



Convention on Biological Diversity

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REGIONAL CAPACITY-DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP
FOR CENTRAL AFRICA ON NATIONAL
BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS,
AND THE MAINSTREAMING OF BIODIVERSITY

Limbé, Cameroon

22 to 25 September 2008

WORKSHOP REPORT

INTRODUCTION

1. The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity has recommended that regional and/or subregional workshops be convened to discuss national experiences in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs), and the integration of biodiversity concerns into relevant sectors, including consideration of obstacles and ways and means for overcoming the obstacles (decisions VIII/8, paragraph 6, and IX/8, paragraph 17). In response, the Executive Secretary has organized a series of regional and subregional capacity-development workshops on these issues.
2. The regional workshop for countries of Central Africa was organized by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in collaboration with the Government of Cameroon, and with the technical and financial support of the Commission for the Forests of Central Africa (COMIFAC). It was held in Limbé, Cameroon, from 22 to 25 September 2008.
3. The purpose of the workshop was to strengthen national capacities for the development, implementation, review and updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and for mainstreaming biodiversity into relevant sectors (e.g., agriculture, forestry, fisheries, tourism), national policies, strategies and planning processes, including cross-sectoral national strategies such as National Planning Strategies, Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, National Strategies for Sustainable Development, activities for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and local planning processes .
4. The workshop aimed to promote the exchange of experiences and training on the use of relevant tools and mechanisms and provide an opportunity for Parties to identify ways and means to overcome obstacles associated with the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, as well as inform the ongoing review of implementation of goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan of the Convention.
5. The workshop took place in the conference facility of the Seme Beach Hotel in Limbé and was attended by 45 participants from 9 countries (Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Sao Tome and Principe), together with representatives of United Nations and Specialized Agencies (Convention on Migratory Species, Food and Agriculture Organization, UNDP-GEF Regional Coordination Unit, UNEP Great Ape Survival Project); inter-governmental organizations (Commission for the Forests of Central Africa, IUCN

Cameroon, Network of Parliamentarians for the Sustainable Management of Central African Forest Ecosystems); the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ); as well as representatives of non-governmental and local community organizations. The complete list of participants is available on the website of the Convention at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=NBSAPCBW-CAFR-01>. The workshop was conducted in French.

6. In parallel, a regional capacity-building workshop for Central Africa on the theme of integrating plans for migratory species, particularly gorillas, into NBSAPs, was organized by the UNEP Convention on Migratory Species (CMS). The conduct of joint CBD/CMS work sessions provided a good opportunity for participants to each workshop to exchange information, ideas and experiences on mainstreaming issues in their countries and within the region and to identify activities for future collaboration.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE WORKSHOP

7. The workshop was opened at 9 a.m. on Monday, 22 September 2008, by the Representative of H.E. Mr. Pierre Hele, Minister of Environment and Nature Protection of Cameroon, who highlighted the importance placed on biodiversity in Cameroonian policy and recalled that Cameroon had hosted the 1999 Central African Summit of Heads of State which led to the adoption of the Yaoundé Declaration on biodiversity conservation and forest management and to the creation of the Commission for the Forests of Central Africa (COMIFAC) which has its headquarters in Cameroon. He highlighted the enormous potential of the Congo Basin Forest Ecosystem for carbon sequestration projects and that illegal resource exploitation together with a high demographic growth rate threatened the sustainable use of biological resources. He underscored that the major challenge faced by COMIFAC countries today relates to the lack of biological resource valuation required for resource conservation and sustainable use. In this regard, the NBSAP should serve as a mechanism for integrating these concepts and for supporting implementation of actions aimed at eradicating poverty and improving the quality of life for human populations.

8. The Representative of Minister Hele further added that effective implementation necessitates that joint efforts be undertaken by both governments and the local populations and stressed that the benefits resulting from resource conservation be shared with the local populations. He drew attention to the workshop held for the COMIFAC countries in Douala following COP-9 on issues related to the critical role of indigenous and local communities in biodiversity conservation.

9. The Representative of Minister Hele thanked the organizations that had supported the conduct of the NBSAP workshop while inviting further support from the Global Environmental Facility and bilateral donors to enable the COMIFAC countries to implement their NBSAPs and NBSAP revisions.

