

Aichi Targets

NOVEMBER 2011 • Volume 1, Issue 2

NEWSLETTER

**Updated National Strategies
to achieve the Aichi Targets**

**SUPPORTING THE
STRATEGIC PLAN FOR
BIODIVERSITY 2011–2020:**
*Further capacity building on
oceans, forests and gender
mainstreaming*

**+ Update on the Nagoya Protocol,
and the Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur
Supplementary Protocol**



Secretariat of the
Convention on
Biological Diversity

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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.

ISBN: 92-9225-393-X

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Convention on
Biological Diversity



Printed on Rolland Enviro100, which contains 100% recycled post-consumer fibre, is EcoLogo, Processed Chlorine Free and manufactured using biogas energy.



MESSAGE FROM THE COP-10 PRESIDENT

The road from COP10 to COP11

by **Goshi Hosono** • Minister of Environment, Japan



Life in harmony, into the future
いのちの共生を、未来へ
COP10/MOP5



XIth Conference of Parties
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
HYDERABAD INDIA 2012

Nearly a year has flown by since the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP10), themed “Life in harmony, into the future,” was held in October 2010.

The Strategic Plan 2011–2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, agreed upon at COP10 by a consensus of all the Parties, attest to the unshakable determination of humanity to confront the biodiversity crisis. To prevent the loss of biodiversity, it is imperative that the international community works in concert to take actions toward achieving our targets over the next ten years.

I am extremely pleased to see that countries around the world are already taking steps to set national targets based on the Aichi Targets and incorporate these into their national biodiversity strategies, and that they are strengthening measures to conserve biodiversity.

The regional workshops to assist in revising National Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) organized by the CBD Secretariat utilizing Japan Biodiversity Fund were held in twelve regions and sub-regions worldwide thus far, featuring the participation of more than 165 Parties. As COP10 Presidency, Japan would like to continue supporting capacity building in developing countries through the Japan Biodiversity Fund.

Japan is taking the lead in revising its own national strategy by COP11 and, with multi-stakeholder participation, is reviewing its existing strategy and engaging in discussions with experts.

I am looking forward to seeing countries formulate their national strategies translating the Aichi Targets into national level, share them among wide range of stakeholders, and take concrete steps to implement them.

We are now halfway down the road from COP10 to COP11, which is to be held in India in October 2012. COP11 will offer us the first opportunity to assess the progress made in achieving the Aichi Targets. For the sake of passing on this beautiful Earth to our children and grandchildren, let us work hand-in-hand to broaden our scope of action. ♡

To prevent the loss of biodiversity, it is imperative that the international community works in concert to take actions toward achieving our targets over the next ten years.



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Staying on track to achieve the Aichi Targets



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

This second Aichi Targets Newsletter comes at a critical time in the implementation of the international community's Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011–2020). It has now been a year since the Strategic Plan was adopted in Nagoya by the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP-10). In addition, we are now only one year away from COP-11 which will be held in Hyderabad, India, in October 2012, and which will mark the first major milestone on the road towards the 2020 deadline for achieving the Aichi Targets.

The question we face at the midway point of this first biennium is simple: Will we allow the momentum begun in Nagoya to fade, or will we seize the opportunity to forge ahead toward COP-11 with unwavering commitment to implementing the Plan established by COP-10?

Now is the time to begin demonstrating that the commitments made in Nagoya were more than just words.

I am very pleased to say that, following Nagoya, the UN Decade on Biodiversity (2011–2020) began in full at a quick pace. A series of regional capacity-building workshops began almost immediately with the goal to assist Parties to revise their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) in order to integrate the Aichi Targets. And, indeed, as seen in this issue, a number of our Parties have already answered the call with updated NBSAPs.

This is a promising start. However, COP-11 is approaching quickly, as is the deadline for submitting revised NBSAPs. The onus is therefore on our remaining Parties to follow suit over the coming months and duly prepare and submit their revised NBSAPs.

When it comes to following through on our pledges, we can look to Japan for inspiration. Having established the Japan Biodiversity Fund to support the NBSAP capacity-building workshops, the commitment of the Government of Japan to this financing did not waver in the wake of the tragic earthquake and tsunami experienced by the country earlier this year. So I ask: If Japan can remain dedicated to the vision of COP-10, in the face of such tremendous adversity, should we not do our part as well?

Now is the time to begin demonstrating that the commitments made in Nagoya were more than just words. I therefore urge all of our Parties to submit NBSAP revisions as soon as possible. Any delays are likely to have cascading effects that ultimately threaten the achievement of the Aichi Targets, with dire consequences for life on Earth. 🐝





Dialogue on biodiversity

Building the Brazilian strategy for 2020

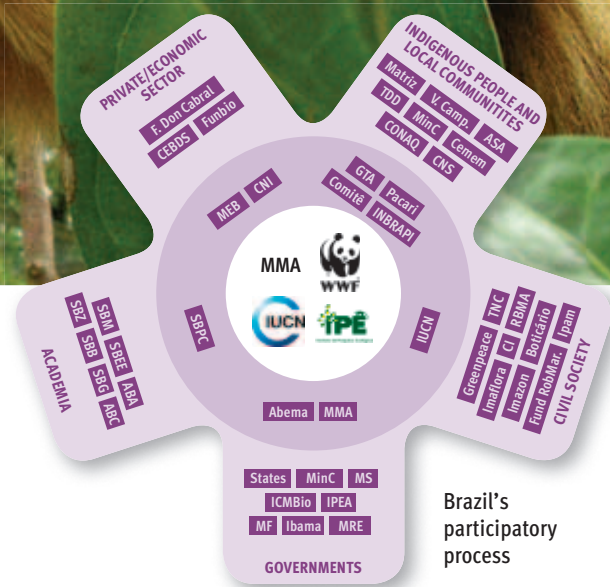
by **Carla Michely Yamaguti Lemos** ●
Ministry of Environment of Brazil

Brazil's 51 national biodiversity targets to 2010 were defined by the National Biodiversity Commission - CONABIO, a representative commission with deliberative and consulting duties which coordinates the implementation of the country's commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity. To define these targets, the CONABIO organized a meeting called "Workshop to Define National Biodiversity targets for 2010". All 20 CONABIO members were invited, as well as approximately 30 speakers and other experts from academy and civil society, in addition to representatives of the various Ministry of Environment secretariats and connected agencies. These targets were approved through the CONABIO Resolution number 3 of December 2006 which was a guideline for achieving national targets for 2010.

As documented in the 4th National Report to the CBD, there was progress on some issues, but significant challenges remained in order to improve implementation of the CBD and to achieve the national targets. Some of the progress achieved was in regards to: conservation of at least 30% of the Amazon biome and 10% of the other biomes; increase in the investments in studies and research on the sustainable use of biodiversity; increase in the number of patents generated from biodiversity components; and reduction by 75% in the Amazon deforestation rate of protected areas.

