

Aichi Targets

JUNE 2011 • Volume 1, Issue 1

NEWSLETTER

SPECIAL FOCUS

**Assisting parties
to implement the
Strategic Plan for
Biodiversity 2011-2020**



**Japan
Fund**
Now fully
operational

**Supporting
biodiversity strategy**
NBSAP workshops
around the world



Secretariat of the
Convention on
Biological Diversity

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MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Conserving the planet's species and habitats is central to sustainable development. Yet the global decline in biodiversity is accelerating. The main causes are human activities. The consequences are devastating: failed crops, economic losses, less resilience in the face of disaster. As with most emergencies, those hardest hit are the poor.



And climate change is compounding the problem. There are also the opportunity costs: what cures for disease... what other useful discoveries... might we never know of because a habitat is destroyed forever, or land is polluted beyond all use? We have all heard of the web of life. We risk trapping ourselves in a web of death.

The United Nations Decade on Biodiversity is an opportunity to reverse this trend. The Decade aims to help us look at the underlying causes of biodiversity loss. It seeks to ensure that biodiversity figures more prominently in decision-making by governments and industry. And it hopes to mobilize all segments of society in achieving agreed international biodiversity targets.

For too long, our natural capital has been seen as an endless reserve, instead of the limited and fragile resource we now know it to be.

—Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary General of the United Nations in a video message for the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity

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The Aichi Targets newsletter aims to provide a platform to exchange experiences and to promote best practices on the revised NBSAP processes as well as to provide information to the larger audience on the activities financed under the Japan Biodiversity Fund.

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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Aichi Targets at the service of a life in harmony

by **Ahmed Djoghla** ● Executive Secretary
of the Convention on Biological Diversity

Biodiversity is life and biodiversity is our life. This was the slogan of last year's 2010 International Year of Biodiversity which culminated with the historic Nagoya biodiversity summit. Last October, thanks to the leadership of Japan, 18,500 participants representing 193 Parties and their partners adopted a package of important measures including the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits derived from their utilization.

The Aichi Targets were formulated in response to the message contained in Global Biodiversity Outlook 3: ecosystems are approaching tipping points beyond which they may be irreversibly degraded, with dire consequences for all life on earth, including humans. That is why the Targets relate not only to conservation, for example with respect to forests and coral reefs, but also relate to reducing direct pressures on biodiversity and, most importantly, addressing the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across all sectors of government and society. Overall, the Targets aim to bring about a profound change in our lifestyles, and particularly in our development paradigm – over the next decade we must move firmly away from unchecked consumption and toward sustainable use.

In order to engage the people of the world in achieving the Aichi Targets, the Nagoya meeting recommended to the 65th session of the United Nations General Assembly to declare 2011-2020 the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity. The Decade is now underway, and is beginning with a new wave of national biodiversity planning. Parties are now in the process of revising their revised National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) in order to incorporate the Aichi Targets.

To provide effective guidance on national implementation of the 2011-2020 strategy, these new NBSAPs must be formulated as soon as possible. Any delay in developing them will augur poorly for the achievement of the Aichi Targets. To enable the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and its partners to assist eligible countries in translating the targets into NBSAPs before COP 11 in India, Japan has established a Japan Biodiversity Fund, which is now fully operational. Moreover, funds for national biodiversity planning have been made available through GEF-5.

Achieving the Aichi Targets by 2020 is an obligatory first step if we are to fulfill the longer-term 2050 vision adopted in Nagoya of a world where "biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely



The Targets aim to bring about a profound change in our lifestyles, and particularly in our development paradigm

used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people." Needless to say, it will require leadership and creative thinking from the Parties, national focal points, the Global Environment Facility and the CBD Secretariat to ensure the timely delivery of the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan at national and regional levels.

By establishing the Japan Biodiversity Fund, which is administered by the Secretariat, Japan as the President of COP 10 has demonstrated strong leadership. By agreeing to replenish the Fund for another year with the same amount in spite of the many new challenges arising in the aftermath of the 11 March 2011 Tsunami, Japan has displayed unprecedented political resolve to continue to play its role as a champion of biodiversity in the world. Thanks to the Japan Biodiversity Fund, a series of regional, sub regional and global workshops is being organized in all regions of the world to initiate the process of translating the Aichi Targets into national priorities and ultimately national laws and regulations.

Indeed, the leadership of the 193 Parties and their partners is urgently required for translating the Aichi Targets into national reality. For what we do – or fail to do – during this decade will determine the status of life on Earth for many years to come. Aichi Targets, a newsletter on the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, is being issued to serve as a platform to share best practices and distill lessons learned in our common journey for the success of the 2020 Aichi Targets, thus shaping the way for achieving the 2050 Aichi Biodiversity Vision. 🌱

MESSAGE FROM THE COP-10 PRESIDENT

Living in harmony

by **Ryu Matsumoto** • Minister of Environment, Japan



Right now we are losing biodiversity from every corner of the globe at an unprecedented speed. If biodiversity loss continues at the current pace, our ecosystems will soon reach tipping points beyond which it can never recover for future generations. I believe that once our collective wisdom as human beings is consolidated, we will be able to overcome the threat of the loss of biodiversity.

