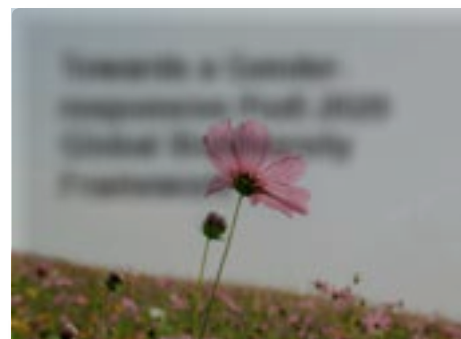


## Biodiversity Capacity Development Update



## Building Momentum for the Preparation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

In its [decision 14/34](#) the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the CBD adopted a comprehensive and participatory process for the preparation of a post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

This process will be supported by an open-ended intersessional working group (OEWG) under the leadership of its two co-chairs, Mr. Francis Ogwal (Uganda) and Mr. Basile van Havre (Canada), and overseen by the [COP Bureau](#).



The first regional consultation meeting on the preparation for the global biodiversity framework was organized in Nagoya, Japan, from 28 to 31 January, for the [Asia and Pacific Region](#).

Subsequent regional consultations were organized for [Western European](#) and Others Group and Other Members of the European Union (Bonn, Germany, 19-21 March), [Africa](#)

(Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 2-5 April), [Central and Eastern Europe](#) (Belgrade, Serbia, 16-18 April) and for [Latin America and the Caribbean](#) (Montevideo, Uruguay, 14-17 May).



The outcomes of the regional consultations will be made available for consideration to the OEWG at its first meeting to be held from 27-30 August 2019 in Nairobi, Kenya. In addition to the regional consultations, thematic consultations on synergies, capacity-building and financial mechanism are planned to further



engage relevant stakeholders and contribute to the process of developing a robust post-2020 global biodiversity framework that incorporates the four key elements of the 2050 vision: value, conserve, restore and wisely use biodiversity.

More information on the [post-2020 process](#), including the reports of the regional consultations, is available on the CBD web site.





## Anglophone African Countries Trained on Risk Assessment of Living Modified Organisms

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity organized, in collaboration with the Department of Environmental Affairs of the Republic of South Africa, a regional training course on risk assessment of living modified organisms for Anglophone Africa from 8 to 12 April 2019 in Pretoria, South Africa. The workshop was organized with financial support from the Government of the Republic of Korea through the Korea Biosafety Capacity Building Initiative.

Participants were trained in theoretical and practical aspects of the risk assessment process, including the methodology and key issues for implementation. They were also apprised of the relevant provisions of the Protocol, namely Articles 15 and 16, and of modern techniques of biotechnology commonly used for genetic modification.



The training also gave participants an opportunity to share their national experiences on risk assessment and on implementation of the Cartagena Protocol in general. As the host, South Africa presented its national biosafety system, including a description of its main components and operations, particularly regarding risk assessment. Other delegates also shared how risk assessment was being carried out in their countries and highlighted their main challenges, weaknesses and strengths.

Participants also took part in practical sessions, where two different case studies were evaluated, one on insect-resistant, herbicide-tolerant maize and another on engineered mosquitoes containing a gene drive element. During these sessions participants were guided and assisted to formulate hypotheses, identify protection goals and assessment end-point, and

apply the risk assessment methodology.

Participants were also trained on the process for accessing funding from the [Global Environment Facility](#) for biosafety projects and how to use the [Biosafety Clearing-house](#).

The training course was the third of the series of such capacity-building courses. A total of 37 participants from Botswana, Egypt, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, Sudan, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe were trained in risk assessment, improving the capacity of the Anglophone African region.

More information on risk assessment, including a [training manual](#) and an [e-training](#), is available on the Cartagena Protocol [website](#).

(c) photo credit: Salome Tsoka, South Africa



## Towards a Gender-responsive Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in collaboration with UN-Women and with support from the Government of Canada co-organized an expert workshop to develop recommendations for the inclusion of gender considerations in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.



The workshop was held from 11 to 12 April 2019 at UN-Women's headquarters in New York. A total of 38 participants representing Parties and experts from international organizations, think tanks, civil society and indigenous people's organizations took part.

Participants considered best practices and developed recommendations to address gender issues in respect to various biodiversity

thematic areas, including agrobiodiversity, fisheries and marine and coastal biodiversity, forestry, ecosystem restoration, conservation approaches, genetic diversity, and in relation to indigenous peoples and local communities.