As for the challenges ahead, first, the review and updating of the NBSAP should involve more actors and stakeholders. Second, the NBSAP must be established by a strong legal act such as a law or a decree that includes mechanisms for monitoring and compliance. In this sense, the Ministry of Environment is leading a process called "Dialogue on Biodiversity: building the Brazilian strategy for 2020". In these dialogues, we are consulting several sectors (academy, industry, governments, non-governmental institutions, indigenous and local communities) about the new national targets and action plan, as well as necessary elements for a legal framework (national policy on biodiversity).

In all, 5 meetings should involve more than 300 representatives of the society. After these meetings, their products will be placed in public consultation over the internet in order to get more contributions. An important meeting to be held in February 2012 which will bring together leaders from all sectors consulted will aim to close documents with broadest possible consensus. The instruments derived from this process will be launched in Rio+20, which will be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June of 2012. In this great gathering, we will take the opportunity to call the whole society to take action on behalf of biodiversity. We believe that this way, involving all sectors in the elaboration of the new strategy of biodiversity, we will have more success in the CBD implementation and in the achievement of 2020 targets. ♡



Brazil's
participatory
process



England's National Strategy

by **Martin Brasher** ● Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)

The UK put a lot of effort into achieving a successful outcome from Nagoya, and we were delighted that our Secretary of State, Caroline Spelman, attended in person in order to secure that objective. The end result was an excellent Strategic Plan, with some rightly challenging targets.

With hindsight, we believe that one of the reasons why the 2010 target was missed was that we took too long to identify the actions that were needed, and we were therefore always trying to catch up rather than being in control of the work that was needed.

We decided that this time it was important to start work immediately rather than leaving the Aichi targets to gather dust on the shelf. So we established a project, with the objective of producing our own national strategy within a year of the momentous events at Nagoya. Furthermore, we took the Aichi targets as our

starting point, and developed a strategy with measurable targets, focused around four themes: Habitats and Ecosystems on Land; Marine Habitats; Species; and People Engagement. At the back of the strategy, which is deliberately very compact to make it more accessible, there is a table which links each of the priority actions in the document to the relevant Aichi target, and also to the relevant target in the European Biodiversity Strategy.

The Strategy was launched—by Caroline Spelman in person—in London on 19 August this year, and was very well received by the stakeholders who attended.

The next task is to maintain momentum by producing a delivery plan for the Strategy. We are committed to producing that—in consultation with stakeholders—within six months. So the work goes on but we do feel highly-motivated to take this important work forward and deliver our share of the Aichi targets. ✨

If you want to see the strategy, it is available through the following link: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/2011/08/19/pb13583-biodiversity-strategy-2020/>

La Stratégie française pour la biodiversité 2011–2020: une mobilisation de tout un chacun

par **Nathalie Koscisuko-Morizet** ● Ministre de l'écologie, du développement durable, des transports et du logement : voir la revue *Satoyama 3*

Le patrimoine naturel exceptionnel de la France lui confère une responsabilité mondiale. Suite au succès du programme « 2010, année internationale de la biodiversité en France », a été lancée dès 2010 une révision de la Stratégie nationale pour la biodiversité (SNB). La SNB est la réalisation de l'engagement français au titre de la CDB : le Plan stratégique de la CDB lui a donc tout naturellement servi de point de départ. Aussi les 20 cibles d'Aichi ont-elles toutes été reprises et adaptées dans la SNB 2011–2020. L'architecture de la nouvelle stratégie en six « orientations stratégiques »* et vingt objectifs reflète le souhait d'être parfaitement lisible au plan international. Tous les enjeux pour la société sont couverts. L'ambition est de « préserver et restaurer, renforcer et valoriser la biodiversité, en assurer l'usage durable et équitable, réussir pour cela l'implication de tous et de tous les secteurs d'activité ».

La Stratégie française pour la biodiversité 2011–2020 a été présentée, symboliquement, à l'occasion de la Journée mondiale de la biodiversité. Ceci fait de la France l'un des tout premiers pays à mettre en œuvre à l'échelle nationale le Plan stratégique de la CDB.

L'élaboration du texte était pilotée par un comité composé de ministères, collectivités territoriales, organisations professionnelles, associations, organismes de recherche, syndicats de salariés. À quoi s'ajoutait la participation inédite du public, consulté par Internet.

Le fondement et l'originalité de la nouvelle SNB tiennent à la mise en place d'un cadre cohérent et mobilisateur. Quel que soit son niveau territorial, son statut et son secteur, chaque organisme est invité à « adhérer à la SNB », la promouvoir, puis à agir de façon significative. Pour encourager et valoriser les initiatives faisant preuve de sérieux et entrant dans le cadre des objectifs et principes de la stratégie, une « reconnaissance SNB » sera mise en place. ❖

* Les six orientations stratégiques de la Stratégie française pour la biodiversité 2011-2020 sont d'abord de susciter l'envie d'agir pour la biodiversité ; puis de préserver le vivant et sa capacité à évoluer ; d'investir dans ce bien commun qu'est le capital écologique ; d'assurer un usage durable et équitable de la biodiversité ; d'assurer également la cohérence des politiques et l'efficacité de l'action ; de développer, enfin, les connaissances, en les partageant et en les valorisant.



ENGLISH ABSTRACT

French Strategy for Biodiversity 2011–2020: mobilization of everyone

Following the success of the “2010 International Year of Biodiversity in France”, the National Biodiversity Strategy (NBS) was launched. The NBS is the realization of the French commitment to the CBD. The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011–2020) served as a starting point in the development of the NBS, with France being one of the first countries to implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity at the national level. All 20 Aichi Targets have been adapted within the Strategy. The development of the NBS was led by a committee of ministries, local authorities, professional organizations, associations, research organizations and trade unions. The new French NBS promotes coherent implementation and aims to inspire all organizations, territories, industry, citizens, etc. to become involved in activities so as to increase their impact.



The Nagoya commitments and “our life insurance”

by **Janez Potočnik** ● European Commissioner for Environment

In May this year, in the wake of the successful outcome of Nagoya, the European Union adopted a new strategy to halt biodiversity loss in the EU, restore ecosystems where possible, and step up efforts to avert global biodiversity loss. It is a pledge we will stand behind.