The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets, is a new global framework for action by all countries and all stakeholders adopted at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 10) to the Convention on

Biological Diversity (CBD) held in October 2010. The Strategic Plan represents a symbol of solidarity among all people who are working towards averting this threat.

Now with the adoption of Aichi Biodiversity Targets, the Parties to the CBD are expected to translate this overarching framework with 20 targets into revised National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans. Japan helps to support this through the Japan Biodiversity Fund. Furthermore, the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity started this year, 2011, to promote the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

In order to preserve the bounties of our rich nature for future generations, we are committing ourselves to working with people from around the world to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, to ensure everyone can live in harmony with nature. ♻️

We are committing ourselves to work with people from around the world to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, to ensure everyone can live in harmony with nature

The Japan Biodiversity Fund

Supporting the implementation of the Nagoya Biodiversity Outcomes

by **Atsuhiko Yoshinaka** • Global Coordinator, Japan Fund, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

“It is not enough to ratify multilateral agreements if we do not implement them. Capacity building is necessary to ensure that obligations are implemented.” Those words were spoken by Onkokame Kitso Mokaila, Minister of Environment Wildlife and Tourism at the Regional Workshop for Southern Africa on Updating National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), held in Kasane, Botswana, in March 2011. The first in a series of regional NBSAP capacity building workshop organized by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, it was made possible by the Japan Biodiversity Fund established by the Presidency of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 10).

Similar workshops, which focus on setting national and regional targets in the framework of the new Strategic Plan and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets as requested by COP 10, have been held in Europe, North Africa and the Middle East, South Asia, Southeast Asia, East Asia, and West Africa. Additional workshops will be organized for the rest of the world in the coming months.

The Japan Biodiversity Fund aims to support developing countries implement the Aichi-Nagoya outcomes by strengthening their capacity to implement the Convention as a whole.

Therefore, the series of regional and sub-regional NBSAP capacity building workshops are the early and core activities under the Japan Biodiversity Fund. The specific objectives of the workshops are to:

- Facilitate national implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, by, for example, assisting Parties with developing national biodiversity targets in the framework of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets
- Assist Parties in reviewing, updating, revising and implementing their NBSAP, with consideration given to how it can serve as an effective tool for mainstreaming biodiversity into broader national policies
- Raise awareness to stimulate early actions to implement other Aichi-Nagoya outcomes, in particular, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization and the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety
- Support countries in making use of the findings of the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO-3) and *The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity* (TEEB) study, and in considering how the findings could be integrated into up-



dated and revised NBSAPs

- Facilitate active learning opportunities and peer-to-peer exchanges for National Focal Points and persons in charge of implementing and revising NBSAPs.

In addition to the NBSAP capacity building workshops, we are organizing briefing sessions on COP 10 outcomes and follow-up activities for various targeted audiences, such as the diplomatic corps, parliamentarians, regional commissions, etc., in order to raise awareness of the urgency and importance of the implementation of the new Strategic Plan, early ratification of the Nagoya Protocol and the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol, and the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity.

In order to help Parties strengthen their capacity to implement the Convention as a whole, the Japan Biodiversity Fund also supports, with other donors and partners, various thematic capacity building activities which the COP, through its decisions, has requested the Executive Secretary implement. These include South-South Cooperation, Biodiversity for Development, Resource Mobilization, Invasive Alien Species, Marine Biodiversity, Access and Benefit-sharing, and Biosafety, among others.

The tasks and targets we set ourselves in Nagoya last year were indeed ambitious, but not unrealistic. We are now, with the generous support of the Government of Japan, working with Parties to build capacity to implement those obligations and, ultimately, fulfill the three objectives of the Convention. 🌱

More information on Japan Biodiversity Fund activities can be found at: www.cbd.int/jbf

Towards more effective biodiversity planning

by **David Cooper** ● Senior Programme Officer,
Strategic Plan, National Implementation and Review

At COP-10, Parties not only adopted an ambitious Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 with 20 time-bound Aichi Targets, they also set themselves a tight timetable to translate these commitments into national targets and updated National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans. Parties are to report on the targets by COP-11 and on their updated NBSAPs at the same time or by COP-12 at the latest.

At the regional capacity building workshops held so far, nearly all countries have reported they are committed to honouring this timetable. Such prompt implementation of the Aichi-Nagoya commitments will be essential. It will allow the urgent on-the-ground action necessary to halt biodiversity loss to be taken in all countries, as called for in the mission of the Strategic Plan. In turn, this will enable us to achieve the vision of the Strategic Plan of “Living in harmony with nature”.

