

Welcome message from the Executive Secretary



New Executive Secretary assumes office



2016 UN Biodiversity Conference adopts an action plan for capacity development



Bio-Bridge Initiative operationalized



Biodiversity e-Learning Platform launched



Japan Biodiversity Fund supports new capacity development activities



Caribbean and Central American countries trained in the application of area-based management tools



Parties in the Mediterranean trained on ecosystem restoration



Asia-Pacific countries trained on detection and identification of LMOs



Pacific Customs Officers trained on the Cartagena Protocol documentation requirements



Local capacity building workshops on traditional knowledge organized

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Welcome message from the Executive Secretary



Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to share with you the inaugural issue of BioCAP: Biodiversity Capacity Development Update produced by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

BioCAP has been developed to provide periodic updates to Parties, other Governments, relevant organizations and other stakeholders on the outcomes of capacity development and technical and scientific cooperation activities facilitated and supported by the Secretariat in collaboration with partners.

BioCAP will be published and disseminated electronically on a quarterly basis. I hope the information provided in this and future issues of BioCAP will be useful in supporting your national efforts towards the implementation of the Convention and its Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing and in inspiring further collaboration.

I wish you good reading and successful implementation.

Cristiana Paşca Palmer, PhD
Executive Secretary

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Cristiana Pașca Palmer assumes office as Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity

On 20 March 2017, Cristiana Pașca Palmer assumed office as the new Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the principal global treaty on biodiversity.

Ms. Pașca Palmer, a Romanian national, joins the Secretariat at a critical moment for the Convention, with less than four years remaining to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets set out in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.

Ms. Pașca Palmer has extensive experience in global policymaking and in coordinating the implementation of environment and sustainable development policies, programmes and projects at national and international levels.

She is a multidisciplinary practitioner and academic in international development with a strong focus on green economy and environmental sustainability, business management, international negotiations, and environmental diplomacy.



Prior to her appointment, Ms. Pașca Palmer served as Romania's Minister for Environment, Waters and Forests, during which time she headed the Romanian delegation at the 2015 Paris Climate Conference, the 2016 Marrakech Climate Change Conference and the 2016 UN Biodiversity Conference in Cancun.

She also served as Head of the Climate Change, Environment and Natural Resources Unit within the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO-EuropeAID) between 2011 and 2015. She was responsible for EuropeAid's global policies and programmes supporting biodiversity conservation and ecosystems management in developing countries.

Ms. Pașca Palmer also held various positions with local and international civil society organizations in Eastern Europe, with the World Bank Group/International Finance Corporation in Washington D.C., and worked in academia as a policy researcher and teacher at Harvard University and the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. She was also the founder and president of Green Cross Romania and was Romania's Country Director for Fauna & Flora International (FFI).

Ms. Pașca Palmer's complete biography is available on our [website](#).

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2016 UN Biodiversity Conference adopts an Action Plan for Capacity Development

The 2016 UN Biodiversity Conference, comprising the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting to the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol, and the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting to the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol, resulted in significant commitments for action on biodiversity.



COP13-COPMOP8-COPMOP2
CANCUN, MEXICO 2016



With respect to capacity development, the Conference adopted, in decision XIII/23, a Short-term Action Plan (2017-2020) to Enhance and Support Capacity-building for the Implementation of the Convention and its Protocols, and requested the Executive Secretary to support, facilitate and coordinate its implementation.

The Action Plan provides a comprehensive set of capacity-building and technical and scientific cooperation activities which will enable Parties to accelerate the implementation of the [Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020](#) and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity

The Action Plan and the full text of decision XIII/23 are available [here](#).

More information on all the outcomes of the 2016 UN Biodiversity Conference is available [here](#).

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Bio-Bridge Initiative Operationalized

