



Southern African Workshop on Biodiversity and Finance

Montreal, 5 November 2011 – The Southern Africa Workshop on Biodiversity and Finance was convened in Cape Town, South Africa on 4 November 2011, in conjunction with the GEF Expanded Constituency Workshop for the region from 1 to 3 November 2011. The Convention Secretariat organized the meeting, in collaboration with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) country support programme and with the financial support of The Netherlands.

National focal points of the Convention and the GEF, as well as civil society organizations, from Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe, as well as United Nations Development Programme, were represented in the regional workshop on biodiversity and finance. The Workshop was chaired by Mr. Gilbert Morake Mosupye, representative of South Africa.

The objective of the workshop was to provide a first-time opportunity for the biodiversity community to not only explore how to make good use of ‘fishes’ (existing financial resources), but also gain insights into how to fish (know-how) and how to work together for bigger fishes (more, better and faster financial resources).

Participants presented their recent national experiences on implementation of the strategy for resource mobilization and the global biodiversity strategic plan for the period 2011-2020, including new and innovative financial approaches, such as offsetting mechanisms, payment for ecosystem services through stewardship programmes and environmental funds. Most countries in the region have finalized their application for enabling activity funding request to the GEF, and are ready to undertake further activities once funding requests are disbursed.

Participants had an in-depth dialogue on the draft indicator documents for resource mobilization, and the indicative guidelines for developing country-specific resource mobilization strategies. They noted the general lack of country-specific resource mobilization strategies, and that country-specific resource mobilization strategies could serve as a useful implementation tool for the realization of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, including offering a process of periodic stakeholder engagement, strategizing donor outreach and information dissemination, realigning implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans with ever changing external and domestic opportunities and challenges, and informing global exploration of financial solutions. Participants agreed to the expenditure-based final-financing-only methodology for

reporting, and suggested that subsequent analysis should include a comparison between pledges and disbursements.

Participants debated on the request for resource mobilization focal points, while realizing the need for dedicated staff time on country-specific resource mobilization strategies. Some participants suggested specific guidance on who should be appointed as resource mobilization focal points, and others felt that there are already many focal points under the Convention, and it often takes the whole ministry and even several ministries to work together towards successful resource mobilization.

Participants observed multiple planning processes required at the national level, and discussed on how to achieve biodiversity objectives through different national plans and strategies. They noted that revised national biodiversity strategies and action plans will be taken as national bibles on biodiversity for the next decade, and implemented through time-bound country-specific resource mobilization strategies in the broad context of sustainable development, poverty eradication and green economy. In this regard, participants requested the Convention Secretariat to provide and/or facilitate technical and financial assistance to developing countries, taking into consideration the need for participation of civil society organizations.

Participants heard presentations on draft indicator guidance, indicative guidelines for developing country-specific resource mobilization strategies, and innovative financial mechanisms including market for green products, payment for ecosystem services, biodiversity offsetting mechanisms, environmental fiscal reforms, climate change funding, and innovative sources of development financing. They noted the need to move beyond economic valuation of biodiversity and ecosystem services to building valuation mechanisms with a view to capturing and realizing, through innovative financial mechanisms, economic values of biodiversity and ecosystem services, consistent with the global biodiversity objectives.

The final list of participants:

Angola	Ms. Paula Cristina Coelho Mr. Pedro Samuel
Botswana	Ms. Ingrid Mpundu Otukile
Lesotho	Mr. Motsamai Stanley Damane
Malawi	Mr. Maynard Nyirenda
Mozambique	Ms. Marilia Telma Antonio Manjate
Namibia	Ms. Saima Angula Ms. Padelia Kalaputye Ndawapeka Ndjaleka
South Africa	Mr. Godfrey Mfiti Mr. Gilbert Morake Mosupye Mr. Johannes Mosima
Swaziland	Mr. Jameson Dukuza Vilakati
Zambia	Mr. Erick Chipwaya Mr. Ackim Mwape
Zimbabwe	Mr. Member Mushongahande
CBD Secretariat	Mr. Yibin Xiang

Further information can be found at: www.cbd.int/financial