Key recommendations from the workshop included the importance of women's leadership and their participation in decision-making fora, with a proposal for 50% representation of women in biodiversity-related decision-making bodies and processes. The recommendations also highlighted the need to promote and protect women's rights and access to resources, including women's land tenure security and the need for enabling actions, including awareness-raising, capacity building and appropriate financing.

Other relevant issues raised included the value of recognizing women's collective and informal action, including through protecting and recognizing informal networks; and the importance of addressing violence against women, particularly with regards to women environmental defenders.

Participants considered how the 2050 Vision of living in harmony with nature could be achieved through a gender-responsive post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Principles proposed for the new framework included that it should be rights-based, gender-

responsive, inclusive and participatory.

Furthermore, participants emphasized the importance of future generations, proposing that ecosystem services be maintained in an equitable and just manner for the next generations.

Outputs from the workshop include a two-page brief, "[Towards a gender-responsive biodiversity framework post-2020](#)", and a [submission](#) to the post-2020 process prepared by UN-Women drawing on discussions from the workshop.

More information on the expert workshop is available on the [Post-2020 gender-responsive process](#) page on the CBD website.



## Gulf States Trained on the Development of National Clearing-house Mechanisms

Pursuant to [decision 14/25](#) and in response to the request from the Government of Saudi Arabia (through the [Saudi Wildlife Authority](#)), the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) conducted a sub-regional training workshop on the development of national clearing-house mechanisms (CHMs) for Member States of the Gulf Cooperation Council in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, from 14 to 18 April 2019.



A total of 19 government officials from Bahrain, Oman and Saudi Arabia were trained. The overall objective of the workshop was to strengthen the capacity of participating countries to establish and maintain effective CHMs in support of the implementation of their national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs).

In particular, participants were trained in how to use the features and functionality of the Bioland tool developed by the CBD Secretariat to



establish or further develop their national CHMs. Participants also took part in a practical session demonstrating how Bioland can be used to build surveys and feedback forms for users. They were trained on the latest version of the Bioland tool and were assisted in populating it with relevant country-specific resources.



Participants also took part in an interactive session exploring the [Compendium of Guidance on Key Global Databases](#), which provides details of global-level databases relevant to

the implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions, in an effort to manage information and align national data gathering, reporting, monitoring and indicators (as per [decision XIII/24](#)).

At the end of the training, participants were invited to provide feedback on the operability of the platform and issues relating to the Arabic language. They also shared their experiences and challenges and identified their needs for developing successful CHMs. The Secretariat will consider this feedback in the further development and refinement of the Bioland tool and in the capacity-building activities.

The [training workshop](#) was organized with the financial support of the Government of Saudi Arabia. More information, including presentations and the workshop report, is available on the CBD website.





## Strengthening Linkages Between Biological and Cultural Diversity

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) co-hosted the first North American Dialogue on Biocultural Diversity from 5 to 8 May 2019 in Montreal, Canada. The dialogue explored the links between biological and cultural diversity at the regional level and the implications for solutions for urgent issues of biological and cultural diversity loss and the unsustainable use of natural resources in North America.



The dialogue also facilitated the exchange of knowledge, among representatives from national heritage and biodiversity centres as well as indigenous communities, on a diverse range of topics connected to the preservation and promotion of biocultural diversity with the aim of better informing resource management and decision-making processes.

Participants attended a series of roundtables and interactive panels on themes such as food sovereignty, intergenerational transfer of knowledge, indigenous and ecological revitalization, and the relationships between economy, culture, and ecology. Through these panel discussions, participants identified key factors driving biocultural diversity loss and solutions adopted at different levels to combat it. Participants also learned how the integration of different knowledge and information-sharing systems allow for increased awareness of and solutions for biocultural diversity loss.

In addition, the dialogue discussed proposals for the inclusion of indigenous peoples and local communities and traditional knowledge in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, building on the online discussions carried out by the CBD Secretariat in February and March 2019 on the future work of Article 8j of the Convention.

Furthermore, the dialogue discussed the importance of conservation as a vehicle for the development and revitalization of indigenous languages, in line with the UN Declaration of 2019 as the Year of Indigenous Languages.

The dialogue was organized within the framework of the joint programme of work between the CBD Secretariat and the United Nations Educational,

Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to strengthen the linkages between biological and cultural diversity initiatives, foster capacity building, and enhance synergies between conventions and programmes dealing with biological and cultural diversity at different scales.

Other co-hosts of the dialogue included the Centre for Indigenous Conservation and Development Alternatives (CICADA), the Quebec Centre for Biodiversity Science (QCBS), the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, the Indigenous Peoples and Community Conserved Areas and Territories (ICCA) Consortium, Parks Canada, the Assembly of First Nations, the Center for Biodiversity and Conservation of the American Museum of Natural History and Université de Montréal.