The development of this “second generation” of NBSAPs allows countries to learn from the lessons of the earlier attempts at biodiversity planning. The effectiveness of earlier NBSAPs have been

examined by the United Nations University (see Article in this edition by Christian Prip), as well as by the Convention’s Working Group on the Review of Implementation of the Convention. On the basis of lessons drawn from this experience, the Conference of the Parties, at its ninth meeting, adopted, updated and consolidated guidance for the development, updating and implementation of NBSAPs. Some of the key points are:

- a) NBSAPs are key implementation tools of the Convention. They must address all three objectives of the Convention:
 - » Conservation of biodiversity
 - » Sustainable use of the components of biodiversity
 - » Fair and equitable sharing of the benefits deriving from the utilization of genetic resources.
 The adoption of the Nagoya Protocol on access and benefit sharing provides new impetus to this third objective.
- b) The NBSAP should highlight, and seek to maintain the contribution of biodiversity and ecosystem services to human well-being (including having the basics for a good life, health, good social relations, security and freedom of choice and action), poverty eradication, and national development as well as the economic, social, cultural and other values of biodiversity.
- c) The NBSAP is a strategic instrument for achieving concrete outcomes, and not a scientific study, review or publication that sits on a shelf. Its role is to identify and prioritize the action required in order to meet the objectives of the CBD at national level, and to devise a plan of how to implement that action.
- d) In order to be effective, it is important that the NBSAP be jointly developed, adopted, and owned by the full range of stakeholders involved. For this the NBSAP process must be open, participative and transparent. It is also important that high-level government support be secured in the process of developing, updating and implementing the NBSAP.
- e) The NBSAP must include measures to mainstream biodiversity into sectoral and cross-sectoral policies and programs. Conservation involves much more than protected area management and implementation of conservation actions; it necessarily requires mainstreaming. To an even greater degree, achieving sustainable use objectives will require mainstreaming.
- f) Biodiversity planning is a long-term, cyclical and adaptive process. It will involve continual monitoring, evaluation, and revision, as progress is made, conditions evolve, and lessons are learned.

The CBD Secretariat, together with UNEP, UNDP, UNU and other partners has developed some capacity building tools to help countries and stakeholders apply these the new guidance (see www.cbd.int/nbsaps/). These materials are used in the ongoing series of regional workshops. 🌱



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Assessment of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans

NBSAPs, the main mechanism for implementation

by **Christian Prip** ● Chief International Adviser
at Naturstyrelsen, Ministry of Environment, Denmark,
Adjunct Research Fellow at United Nations University

The main challenge facing the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is the full and effective implementation by Parties of their obligations. The main mechanisms for implementation are the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) that, according to CBD Article 6(a), countries are required to prepare. To date, 171 CBD Parties, representing 89% of the Parties, have developed NBSAPs.

From 2008 to 2010, the United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies undertook a global assessment of NBSAPs to draw out lessons learned from national experiences in their development, implementation and revision. The assessment put specific focus on the extent to which NBSAPs were successful in integrating biodiversity concerns into sectoral and cross-sectoral policies, including sustainable development strategies, poverty reduction strategy papers (PRSPs), and national processes to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It also sought to identify obstacles preventing Parties from making progress.

The assessment includes a desk review of relevant NBSAPs, participation in regional NBSAP capacity building workshops and a series of individual country case studies.

The assessment revealed that NBSAPs have been invaluable steps in the implementation process. They have helped to create a better understanding of biodiversity, its value and how to address threats. They have also contributed to filling legal gaps in implementation and extending the coverage of protected areas in many countries.

However, the assessment also revealed that NBSAPs have not been able to seriously affect the main drivers of biodiversity loss and to sufficiently influence the policy beyond the remit of the national agency directly responsible for biodiversity.

These shortcomings are largely attributable to weaknesses in the NBSAP development processes. Those processes were often more technical than political and did not manage to obtain commitment and ownership to biodiversity at the higher political level.

Many NBSAPs are overly ambitious and prescriptive while at the same time lacking a strategy for financing implementation. They often lack time-bound and measurable targets, prioritization and mechanisms for monitoring and review. Only a minority of them provide for sub-national strategies and action plans.

The three objectives of the CBD have received varying levels of attention in NBSAPs. 'Conservation' received the most attention, followed by 'sustainable use'. 'Equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources' received the least amount of attention.

The assessment also revealed that second generation NBSAPs are better prepared, better anchored at a higher political level and focus more on mainstreaming and self-reliance.

Included in the assessment is a set of 28 recommendations for the preparation and design of future NBSAPs. The recommendations may serve as guidance for the revision and updating of NBSAPs by 2015, as called for in Aichi Target 17 (See: www.unutki.org/news.php?news_id=108&doc_id=101). 🐾



An independent global review of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans

The Japan Biodiversity Fund fully operational

Botswana's experience in the first capacity building workshop on the revision and updating of NBSAPs

by **Ingrid Otukile** ● Department of Environmental Affairs Botswana & **Sakhile Koketso** ● SCBD

In a first step towards assisting Parties to revise and update their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), the Secretariat recently organized the first NBSAP Capacity Building Workshop as per the guidance of the Conference of Parties (COP) contained in decision X/2. The regional workshop for southern Africa was held in Kasane, Botswana from 14 – 20 March 2011 in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism of Botswana. It also incorporated sessions on incentive measures, economics and valuation of biodiversity.