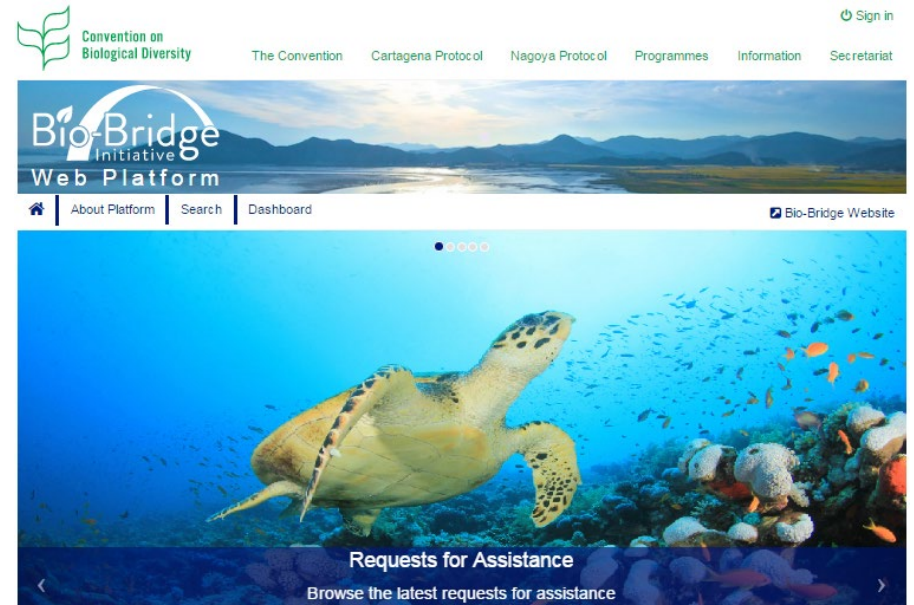


In January 2017, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity embarked on the operational phase of the Bio-Bridge Initiative for technical and scientific cooperation. One of the main achievements, thus far, has been the launch of the [Bio-Bridge Web Platform](#).

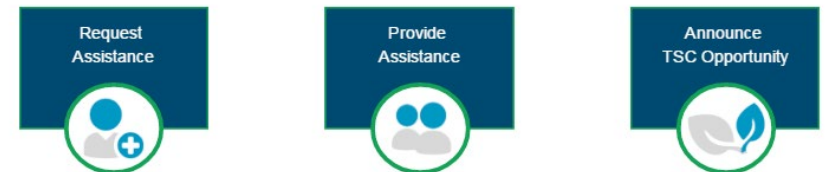
The web platform enables Governments and relevant stakeholders to submit, as appropriate, requests for technical assistance, make offers of such assistance or announce opportunities for technical and scientific cooperation. It also facilitates access to a wide range of technical and scientific knowledge assets and curated resources, and supports knowledge sharing through online discussion forums.

The Secretariat started receiving requests for assistance through the web platform and these are currently being reviewed. Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant organizations are encouraged to actively participate in and support the Bio-Bridge activities.

The Bio-Bridge Initiative was established in 2014 by the Government of the Republic of Korea to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer under the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols. For more information on the Bio-Bridge Initiative visit our [website](#), or contact us at biobridge@cbd.int



SUBMIT INFORMATION



SEARCH INFORMATION



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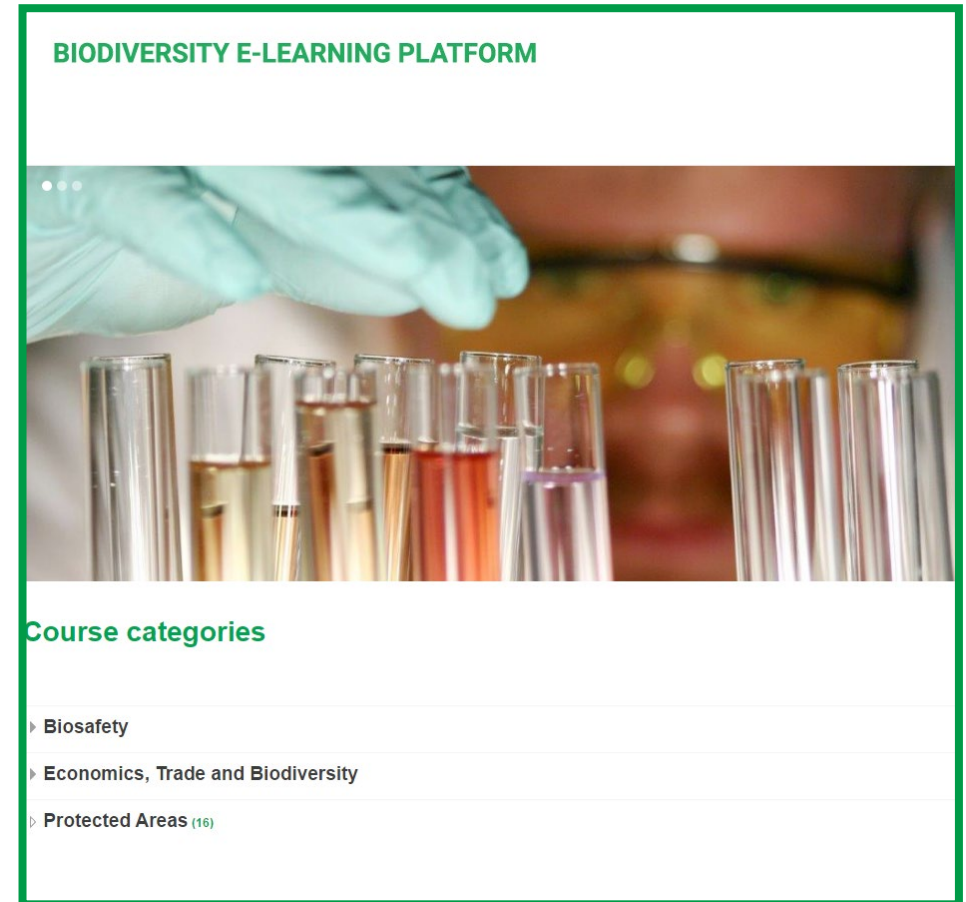
Biodiversity e-Learning Platform Launched