More information on the [North American Dialogue](#) and the [SCBD-UNESCO joint programme](#) is available on the CBD website.



## Cooperation on Biodiversity Data Management for Species and Ecosystem Assessments

The Alexander von Humboldt Biological Resources Research Institute in Colombia and the National Biodiversity Commission (CONABIO) in Mexico were awarded access to the Group on Earth Observations [Amazon Web Services Cloud Credits Programme](#). This new collaboration will enable the two institutions to continue building their new tool for ecosystem integrity assessments for conservation and further develop tools for ecosystem data management for megadiverse countries, which were first made available during two Bio-Bridge Initiative workshops held in August 2018.

Collaboration between these institutions began in 2015 and, with the seed funding provided by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity through the Bio-Bridge Initiative (BBI), they expanded their partnership and built tools and resources for shared conservation efforts. With the support provided through the BBI grant, Colombia, Mexico, Brazil and South Africa continued to work together through a collaborative network to improve biodiversity-related information and data management for species and ecosystem assessments.

In 2018, 32 researchers, geographers, systems engineers and mathematicians from the Humboldt Institute, CONABIO, the National Centre for Flora Conservation (CNCFlora) in Brazil and the South

African Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) attended two workshops and identified common concerns and priorities of data management for species and ecosystem assessments, endangered and invasive alien species, the integrity of ecosystems and other shared targets for future partnerships.



Through the above workshops, participants also developed tools and resources to address some of the identified priorities. These included: (i) a [flexible methodology for ecosystem assessment](#), (ii) a network of systems engineers for knowledge exchange called Coders4Conservation, and (iii) [CONABIO's system of land coverage assessment](#), which other institutions can adapt to their needs as necessary. These tools are freely available for use and adaptation to diverse needs for collecting information and managing conservation data.

The tools developed through the above

cooperation will increase data accessibility, greatly reduce barriers to biodiversity conservation and open avenues for future collaborations between countries. By creating standardized systems to log species and ecosystem information, key data will be more readily available to researchers and environmental authorities, leading to better-informed national policy and decision-making. The tools also support the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, particularly [Target 19](#).

Through BBI, Colombia, Mexico, Brazil and South Africa formed a unique collaborative network and developed an innovative model for technical and scientific cooperation, which allows other megadiverse countries to join and share lessons on data management.

More information about this and other BBI-supported technical and scientific cooperation [projects](#) is available on the CBD website.



# The ABS Clearing-House Supporting the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits from Genetic Resources

The Access and Benefit-sharing (ABS) [Clearing-House](#) is a key tool for sharing information and knowledge related to access and benefit-sharing and for facilitating implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. Parties to the Protocol are required to publish certain mandatory information available at the national level on the ABS Clearing-House.

Making relevant and reliable information available on the ABS Clearing-House enhances legal certainty, clarity and transparency on procedures for accessing and monitoring the utilization of genetic resources along the value chain. It also makes the clearing-house a valuable tool for potential users of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge and supports the development of fair and equitable ABS agreements.

More than ever, potential users of genetic resources are looking to the ABS Clearing-House as the central hub for information on how to legally access and utilize genetic resources and/or traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources in a country. To highlight this type of information, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has launched a new common format called ABS Procedures.

This new tool provides simple and straightforward

guidance for potential users on the basic steps for accessing genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge. It helps potential users to navigate a national ABS system by providing practical information such as key contacts and entry points, the necessary application forms, workflows, visual explanatory information and the expected timelines and costs.

Parties are encouraged to publish their [ABS procedures](#) on the clearing-house as soon as possible, in order to assist potential users understand and follow ABS rules and requirements. They are also urged to make information on each ABS permit available on the clearing-house to constitute an Internationally Recognized Certificate of Compliance (IRCC). When the utilization of a Party's genetic resources happens outside its jurisdiction, maintaining an IRCC on the ABS Clearing-House is a critical step to help monitor how those resources are being used.

Contribution of information to the ABS Clearing-House is not only for governments. The participation of all stakeholders, including indigenous people and local communities and relevant organizations, in sharing relevant ABS information through the clearing-house is essential for the successful implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and ultimately the Convention.

Organizations involved in capacity-building are encouraged to share information about their capacity-building resources and projects, including the lessons learned from their implementation. In return, they can access information registered by other actors, thereby improving coordination, facilitating access to good practices and lessons learned, and improving approaches to building capacity. Partner organizations with websites or large databases of ABS resources can also make use of the clearing-house's interoperability mechanisms to display and share relevant information seamlessly with their own websites.