The workshop was a success on all counts. There was strong participation from the region, with 14 out of 15 countries represented at the workshop. The participants contributed to the intense and lively discussions that were held over the course of the week. They were able to engage with the presentations and exercises and exchange ideas on best practices, successes and challenges to NBSAP implementation. Most participants stated that the workshop was useful for their work in their countries.

The workshop was an opportunity to showcase successes in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, and the importance of biodiversity for development

The Botswana government chose Kasane as a setting that was conducive to the workshop, and being in an area with high levels of biodiversity helped to consolidate the theoretical aspects of the workshop. The field study visit highlighted the importance of biodiversity for poverty reduction, the need for strong policies on protected areas and the challenges of balancing trade-offs between different conservation imperatives.

From the perspective of the Government of Botswana, the workshop was an opportunity to showcase successes in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, and the importance of biodiversity for development. As stated by Onkokame Kitso Mokaila, Minister of Environment Wildlife and Tourism "... We need to talk about biodiversity in the context of the broader discussion on sustainable development. Biodiversity is one part of the jigsaw..."

The Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) which is responsible for revising and implementing the NBSAP found the training to be immensely useful. It assisted the country by providing capacity on amongst other things, the process of NBSAP revision, the development of priorities and national targets and the engagement of stakeholders. In fact, in the four weeks following the workshop, the Department has been busy consulting extensively with stakeholders and developing a road map towards the review of the NBSAP. It is expected that the development of the national biodiversity targets will be set by 31 March 2012, with the NBSAP revision process concluded by 31 March 2013.

Other governments also expressed their sentiments on the significance of the workshop. They underscored the fact that the lessons from the workshop would assist their countries in revising their NBSAPs and they pledged their intentions to do this within the timelines set by the COP. As the Minister stated, "Southern Africa is well-positioned to be a leader in biodiversity management."

LEFT: Chobe National Park; BELOW: Participants at the Botswana workshop



IMAGES FROM LEFT: JAMIE ERYIN; DAVID DUTHIE

Regional workshop for Europe on updating NBSAPs

Transforming Aichi Targets into national targets

by **Ralf Grunewald** and **Gisela Stolpe** ●
International Academy for Nature Conservation

With the support of, and in collaboration with, the International Academy for Nature Conservation, a division of the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) held a regional workshop for Europe on updating National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) from 15 to 19 April 2011 on the Isle of Vilm, Germany. This workshop was the second in a global series of meetings aimed at assisting countries in various regions with updating or revising their national strategies and action plans, including development of national targets in line with the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, through a mix of sharing of national experiences, discussions and interactive learning related to the development and updating of NBSAPs, mainstreaming biodiversity into various sectors and linking biodiversity planning with broader planning processes at the national level.

Forty-one participants from 25 countries, as well as representatives from different United Nations organisations, research institutions and NGOs, convened and thoroughly discussed the ways and means of the NBSAP updating process. After looking at the outcomes of the Nagoya COP, existing NBSAPs in the European region were reviewed. Participants highlighted that some NBSAPs were completed several years ago while others already incorporate many aspects, if not the precise goals, of the Aichi Targets. Thus the need for updating and/or upgrading NBSAPs differs from country to country. Nevertheless, there was the strong need seen by the participants that target setting and a road map of how and when to reach them is crucial in order for the next generation of NBSAPs to be a success.

Through different forms of group work and plenary exercises, the transformation of the Aichi Targets into national targets within NBSAPs was thoroughly discussed. Among the outcomes of several issues being discussed in this matter was a strong support of stakeholder engagement and ways and means of improving communication and mainstreaming of biodiversity into local and regional plans and actions.

A field trip looked at instruments to achieve integration of biodiversity concerns into renewable energy development and also discussed the opportunities and constraints of offsetting arrangements as a mainstreaming instrument.

It was also underlined that there must be a good connection between policy-making and the science community. Thus a working science-policy interface is needed to ensure science outputs will serve as an input into the actual political target setting and