10. On behalf of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the Executive Secretary of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species, Mr. Eric Belvaux welcomed participants to the workshop, thanking the Government of Cameroon, particularly H.E. Mr. Pierre Hele, Minister of Environment and Nature Protection, for having accepted to host the workshop and for all efforts undertaken by his ministry to ensure its success. Ms. Mary Fosi Mbantenkhu, CBD National Focal Point for Cameroon, was also acknowledged for her contribution to the organization of the workshop. Gratitude was also expressed to the COMIFAC Executive Secretary and to the members of his team for the technical and logistical support provided to the workshop, as well as to the COMIFAC French-German Support Bureau for the financial support provided for the workshop. Mr. Belvaux made particular mention of the very efficient logistical support provided by the Bureau's office over the course of the previous few days.

11. Mr. Belvaux reminded participants that COP-10 will be held in October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan, and will assess the progress achieved towards the 2010 Biodiversity Target adopted at COP-6 in 2002 with the objective “to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level as a contribution to poverty alleviation and to the benefit of all life on Earth”.

12. The challenge is enormous, a fact further confirmed by the 2005 Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MEA) which highlights that considerable efforts are still necessary to achieve the 2010 Biodiversity Target. The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment also suggests that biodiversity loss and the decline in ecosystem services threaten the achievement of other important milestones, such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). While it is important to consider the contribution of biodiversity to the MDGs, this should not be restricted to Objective 7 alone but rather encompass other MDG goals such as nutrition, health, education and gender equality as well. Consequently, the necessity to consider conservation and the sustainable use of biodiversity as key elements in regional and national development policy cannot be ignored.

13. Mr. Belvaux stressed that, within the context of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership, the COMIFAC working group on biodiversity for Central Africa (GTBAC) has a major role to play in assembling the member countries and, as such, can be considered a pioneer at the global level in these types of activities. He further elaborated on the partnership established over the last months between the Secretariat and the GTBAC and to the identification of specific activities that can contribute to several objectives of the “Plan de Convergence” of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership.

14. Within the above context, the importance of NBSAPs is clear. These documents are the cornerstone of the Convention and the only real means to implement provisions at the national level. Mr. Belvaux encouraged all Parties that had not prepared their NBSAP to do so as soon as possible while encouraging those who have already done so to monitor implementation at the national level. He explained that the aims of the workshop were to provide countries with renewed energy to prepare or update their NBSAP based on the best tools and techniques available while acknowledging the essential role of the NBSAP to contribute to poverty eradication. Additionally, the workshop aimed to promote the application of the best tools and techniques to mainstream biodiversity in sectoral and cross-sectoral policies, such as the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper and the National Strategy for Sustainable Development.

15. The Executive Secretary of COMIFAC and the Mayor of the local community of Idenau also delivered opening statements.

ITEM 2. OVERVIEW OF THE OBJECTIVES AND PROGRAMME FOR THE WORKSHOP

16. Mr. Eric Belvaux presented an overview of the objectives and expected outcomes of the workshop and introduced participants to the programme for the workshop as outlined in document UNEP/CBD/NBSAP/CBW-CAFR/1/1/Add.1. He elaborated on the role of the NBSAP for Central Africa countries to achieve concrete results, guide public policy, identify priorities, involve national stakeholders in related processes, including those undertaken in the economic sectors (e.g., agriculture, forests, fisheries, tourism) and in cross-sectoral processes related to, for example, planning, poverty reduction, climate change adaptation. While the majority of CBD Parties have prepared NBSAPs, Mr. Belvaux highlighted the following as the major shortfalls of most of the NBSAPs:

- While biodiversity mainstreaming has occurred in some economic sectors (e.g., forestry, tourism), mainstreaming is weak in national sustainable development strategies, poverty reduction strategies, planning processes;
- Few NBSAPs incorporate measurable targets or respond directly to the 2010 Biodiversity Target;

- Lack of communication strategies for NBSAPs;
- Absence of integration of the Ecosystem Approach in NBSAPs;
- Lack of knowledge on the contribution of biodiversity and ecosystem services to human well-being (using the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and other evaluation mechanisms);
- In general, action plans focus on the implementation of projects rather than on policy or institutional considerations;
- Problematic financing and budget allocations for NBSAPs;
- Lack of innovative financing mechanisms for NBSAPs;
- Lack of development of subnational biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- Lack of national monitoring mechanisms incorporating indicators;
- Insufficient information available on implementation.

