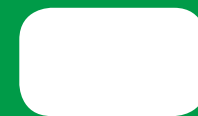
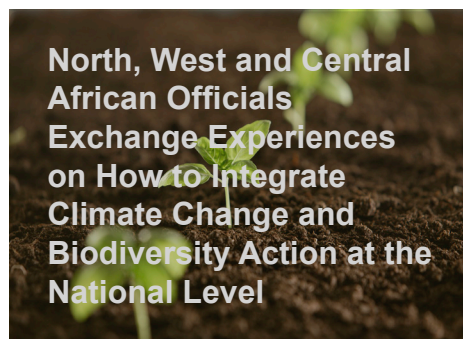
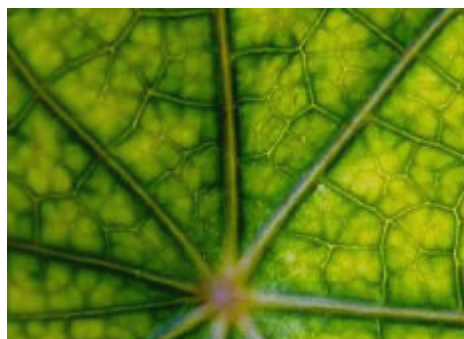


## Biodiversity Capacity Development Update



## Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Trained to Develop National Action Plans on Traditional Knowledge

In the context of the “Capacity development programme on national arrangements for achieving traditional knowledge elements of Targets 18 and 16 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020”, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) convened three regional training workshops, one for Latin America and the Caribbean (2-6 April 2018 in Tepoztlan, Mexico), one for the Pacific region (21-25 May 2018 in Whangarei, New Zealand), and another one for the Asia region (27-31 July 2018 in Kandy, Sri Lanka).

These regional workshops applied the train-the-trainer approach, which focused on preparing participants to train others in their home countries. They also used a blended learning approach, where participants were required to first complete an e-learning course, through the [Biodiversity e-Learning Platform](#), in preparation for the face-to-face component of the training.

The online course, comprising 3 modules, provided background information on the Convention and the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing, with a focus on Aichi Biodiversity Targets 18 (traditional knowledge) and 16 (Nagoya Protocol), as well as on Articles 8(j) (traditional knowledge), 10(c) (customary sustainable use of biodiversity) and related provisions of the CBD.

Over the course of five days, participants had the opportunity to share their experiences regarding national policy measures on traditional knowledge and related issues, including the established rights to grant access to genetic resources. They also discussed how to develop effective national action plans to address traditional knowledge issues according to regional and national realities, and exchanged views and insights about the post-2020 biodiversity framework in preparation for the [2018 UN Biodiversity Conference](#).



Participants also engaged in a hands-on exercise on developing national action plans on traditional knowledge, which gave participants the opportunity to enhance their understanding of traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources under the Nagoya Protocol (Articles 5, 6, 7, 12, 18 and 19), and to strengthen their capacity to make progress in fulfilling their obligations in accordance with Article 8(j) and achieving Targets 18 and 16.

These workshops were made possible by the generous financial support of the Government of Japan, through the Japan Biodiversity Fund, the Government of New Zealand, the Government of Australia, the Government of Sri Lanka, and UN Environment, through the Capacity-Building Programme for Multilateral Environmental Agreements in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific funded by the European Commission. Other support was provided by GIZ, GmbH, the Central American Commission for Environment and Development, and local community organizations, such as He Puna Marama Trust and Nirmanee Development Foundation.

This programme builds on previous trainings and responds to the need for capacity-building activities in relation to customary sustainable use of biodiversity and traditional knowledge under the CBD. More information on the workshops in [Latin America and the Caribbean](#), the [Pacific](#) and [Asia](#) regions available on the CBD website.





## Latin American and Caribbean Officials Strengthen their National Capacities for Biosafety Mainstreaming

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) organized a regional workshop for Latin America and the Caribbean to strengthen national capacities for the integrated implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress and the Convention on Biological Diversity. This workshop, held in Mexico City from 16-20 April 2018, was organized as part of the second phase of a project funded by the Government of Japan through the Japan Biodiversity Fund.