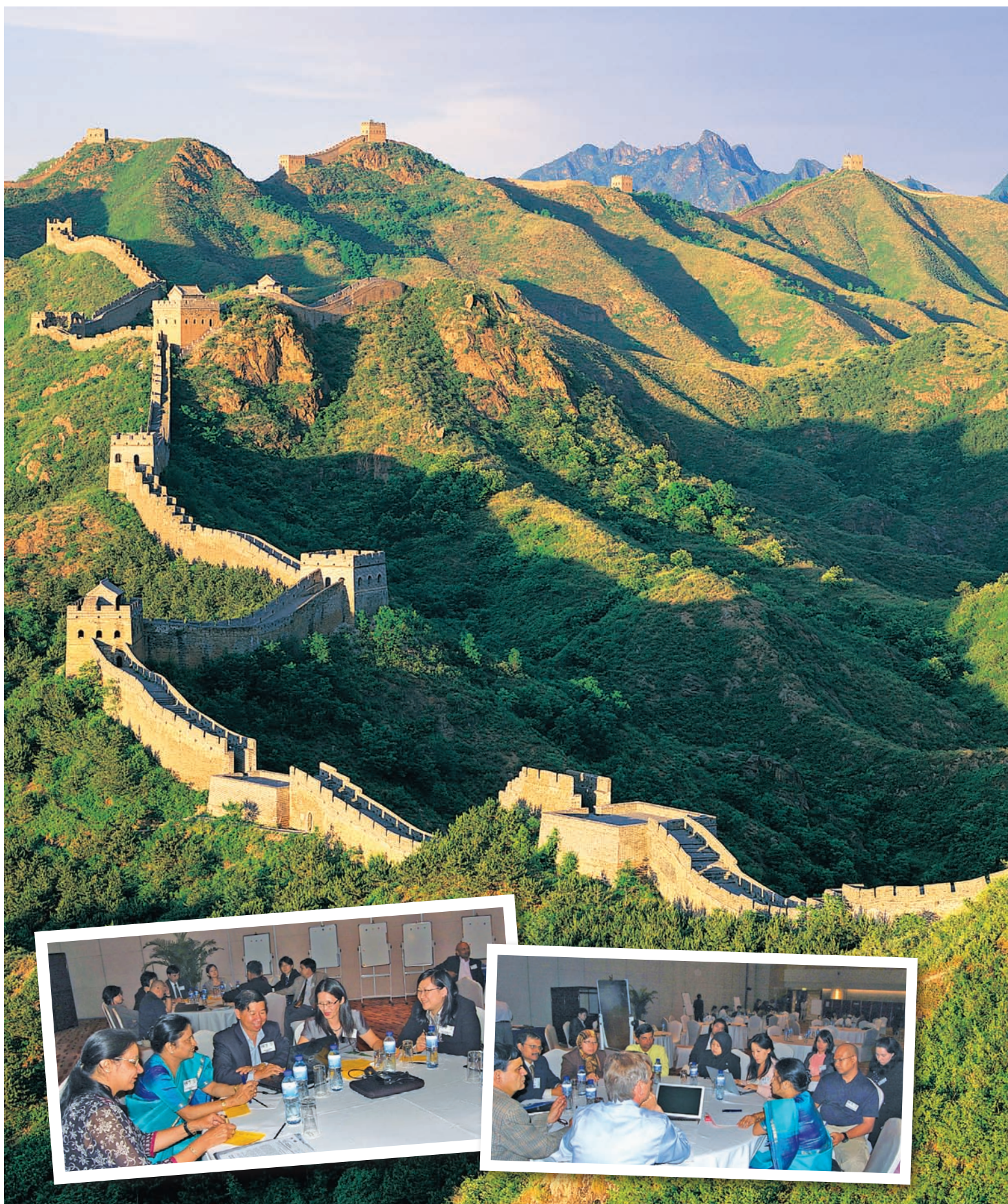


Participants at the workshop

subsequent policy making (see also Target 19 of the Aichi Targets). Several examples for the European region were presented.

Besides the target setting process, part of the workshop was dedicated to looking at incentives and financing opportunities. Whereas the report on *The Economics of Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity* (TEEB) which is now being closely looked at by several countries may be a very strong and useful economic argument for ecosystem conservation and safeguarding, there is also the strong need for further studies and projects in the region to break it down to the national level. Several respective examples were presented. It was clearly stated that more guidance is needed for reviewing national and regional incentives schemes in line with the Aichi targets. ❧

There must be a good connection between policy making and the science community to ensure science outputs will serve as an input into the actual political target setting and policy-making





Asian countries plan for the future

Regional workshop for East, South and Southeast Asia on updating NBSAPs

by **Zhu Guangqing** ●

Deputy Director General, Department of Nature Conservation, Ministry of Environmental Protection of China

From 9 to 16 May 2011, twenty-one countries from East, South and Southeast Asia met in Xi'an, China, to plan for future actions to implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011-2020), one of the most important Nagoya Outcomes. The workshop aimed to help countries develop national targets and update their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) to address their respective biodiversity challenges, thus contributing to achievements of the global targets in 2020.

This workshop was organized in a region that is facing tremendous biodiversity challenges resulting from the effects of rapid economic growth in recent years. This growth is partly attributed to the ecosystem services and endowments as provided by Mother Nature. Indeed, this region is one of the richest in the world for biodiversity, as well as being one that is economically vibrant. In this context, this region has a more urgent need than any other region to address threats, both direct and indirect, to biodiversity. The failure to address these threats may impact the future well-being of this region and others around the world.

Recognizing the need to integrate biodiversity into countries' plans for economic and social development and for poverty reduction, the workshop brought together not only government officials responsible for national biodiversity strategies, but also experts from planning commissions and ministries of finance and planning. Participants analyzed national planning cycles and identified entry points for integrating the biodiversity targets. The workshop also included a special session on how tools for the economic valuation of biodiversity and a mechanism, such as payment for ecosystem services, can help to protect biodiversity.

