientific needs and for potential providers of technical assistance to share information about their activities and the kind of support they could offer to countries requiring assistance.

During the discussions, a majority of countries identified the following as their major priority needs that could be addressed through technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer: invasive alien species, protected area management and tourism, control of illegal wildlife trade, protection/recovery of threatened species, ecosystem restoration, biodiversity monitoring and assessment, biodiversity information management; access and benefit

sharing, ecosystem valuation and accounting, climate change and biodiversity, agricultural biodiversity, communication, education and public awareness, and general cross-cutting readiness support (including project proposal development, resource mobilization and support for enabling policy frameworks).



Participants also discussed opportunities for upscaling projects initiated with BBI seed funding and matchmaking through leveraging additional support from initiatives and mechanisms, such as the Green Climate Fund, Climate Technology Centre and Network, the Standards Trade and Development Facility, the Satoyama Initiative, the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network, and private sector initiatives.

Countries were encouraged to actively use Bio-Bridge tools and services, such as the helpdesk

and the [Bio-Bridge platform](#), to communicate their priority needs and access available opportunities. Relevant organizations, agencies and private sector entities were also invited to use the BBI platform to offer technical assistance to countries in need.

The round tables were organized in collaboration with the National Institute of Biological Resources of the Republic of Korea, National Environment Management Authority of Uganda, the Government of Colombia and the Alexander von Humboldt Institute. The funding was provided by the Republic of Korea as part of its overall support for the Bio-Bridge Initiative.

The three round tables brought together a total of 125 participants and resource persons representing governments, civil society, academia, indigenous peoples and local communities, relevant regional and international organizations. More information on the Bio-Bridge Initiative available at www.cbd.int/biobridge



European Countries Discuss How to Mainstream Biodiversity-Health Linkages into Relevant National Strategies and Plans

The CBD Secretariat and the World Health Organization (WHO) jointly convened, in collaboration with the Finnish Ministries of Environment and of Social Affairs and Health the regional capacity-building workshop on biodiversity and human health for the European region from 23 to 25 October 2017, in Helsinki, Finland. The workshop was funded by the Government of Finland and the European Commission.



The workshop enabled policy makers to better understand the biodiversity-health linkages and how those linkages could be mainstreamed into national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national health strategies to support the implementation of CBD COP decision XIII/6 on biodiversity and health.

The participants analysed the following thematic areas at the intersection of biodiversity and human health: microbial diversity and non-communicable diseases, food security and nutrition, infectious diseases and One Health, biocultural diversity and mental health, and health in urban environments. They also shared experiences, best practices and lessons learned regarding biodiversity and health mainstreaming in the region and discussed potential opportunities and challenges.

Furthermore, participants delivered presentations highlighting their national experiences and opportunities for further cross sectoral collaboration in One Health; food, nutrition and sustainable agriculture; and urban development and green space. The WHO Regional Office

for Europe provided technical input and support through the European Centre for Environment and Health during the discussions.

The workshop brought together over 70 participants from 28 European countries representing ministries responsible for biodiversity and health. Keynote addresses were delivered by H.E Mr. Kimmo Tiilikainen, Minister of the Environment, Housing and Energy, Finland, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General of WHO, H.E. Ernesto Céspedes, Ambassador of Mexico to Finland, and H.E. Ms. Pirkko Mattila, Minister of Health and Social Affairs, Finland.

More information, including the [workshop report](#), available at www.cbd.int/health/european



Asian Countries Coached on Mainstreaming Biosafety at the National Level

The CBD Secretariat organized a sub-regional workshop for the Asian region in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 6 to 10 November 2017 to strengthen the capacities of government officials for mainstreaming biosafety at the national level. This workshop was undertaken within the context of the project entitled “Integrated implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress and the Convention on Biological Diversity”, supported by the Government of Japan through the Japan Biodiversity Fund.

The workshop targeted national focal points of the Cartagena Protocol and of the Convention, as well as officials involved in the implementation of the two instruments and the ratification the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol.



The participants learned how to achieve the integrated implementation of the Cartagena Protocol, its Supplementary Protocol and the Convention at the national level. Malaysia, as one of the countries that participated in the pilot phase of the project that was carried out in 2015-2016, shared its experience and lessons learned regarding the selection of relevant laws, policies and institutional frameworks as entry points for biosafety mainstreaming and the identification of opportunities for integrated implementation.

Participants also shared information regarding the extent to which biosafety is addressed in their countries' laws, policies and institutional frameworks and the challenges encountered in the processes to integrate biosafety concerns at the national level. Participants used the capacity building materials developed under

the project, including the e-learning module and the toolkit containing case studies on mainstreaming biosafety, which are available through the [Biodiversity e-Learning Platform](#).

The workshop also introduced participants to the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol and in general to legal concepts associated with liability and redress. Participants presented their countries' national legal and policy instruments related to environmental liability and redress, and described the stages at which their countries were in the process of ratifying or implementing the Supplementary Protocol. A total of 28 representatives from 10 Asian countries participated in the workshop.

More information is available on the [workshop webpage](#)



Online Forum on Traditional Knowledge Conducted to Promote the Implementation of Aichi Biodiversity Targets 18 and 16



The CBD Secretariat in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB), and the Indigenous Women's Network on Biodiversity (IWNB) organized an Online Forum on Traditional Knowledge for achieving Target 18 and contributing to Target 16 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 on 30 November 2017.

The Online Forum, which was conducted in English, Spanish and French, enabled the participants to share experiences regarding the establishment of national arrangements to advance the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Targets 18 (on traditional knowledge) and 16 (on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization).

The Forum also included a survey on the mechanisms and best practices for the protection and promotion of traditional knowledge.