The new strategy—entitled “Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020”—is built around a limited number of measurable, ambitious, yet realistic sub-targets that focus on the main drivers of biodiversity loss. The six targets address different aspects of the challenge, each one accompanied by a corresponding set of actions. The first target is: full implementation of existing nature protection legislation. The EU is in the fortunate position of already having powerful legislation in place to protect its nature, but these laws need to be implemented in full for maximum effect. Efforts will also be made to improve and restore ecosystems and ecosystem services wherever possible, notably by greater recourse to “green infrastructure”. Other targets cover agriculture and forestry activities, and safeguarding and protecting EU fish stocks. A more comprehensive

approach will also be taken to control invasive species, which are a growing cause of biodiversity loss in the EU. The final action area is increasing the EU contribution to action to avert global biodiversity loss.

The EU contribution to the implementation of the Aichi Targets is largely covered by the new strategy. In some respects, the EU is already ahead of the game when it comes to implementing the Aichi Targets. For example, close to 18% of the territory of the European Union is now covered by our so-called ‘Natura 2000’ network of protected areas, although we still have some way to go to ensure adequate protection of our seas. Work is underway to prepare the ground for implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing in the EU.

One of the key lessons to be drawn from the failure to reach the 2010 Biodiversity Target is the need to integrate environmental policies into wider policy realms. By making the biodiversity strategy an integral part of Europe’s wider 2020 strategy for smart, inclusive and sustainable growth, the EU is striving to ensure that its natural capital is managed sustainably for the benefit of future generations. ✨

The EU Strategy may be accessed at: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/2020.htm>

Recovery from the Great East Japan Earthquake —Sanriku Fukko (Reconstruction) National Park

by **Tsunao Watanabe** ● Director General, Nature Conservation Bureau, Ministry of the Environment

The huge earthquake and tsunamis on March 11 inflicted great damage, especially on the Pacific coast in eastern Japan. We greatly appreciate the warm encouragement and support from all over the world in response to this disaster. This earthquake has reminded us that nature not only brings rich blessings but also sometimes causes severe disasters. It seems that, so far, we have placed our emphasis on how to conserve the fragile environment when thinking of living with harmony with nature. However, from now on, it is important to consider how to achieve a good balance between disaster risk reduction and biodiversity conservation and recovery.

The Government of Japan has developed the concept of establishing “Sanriku Fukko (Reconstruction) National Park” in order to achieve the conservation of biodiversity and its contribution to the recovery of the devastated area through green tourism at the same time. There are several existing natural parks in this area, such as Rikuchu Kaigan National Park. The Government of Japan has decided to i) reconsolidate these natural parks into Sanriku Fukko (Reconstruction) National Park, which will help to promote fisheries in the *Satoyama-Satoumi* style; ii) build long trails and afforest them as the symbol of the recovery; and iii) prepare places to keep records of the disaster and learn from it, and to monitor the environment. We will establish a new natural park, taking special note of the following five points: i) biodiversity and the linkage with forests, countryside, rivers, and oceans; ii) cooperation with agriculture, forestry and fisheries, and collaboration within the region; iii) cooperation with disaster-prevention and passing on stories of the tsunami disaster to the future generations; iv) Global Geoparks Networks; and v) promotion of tourism, eco-tourism and local employment.

While taking steps to achieve the realization of the concept of “Sanriku Fukko (Reconstruction) National Park”, we seek for “the true coexistence of people and nature,” which does not conflict with nature but realizes the sustainable society by adapting to it. We would like to share with the world our experiences of this project to establish this new national park along with the updated National Biodiversity Strategy of Japan at CBD COP-11 and other occasions. ♡



The Government of Japan has developed the concept of establishing “Sanriku Fukko (Reconstruction) National Park” in order to achieve the conservation of biodiversity and its contribution to the recovery of the devastated area through green tourism at the same time.

Seychelles has underlined the importance and need to protect a number of small islands, especially in regard to conserving endemic land birds which occupy a mere fraction of their historic range, such as the Seychelles Magpie Robin on Fregate Island, now recovered from just 16 individual birds to almost 200 on three separate islands.

Seychelles response to the Aichi Targets

by **Didier Dogley** ● Department of Environment,
Seychelles National Botanical Gardens

The Government of Seychelles recently announced that it will declare new protected areas in the archipelago, resulting in over 50% of all Seychelles terrestrial land becoming protected under law. This is seen as the first major step by Seychelles in the implementation of the new Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011-2020) adopted at COP-10 in 2010.

The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity states, in Aichi Target 11, that “By 2020, at least 17% 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”. With the designation of these new protected areas, Seychelles has clearly surpassed the target of 17% of terrestrial land designated as protected areas. This is seen as important as, in Small Island States like Seychelles, one of the main concerns for biodiversity — the vulnerability of small animal and plant populations with restricted ranges. In order to address Aichi Target 12 which states that “By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained”, Seychelles has underlined the importance and need to protect a number of small islands, especially in regard to conserving endemic land birds which occupy a mere fraction of their historic range, such as the Seychelles Magpie Robin on Fregate Island, now recovered from just 16 individual birds to almost 200 on three separate islands.

As all protected areas will have a marine and coastal component, the designation of the new protected area will also address Aichi Target 6 which states that “By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably...”. Plans for the future are to increase the inter-connectedness of marine and coastal protected areas resulting in the maintenance and increased resilience of ecosystems against external threats, especially climate change. This will contribute to Aichi Target 14 on “the restoration and safeguarding of ecosystems that provide essential services”. Work is also underway in regard to the



Western Indian Ocean Challenge Initiative which seeks to secure national and regional commitments and action to advance climate change adaptation strategies. In this regard, protected area networks will play a major resilience-building role. ❖

Consacrer d'ici 2035, 50 % du territoire du *Plan Nord* à la protection de l'environnement, au maintien de la biodiversité

par **Patrick Beauchesne** ● Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs

Par le *Plan Nord*, le gouvernement du Québec veut concrétiser un modèle de développement durable qui permettra la mise en valeur des ressources naturelles dans le respect de l'environnement et des écosystèmes, au profit des populations nordiques et de l'ensemble des Québécois.

Sur le plan de la protection de la biodiversité, le *Plan Nord* est un projet ambitieux et novateur. Le gouvernement a pris l'engagement de consacrer 50% du territoire du *Plan Nord*, soit 600,000km², à la protection de l'environnement, au maintien de la biodiversité, à la mise en valeur du patrimoine naturel et à divers types de développement qui ne font pas appel à des activités industrielles, et ce, à l'horizon 2035.

D'ici 2015, le gouvernement amorcera des travaux d'acquisition de connaissances et de planification écologiques afin de faciliter la mise en réserve de certaines parties du territoire du *Plan Nord* à l'abri d'activités industrielles. Le gouvernement du Québec s'engage à créer d'ici 2015 des aires protégées sur au moins 12% du territoire du *Plan Nord*. Dans le cas spécifique de la forêt boréale continue, le gouvernement ajoute l'obligation d'y compléter, à la hauteur de 12 %, le réseau d'aires protégées. Quant aux 38% du territoire restants, ils seront consacrés à la protection de l'environnement, au maintien de la biodiversité et à divers types de développement qui ne font pas appel à des activités industrielles.