17. Under this agenda item, participants introduced themselves. Participants then broke into small groups in order to identify some of their expectations for the workshop which were later presented to plenary as follows:

- Identification of tools for NBSAP and revised NBSAP preparation and implementation;
- Enhancement of NBSAPs through learning from other countries and identifying opportunities for additional technical and financial support;
- Identification of tools for the preparation of a financing plan for NBSAP implementation, including integrating biodiversity in ministerial budgets;
- Additional information on the potential contribution of biodiversity conservation to poverty reduction;
- Identification of tools for the integration of biodiversity in sectoral strategies, National Development Strategies and Plans, Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, Strategies for Rural Development;
- Information and exchange of experiences on the role of tourism in NBSAP activities;
- Identification of tools for the integration of plans for migratory species, particularly gorillas, in NBSAPs;
- Reinforcement of collaboration among CBD National Focal Points, CMS National Focal Points and GRASP National Focal Points from the region;
- Identification of tools for the participation of children and youth in processes related to NBSAP implementation, including securement of financing for the conduct of subregional workshops for these age groups;
- Identification of synergies among actions related to implementation on the ground;
- Identification of information and tools for the development of a communication strategy for mainstreaming biodiversity in others sectors;
- Identification of ways the Botanic Gardens of the Cameroonian sub-region can contribute to NBSAP implementation and implementation of activities on the ground; and

- Information on the role of biodiversity conservation in forest concessions and the production of non-timber forest products.

ITEMS 3 & 4. STATUS OF DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS, AND UPDATING AND IMPROVEMENT OF NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS

18. Mr. Eric Belvaux of the CBD Secretariat recalled: the importance the Conference of the Parties attached to NBSAPs as the principal vehicle for national implementation of the Convention; decision VIII/8 calling for a full assessment of the status of NBSAPs; decision IX/8 calling for the adoption of national biodiversity goals and targets, the development of national communication, education and public awareness (CEPA) strategies, support for sub-national biodiversity strategies, the development of national biodiversity indicators, the use of the Ecosystem Approach, improved national reporting; and increased access to resources.

19. Mr. Belvaux reminded participants that this workshop was one in a series of regional NBSAP capacity-development workshops being organized by the Secretariat in response to the request of COP-8. Outcomes of workshops conducted earlier in the year had been communicated to COP-9 in May 2008. Outcomes of the entire series of workshops would be consolidated to inform the deliberations of COP-10 in 2010 on further guidance to Parties on NBSAPs and implementation of the Strategic Plan, including assessment of the progress in meeting the 2010 Biodiversity Target.

20. Under this agenda item, participants the following countries presented a brief overview of the main features of the NBSAP in their country, its implementation and examples of biodiversity mainstreaming in national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

Burundi (Mr. Adelin Ntungumburanye)

Achievements in the implementation of the NBSAP, adopted in 2000, comprise CEPA activities, including a CD-ROM on CEPA and a DVD prepared in a local language; updates to legislation on protected areas that had been submitted for adoption; creation of a northern protected aquatic landscape resulting in the conservation of more than 30000 ha; limits placed on the exportation of threatened species and their commercialization; monitoring of fishing activities in Lake Tanganyika; integration of the local population in conservation activities in Kibira National Park; planting of nurseries of *Prunus africana* in Kibira National Park. Burundi has also implemented a national biosafety framework and, through Belgian assistance, created a specialized diploma programme in landscape management and terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity now offered at institutions of higher learning. A protocol has been recently signed with Rwanda for the transboundary management of Nyungwe and Kibira national parks. Certain constraints to NBSAP implementation were identified, such as the non-implementation of the biodiversity management committee and coordination unit due to lack of financial, human and material capacity and the absence of regulations on access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing, monitoring mechanisms and updated legal texts.