For more information on the ABS Clearing-House or for any assistance please contact the CBD Secretariat at [absch@cbd.int](mailto:absch@cbd.int)





## Pacific Island States Elaborate a Sub-regional Target and Strategies for Forest and Landscape Restoration

In the context of the Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative (FERI), the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity jointly organized, with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and in collaboration with the Pacific Community (SPC), a sub-regional workshop from 28 to 31 May 2019 in Nadi, Fiji, to support Pacific Island States in developing and implementing national short-term strategies for forest and ecosystem restoration in line with Aichi Biodiversity Targets [5](#), [14](#), and [15](#).

Participants, representing ministries of environment, agriculture and forestry from 10 countries in the region (Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu) as well as key regional and international organizations working on forest restoration, including [UNCCD focal points](#), engaged in in-depth reviews of existing national policies, commitments and targets to evaluate their effectiveness and coherence.



They also developed a common understanding of forest and landscape restoration as a national policy objective and shared national experiences and knowledge on restoration and specific techniques to inform new national policies and sub-regional targets. A roadmap towards the adoption of a Pacific sub-regional target for landscape-based restoration was agreed upon and follow-up at a Ministerial meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 2019.

Participants also identified data needs and capacity gaps for forest restoration and explored different avenues for restoration, such as community engagement, agroforestry, mangrove restoration and assisted natural regeneration, with the aim of tailoring strategies to address the challenges and opportunities unique to each Pacific Island State.

As follow up, the [International Climate Initiative](#) (IKI) project “The Paris Agreement in Action”,

implemented by FAO, will provide specialized technical assistance through its Technical Assistance Facility including to support the preparation of proposals to financing instruments.

Through a series of regional capacity-building workshops, FERI provides countries with best practices and fosters an exchange of experiences to contribute towards the planning and implementation of forest ecosystem restoration. The sub-regional workshop for the Pacific region is the sixth workshop conducted under the FERI.

More information on the outcomes of the sub-regional workshop and other FERI activities are available on the [FERI website](#).



## Trainers from Francophone African Countries Trained to Establish Measures for the Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol

A training of trainers workshop on the Establishment of Measures for the Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol was organized in Casablanca, Morocco, with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), from 11 to 13 June 2019. At least 22 legal experts from Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central Africa Republic, Congo, Ivory Coast, Democratic Republic of Congo, Morocco, Rwanda, Senegal and Tunisia attended.

The workshop utilised an ABS training package and a manual for designing and delivering training at the national level developed by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the International Development Law Organization (IDLO).



The training package was based on the materials used during the six regional training courses on Establishing Measures for the Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol, organised in 2018 in the context of the project

“Capacity-Building Programme to Support the Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol”.

Those courses generated useful materials and knowledge and the participants expressed interest in implementing trainings on access and benefit-sharing at the national level.



In response, the CBD Secretariat and IDLO, with the continued support of the Government of Japan through the Japan Biodiversity Fund, utilised the experience gained from the project and the materials generated to create the above training package, which was first made available to the francophone network of legal experts.

During the second part of the workshop, country teams developed and discussed

preliminary training plans adapted to their national needs and circumstances to support the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. Participants also provided valuable feedback on the training package, which will be used to revise the training manual, and discussed how they could strengthen the African ABS Francophone Network and improve sharing of experiences.

More information on [capacity-building](#) for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol is available on the CBD website



**ESTABLISHING  
MEASURES TO  
IMPLEMENT  
THE NAGOYA  
PROTOCOL**

## Bulletin Board

### Resources and Opportunities

The [CEPA Toolkit including considerations for Access and Benefit-sharing](#) is available on the CBD website.

Call for project proposals for the [Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme](#) (GAFSP).  
Deadline: 10 September 2019

Call for nominations for the [2020 Water Prize](#) of the Stockholm International Water Institute.  
Deadline: 30 September 2019

### Upcoming Events

Global Consultation Workshops on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework in relation to Biosafety and the Cartagena Protocol, and to Access and Benefit-sharing and the Nagoya Protocol, 25 August 2019, Nairobi, Kenya

First meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, 27-30 August 2019, Nairobi, Kenya

Global Capacity-building Workshop on Monitoring the Utilization of Genetic Resources under the Nagoya Protocol, 30 September-2 October 2019, Bonn, Germany

Informal Advisory Committee on Capacity-building for the Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol, 29-31 October 2019, Montreal, Canada

Thematic Consultation on Area-based Conservation Measures for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, 1-3 October 2019, Dushanbe, Tajikistan

Thematic Consultation on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, 6-8 November 2019, Montreal, Canada

### 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](#).