D'ici 2020, au moins 5% de la superficie du territoire du *Plan Nord* seront réservés à des zones de conservation et de développement non industriel d'intérêt. Ainsi, à l'horizon 2020, c'est 17% de la superficie du territoire du *Plan Nord* qui seront principalement consacrés à la protection de l'environnement, à la sauvegarde de la biodiversité et à divers types de développement qui ne font pas appel à des activités industrielles. La cible de 17% en 2020 correspond donc à la cible fixée en octobre 2010 à Nagoya dans le plan d'action 2011-2020 des pays signataires de la convention sur la diversité biologique. Parallèlement aux travaux de planification écologique qu'il s'engage à réaliser progressivement, le gouvernement continuera d'exiger aux entreprises et aux promoteurs de projets de développement à caractère industriel des mesures d'atténuation, de restauration ou de compensation des impacts environnementaux, entre autres, pour la perte de biodiversité et de services écologiques rendus en raison d'activités ou de projets industriels. Enfin, le gouvernement entend élaborer un cadre légal lui permettant de réaliser les engagements pris en faveur de la conservation dans une perspective de développement durable et une stratégie de mise en œuvre. ❧



ENGLISH ABSTRACT

By 2035, dedicate 50% of the Northern Plan area to protect the environment, maintaining biodiversity

The protection of the environment and northern ecosystems will be at the forefront of decision-making at all stages of the planning and realization of the projects put forward under *Plan Nord* developed by the Québec government.

In terms of protecting biodiversity, The *Plan Nord* is an ambitious and innovative. The government has pledged to dedicate 50% of the territory that the *Plan Nord* covers to non-industrial purposes, environmental protection and safeguarding, by 2035; and to dedicate 12% of the area of the boreal forest blanket to the creation of protected areas, by 2015.

The government will fulfill its commitments and start ecological planning by 2015 that will make it possible to determine areas of interest for the conservation of biodiversity, ecosystem-provided ecological goods and services, and the protection of the environment.

« Une marque de reconnaissance et un encouragement des efforts de notre pays en matière de conservation de la biodiversité, mais surtout la volonté du Gouvernement du Sénégal de participer pleinement à la mise en œuvre de la Convention sur la Diversité biologique ». —Mr. Djibo Leity Ka, Senegal Minister of Environment and Protection of Nature



ABOVE: Opening ceremony
RIGHT: Field study visit



West African countries commit to safeguard ecosystems

by **Sakhile Koketso and Gisela Talamas**

● SCBD

Sixteen West African countries met in Dakar, Senegal, from 22 to 26 May 2011 to strengthen national capacities for the development, implementation, reviewing, updating, and communication of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans. This workshop was organized to facilitate national implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and translate the post-2010 Strategic Plan into national targets.

The workshop was proudly hosted by Senegal and organized by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD), the Ministry of Environment and Nature Conservation of Senegal and the Regional Program for the Conservation of the Marine and Coastal Zones of West Africa (PRCM) and funded by Japan. Parallel to this workshop, the SCBD also organized a subregional capacity-building workshop for implementing the programme of work on protected areas (PoWPA).

Senegal was honored and proud to host the two workshops which gave an acknowledgement and encouragement to their efforts in conservation of biodiversity and to the implementation of the Convention. During a field study visit, participants had the opportunity to see Senegal's efforts in habitat restoration through community-based management, and sustainable fisheries practices.

In this workshop, the Regional Program for the Conservation of the Marine and Coastal Zones of West Africa, played a major role, not only in assisting with the organization of the workshop, but in co-hosting a financing roundtable for 7 Western African countries (Cape Verde, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mauritania, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and The Gambia), in collaboration with the Government of Senegal and the CBD LifeWeb Initiative.

Some concrete outcomes of the workshop include the development of a range of realistic quantitative national targets on terrestrial and marine protected areas under Target 11 of the 2011–2020 Strategic Plan for Biodiversity; identification of potential new Marine Protected Areas; identification of innovative governance types and strategies identified for integration of protected areas into wider land and seascapes; the development of draft outlines of NBSAPs and draft roadmaps for NBSAP revision by each country present.

Another highlight was a roundtable cooperation meeting that happened following the workshop, with the purpose of funding of Protected Areas in PRCM member States. At this meeting, donors reaffirmed their commitment to these protected areas. Some of the donors and organizations present at the workshop were: the French Development Agency (French Co-operation AFD), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), the Japanese International Co-operation Agency (JICA), the MAVA Foundation, the Prince of Wales Foundation, and the Dutch Co-operation which expressed its will to support the process for two to three years. ❖

L'atelier sous régional des pays de l'espace COMIFAC relatif à la mise à jour des Stratégies et Plans d'Actions Nationaux sur la Biodiversité

par **Maroun Abi-Chahine** ● SCBD

L'atelier sous régional des pays de l'espace COMIFAC relatif à la mise à jour des Stratégies et Plans d'Actions Nationaux sur la Biodiversité s'est tenu à Brazzaville, République du Congo, du 19 au 23 Juin 2011.

Co-organisé par le Secrétariat de la Convention sur la Diversité Biologique et le Gouvernement Congolais, l'atelier qui a inclus la participation des neuf pays de la région, a examiné les résultats de la troisième édition des Perspectives mondiales de la diversité biologique en fournissant un aperçu des résultats d'Aichi-Nagoya. Avant de discuter de la révision et de la mise à jour des stratégies et plans d'action nationaux pour la biodiversité, les présentations et les discussions se sont concentrées sur les enseignements tirés et les prochaines étapes. Une emphase particulière de l'atelier a été placée sur l'élaboration d'objectifs nationaux et régionaux dans le cadre des Objectifs d'Aichi pour la biodiversité, y compris l'intégration de la diversité biologique dans les processus pertinents de planification nationale et locale. Puisque le financement des stratégies et plans d'action régionaux pour la biodiversité constitue un enjeu important dans la plupart des régions, et tel que démontré par les participants, l'atelier a traité également la question de la mobilisation des ressources pour la mise en œuvre des SPANB ainsi que l'engagement et la communication stratégique aux parties prenantes.

L'atelier a offert l'opportunité aux acteurs régionaux de la biodiversité de contribuer et de participer au renforcement des capacités. Les représentants du Partenariat pour les forêts du bassin du Congo et de la Commission des forêts d'Afrique centrale (COMIFAC) ont été présents à l'atelier, ainsi que des participants: du Burundi, du Cameroun, du Gabon, de la Guinée équatoriale, de la République centrafricaine, de la République démocratique du Congo, de la République du Congo, du Tchad, et de Sao Tome et Principe.

