

**Report of the Informal Meeting of the  
Consortium of Scientific Partners of the Convention on Biological Diversity  
October 16, 2014, Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, parallel to the 12<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties.**

Introduction

Following a side event launching the Republic of Korea's BioBridge initiative on Technical and Scientific Cooperation of the CBD, on Tuesday October 7, 2014, in which time for discussions on issues related to the Consortium of Scientific Partners of the CBD (CSP) was limited, members noted the timeliness of a separate meeting, as it is expected that the CSP will contribute significantly to the initiative. This document highlights the main conclusions of the meeting, moderated by Mr. Oliver Hillel, Programme Officer of the Secretariat, with Mr. Robert Hoft and Ms Junko Shimura also attending. A list of participants is attached as Annex I. As requested by participants, Annex II lists decisions calling for CSP contributions from COPs 10 and 11, as well as options for action on technical and scientific cooperation arising out of COP 12 decisions L12 and L19.

The CSP was created in 2006, parallel to Curitiba COP 8, with seven founding members (the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, the Smithsonian Institution, The Natural History Museum of Paris, The Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew, the German Federal Agency for Natural Conservation, the National Commission for Wildlife Conservation and Development of Saudi-Arabia and the Secretariat of the CBD). An MOU (posted at <http://www.cbd.int/doc/agreements/agmt-museums-2006-03-27-mou-en.pdf>) was signed with the stated objective "to promote the effective implementation of the Convention and its Protocol(s) through the organization of training and education activities focusing on relevant policy, technical and scientific issues", and a Steering Committee of each agency's top executives was established. It is currently composed of 22 institutions listed on <http://www.cbd.int/cooperation/csp/>. The Brazilian institutions Empresa Brasileira de Pesquisa Agropecuária (Embrapa, Brazilian Corporation for Agricultural and Livestock Research) and Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (FioCruz) were invited by the Executive Secretary to join the network in 2014, and FioCruz sent its agreement just after COP 12. Before this, its last meeting was held parallel to the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting in 2012. Past reports are posted at <http://www.cbd.int/cooperation/csp/>.

Meeting notes

Mr. Le Duc of the Paris Museum recalled the origins of the Consortium and some of its activities (such as the training on using GBO-3 outcomes in policy development, at the margins of SBSTTA-14), noted that the level of engagement had been reduced since 2010, and expressed his intention to support a revitalization of the CSP's efforts towards COP 13. Mr. Benitez of CONABIO highlighted the need for enhanced leadership and coordination of best practices and indicated that mutually informing members of planned side events at CBD meetings could be a start – he noted that Mexico, as host of COP 13, has already established an Advisory Committee for preparations, and offered CONABIO's support as liaison. Mr. de Bisthoven of the Belgian Institute, as another founding member, focused on the roles of CSP members in education (also in view of the UNDB) and training/building expertise, also asking that the present report be circulated with the MOU and past references.

Mr. Dongguk of NIBR noted they had joined CSP at COP 10, welcomed this meeting, and reiterated NIBR and Korea's engagement in support of the CSP, particularly as Korea's experience "bridges" the concerns of both developed and developing Parties. Participants welcomed NIBR's contribution and requested more information on the future BioBridge initiative. Ms. Tania Abrahamsi of SANBI highlighted the need to map the Consortium's strengths across its diverse institutional arrangements and mandates, yet noted the importance of keeping the heads of institutions informed; she also emphasized that direct links with CBD Focal Points (particularly in relation to the production and review of NBSAPs and National Reports) are critical. Mr. Garcia of InBio and Mr. Moreno of Humboldt seconded the proposal and highlighted the role of the CSP in triangular and South-South cooperation and in mainstreaming/reaching out to sectors such as agriculture, mining, and infrastructure, with clear links to the SDGs. They called attention to best practices described in documents UNEP/CBD/COP/12/INF/39 and UNEP/CBD/COP/12/INF/39/Add.1, noting that several concrete pilot projects, opportunities and requests are outlined for implementation, with positive links to the recently launched tripartite InBio/Humboldt/CONABIO agreement.

Mr. Lyal of Natural History Museum of London noted that each member should inform the CSP about regional networks of best practices, such as is the case of the Consortium of European Taxonomy Facilities on ABS, and noted that the CSP should remain as an open-architecture platform. Mr. Benitez called attention to the fact that most CSP members already do a lot at national and regional levels on their own, and that efforts of the CSP should be aimed at how to leverage on these efforts – one avenue would be to list and categorize "brightspots" possibly listed by Aichi target. Mr. Le Duc noted that there are past calls for CSP support, and suggested that the SCBD list all related decisions from COP 10 on as annexes to the present report.