Participants, including Cartagena Protocol and CBD national focal points, NBSAP coordinators as well as officials involved in the implementation or ratification of the Supplementary Protocol, shared their national experiences on the processes and practical steps taken to integrate biosafety in national laws, policies and institutional frameworks.

Participants also shared the major challenges and lessons learned in the process, and made a number of recommendations to further improve the integrated implementation of biosafety at the national level. In addition, Mexico, as a participant in the first phase of the project, shared experiences on how it selected entry points for biosafety mainstreaming and progress made in the implementation of the

Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress.



Subsequently, participants were introduced to an e-learning module and a toolkit on biosafety mainstreaming available on the [Biodiversity e-Learning Platform](#). They also made use of a template developed by the CBD Secretariat and Strathclyde University to assist Parties with the step-by-step drafting of a national strategy for integrated implementation.

Furthermore, participants shared information on ongoing national processes towards signing and/or ratifying the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress, as well as their national efforts to integrate liability and redress into existing regulatory frameworks, national instruments and policies. They also took part in an exercise to review hypothetical cases to

further enhance their understanding of the scope and provisions of the Supplementary Protocol.

Building on the results of the first phase and taking into account the entry into force of the Supplementary Protocol, the second phase of the project is carrying out activities to strengthen the capacities of 10 additional countries. Through 3 regional workshops this project has reached out to 30 Parties to the Cartagena Protocol to improve their capacities to develop national mainstreaming strategies. A series of e-learning material has been prepared to complement and support Parties in their efforts to mainstream biosafety and implement the Supplementary Protocol.

More information on [mainstreaming biosafety](#) is available on CBD website.



## Ten Francophone African Countries Establish a Legal Expert Network on Access and Benefit-sharing

Ten French-speaking African countries (Algeria, Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Cameroon, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, Madagascar, Morocco and Niger) are working collaboratively to establish a francophone African legal network focused on developing legal expertise on access and benefit-sharing (ABS).

This initiative builds upon on the outputs of a GEF-funded project, "Elaboration of a National Legal Framework on ABS for Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge for the Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in Morocco", which developed a national framework in Morocco on access and benefit-sharing of genetic resources and traditional knowledge to promote the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.



With support from the Bio-Bridge Initiative of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the International Development Law Organization and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Morocco is leading the process to establish a network of legal expertise on ABS throughout nine other francophone African countries to support regional and national capacity development activities and the development of national ABS measures.

Morocco hosted the first consultative meeting in Rabat, from 10 to 11 May 2018, to discuss the establishment of the legal network as part of the capacity-building efforts to strengthen ABS legal expertise in francophone African countries. During the two-day meeting, participants, which included ABS legal experts, ABS national focal points and other government officials, discussed the need

for a francophone African ABS legal network, as well as its main priorities, internal structure and the strategy for its operationalization. Participants also shared national experiences with the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol within the legal domain and discussed related capacity development programmes.

Following the first consultative meeting, the participating countries will meet again in September 2018 in Senegal at a workshop on ABS and report on progress. The African ABS Legal Network is expected to play a vital advisory role on legal ABS related issues and facilitate South-South cooperation on capacity development for the national implementation of access and benefit-sharing.

More information on this [demonstration project](#) available on the [Bio-Bridge Initiative](#) website.





## From Korea to India: Using Technology to Protect Asian Big Cats

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, through the Bio-Bridge Initiative (BBI), is coordinating and facilitating a [demonstration project](#) focused on accelerating the conservation of Asian big cats using technology. Under the project, the Republic of Korea working closely with India to apply DNA technologies and standardized methods to facilitate the conservation and rehabilitation of big cats throughout Asia.

Researchers from Seoul National University (SNU, Republic of Korea), Ulsan Nation Institute of Science and Technology (UNIST, Republic of Korea), Wildlife Institute of India (WII) and Amity Institute of Forestry and Wildlife (AIFW, India) are working to develop micro-satellite marking systems for tigers, leopards, lions and snow leopards.