Cameroon (Mrs. Mary Fosi Mbantenkhu)

The NBSAP was prepared between 1997 and 1999 and adopted in 2002. It endorses the use of the Ecosystem Approach, contains indicators and promotes a vision for sustainable development, improved human well-being, preservation of ecosystem equilibrium and the transmission of rich biodiversity to future generations. However, NBSAP implementation has been very limited. Cameroon experiences several problems related to the intense commercialization of certain species and the anarchic occupation of critical sites. A partial NBSAP revision was prepared in 2006. Subsequently, a gap analysis underscored the need for the final revision to address additional issues such as those related to the fisheries and forestry sectors, capacity development, sustainable financing, policy and legislation,

institutional arrangements at various government levels, synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions, cross-sectoral integration of traditional knowledge and the promotion of ecotourism. Another partial NBSAP revision prepared in 2008 emphasizes biodiversity conservation in sectoral plans for forests, wildlife, economy, planning, regional development, agriculture, rural development, livestock, fisheries, animal industries and tourism.

Central African Republic (Mr. Jacques Paulin Regner)

The NBSAP was adopted in 2003. A major constraint to implementation results from the industrialization of wood and bushfires. In general, progress in implementation has been fair to weak with several important aspects such as information exchange mechanisms, Millennium Development Goals, emerging issues on climate change, being absent from the current NBSAP. A lack of financing measures, lack of economic valuation of biodiversity and weak participation from planning and finance ministries in implementation processes were highlighted as issues requiring considerable improvement in order for progress to be made. Interest was expressed in the potential contribution of UNESCO to activities in support of CBD implementation in Central Africa.

Chad (Mr. Habib Gademi)

Chad prepared its NBSAP in 1999. The NBSAP has not been integrated in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper. Desertification processes and anthropogenic pressures, such as bushfires, poaching, poverty, were highlighted as elements contributing to biodiversity erosion. Mainstreaming measures have been extremely limited. Problems constraining NBSAP implementation are, among others, institutional weaknesses, outdated texts, inadequate regulatory tools, lack of systematic land planning, lack of involvement of local populations in protected area planning and management, poor information dissemination, non-operationalization of the national CHM, intercommunity conflicts, political-military conflicts, insufficient specialists in key biodiversity areas, length of time to receive GEF funds. A mix of modern and traditional regulatory systems are in place.

Congo (Republic of) (Mr. Augustin Ngoliele)

The NBSAP was prepared in 2001 however still awaits formal government adoption. Its preparation was supported by other existing strategies and action plans, such as the National Action Plan for the Environment, the National Action Plan for Forests and the Guiding Principles for Rural Development. A national vision for 2015 emphasizes the security of biological resources through a better understanding of their components and sustainable use made possible by human capacity development, socio-economic development and the equitable redistribution of benefits in respect of international engagements. The strategy stresses the mainstreaming of plans and implementation activities through actions undertaken by governmental and non-governmental groups, private sector, religious groups and other users of biodiversity. The main objectives of the strategy pertain to biodiversity valuation and the communication of this information to the public by various means, including through educational, research and training institutions. Implementation successes include the establishment of a national clearing-house mechanism, attainment of 11% of national protected area coverage, completion of capacity needs assessments on the themes of traditional knowledge, in situ and ex situ conservation, monitoring (including taxonomy), access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing. Notably, a principle environmental objective of the National Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper is to guarantee the protection of natural heritage and the sustainable use of biological diversity.

Democratic Republic of the Congo (Mr. Mike Ipanga Mwaku)

The NBSAP of the Democratic Republic of the Congo was adopted in 2000 following the development of the National Environment Plan whose provisions were considered in the development of the NBSAP. The NBSAP is divided into 3 parts: general overview; national strategy; national action plan, including provincial action plans. The Democratic Republic of Congo recognizes the need to update the NBSAP and to integrate the Millennium Development Goals in the revised document as well as harmonize actions with those contained in the National Action Programme of Adaptation to Climate Change (NAPA) as well as integrate the NBSAP in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper. Moreover, the country acknowledges the importance of highlighting the economic value of biodiversity in various planning programmes as well as the importance of developing a communication strategy for the NBSAP and using the national clearing-house mechanism for broadcasting and disseminating information.