To meet the new biodiversity challenges stemming from its rapid economic growth over the years, China launched its updated and revised national biodiversity strategy and action plan in 2010-the International Year of Biodiversity. The new NBSAP contains goals for 2015, 2020 and 2030, with eight strategic objectives, 10 priority areas and 30 pri-

ority actions designed to achieve these goals. The Strategy also identifies 35 priority areas for conservation and proposes 35 priority projects for implementation in the next two decades.

To celebrate the International Year of Biodiversity and promote the implementation of the new NBSAP, China has established a High-level National Committee for Biodiversity headed by Vice Premier Li Keqiang and involving all relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral departments and institutions. China is considering having such a permanent body for the United Nations Decade for Biodiversity, which was recommended by the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 10) to the Convention on Biological Diversity and adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2010.

2011 is the first year of China's 12th five-year plan for social and economic development which recognizes that long term development depends on protecting the environment. Included in this important plan are many important environmental and biodiversity targets. Among them, by 2015, China's forest coverage will be increased to 21.6% of its total land area. This plan also includes important ecological restoration programmes and projects in ecologically important areas, such as those in the source areas of the Yangtse and Yellow Rivers and provinces such as Yunan and Sichuan. Taking advantage of sectoral and cross-sectoral and local planning for the next five years, the Ministry of Environmental Protection of China has been promoting integration of biodiversity into their respective plans and programmes.

Looking ahead, this UN Decade provides a unique opportunity for all countries to address biodiversity challenges. We cannot afford to lose biodiversity any more as we are reaching tipping points for some components of biodiversity, as demonstrated in the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook. This regional workshop provided important knowledge and ways and means needed to plan for the future and meet challenges ahead. The venue of the workshop-Xi'an, a city with rich historical heritages and currently hosting the 2011 International Horticultural Expo, whose theme is cities and biodiversity living in harmony, helps remind us of our responsibilities to act now for the future. ❧

**Working together
to break down
barriers to
biodiversity
conservation**

BACKGROUND IMAGE: DIGITAL VISION/THINKSTOCK; INSET IMAGES: DAVID DUTHIE

Integrating the Nagoya Strategic Plan and Aichi Targets into planning processes

Regional workshop for North Africa and West Asia on updating NBSAPs

by **David Duthie** ● Senior Programme Officer, SCBD

The third regional capacity building workshop on revising and updating National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs) convened by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) took place in Beirut, Lebanon from 2-7 May 2011.

The workshop was hosted and co-sponsored by the Ministry of Environment, Lebanon, the Economic and Social Commission for West Asia and the Government of Japan through its Japan Biodiversity Fund to support implementation of the COP 10 Nagoya outcomes.

The meeting was attended by 32 participants from 17 countries, with additional resource persons from various institutions, including Lebanon American University of Beirut (Lebanon); National Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries (Egypt), *Tamunt n iffus* (Morocco), SPNL (Lebanon), IUCN-CEC, UNEP-ROWA, League of Arab States, and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

The meeting provided an opportunity for countries from all Arab States to meet and exchange early experiences with the challenge of integrating the Nagoya Strategic Plan and its associated Aichi Targets into national biodiversity planning processes.

The early part of the workshop started with an overview of the Nagoya Outcomes and review of the status of implementation of existing NBSAPs developed before 2010, after which the current status of national plans to update/revise the NBSAPs to reflect the Nagoya Outcomes was described and discussed.

Subsequent sessions of the workshop focused on the 5 goals of the Strategic Plan, using one or more of the 20 Aichi Targets to explore, in participatory working groups, how to develop appropriate targets and then identify the key stakeholders, activities and resource needs to achieve the target by 2020. In par-

ticular, Aichi targets 2, 3, 9, 19 and 20 were the subject of specific capacity building exercises.

Practical examples of the mainstreaming of biodiversity into the broader landscape were included in a one day field trip, organized by the Lebanon Ministry of Environment to see, first-hand, how a protected area (Tannourine Cedar Reserve) can be integrated into the broader multiple-use landscape as an example of mainstreaming ecosystem services.