Les Pays de l'espace COMIFAC ont présenté tour à tour leurs stratégies et plans d'action nationaux sur la Biodiversité.

Quinze communications ont été présentées en plénière. Ces différents exposés ont été accompagnés d'une série d'exercices



ENGLISH ABSTRACT

A Regional workshop on updating NBSAPs for Central Africa region

A Regional workshop on updating national biodiversity strategies and action plans for Central African region was held in Congo, Brazzaville from 19 to 23 June 2011. This workshop was organized by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in collaboration with the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Forest Economy and the Environment (MSDFEE) of the Republic of the Congo. Participants from Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Republic of the Congo, Sao Tome and Principe, COMIFAC and Indigenous Local Community worked towards implementing Nagoya Biodiversity Compact and delivered a communiqué at the end of the workshop.

pour une bonne maîtrise des thèmes développés. Des orientations sur l'élaboration d'une feuille de route générique pour la révision des stratégies et plans d'action nationaux sur la biodiversité ont été fournies aux participants.

Au terme de l'atelier, les participants ont recommandé (i) aux agences d'exécution du Fonds pour l'Environnement Mondial de diligenter l'acquisition des ressources financières prévues pour permettre aux pays d'amorcer la révision de leurs Stratégies et Plans d'Action Nationaux sur la Biodiversité et (ii) chaque pays de l'Espace COMIFAC d'adopter une feuille de route pour conduire vers une ratification rapide du Protocole de Nagoya sur l'Accès et le Partage juste et équitable des Avantages issus de leur exploitation. ❖

TOP: Field study visit
BOTTOM: Participants at the workshop

« Je saisis l'occasion pour remercier le Secrétariat d'avoir organisé un tel Atelier si important pour la destinée de la biodiversité dans la Sous région. Je reste très reconnaissant en vers le Secrétariat pour la qualité et l'organisation du dit Atelier. Bien qu'expert en Biodiversité, c'est ma première fois de profiter d'une telle formation aussi riche. Je peux vous rassurer que je suis désormais bien outillé pour conduire le SPANB à bon port. » —Pierre Ounagbao, République Centrafricaine

Charting the way forward in NBSAP updating process for the East Africa region

Regional Workshop for East Africa



Field trip visit and official reception

by **Sakhile Koketso and Natalia Chalaeva**

● SCBD

Over four days, biodiversity experts and officials from the East Africa region worked towards implementing the Nagoya Biodiversity Compact. The Regional Workshop on Updating National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), co-organized and co-hosted by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA) and the Secretariat of the East African Community was held from 27-30 June 2011 in Kigali, Rwanda.

The workshop brought together more than sixty participants including CBD focal points from the region (Burundi, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mauritius, Rwanda, Sudan, The Comoros and Uganda), the representatives from indigenous and local communities, CBD Secretariat staff and experts in biodiversity, the UN and other specialized agencies, East African Community officials, Rwanda private sectors representatives, NGOs, Rwanda Civil Societies representatives, as well as research and academic institutions.

The workshop took place in a region endowed with some of the world's most important trans-boundary natural ecosystems, including terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. Sustainable management of natural resources in this region is critically important to ensure the growth of the socio-economic development of the economies and the enhancement of livelihoods of the people of East Africa. Despite this recognition, the workshop demonstrated that major efforts still need to be deployed to reverse the damages resulting from the last 5 decades of unsustainable natural resource use.

With the goal to strengthen national capacities for the development and implementation of NBSAPs, participants discussed in detail the options for updating NBSAPs and national implementation of the Strategic Plan. A major focus of the workshop was on setting national and regional targets in the framework of the Aichi Targets, including integrating biodiversity into relevant national and local planning processes. As financing the NBSAP is an important issue in most regions, the workshop also covered the issue of resource mobilization for NBSAP implementation, as well as stakeholder engagement and strategic communication.

Through different forms of group works and plenary exercises, participants highlighted main regional issues and pressures on biodiversity among which are the following: reducing pressures on biodiversity and promoting sustainable use, agriculture and fisheries and their impact on marine and terrestrial biodiversity, invasive species and biodiversity in Eastern Africa, drylands, and their importance for biodiversity and the sustainable management of transboundary ecosystems.

A significant portion of the workshop was dedicated to discussing the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing (ABS) and the modalities for early ratification. Participants shared their national and regional experiences in implementation of ABS and the Nagoya Protocol. Rwanda has demonstrated its leadership in this regard by being one of the first countries to sign the Protocol, and hopes to be the first to ratify also. Rwanda also plans, before the end of the year, to update and launch its new National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, in light of COP-10 decisions, with a stronger cross-sectoral approach based on institutional synergies to halt biodiversity loss. The workshop also included a seminar on business and biodiversity with a focus on business and private sector's role and responsibility. Participants at the seminar confirmed their commitments to work together for the achievement of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including setting up a national dialogue platform between the Government and business/private sectors.

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. The workshop equipped experts from the East Africa region with skills that would lead to the conservation and protection of its renowned biodiversity. One of the conclusions emerging from this workshop was a recommendation to establish a Regional Platform for CBD and a network of regional experts to support countries to implement the Convention and to facilitate knowledge and expertise exchange between countries. ❧

“Together with a tireless effort, the workshop participants jointly charted the way forward to restore the Mother Nature that has been degraded unaccountably.” —Ananie Niyibizi, Rwanda

Capacity-building workshop for the Pan-European biological and landscape diversity strategy members on updating national biodiversity strategy and action plans

by **David Duthie** ● SCBD

The Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy was first endorsed at the 3rd Ministerial Conference 'Environment for Europe' in 1995 and its implementation has made a major contribution towards establishing a strong network of protected areas across the broader geographical Europe (54 countries).

In late June this year, over 35 representatives of governments, Multilateral Environmental Agreements, and international organisations, attended the 13th meeting of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS), which endorsed the Pan-European 2020 Strategy for Biodiversity and forwarded it to the next UNEP Governing Council, which will consider and approve the final version of the Strategy. In his keynote address Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the CBD, stated that: "The Pan-European strategy adopted in 1995 was a landmark event to implement the three objectives of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity. The new Pan-European Biodiversity Strategy for 2020 offers a unique opportunity to implement the 20 Aichi Targets in a coordinated manner in Europe for the benefit of the biodiversity agenda in the region and in the world".