In March 2017, the Biodiversity e-Learning Platform was launched and is accessible [here](#). This platform, developed by the Secretariat with support from the Government of Japan, through the Japan Biodiversity Fund, promotes the use of advanced technologies to further enhance capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer as requested by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention.

The platform provides a one-stop-access to e-learning courses and modules developed by the Secretariat in collaboration with partner organizations, on topics related to the Convention, the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing.

Parties, relevant organizations and interested stakeholders are encouraged to visit the platform and complete relevant modules and courses available. Participants will be able to download certificates for each module they complete.

More information is available by contacting the Secretariat at e-learning@cbd.int



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Japan Biodiversity Fund supports new capacity development activities led by the Secretariat

The Secretariat submitted to the Ministry of Environment of the Government of Japan, a portfolio of 14 new projects to support capacity development in developing countries and countries with economies in transition for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the achievement of its Aichi Biodiversity Targets in collaboration with key partners.



The projects, to be funded under the Japan Biodiversity Fund, will contribute to on-going capacity-building programmes in the following areas: access and benefit-sharing, biosafety and biosecurity, the clearing-house mechanism, invasive alien species, marine biodiversity, plant conservation, protected areas, traditional knowledge, and youth.

Activities will include development of capacity-building materials, face-to-face trainings and dialogues, online trainings and hands-on projects. Projects will be completed before the end of the 2017-2018 biennium.

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Caribbean and Central American countries trained in the application of cross-sectoral and integrated area-based management tools, including marine spatial planning

The Secretariat in collaboration with the Government of Costa Rica, the Caribbean Environment Programme and various partner organizations organized the Sustainable Ocean Initiative Regional Capacity-Building Workshop for the Wider Caribbean and Central America in San Jose from 20 to 24 February 2017.

Participants included practitioners, managers, scientists and experts in fields related to marine biodiversity conservation and fisheries management, as well as representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities.



SUSTAINABLE OCEAN INITIATIVE

The Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) is a global platform established with the support of the Government of the Republic of Korea to build partnerships and enhance capacity to conserve and sustainably use marine and coastal biodiversity in a holistic manner.

More information on SOI is available [here](#)

Participants were trained in the application of cross-sectoral and integrated area based management tools, including marine spatial plan-



They also shared experiences on the implementation of integrated marine and coastal area management, the description of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs), the application of impact assessments (EIA/SEA), the ecosystem approach to fisheries; and the incorporation of traditional knowledge in area-based management tools.

Furthermore, the participants produced concrete road maps towards the development or further strengthening of initiatives for marine spatial planning at sub-national, national or sub-regional scales. They also discussed various ways and means for continuous sharing of experiences and exchange of best practices for achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, through regional platforms, such as the Caribbean Environment Programme, the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME) plus project or relevant regional fishery bodies.

More information about this workshop, including learning material, is available [here](#).

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Parties in the Mediterranean trained on the restoration of forests and other ecosystems



The Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative was established by the Government of the Republic of Korea to support Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets through forest ecosystem restoration.



The Secretariat, in collaboration with the Government of Morocco and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, organized the capacity-building workshop for the Mediterranean on the restoration of forests and other ecosystems to support the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in Agadir, Morocco from 20 to 24 March 2017.



Furthermore, participants shared experiences, success stories and lessons learned from relevant global and regional forest and landscape restoration initiatives, and discussed the main challenges and gaps as well as possible solutions to address them.

