



Eastern Africa Workshop on Biodiversity and Finance

Montreal, 31 October 2011 – The Eastern Africa Workshop on Biodiversity and Finance, held in Nairobi, Kenya on 28 October 2011, was convened by the Secretariat, in collaboration with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) country support programme and with the financial support of The Netherlands. The GEF Expanded Constituency Workshop for the region was also organized in the same venue from 11 to 13 October 2011.

The workshop drew participation from Comoros, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Rwanda, Somalia, Tanzania, and Uganda, representing the national focal points of the Convention and its financial mechanism, Global Environment Facility. The final list of participants is provided at the end of this report.

Participants first heard the presentation on the draft guide to indicators for resource mobilization, which emphasized on the eventual national reporting requirement and several issues requiring further consensus building. Participants agreed that the financial reporting can help transfer knowledge and help donors understand the funding needs for achieving biodiversity objectives, and such information is essential for future planning of various conventions. Some participants suggested a consideration of linkage with land degradation and food security which is a principal concern of this region. Participants observed the possibility of no new information that can be reported if both international funding and domestic resources are not available in some countries.

Participants were concerned about the resources needed to meet the financial reporting requirement, because it is not a simple exercise given the general lack of prior experiences, and information has to be collected from different sources. Some sources of information may not be willing to share their financial information due to potential mis-interpretations by national and external stakeholders. Participants agreed that the process can be very complicated in a way it is the first in its kind, and should not be a one-shot submission, but an interactive process of submission and validation involving the Secretariat and national coordinators. They called for integration of the financial reporting into the national biodiversity strategies and action plans process, and sensed that an average of US\$20,000 might be needed for such an exercise per country. They noted that the methodology for counting sectoral funding for biodiversity needs further development and refinement.

Participants compared the different intervals of financial reporting, and agreed that national financial information may be collected on an annual basis, Parties should be encouraged to

provide financial reports to the ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties on a biennial basis, and mandatory financial reports should be included in the subsequent regular national reporting.

Having heard the presentation on innovative financial mechanisms, some participants felt it difficult for these mechanisms to generate new funds in this African region, and that if funding can be generated, the resultant amount of funding will be obviously very small. They called for new and additional financial resources as promised by developed countries. They were also concerned that if local farmers have to pay for ecosystem services, their poor status will be further degenerated.

Participants exchanged national examples of innovative financial mechanisms such as environmental fiscal reforms and environmental funds in Rwanda, and development of a vision for green economy and investment plan including biodiversity issues and climate-resilient strategy in Ethiopia, pilot REDD projects in Tanzania, sustainable island strategy in Mauritius.

Participants noted the lack of clarity on what is expected to be done at the national and global levels. They suggested that further development of innovative financial mechanisms should include upgrading negotiation skills of developing countries, taking into full account the principle of differentiated responsibilities. Development of innovative financial mechanisms should not be used as a condition for new and additional funding from developed countries.

Participants noted the relevance and usefulness of the indicative guidelines for preparing country-specific resource mobilization strategies, including the desirability for preparing 2011-2014 financial plans and 2015-2018 funding estimates in order to coincide with the cycle of replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund – the only source of funding for some countries. Several participants opined that this was the first time to hear about the existence of the Convention’s strategy for resource mobilization, and thus needed some time to comments on the draft indicative guidelines.

Final list of participants:

Comoros	Mr. Ali Mohamed Soilihi Ms. Hayria Mohamed Mr. Ismael Bachirou Mr. Ambaoli Issouf Miradji
Eritrea	Mr. Mogos Woldeyohannes Mr. Efrem Kiflemariam Okbaghiorghis
Ethiopia	Mr. Berhanu Solomon Genet Mr. Kassahun Embaye Yikuno
Kenya	Mr. Cecil Orenge Ms. Audrey Mikoli Ms. Winnie Osika
Madagascar	Mr. Solomampionona Razafimandranto
Mauritius	Mr. Nohammad Nasser Mungroo
Rwanda	Ms. Marie Laetitia Busokeye

Somalia	Mr. Khalid Omar Ali Mr. Hassan Haji Ibrahim
Tanzania	Ms. Adelaida Tillya Ms. Fainahappy Elia Kimambo Mr. Paul Nnyiti
Uganda	Ms. Pauline Akidi Mr. Francis Sabino Meri Ogwal Ms. Gertrude Kabusimbi Kenyangi
CBD Secretariat	Mr. Yibin Xiang

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