Equatorial Guinea (Mr. Antonio Micha Ondo)

The NBSAP of Equatorial Guinea was adopted by decree in 2005 following cabinet approval. It focuses on integration with national plans in an attempt to avoid duplication of effort and conflicts of interest. However, the absence of an integrated management approach and need for further identification of synergies remain obstacles to implementation, as does a lack of CEPA activities. The end of commercial forest concessions was noted as a major implementation success while other successes include the establishment of the National Committee for the Environment (CONAMA) and promotion of multi-sectoral participation, in response to the 2003 National Law for the Environment. Separate instruments dealing with implementation of administrative, financial, legislative, institutional, educational, research, monitoring and evaluation issues have also been created under the umbrella of CONAMA. The National Plan for Economic and Social Development, to be implemented up to 2020, contains the objective to conserve biological diversity. Although a financing mechanism for the environment has also been established, it has not yet been operationalized.

Gabon (Mr. Emmanuel Bayani Ngoyi)

The NBSAP of Gabon, adopted by the Council of Ministers in 2000, contains partial measures aimed at poverty reduction and sectoral and cross-sectoral biodiversity integration. However, to date, biodiversity mainstreaming has been largely ineffective. There is recognition of the importance of involving local communities in sustainable management activities linked to micro production units and equitable benefit-sharing arrangements that can provide revenue for the communities. Although biodiversity is considered in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, financing for activities is insufficient. Moreover, the NBSAP does not integrate the Millennium Development Goals, new and emerging issues, CBD work programmes (including those related to the 2010 Biodiversity Target). This is due in large part to the non-consideration of these issues by financial actors. In response, Gabon has prioritized activities aimed at economic diversification and rural development, including those related to debt for environment swaps. Three sectors (forestry, fisheries, environment) have been targeted. Also highlighted was the need to revise the NBSAP, increase knowledge on the economic value of biodiversity among actors in the financing and planning sectors, establish a sustainable financing mechanism, develop biodiversity indicators, consider what subnational actions are required, strengthen the roles of the CHM and UNESCO in Central Africa, revise Strategic Objective 4 of COMIFAC's "Plan de Convergence" in regard to the mission of GTBAC.

21. In discussions following the country presentations on subsequent days ("Catches of the Day") and from workshop exercises, participants identified the need to address the following issues in order to effectively prepare and implement the NBSAP and NBSAP revisions and mainstream biodiversity:

Knowledge gaps

- Lack of consideration of all biodiversity components
- Under-development of links between biodiversity and poverty
- Lack of biodiversity valuation (including regarding the calculation and integration of economic and ecological values of biological diversity in the National Gross Domestic Product (GDP))
- Lack of identification of livelihood alternatives
- Lack of identification of the *precise* impediments to NBSAP implementation

Institutional support

- Lack of political support, institutional stability and cohesion
- Need for the establishment of an interministerial committee, involving National Focal Points of the Rio Conventions, to facilitate consultation and coordination of matters (including the mobilization of funds)
- Need to increase “ownership” of activities by government, sectors, cross sectors, etc. (e.g. increase ownership of the NBSAP by primary actor (Ministry of Environment), secondary actor (media) and tertiary actor (Ministry of Finance))
- Need to optimize the uses of the institutional mechanisms for NBSAP implementation and monitoring

Policy/Legislation

- Need to develop biodiversity legislation, adapt/revise existing legislation related to biodiversity
- Need to introduce “sustainable development” and “environmental education” in legislation
- Need to clearly define NBSAP format and methodology
- Need to increase the application of the Ecosystem Approach
- Need to harmonize activities related to implementation of the Rio Conventions, National Sustainable Development Plans, Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, etc. throughout the NBSAP
- Need to address the involvement of women (Gender Approach) and children in NBSAP implementation
- Need to integrate the Great Apes Survival Partnership (GRASP) in the NBSAPs
- Need for development of compensation mechanisms for biodiversity conservation
- Need to clarify the role of protected areas vis-à-vis ecotourism
- Need to develop proposals for marine protected areas
- Need to comprehensively identify timber and non-timber forest resources for sustainable forest management