This was part of the series of workshops organized under the Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative (FERI) and was an integral part of the Fifth Mediterranean Forest Week.

Participants reviewed their national commitments for the restoration of natural ecosystems, analysed the status of implementation of those commitments and exchanged views on how to improve each other's targets. They also learned from experts various methods and best practices in forest and landscape restoration, and the application of relevant tools, such as the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology or (ROAM), which could support their national implementation plans.

The participants also discussed ways to enhance the sharing of information on available opportunities for scientific and technological innovation and resource mobilization, through interactions with other partner organizations across the Mediterranean.

The workshop helped to develop the capacity of Parties in the implementation of their national plans on ecosystem restoration and to facilitate action towards the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Targets 5, 14 and 15.

More information about this workshop and FERI is available [here](#).

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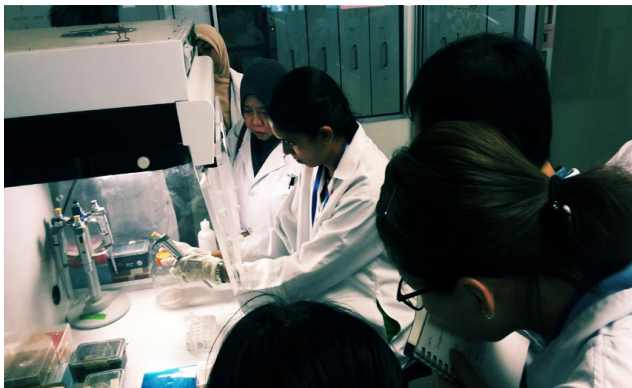


Asia-Pacific countries trained on sampling, detection and identification of LMOs

The Secretariat in collaboration with the Government of Malaysia, through the Department of Chemistry of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, organized the Asia-Pacific Workshop on the Detection and Identification of Living Modified Organisms in Kuala Lumpur from 20 to 24 March 2017.



Furthermore, participants shared relevant experiences, best practices and lessons learned with respect to LMO detection and identification and discussed capacity needs, gaps and challenges encountered in the implementation of operational objectives 1.6 and 2.3 of the [Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol 2011-2020](#).

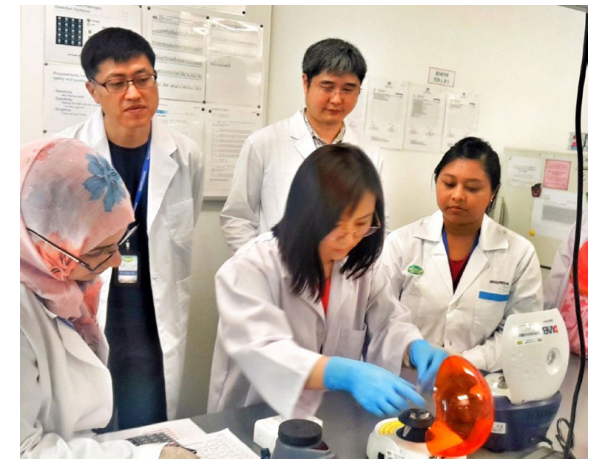


Participants were introduced to general principles and techniques for preparing and handling test samples; procedures for the extraction and purification of DNA from the test samples; protein and DNA-based methodologies and techniques for the detection, identification and quantification of LMOs; as well as laboratory performance criteria, standards and procedures for quality assurance and quality control.

More information about this workshop is available [here](#).

The workshop provided theoretical and practical training on sampling, detection and identification of living modified organisms (LMOs) in a regulatory context.

Participants also discussed key elements of a report usually prepared to communicate the laboratory findings to the regulatory authorities.



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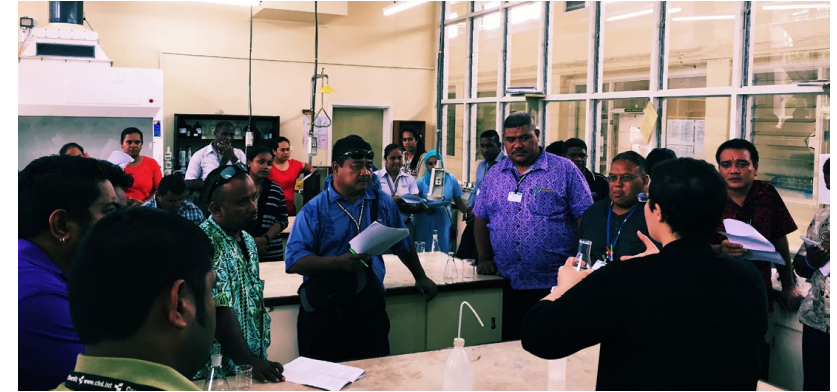
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Customs and Border Control Officers in the Pacific learn about the identification and documentation requirements under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety



The Secretariat, in collaboration with the Government of Fiji, organized a sub-regional workshop for Pacific Small Island Developing States on the requirements of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety with regard to the safe handling, transport, packaging and identification of living modified organisms (LMOs). The workshop was held in Suva from 27 to 29 March 2017.