Back-to-back with the PEBLDS meeting, from 30 June to 1 July, the CBD Secretariat, 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, organized a capacity building workshop for biodiversity experts and officials from 14 European countries. The workshop was focused on enhancing capacity for updating and revising National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). The workshop aimed at further exploring the potential for synergies between biodiversity-related MEAs in the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity. This is all the more important in the context of the National Biodiversity Strategy 2011-2020 and Action Plans.

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.



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. 🐦

For additional information, please see: <http://www.cbd.int/nbsap/workshops2/pebls/>

Taller Regional para América del Sur sobre la actualización de las Estrategias y Planes de Acción Nacionales en Materia de Diversidad Biológica

por **Wilson Rojas** ● Ministerio de Ambiente de Ecuador

La Secretaría del Convenio sobre la Diversidad Biológica (CDB) en coordinación con el Ministerio Ecuatoriano del Ambiente y el apoyo del Ministerio Ecuatoriano de Relaciones Exteriores (Cancillería) realizaron, el Taller regional para América del Sur sobre la revisión y actualización de las estrategias nacionales para la diversidad biológica y los planes de acción (EPANB), en los salones de la Cancillería en la ciudad de Quito, del 13 al 15 de julio de 2011. El taller contó con la participación de los países de América del Sur: Argentina, Bolivia, Brasil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay, Perú, Suriname, Uruguay y Venezuela; de representantes de distintas organizaciones internacionales: OTCA, IUCN, CAN, PNUMA, PNUD; y de representantes de pueblos indígenas: COICA, Tesai REka y Centro de Estudios Aymara.

Días antes de este taller, la Organización del Tratado de Cooperación Amazónica (OTCA), realizó un taller para los países amazónicos con el objetivo de promover el diálogo en temas de conservación, protección y uso sustentable de los recursos naturales renovables. En este taller se revisó la Agenda Estratégica de Cooperación Amazónica, especialmente el eje de Conservación, Protección y aprovechamiento Sostenible/Sustentable de los Recursos Naturales Renovables en sus temas de Gestión, monitoreo y control de especies de fauna y flora silvestres amenazadas por el comercio; Áreas Protegidas; Uso sostenible de la biodiversidad y promoción del biocomercio.

Participants of the workshop



ENGLISH ABSTRACT

Regional Workshop on NBSAPs for South America

A workshop for the updating of NBSAPs for South American countries took place in Quito, Ecuador from 13–15 July 2011, organized by the SCBD and Ecuador's Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This workshop was preceded by the Workshop on the Amazon Regional Biodiversity Strategy, organized by the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO).

This workshop was an opportunity for Ecuador to showcase their progress towards better management of biodiversity. There were presentations on the incentive programs Ecuador has for forests (Socio Bosque), a presentation on the adaptation to climate change and two private funds were presented, one to finance environmental management for the country's sustainable development and the other one to finance the sustainable use of country's water resources.

As a part of the workshop, Ecuador hosted a reception to celebrate the sub-regional launch of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity.

La Secretaría del CDB presentó los resultados de la “*Perspectiva Mundial sobre la Biodiversidad 3*” en el cual se evidenció los escasos resultados en el cumplimiento de las metas para la reducción de la pérdida de la Biodiversidad. Posteriormente, los delegados de los países expusieron sus experiencias en torno al proceso de elaboración de las EPANB, así como su implementación, avances, limitaciones, y las acciones emprendidas para la revisión de las EPANBs acorde con el Plan Estratégico del CDB 2011–2020 y sus Metas Aichi. Uno de los puntos en común que resaltaron en las presentaciones fue el enfoque participativo y el empoderamiento social mediante el proceso de elaboración. Algunas de las fortalezas presentadas en el desarrollo de las estrategias fueron: la mejora en gestión de áreas protegidas el avances en materia de información, enfoques participativos y conocimiento sobre servicios ecosistémicos. Entre los puntos a mejorar se encuentran la necesidad de educación y difusión, la falta de indicadores medibles para determinar el avance en el cumplimiento de las actividades de la estrategia y la falta de transversalización de políticas de biodiversidad en otros sectores.

El equipo de la CDB, procedió a explicar de las “Metas Aichi”. Los participantes luego interactuaron de manera dinámica en las



mesas de trabajo para elaborar metas nacionales basadas en sus experiencias nacionales. Al final se realizaron varias recomendaciones para el establecimiento de las Metas nacionales dentro de las estrategias nacionales.

Como país anfitrión, el Ecuador, a través de sus distintas organizaciones informó a los participantes sobre las experiencias que se tienen hacia una mejor gestión de la biodiversidad dentro del Plan Nacional del Buen Vivir. Entre las experiencias se presentó el Programa Socio Bosque, y el programa sobre la vulnerabilidad y adaptación frente al cambio climático en ecosistemas. También se presentaron dos fondos de Ecuador que apoyan el financiamiento de la gestión ambiental tendiente al desarrollo sustentable del país y al financiamiento de los recursos hídricos del país.

Finalmente como un evento paralelo, el país, a través de la Señora Ministra del Ambiente realizó el día 13 de julio, el acto de Lanzamiento para América del Sur “de Decenio de las Naciones Unidas sobre la Biodiversidad” en los salones de la Cancillería. Al evento participaron principales autoridades de gobierno, representantes del cuerpo diplomático,

destacando la participación del Señor Embajador de Japón quien en representación de su país y principal contribuyente para la implementación del Plan Estratégico 2011–2020 y sus Metas Aichi, agradeció al gobierno del Ecuador por la organización del evento, reiterando una vez más su compromiso de apoyo a pesar de la situación que el pueblo de Japón ha sufrido por el último desastre natural. ❖



UNDB launch celebration

Launching of Sustainable Ocean Initiative, a long-term capacity development platform in support of achieving Aichi Biodiversity Targets on marine and coastal biodiversity

by **Jihyun Lee** ● SCBD

“**T**he ocean alone contributes no less than 50% of the global biodiversity and hence conservation of coastal and marine biodiversity becomes an indispensable major global effort if the Aichi Biodiversity Targets are to be achieved. Both national and local government efforts are needed to integrate and mainstream biodiversity conservation as part of their national and local economic development agenda. Stakeholder’s participation is also essential.”, said Dr. Chua, Thia-Eng in his keynote address at the Meeting on Sustainable Ocean Initiative Programme Development, held in Kanazawa, Japan, from 2 to 4 August 2011.



Participants of the workshop

Pursuant to the requests by COP-10 on enhancing capacity development on marine and coastal biodiversity, and building upon the initial consultation meeting held during COP-10 on 24 October 2010, this meeting was convened by the CBD Secretariat, jointly with UNU-IAS-Operating Unit Ishikawa/Kanazawa, with financial support of the Japan Biodiversity Fund and the Government of Japan including the Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Ishikawa Prefecture and Kanazawa City.