Currently, Asiatic lions, Bengal tigers and snow leopards are all listed as endangered species

on IUCN Red List, and leopards are categorized as vulnerable with a declining population trend. Developing technologies, such as micro-satellite marking systems and molecular tools, will help to monitor the genetic health of surviving populations, as well as prevent illegal wildlife trade.



This project aims to develop the capacity of regional wildlife institutions in India on different aspects of conservation genetics, with researchers from Korea and India working together. Scientific and conservation staff in India are undertaking genetic research overseen by SNU and UNIST to adopt a uniform short-tandem repeat (STR) typing methodology, a method of molecular forensics that is used to identify tissue samples.

The STR typing methodologies will be used to identify micro-satellite genetic marking systems for the different big cat species, which will allow

wildlife institutions to monitor the genetic health of surviving Asian big cat populations. Building capacity on these methodologies will expedite genetic characterization of all wild populations of Asian big cats through adopting a consistent genetic methodology, and foster greater regional cooperation.

Korean researchers have conducted workshops and seminars in India to train researchers on different aspects of conservation genetics, and discuss adopting a uniform genetic methodology. Researchers from both countries will also be working collaboratively on establishing a wildlife genetic facility to promote speedy genetic characterization of the Asian Big Cats' populations in India.

Improvement of research facilities and technical expertise at the regional level, as well as the development of a uniform DNA typing methodology will enable relevant institutions to expedite the genetic characterization of the remaining wild populations of Asian big cats. The project could serve as a model for a uniform approach to population monitoring of Asian big cats in other countries that also hope to expand their efforts to protect and rehabilitate their big cat populations.

More information available on the [BBI website](#).

## National Focal Points Trained on Establishing Legal Frameworks on Access and Benefit-sharing

In the context of the project “Capacity Building Program to Support the Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol”, the International Development Law Organization and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) organized four courses on establishing legal frameworks to support the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in the following regions: Central Africa (5 March-15 April 2018 in Doula, Cameroon), Asia (28 May- 1 June 2018 in Da Nang, Vietnam), Latin America and the Caribbean (16-23 June 2018 in Santiago, Chile) and the Pacific (23-27 July 2018 in Nadi, Fiji).

These courses used a blended approach to learning, consisting of an online component, a face-to-face workshop and engagement in a community of practice on access and benefit-sharing (ABS) to continue learning and sharing after the training has ended. After a rigorous selection process, including endorsement from the ABS national focal points, selected participants took part in a six-week online course in preparation for the face-to-face workshop.

The online course was conducted through the CBD Secretariat's [Biodiversity e-Learning Platform](#) and facilitated the learning of key concepts. A self-paced version is also accessible to the public in English, French, Russian and Spanish through the e-learning platform.



The face-to-face workshop used highly participatory approaches to learning and involved a series of practical exercises (including, inter alia, quizzes, knowledge cafes, role playing and case study presentations) designed to augment the knowledge gained during the online component and foster peer-to-peer learning.

Participants, including policymakers and legal experts engaged in ABS processes, were introduced to different issues and processes relevant to the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. These included establishing legal policy measures for implementation, checkpoints, compliance obligations, monitoring the utilization of genetic resources, stakeholder engagement and the [ABS Clearing-house](#) (ABS-CH).

Participants also discussed some of their

challenges with implementation, citing limited resources and capacity as the main impediments. In addition, participants had the opportunity to create “life maps” (roadmaps) of their national ABS processes and prepared “Ignite” graphic presentations, which aimed at providing viewers with powerful and memorable messages. By the end of the training, participants had defined their personal commitments to move forward the implementation or ratification of the Nagoya Protocol in their countries, including uploading existing information to the ABS-CH.

A total of 79 participants from 46 countries were trained during the four regional workshops, which were facilitated by the CBD Secretariat and IDLO with support from UNDP and regional ABS experts. Other collaborators include SPREP, GEF-UNDP Global ABS Project, ECLAC, COMIFAC, GIZ, the ABS Capacity Development Initiative and the Biodiversity Conservation Agency of Vietnam. Funding was provided by the Government of Japan, through the Japan Biodiversity Fund, the European Union and COMIFAC. Two additional regional training courses will take place in September 2018: Eastern Europe and Central Asia (10-14 September in Minsk, Belarus) and West Africa (17-21 September in Dakar, Senegal).