Customs and border control officers and regulators were introduced to the Protocol's requirements for documentation accompanying shipments of different categories of LMOs. The information required to be provided in the documentation may be integrated into existing shipping documents, such as commercial invoices, waybills, bills of lading and phytosani-



Participants were also introduced to LMO sampling and detection techniques and methodologies.

Furthermore, the workshop also facilitated the exchange of information and national experiences on transboundary movements of LMOs, and the identification of sub-regional needs and gaps with regards to border controls on LMOs.

The e-learning modules on the Cartagena Protocol, developed in the context of the Green Customs Initiative (which are accessible through the Biodiversity e-Learning Platform), were used by the participants as part of the learning package.

More information about this workshop is available [here](#).

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Local capacity-building workshops on traditional knowledge and customary sustainable use conducted using train-the-trainer approaches

Trainers from indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) who were trained during the last biennium by the Secretariat in the context of the training programme on community protocols, traditional knowledge and customary sustainable use with support from the Japan Biodiversity Fund, embarked on delivering local training workshops in their respective communities.



The local workshops were organized to train other trainers from IPLCs and Parties with a view to developing capacity at the local level for the effective implementation of the Strategic Plan on Biodiversity 2011-2020, with a special focus on the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Targets 11, 16 and 18 and the Nagoya Protocol provisions related to IPLCs and traditional knowledge associated to genetic resources.

The Asian Indigenous Peoples Pact, the Inter Mountain Peoples' Education and Culture in Thailand Association, the Nirmanie Development Foundation, the Centre of Indigenous Peoples' Research and Education and the Kalumbay Regional Lumad Organization organized workshops in the Philippines (27-31 January 2017), Nepal (19-22 February 2017), Sri Lanka (20-22 February 2017) and Thailand (9-11 March 2017) respectively.



Participants learned about the Convention and its Protocols, and effective techniques for training others, in their own local languages and context. Participants expressed commitments to sharing the knowledge and skills acquired in the workshops with members of their communities.

More information about the training programme and the regional and local workshops is available on our [website](#).

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South and Southeast Asia workshop on mutually supportive implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity partnered with Bioversity International, the ABS Capacity Development Initiative and the Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture to organize a workshop on mutually supportive implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and the International Treaty for countries in South and Southeast Asia. The workshop was held at the International Rice Research Institute in Los Baños, Philippines from 27 to 30 March 2017.

The workshop brought together national focal points of the Nagoya Protocol and the International Treaty from Bhutan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan and the Philippines to discuss complementarity in policies and procedures for access to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and the sharing of benefits arising from their use. They also discussed possible follow-up activities for promoting implementation of the two agreements in mutually supportive ways at the national level.

In many countries, the national focal points of each agreement are based in different ministries – often Ministry of Environment for the Nagoya Protocol and Ministry of Agriculture for the International Treaty. The workshop helped to build links between the focal points in each country and to equip them with tools to analyze and address real life scenarios at the interface between the two agreements.



The ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity also collaborated in the organization of the workshop and financial support was provided by the Japan Biodiversity Fund, Bioversity International, the Secretariat of the International Treaty and GIZ. More information on the workshop is available [here](#)

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Capacity development opportunities

Call for proposals from sub-Saharan Africa under the Biodiversity Information for Development (BID) Programme (deadline: 9 April 2017)

Postgraduate Certificate in Ecological Survey Techniques Africa Bursary (deadline: 12 May 2017)

More information on these opportunities is available on the [Bio-Bridge Web Platform](#)

Funding opportunities

Funding support is available from the Global Environment Facility to enable eligible Parties to prepare their [sixth national report](#).

Capacity development tools

Resource manual to assist Parties with the preparation and submission of the Sixth National Report available in [six official languages](#).

Upcoming capacity development events

Regional Workshop to Facilitate the Description of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs) in the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea and Training Session on Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas. Baku, Azerbaijan, 24 - 29 April 2017



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