By the end of the workshop, participants had gained experience with a number of new techniques that are essential to the NBSAP revision process, as well as how to access GEF financial assistance, where eligible. The workshop evaluation revealed that participants valued the highest the following workshop items: the opportunity to work in small groups to explore strategy planning options, the participatory exercises in stakeholder engagement and communication, and the discussions on sectoral integration and mainstreaming. Participants felt that the meeting had helped greatly towards revising their NBSAPs and encouraging more regional collaboration and sharing. ▀

Field study visit to the Tannourine Cedar Reserve



The meeting provided an opportunity for all Arab States to exchange early experiences with integrating the Nagoya Strategic Plan into national biodiversity planning processes

NBSAP WORKSHOPS

Activities & Meetings

Briefing sessions

The Secretariat will conduct the following briefing sessions to Parliaments and Permanent Missions to the UN, UNEP, UNESCO, EU on COP-10 and COP-MOP/5 outcomes:

- Permanent Missions to UN, New York with 100 participants—4 February 2011
- Permanent Missions to UN, Geneva with 70 participants—15 February 2011
- Permanent Missions to UNEP, Nairobi with 40 participants—25 February 2011
- Botswana Parliamentarians with 20 participants—21 March 2011
- Permanent Missions to UNESCO, Paris with 120 participants—7 April 2011
- Senegal Parliamentarians—25 May 2011
- Permanent Missions to ESCAP, Bangkok—27 May 2011
- East African Legislative Assembly – Arusha, Tanzania—27 May, 2011
- UNESCO World Heritage Committee – Paris, France—24 June 2011
- Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) – Lausanne, Switzerland—24 June 2011
- Rwanda Parliamentarians – Kigali, Rwanda—27 June 2011
- International Co-ordinating Council (ICC) of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme – UNESCO – Dresden Germany—29 June 2011
- Council of the Pan European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS) – Geneva, Switzerland—30 June 2011
- Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (FAO CGRFA) – Rome, Italy—18 July 2011
- Permanent Mission to African Union – Addis Ababa, Ethiopia—22 July 2011
- Pan African Parliament and Parliament of South Africa – Johannesburg and Cape Town, South Africa—July-August 2011
- CITES Standing Committee – Geneva Switzerland—16 August 2011
- Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference – Astana, Kazakhstan—20 September 2011
- African Forum on Sustainable Development - Bamako, Mali—3 October 2011
- Vietnam Parliamentarians – Hanoi, Vietnam—November 2011
- Japan Parliamentarians – Tokyo, Japan—20 December 2011

NBSAPs received since COP10



FRANCE

France's new National Biodiversity Strategy 2011-2020 aims to preserve, restore and increase living diversity in every area for which France is responsible on the mainland and overseas. This also extends to the European and international framework, where France can contribute to this mission in a spirit of global solidarity. The objective is to keep ecosystems functioning adapting and evolving for the long term. To this end, the National Biodiversity Strategy is promoting the reduction of direct and indirect impacts on biodiversity, sustainable use of living resources and equitable distribution of the benefits which they deliver.

VENEZUELA

The revised 'Estrategia Nacional para la Conservación de la Diversidad Biológica de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela' for the period 2010-2020 was adopted in 2010. It contains seven strategic directions and seven cross-cutting issues and promotes the development of national, regional and local action plans.

SERBIA

The Serbian Biodiversity Strategy for the period 2011-2018 was adopted in 2011. Objective 9.1 of the document addresses the establishment of national-level targets for biodiversity protection, according to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and Aichi Biodiversity Targets, over the next three-year period. Current actions are associated with institutions respon-

sible for implementation, timeframes and potential funding sources.

AUSTRALIA

Australia agreed on a revised Biodiversity Conservation Strategy for the 2010-2030 period in October 2010 and has substantially moved towards the establishment of national targets that are measurable and time-bound, with ten measurable targets linking to various elements of the new Strategic Plan for Biodiversity set for implementation by 2015. In 2015, the Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council will review the status of implementation of the strategy as well as consider what amendments may be required to the targets and strategic elements.