More information on the [implementation of the Nagoya Protocol](#) available on the CBD website.

## North, West and Central African Officials Exchange Experiences on How to Integrate Climate Change and Biodiversity Action at the National Level

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), in collaboration with SwedBio at the Stockholm Resilience Centre and support from IUCN-Senegal, hosted the fifth iteration of a series of multi-actor dialogues on biodiversity and climate change, in Dakar, Senegal, from 18 to 22 June 2018. The regional dialogues were in response to the request from the Conference of the Parties to the CBD ([decision XIII/4](#)), which encourages countries to integrate ecosystem-based approaches (EBA) to climate change adaptation and mitigation and disaster risk reduction into strategic planning across sectors and in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Ecosystems provide a wide range of ecosystem services that are essential for human well-being and play a key role in helping people adapt to the adverse effects of climate change. Activities that make use of biodiversity and ecosystem services as part of an overall adaptation strategy, including sustainable management, conservation and restoration of ecosystems, are referred to as ecosystem-based approaches for climate change adaptation.

These activities may include: restoration of floodplains for flood protection and water storage; greening of cities to counter the heat

island effect; crop diversification with indigenous varieties that are resistant to climate change; creating protected areas to enhance ecosystem resilience and continued provision of essential ecosystem services, such as erosion control, beach stabilization and water retention; and sustainable management of grasslands and rangelands to enhance pastoral livelihoods and increase resilience to climate-induced drought and flooding.

The week-long regional dialogue included three days of peer-to-peer exchanges covering a range of biodiversity, climate change and sustainable development topics and two days of field visits to areas where EBA to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction are being implemented. During the peer-to-peer exchanges, participants had the opportunity to discuss and share information on how to integrate EBAs in the development of NDCs, national action plans and national biodiversity strategies and action plans. Participants also shared relevant experiences on inter-sectoral approaches and solutions for implementation and integration of EBAs, including financial mechanisms, in national policies and discussed how to engage different stakeholders.

Subsequently, participants visited a sustainable agriculture project, organized through the National Federation for Organic Agriculture (FENAB) in

Thiès, and an artisanal fishing initiative promoting traditional and sustainable fishing practices in Kayar. This field visits allowed participants to exchange experiences on the implementation of EBAs in climate-related policy-making and implementation processes at the national level, and to identify synergies between potential ecosystem approaches providing benefits related to multiple socio-ecological objectives.

Participants recognized the importance of considering climate change and biodiversity issues closely together to harmonize actions and maximize co-benefits, while exchanging with peers and strengthening national coordination. The dialogue brought together actors, representing 18 African countries, indigenous peoples and local communities and local agencies, involved in biodiversity and climate change planning .

More information available on [CBD website](#).





## Building Capacity to Mainstream Gender into National Biodiversity Policies and Programmes

On the margins of the twenty-second meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA 22) and the second meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI 2), the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) co-organized a one-day capacity-building workshop on gender mainstreaming on 1 July 2018 in Montreal, Canada.



A total of 37 participants (24 female and 13 male), representing Parties to the CBD and civil society organizations, including indigenous peoples and local communities, attended. The participants considered key elements of the [2015-2020 Gender Plan of Action](#), including gender mainstreaming tools, methodologies and approaches. They also examined possible synergies in the gender-

responsive implementation of the three [Rio Conventions](#) on biodiversity, climate change and desertification, and identified entry points for gender mainstreaming in CBD decisions and its related mechanisms, particularly through the national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAP) and the sixth national reporting process.



Participants also shared their national experiences and lessons learned regarding the integration of gender perspectives into biodiversity policies and programmes. Some countries, including Ethiopia, Mexico and Malawi, have supported the integration of gender considerations into their national policies, including through the revision of their NBSAP. Youth networks and indigenous peoples and local communities, particularly from Latin America and the Caribbean, have also taken steps to integrate gender considerations into their work.