Ms Manuela da Silva of FioCruz highlighted the value of technical and scientific cooperation on development, food and water security, and human health, and confirmed the institutions' acceptance of CSP membership. She also announced that Brazil will organize a network of scientific institutions contributing to biodiversity, under the Ministry of Science and Technology. Ms. Williams of Kew called attention to the effectiveness of "knowledge fairs" parallel to CBD events, and Ms Chan of NParks/Singapore noted that their Center for Urban Greenery and Ecology offers training to all Parties, which could be further disseminated. Mr. Hirsch of GBIF explained the complementary role for specialized and regionally mandated agencies, such as SPREP, ASEAN Center for Biodiversity and GBIF, to cooperate with CSP.

During the meeting, members agreed to elect Consortium chairs for the period of 2014-2016. As founding members and considering the upcoming Presidency of the COP 13, Mr. Hesiquio Benitez of CONABIO was elected chair, and Mr. Jean-Patrick of the French Natural History Museum, as well as Mr. Dongguk Han of NIBR (also as representative of the COP 12 Presidency) were elected co-chairs. Mr Le Duc, on behalf of the past coordinators of the CSP, offered a publication as a welcome to NIBR. The chairs requested the Secretariat to circulate this report.

#### **ANNEX I – LIST OF PARTICIPANTS OF THE CSP MEETING**

Mr	Donguk Danny Han	National Institute of Ecology	Korea
Mr	Byoungyoon Lee	National Institute of Biological Resources	Korea
Dr	Jeong-Mi Park	National Institute of Biological Resources	Korea
Dr	Kim Jin Han	National Institute of Biological Resources	Korea
Mr	Sung Ryong Kang	National Institute of Ecology	Korea
Ms	Manuela da Silva	Oswaldo Cruz Foundation, Fiocruz	Brazil
Mr	Jean-Patrick Le Duc	Museum National D'Histoire Naturelle	France
Mr	Randall Garcia Viquez	INBio	Costa Rica
Mr	Rodrigo Moreno Villamil	Humboldt	Colombia
Mr	David E. Schindel	National Museum of History	USA
Dr	Luc Janssens de Bisthoven	Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences	Belgium
Mr	Russell Galt	SANBI	South Africa
Ms	Sofia Treviño Heres	CONABIO	Mexico
Mr	Vincent Fleming	Joint Nature Conservation	UK
Ms	Tanya Abrahamse	South African National Biodiversity Institute	South Africa
Ms	China Williams	Royal Botanic Gardens KEW	UK
Mr	Chris Lyal	Natural History Museum	UK
Mr	Tim Hirsch	GBIF Secretariat	Denmark
Dr	Horst Korn	Federal Agency for Nature Conservation	Germany
Mr	Andrea Cruz Angón	CONABIO	Mexico
Mr	Hesiquio Benítez Díaz	CONABIO	Mexico
Ms	Sarah Kim	National Institute of Ecology	Korea
Mr	Han de Koeyer	Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences	Belgium

## **ANNEX II - COMPILATION OF DECISIONS TAKEN AT COPS 10, 11 AND 12 OF RELEVANCE TO THE CSP**

### **a) X/4. Third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook: implications for the future implementation of the Convention;**

*The Conference of the Parties,*

11. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of the necessary resources:

(c) To further develop, in collaboration with the Informal Advisory Committee for Communication, Education and Public Awareness, members of the Consortium of Scientific Partners, the Coordination Mechanism for the Global Taxonomy Initiative, and other relevant partners, the communication strategy for the third edition of Global Biodiversity Outlook, bearing in mind different audiences, drawing on the draft contained in the note by the Executive Secretary on the preparation of the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook prepared for the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (UNEP/CBD/COP/9/15), and invite Parties, relevant organizations and stakeholders to contribute resources, including financial resources, to the further development and implementation of this communication strategy;

### **b) XI/3. Monitoring progress in implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets; C. Preparation of the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook**

*The Conference of the Parties,*

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to:

(d) Further develop, in collaboration with relevant partners, including the Consortium of Scientific Partners on Biodiversity, and in line with the programme of work on communication, education and public awareness, the communication strategy for the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook, including capacity-building activities on the use of its outcomes and products, seeking synergies with activities under the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity 2011–2020 and other initiatives and events, as appropriate;

### **c) XI/13. Ways and means to improve the effectiveness of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and collaboration with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services**

#### ***A. Improving the effectiveness of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice***

*The Conference of the Parties*

8. *Welcomes* the contribution of the Consortium of Scientific Partners in providing scientific and technical support to the Subsidiary Body;

9. *Invites* the Consortium of Scientific Partners and other organizations such as the International Union for Conservation of Nature and its commissions to support implementation of activities mentioned in paragraphs 6 (*“facilitate side-events and roundtables, including on new and emerging issues, so as to provide relevant, balanced and best available scientific and technical evidence and/or*

information”) and 7 (“elaborate a reference manual for guidance to Subsidiary Body focal points, Bureau members and delegates... on the identification of new and emerging issues” ) above;