The meeting aimed at building a long-term programme for the Sustainable Ocean Initiative with identification of short-term priority actions, including implementation measures (see below).

The meeting was attended by experts from Brazil, France, Japan, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission/UNESCO, Northwest Pacific Action Plan-UNEP, United Nations University-Institute of Advanced Studies, Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia, Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative/IUCN, IUCN-Fisheries Expert Group-CEM, Census of Marine Life, WWF-West Africa Marine Eco-region (WAMER), and International Collective in Support of Fish Workers. Domestic

participants included representatives from the Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Cabinet Secretariat of the Headquarters for Ocean Policy, Ocean Policy Research Foundation, Japan Agency for Marine and Earth Science and Technology, National Fisheries Research Agency of Japan, Research Institute for Humanity and Nature, The University of Tokyo, Hiroshima University, and Japan Wildlife Research Center.

The meeting participants shared key elements of a long-term vision for SOI, including:

- A focus on facilitating achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets on marine and coastal biodiversity, particularly targets 6 and 11, in a holistic manner;
- A strategic, action-oriented approach that will support on-the-ground implementation priorities;
- Reliance on partnerships and sharing at various scales (local, regional and global) and between different sectors, groups and stakeholders including between biodiversity and fisheries sectors;
- A focus on providing targeted capacity development at all levels throughout its activities; and
- Achieving a balance between sustainable use and conservation and the promotion of flexible and diverse approaches towards this end.

They also agreed to work together toward achieving the SOI vision through the development and implementation of the following activities:

- Facilitating information sharing and exchange, as well as learning from both successful and unsuccessful experiences;
- Creating partnerships that can provide for targeted capacity building and technical assistance;
- Providing for a two-way communication between global policy and scientific communities and local stakeholders;
- Improving the scientific basis for implementation, including through improved technologies, cooperative research efforts, objective monitoring, results-based initiatives, open access data and analysis, and integration of local knowledge and science; and
- Monitoring progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets on marine and coastal biodiversity (particularly targets 6 and 11) and facilitating the provision of guidance and capacity that will help their achievement.

At the next meeting of SOI to be held early next year, they will invite various regional initiatives to identify priorities for capacity development in different regions and facilitate sharing experiences toward integrated implementation of Target 6 and 11 through the framework of integrated marine and coastal area management. ❖



Regional consultations and capacity building workshops on REDD-plus

by **Tim Christophersen and Johannes Stahl**

● SCBD

COP-10 invited Parties and other Governments to enhance the benefits for, and avoid negative impacts on, biodiversity from reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, conservation of forest carbon stocks, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries (REDD-plus). The COP also requested the Executive Secretary to contribute to capacity-building on REDD-plus and to develop advice on relevant biodiversity safeguards, on possible indicators to assess the contribution of REDD-plus to achieving the objectives of the CBD, and on potential mechanisms to monitor impacts of REDD-plus on biodiversity (decision X/33).

In response to these requests, the CBD Secretariat organized, with financial support from the Governments of Japan, Norway and the UK, and the UN-REDD Programme, a series of regional consultations and capacity building workshops on REDD-plus, held in Singapore from 15–18 March 2011, Quito, Ecuador, from 5–8 July 2011, and Cape Town, South Africa, from 20–23 September 2011.

The outputs of the workshops are intended to support both the CBD and UNFCCC discussions on relevant biodiversity safeguards for REDD-plus, as well as on the monitoring of biodiversity in the context of the forest-related Aichi Targets of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.

Some of the key outputs are:

(a) If REDD-plus is successful at reducing deforestation and forest degradation, and promoting forest conservation,

sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks, it will have significant and unprecedented benefits for biodiversity also.

- (b) A well-implemented REDD-plus mechanism also has the potential to enhance the ecosystem services to deliver multiple benefits for countries, in particular to indigenous peoples and local communities.
- (c) Developing safeguards for the protection and conservation of natural forests and biodiversity, for respecting the knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, and also for promoting their full and effective participation in relevant REDD-plus activities and processes is essential for the success of the REDD-plus approach in general.
- (d) REDD-plus efforts should enhance other ecosystem services, wherever possible, and carbon sequestration should be seen as one of many equally important ecosystem services.
- (e) In most countries, National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) contain elements relevant for biodiversity risks and relevant safeguards, and could be an important basis for incorporating biodiversity conservation measures in REDD-plus policies. Vice-versa, the development of REDD-plus policies can contribute to improved, more comprehensive NBSAPs.
- (f) The new Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and REDD-plus efforts can be mutually supportive, while respecting the respective Convention mandates. Every effort should be made to support the success of REDD-plus and its multiple benefits, as this will directly contribute to the forest-related targets of the Strategic Plan.

The CBD Secretariat will compile the full results of the workshops in an information document for SBSTTA 16, which will be made available at <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=sbstta-16>. ❖

As a cross-cutting issue, gender does not have a “target of its own”, rather it is an important part of the way in which activities to achieve ALL of the targets should be undertaken.

Mainstreaming Gender in NBSAPs

by **Marie Aminata Khan** ● SCBD

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is the only biodiversity-related convention that has approved a Plan of Action for integrating gender into all of its work and, with the generous support of the Government of Finland, has established a post specifically to promote the Plan of Action.

The Nagoya CoP-10 further strengthened the role of gender in the Convention through its decision X/19, which emphasized the importance of gender mainstreaming in all programmes of work under the Convention in order to achieve the objectives of the Convention and its Strategic Plan for the period 2011–2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

As a cross-cutting issue, gender does not have a “target of its own”, rather it is an important part of the way in which activities to achieve ALL of the targets should be undertaken. As part of the Japan Biodiversity Fund support for the implementation of the Strategic Plan and that of the Aichi Targets, the CBD Secretariat is convening a series of regional and sub-regional workshops on the revision of the NBSAPs. Gender mainstreaming is one of the themes covered at the workshops and, based on evaluation results, is consistently rated as an important and necessary theme.

Examples of the need to take into account gender considerations across the 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets include: (i) the need to structure public awareness programmes to take into account gender-specific access to different information sources (Target 1); (ii) fully recognizing women’s roles as primary land and resource managers when taking action to eliminate, phase-out or reform incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity obligations (Target 3); (iii) minimizing the negative impacts on women, who play a major role in the collection of non-timber forest products and other natural resources, when taking action to reduce the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests (Target 5); (iv) promoting an equitable role for women in biodiversity information sharing, technology transfer, and the benefits arising from the use of genetic resources, as is the case of the para-taxonomists in Guanacaste National Park in Costa Rica, where more than 50% are women (Target 19); and (v) to take into account women’s equal participation in financial assistance when implementing national plans for the financing of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action plans. ♡





Past, Present
and Future
Presidencies

Meeting of the Past, Present and Future CBD COP Presidencies, 3 September 2011

Geneva Call for Urgent Action on the Implementation of the successful Nagoya outcomes

by **David Duthie** ● SCBD

On Saturday, 3 September 2011, the past, present and future Presidents of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) met for their second annual high-level meeting at Chateau Bossey, Switzerland. The meeting was organized by the Secretariat of the CBD and generously hosted by the Government of Switzerland and will now be an annual event to maintain the high-level political momentum of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020.