Participants emphasised the importance of establishing national arrangements to ensure that traditional knowledge is valued, protected and promoted for the implementation of the Convention and the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization.

The Secretariat will share the recommendations from the Forum during the upcoming regional training workshops on national arrangements for traditional knowledge to be held in 2018 in preparation for the fourteenth meeting of the

Conference of the Parties to the Convention.

The Online Forum was one of the activities of the "Capacity Development Programme on National Arrangements for Achieving Traditional Knowledge Elements of Targets 18 and 16 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020", which is supported by the Japan Biodiversity Fund and other donors. A total of 200 participants participated live in the Forum.

More information available, including the webinar recordings, on the [Forum webpage](#).



Caribbean Countries Learn About the Access and Benefit-Sharing Clearing-House and Contract Development

The CBD Secretariat co-facilitated a Regional Workshop on the Access and Benefit-Sharing Clearing-House and Access and Benefit-Sharing Contract Template Development, which was held in St. George, Grenada, from 27 to 29 November 2017. The workshop was organized by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in the context of the IUCN-UNEP GEF-funded project entitled “Advancing the Nagoya Protocol in Countries of the Caribbean Region”.

Participants learned about the main features and operational modalities of the [Access and Benefit-Sharing Clearing-House](#) (ABSCH) and the tools available for monitoring the utilization of genetic resources and access and benefit sharing. The ABSCH is a platform for exchanging information related to access and benefit sharing and facilitating the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol, for example by facilitating the process of monitoring the utilization of genetic resources along the value chain, including through the internationally recognized certificates of compliance, and connecting users and providers of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge.

Through hands-on exercises, participants learned how to find information and how to submit and update information on the ABSCH. They also learned about the different types of information

in the ABSCH (national vs. reference records), and who can submit national interim reports on implementation to the ABSCH.



During the second part of the workshop participants were introduced to the main elements of an access and benefit-sharing (ABS) contract or agreement, the key principles and considerations to take into account in preparing it, the major steps involved and actors that may be involved in the negotiation of such contracts.

At the beginning of the second part, participants reviewed the context for ABS contracts including the relevant provisions and obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Nagoya Protocol with respect to prior informed consent, mutually agreed terms, the fair and equitable sharing of benefits and other key principles and concepts.

Subsequently, the resource persons described the importance of drafting contracts that are specific, unambiguous, binding, implementable and enforceable and the need to include in the contract clear obligations and consequences for breach of contract. It was emphasized that the contract should include clear definitions and clauses dealing with the key issues and terms agreed upon, including the rights and obligations of the users and the providers, to ensure legal certainty, clarity and transparency. It should also describe the possible scenarios along the value chain and follow-up actions to be triggered, as appropriate, at the various stages.

Participants took part in a practical hands-on session during which they had the opportunity to prepare draft contracts based on a model agreement being used in one of the Caribbean countries.

The ABS Caribbean project seeks to promote ratification of the Nagoya Protocol and support the implementation of key measures to make the protocol operational in the Caribbean countries. The 3-year project is being implemented in 8 CARICOM countries, including Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago. More information is available on the [project's website](#).

Countries Guided on the Preparation of the Sixth National Reports

On 9 and 10 December 2017, the CBD Secretariat, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UN Environment and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), organized two capacity building workshops to assist developing countries with the preparation of their sixth national reports to the CBD, which are due on 31 December 2018.



During the first workshop, participants were introduced to available guidance materials and tools, including the voluntary online reporting tool, to facilitate the preparation of the sixth national report and had the opportunity to interact with implementing agencies on various matters related to the reporting process, including the funding support being made available through the Global Environmental Facility.

Participants also discussed and shared their national experiences in preparing the sixth national report. Most countries indicated that they had embarked on collecting information and case studies or identified relevant sources of information and some have started using the online reporting tool.

Many of them have also established steering committees or teams to work on their reports. In some countries, the existing steering committees for the national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAP) were being used to guide the preparation of the sixth national report.



During the second workshop, participants learned how to use spatial data and tools to support the preparation of the sixth national report. Participants identified key barriers in using spatial data for biodiversity planning and reporting, and reviewed key conservation



questions and related spatial data layers.

Participants also provided feedback on the Nature for Development Spatial Data Sandbox online platform. The latter platform is being established by UNDP and UN Environment to bring together spatial data on biodiversity and nature-related sustainable development goals from a variety of stakeholders to enable full, open and shared access to these data sets. This is intended to better inform government planning, implementations and reporting on biodiversity actions, and to gauge national and global progress toward the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

More information is available on the [workshop](#) webpages.

Bulletin Board

Opportunities and Resources

Course on [Establishing Measures to Implement the Nagoya Protocol](#): Call for applications. Application deadline: January 15, 2018

[Darwin Initiative's Scoping Awards](#) aimed to assist new applicants to develop workable project ideas and build potential project partnerships. Application deadline: 2 February 2018

[Small Grants for Education and Public Awareness Projects 2018](#) by Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences. Call for applications. Application deadline: 15 February 2018

[Grants for Research and In-Situ Conservation of Endangered Species](#) offered by the People's Trust for Endangered Species. Call for applications. Application deadline: 28 February 2018

Upcoming Events

Regional Workshop for Asia on the Clearing-House Mechanism, Bangkok, Thailand, from 29 January to 2 February 2018

Africa Regional Workshop on strengthening capacities for the integrated implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress and the Convention on Biological Diversity, Lilongwe, Malawi, from 19 to 23 February 2018

Regional Bio-Bridge Initiative Round Table for Central and Eastern Europe and the Central Asian Republics, Minsk, Belarus, from 26 to 28 February 2018

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](#).