**d) XI/26. Global Strategy for Plant Conservation**

*The Conference of the Parties*

13. *Invites* Parties and other Governments to enhance their engagement with partner organizations, including members of the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation and the Consortium of Scientific Partners on Biodiversity, for the development and implementation of the national/subnational strategies and targets;

14. *Invites* botanical and other biodiversity conservation institutions, members of the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation and members of the Consortium of Scientific Partners on Biodiversity to incorporate relevant aspects of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation into their capacity-building activities and training materials, outreach programmes and awareness-raising activities, in order to support Parties as appropriate in enhancing national implementation of the Strategy;

**e) From CBD COP 12 - L12 (Mid-Term Review Of Progress In Implementation Of The Strategic Plan For Biodiversity 2011-2020 Including The Fourth Edition Of The Global Biodiversity Outlook, And Actions To Enhance Implementation)**

7. *Notes* the following general conclusions from the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook:

(f) There are opportunities to support implementation of the Strategic Plan through enhanced technical and scientific cooperation among Parties. Further capacity-building support will also be needed, especially for developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition;

20. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources:

(a) To identify existing and possible ways and means to address the key scientific and technical needs as identified in annex I, in cooperation with relevant organizations, including the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, and to strengthen scientific and technical capacities especially in developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, and countries with economies in transition. Actions or measures to address these needs should include access to and transfer of technologies and the promotion of international technical and scientific cooperation;

*Annex I*

**Key scientific and technical needs related to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020**

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, at its seventeenth meeting, identified key scientific and technical needs related to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including:

- (a) *Social science...*
- (b) *Data and information...*
- (c) *Evaluation and assessment...*
- (d) *Planning and mainstreaming...*
- (e) *Linking science and policy...*

- (f) *Maintenance, conservation and restoration of ecosystems...*
- (g) *Economic instruments ...*
- (h) *Traditional knowledge...*
- (i) *Scientific and technical cooperation...*
- (j) *Different approaches...*

**f) From COP 12 L19, Review Of Progress In Providing Support In Implementing The Objectives Of The Convention And The Strategic Plan For Biodiversity 2011-2020, And Enhancement Of Capacity-Building, Technical And Scientific Cooperation And Other Initiatives To Assist Implementation**

**B. *Enhancing support in implementing the objectives of the Convention and its Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020***

*The Conference of the Parties,*

...

*Recognizing* the importance of a coherent and mutually supportive approach regarding capacity-building, exchange of information, technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer under the Convention and its Protocols,

...

*1) Provision of support for revising, updating and implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans and capacity-building*

...

8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to availability of resources:

- f. To ensure that information on capacity-building and technical and scientific cooperation needs, opportunities and activities is shared effectively across and accessed through all platforms under the Convention;
- g. To facilitate matching between needs, opportunities and activities, for capacity-building, *inter alia*, by organizing special matching side events during relevant regional and international meetings;

*2) Technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer*

9. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with partners, taking into account and avoiding duplication with other efforts, such as those of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), and subject to the availability of resources, to enhance technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer under the Convention, with a view to supporting the effective implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets, as well as revised and updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans, by, *inter alia*:

- (a) Facilitating the communication of technical and scientific needs and priorities of Parties, utilizing the clearing-house mechanism and other appropriate means;
- (b) Further enhancing the availability and accessibility of information with respect to best practices and expertise for technical and scientific cooperation to make it more readily and effectively available through the clearing-house mechanism and other appropriate means, and encouraging and supporting South-South and triangular cooperation for mutual strengthening of the capacities of developing country Parties;
- (c) Facilitating the linking of the needs of Parties with support for technical and scientific cooperation by relevant global, regional and national organizations and initiatives;
- (d) In the context of paragraph 1(c) above and building on existing structures, promoting thematic, cross-cutting and regional pilot programmes for technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer;
- (e) Reporting on progress to the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention at its sixth meeting, or to its successor body, in ways that assist evaluation of progress in the transfer of technology and technical and scientific cooperation, including through information in national reports;

10. *Encourages* developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States among them, and Parties with economies in transition, as well as indigenous and local communities, to make available information regarding their technical and scientific needs and priorities, and needs for technology transfer, and to make them available through the clearing-house mechanism;

11. *Encourages* Parties, other Governments, relevant organizations, stakeholders and other entities, taking into account and avoiding duplication with other efforts, to participate in and contribute to technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer under the Convention, and in particular:

- (a) To share, including through the clearing-house mechanism, as appropriate, information on good practices and the provision of expertise for technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer;
- (b) To provide technical and scientific support and associated capacity-building, using the information made available pursuant to paragraph 8(a) above;
- (c) To promote collaborative partnerships for technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer on a thematic, cross-cutting and/or regional basis;

...

13. *Welcomes with appreciation* the proposed Bio-Bridge Initiative as an important contribution to the Pyeongchang Roadmap on enhancement of technical and scientific cooperation in the context of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Targets.

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