BELARUS

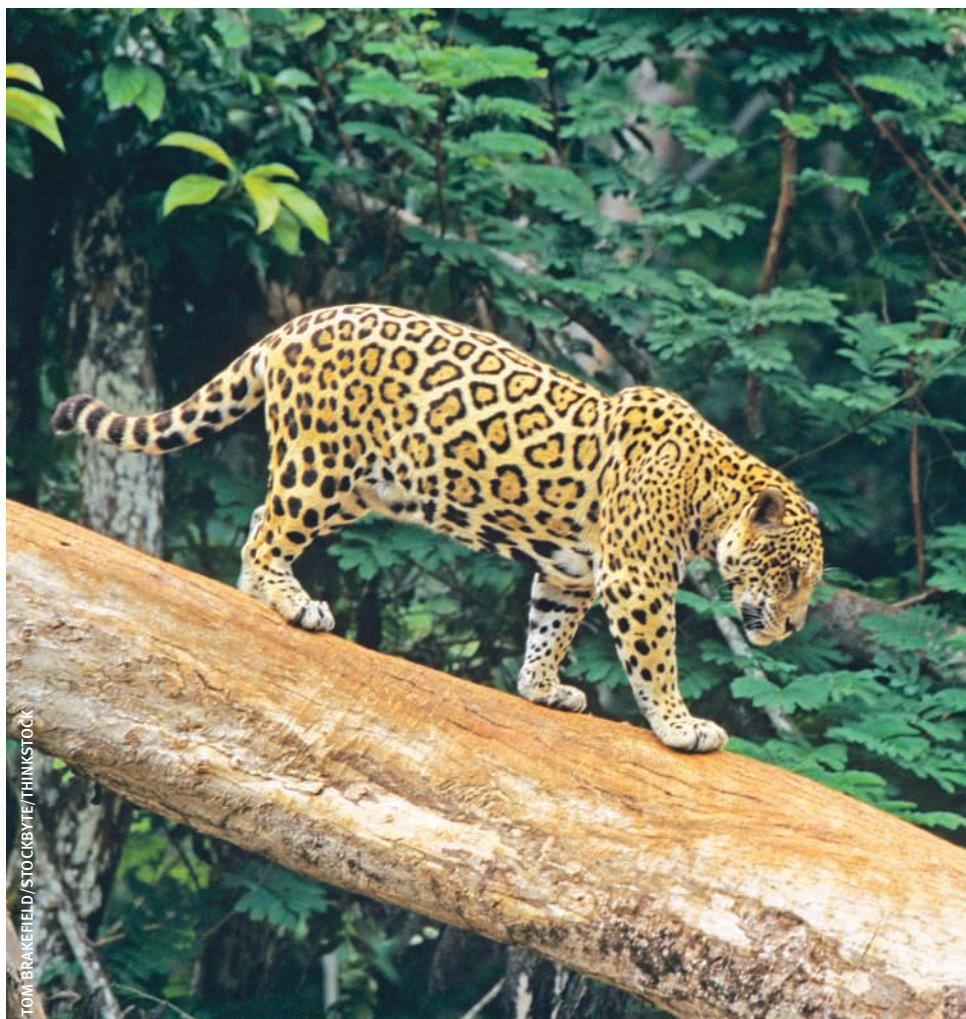
The Council of Ministers adopted the revised Belarusian Strategy on the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Biological Diversity (2011-2020), and accompanying Action Plan for implementation by 2015, in November 2010. Organizations responsible for implementation of activities by specific timeframes are identified in the Action Plan.

ITALY

The 'Strategia Nazionale per la Biodiversità' was adopted by the Italian Permanent Conference for Relationships between State, Regions and Autonomous Provinces in October 2010.

IMAGE: DAVID DUTHIE

Activities & Meetings



PROGRESS IN SETTING TARGETS

Brazil launched a national consultation to develop National Targets for Biodiversity on 8 April 2011. The initiative entitled “Dialogues on Biodiversity: building the Brazilian Strategy for 2020” is meant to engage Brazilian society in a process to strengthen the implementation of the agreements reached at the 10th Conference of the Parties on Biological Diversity (CBD COP 10) which took place in October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan. The Brazilian Ministry of the Environment, IUCN, WWF-Brazil and IPÊ are leading this initiative with the support of the United Kingdom’s Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

The **European Commission** has proposed an new strategy to halt the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the EU by 2020 that will be considered by the Environment Council in June. There are six main targets, and 20 actions to help Europe reach its goal:

1. Full implementation of EU nature legislation to protect biodiversity
2. Better protection for ecosystems, and more use of green infrastructure
3. More sustainable agriculture and forestry
4. Better management of fish stocks
5. Tighter controls on invasive alien species
6. A bigger EU contribution to averting global biodiversity loss

Financial support for updating, revising and implementing the NBSAPs is available from the Global Environment Facility (GEF). Applications from eligible countries should be submitted either by the national GEF Operational Focal Point to the GEF Secretariat or via UNDP, UNEP or other implementing agencies. Further information and links to the GEF templates are available at www.cbd.int/nbsap/guidance-tools/finance/

Sub-regional Capacity building Workshops

List of Sub-regional Capacity building Workshops on NBSAPs and Implementation of the Aichi Nagoya Outcomes:

- Southern Africa – Kasane, Botswana
14 – 20 March 2011
- Europe – Vilm, Germany
15 – 19 April 2011
- North Africa and the Middle East – Beirut, Lebanon
2 – 7 May 2011
- South, Southeast, and East Asia – Xi’an, China
9 – 16 May 2011
- West Africa – Dakar, Senegal
22 – 26 May 2011
- Central Africa – Brazzaville, Congo
19 - 23 June 2011
- East Africa – Kigali, Rwanda
27 – 30 June 2011
- South America – Ecuador
13 – 16 July 2011
- East Europe – Minsk, Belarus
29 August - 2 September
- Caribbean – September – October
- Central Asia – Astana, Kazakhstan
18 – 20 September 2011
- Arctic - Arendal, Norway
26 – 30 September 2011
- Pacific – Apia, Samoa
3 – 7 October 2011
- Central America – Costa Rica
October-November 2011
- ASEAN – Vietnam
October - November 2011
- Mediterranean – Montpellier, France
16 – 18 January 2012
- North America – Mexico
20-24 February 2012

Follow-up regional workshops:

- Europe - Geneva
March - April 2012
- Africa – Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
March - April 2012
- Asia – New Delhi, India
March - April 2012
- Latin America and the Caribbean – Santiago, Chile
March - April 2012



Convention on
Biological Diversity



UNEP



Convention on Biological Diversity

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