The workshop was organized to advance engagement on gender issues at a critical moment as Parties to the CBD start conceptualizing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, which will supersede the [Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020](#). Building capacity on gender mainstreaming is critical in order to contribute to the implementation of international mandates with relevance to gender and biodiversity.

More information on [gender and biodiversity](#), including a [technical series on mainstreaming gender into NBSAP](#) and various gender fact sheets, is available on CBD website.





## Countries Share Experiences on Capacity-building for Enhanced Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing

On the margins of the second meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI2) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), held from 9 to 13 July 2018 in Montreal, Canada, the CBD Secretariat, in collaboration of the ABS Capacity Development Initiative, organized two capacity-building side-events in support of the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing (ABS) at the national level.

The first event, which took place on 10 July 2018, offered participants the opportunity to share practical experiences and conceptual insight about national implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. They discussed their capacity-building needs as well as implementation challenges. Many countries still need to adopt ABS measures and establish institutional structures. They also need support for capacity-building and awareness-raising as well as financial and human resources.

To make progress in the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol, capacity-building is particularly needed in the following areas: development of ABS compliance measures and associated traditional knowledge; identification of checkpoints and monitoring the utilization of genetic resources; negotiating mutually agreed terms and understanding the value of genetic resources; and enhancing the capacity of relevant stakeholders and indigenous peoples

and local communities (IPLCs) in relation to ABS.



The second side-event took place on 13 July 2018 and focused on monitoring the utilization of genetic resources through the ABS Clearing-House (ABS-CH). The system for monitoring the utilization of genetic resources, established under Article 17 of the Nagoya Protocol, aims to create greater legal certainty and transparency by helping to ensure benefit-sharing when the genetic resources have left the provider country for their utilization in another country. This is done through the establishment of checkpoints, the internationally recognized certificate of compliance and the exchange of information through the ABS-CH.

In an effort to increase ABS awareness and understanding, the CBD Secretariat in cooperation with the ABS Capacity Development Initiative produced a short animated video clip to explain

how to monitor the utilization of genetic resources through the ABS-CH. The short animated video clip was launched during the side-event and is available in [Arabic](#), [English](#), [French](#) and [Spanish](#).

Through targeted support services, the multi-donor [ABS Capacity Development Initiative](#) facilitates three core processes (developing ABS regulatory and institutional frameworks, negotiating fair and equitable ABS agreements and integrating IPLCs in respective procedures) and has been significantly contributing to the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific since 2016. The guiding principles of the ABS Initiative's approach arise from the third objective of the CBD and the Nagoya Protocol.

More information on the [Nagoya Protocol](#) available on the CBD website.



## Bulletin Board

### Opportunities

Call for applications from indigenous-led organizations and groups in support of indigenous community development for the [Keepers of the Earth Fund](#). Deadline for submission 31 August 2018

Call for fellowship applications for the [NatureNet Science Fellows Program](#) through the Nature Conservancy. Deadline for submission 7 September 2018

Call for proposals that include climate solutions and initiatives from a gender perspective for the [2018 Gender-Just Climate Solutions Awards](#) through the Women & Gender Constituency. Deadline for submission 10 September 2018

### Upcoming Events

Latin American Training Course on Risk Assessment of Living Modified Organisms, Panama City, Panama, 20 - 24 August 2018

Twelfth meeting of the Liaison Group on Capacity-Building for Biosafety, Montreal, Canada, 5 - 7 September 2018

Regional Bio-Bridge Initiative Round Table for Western Europe and Others Group, Brussels, Belgium, 21 September 2018

Central and Eastern European Training Course on Risk Assessment of Living Modified Organisms, Minsk, Belarus, 24-28 September 2018

### About BioCAP

BioCAP: Biodiversity Capacity Development Update has been developed to provide periodic updates on the implementation of the short-term action plan on capacity-building adopted in Cancun by the Conference of the Parties, with a particular focus on the main outcomes of the capacity development and technical and scientific cooperation activities facilitated and supported by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in collaboration with partners. Previous issues of BioCAP are available on the [CBD website](#).