Successful implementation of the Strategic Plan by 2020 will require a sustained effort from all Parties and all sectors of national economies, not just the environment sector. The “Geneva Call for Urgent Action on the Implementation of the Successful Nagoya Outcomes” provides a road-map and motivation to rise to this challenge.

The statement can be read in full at <http://www.cbd.int/doc/un/call-for-urgent-action-geneva-2011-09-03-en.pdf>, but comprises three main parts. The first part draws on the finding of the GBO-3 report and warns of potential tipping points that may be crossed in the next 10 years that will have serious consequences not just

for biodiversity, but for all of humanity. The Nagoya outcomes and the UN Decade on Biodiversity represent a major commitment to address the challenge of reversing these trends.

The “Geneva Call” requests all Governments to:

- Sign and ratify as soon as possible the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing;
- Develop and implement National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans and adopt national and regional targets within the framework of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets;
- Celebrate the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity; and
- Consider to convene, a High-level Event on Biodiversity with participation of Heads of State and Government at the seventieth session of the United Nations General Assembly to be held in September 2015 at the occasion of the mid-term evaluation of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

Already, the “Geneva Call” has been forwarded to the High-level meeting on desertification, land degradation and drought of the sixty-sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly held in New York in September and will be presented to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) to be held in Rio de Janeiro on 4–6 June 2012. ✎

UNDB celebrations around the world

23 May 2011 New Delhi, India	Asian regional launch of the UNDB	19 June 2011 Paris, France	Celebrations at the occasion of the 35th session of the WHC Committee
May 2011 (various locations)	Launch of the UNDB for ASEAN Countries, in the Philippines	4 July 2011 Havana, Cuba	Launch of the UNDB and UN Decade for Deserts and the Fight Against Desertification in Caribbean Countries
	Launch of the UNDB in Bangkok, Thailand	13 July 2011 Quito, Ecuador	Launch of the UNDB for South America
	Launch of the UNDB in Korea	22 July 2011 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	Launch for Africa in coordination with the UNCCD and events related to the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight Against Desertification
	Launch of UNDB National Committees		

Signatories to the Nagoya Protocol *(As of October 11, 2011)*

Algeria	2011-02-02	Mauritania	2011-05-18	Bhutan	2011-09-20
Brazil	2011-02-02	Ghana	2011-05-20	Burkina Faso	2011-09-20
Colombia	2011-02-02	Austria	2011-06-23	Dominican Republic	2011-09-20
Yemen	2011-02-02	Bulgaria	2011-06-23	France	2011-09-20
Mexico	2011-02-24	Czech Republic	2011-06-23	Greece	2011-09-20
Rwanda	2011-02-28	Denmark	2011-06-23	Palau	2011-09-20
Ecuador	2011-04-01	European Union	2011-06-23	Poland	2011-09-20
Central African Republic	2011-04-06	Finland	2011-06-23	Portugal	2011-09-20
Seychelles	2011-04-15	Germany	2011-06-23	Republic of Korea	2011-09-20
Mali	2011-04-19	Hungary	2011-06-23	Romania	2011-09-20
Sudan	2011-04-21	Italy	2011-06-23	Serbia	2011-09-20
Panama	2011-05-03	Luxembourg	2011-06-23	Tajikistan	2011-09-20
Peru	2011-05-04	Netherlands	2011-06-23	Democratic Republic of the Congo	2011-09-21
Guatemala	2011-05-11	Sweden	2011-06-23	Grenada	2011-09-22
India	2011-05-11	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	2011-06-23	Madagascar	2011-09-22
Indonesia	2011-05-11	Costa Rica	2011-07-06	Congo	2011-09-23
Japan	2011-05-11	Uruguay	2011-07-19	Cape Verde	2011-09-26
Norway	2011-05-11	Spain	2011-07-21	Mozambique	2011-09-26
South Africa	2011-05-11	Antigua and Barbuda	2011-07-28	Niger	2011-09-26
Switzerland	2011-05-11	Bangladesh	2011-09-06	Slovenia	2011-09-27
Tunisia	2011-05-11	Belgium	2011-09-20	Togo	2011-09-27
Gabon	2011-05-13				



18 August 2011 Geneva, Switzerland	Celebrations at the occasion of the 61st meeting of the CITES Standing Committee, in partnership with the Government of Switzerland, CITES and Ramsar Convention on Wetlands	November 2011 Durban, South Africa	High level celebration at the occasion of COP-17 of UNFCCC
20 September 2011 New York, USA	High-level celebration of the UNDB at the 66th session of the United Nations General Assembly	20–25 November 2011 Bergen, Norway	High level celebration at the occasion of COP-10 of CMS
October 2011 (various locations)	High level celebration at the COP-10 of UNCCD, Changwon, Korea	28 November 2011 San José, Costa Rica	Regional Launch of the UNDB for Latin America
	Regional Launch of the UNDB for Europe in collaboration with UNESCO, Paris, France	17–19 December 2011 Japan	Global launch of the UNDB

Status of Signature for the The Nagoya —Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

(As of October 11, 2011)

Colombia	2011-03-07	Montenegro	2011-05-11
Denmark	2011-03-07	Romania	2011-05-11
Netherlands	2011-03-07	Slovenia	2011-05-11
Sweden	2011-03-07	Switzerland	2011-05-11
Panama	2011-05-03	Tunisia	2011-05-11
Peru	2011-05-04	Mauritania	2011-05-18
Austria	2011-05-11	Italy	2011-06-14
Bulgaria	2011-05-11	Spain	2011-07-21
Czech Republic	2011-05-11	Antigua and Barbuda	2011-08-09
European Union	2011-05-11	Belgium	2011-09-20
Finland	2011-05-11	Germany	2011-09-20
France	2011-05-11	Poland	2011-09-20
Hungary	2011-05-11	Portugal	2011-09-20
Ireland	2011-05-11	Madagascar	2011-09-22
Latvia	2011-05-11	Cape Verde	2011-09-26
Lithuania	2011-05-11	Mozambique	2011-09-26
Luxembourg	2011-05-11	Togo	2011-09-27
		India	2011-11-11





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