- Need to address conflicts between industrial twin trawling and artisanal fishing
- Need to address the challenges associated with the unsustainable exploitation of forest products for fuel wood
- Need for increased involvement of forest concessions in biodiversity conservation
- Need to clarify the role of women vis-à-vis the production of non-timber forest products

Communication, Education and Public Awareness

- Need to develop a CEPA strategy that is *dynamic*
- Need to *realistically* overcome barriers between public service sectors through the adoption of a new approach to doing things
- Need for lobbying of decision-makers
- Need for COMIFAC to be proactive in disseminating information to local populations (local environmental technicians should receive the right documents (studies, reports, etc.))
- Need for clarification on COMIFAC's role in the bushmeat market crisis (all species should not be placed in the same category)
- Need to clarify definitions of “biodiversity” versus “sustainable development” versus “poverty eradication”
- Need to communicate biodiversity messages among 3 key stakeholders, namely, government (reponsible for establishing strategy), funding agencies, organizations working on the ground (involved in biodiversity valuation activities)
- Need for National Focal Points to communicate with grassroots field project employees
- Need to raise awareness on the importance of protecting mangrove forests
- Need to increase usage of the CBD Clearing-House Mechanism and National Clearing-House Mechanism for harvesting and disseminating information

Cooperation

- Need for COMIFAC to clarify processes regarding its relationship with member countries and management functions
- Need to increase partnerships with United Nations agencies, CIFOR, NGOs, GICs, local populations, certifiers, etc.
- Need for increased coherence among agreements with development agencies
- Need to capitalize on activities implemented by NGOs on the ground
- Need to increase the involvement of local and indigenous communities in NBSAP implementation
- Need to motivate and increase the participation of local and indigenous communities in the establishment of protected areas
- Need for increased support for NGO activities on environmental impact assessments (EIA)

Follow-up and Monitoring

- Need for follow up, monitoring and evaluation activities
- Need for methodology and mechanisms for quantifying results
- Need for technical support
- Need to reinforce, monitor and evaluate application of legislation and regulations at various levels, including as relates to subregional treaties, programmes, plans
- Need to develop mechanisms for monitoring and control of fishing methods

Financing

- Need for a sustainable financing mechanism
- Need to include financial planners and economists in financing activities
- Need to mobilize innovative financing mechanisms (e.g., sustainable tourism, carbon market (REDD+), conversion of debt schemes, non-timber forest products)
- Need to approach partners (e.g., FAO) in regard to the development of small- and medium-sized businesses in non-timber forest products
- Need to develop economic arguments to raise the interest of other development sectors involved in activities for poverty reduction

ITEM 5. INTEGRATING BIODIVERSITY INTO SECTORAL AND CROSS-SECTORAL PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND POLICIES

22. The importance of integrating biodiversity considerations into relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral strategies, plans and programmes is underlined in Article 6(b) of the Convention and has been stressed in many decisions of the Conference of the Parties. This includes the request of COP-8 which, in considering the implications of the findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, urged Parties and other Governments to promote dialogue among different sectors, to mainstream biodiversity at the regional and national levels including, when appropriate, through the processes of the Convention, to address linkages between the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and, among others, mainstream biodiversity concerns in sectoral and cross-sectoral plans (e.g., National Planning Strategies, Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, National Strategy for Sustainable Development), communication strategies and in plans of the economic sectors (e.g., agriculture, forestry, fisheries, tourism, mining, energy).

23. Mr. David Cooper of the CBD Secretariat stressed the importance of taking the Ecosystem Approach into account in the development and improvement of the NBSAP. He further underscored the necessity to place the ecosystem in an economic context, mainstream efforts through the involvement of all relevant sectors of society and scientific disciplines, while promoting cooperation among them, and to decentralize activities as much as possible to the local level and apply principles of adaptive management as appropriate. He elaborated on the potential contribution of biodiversity and ecosystem services to poverty reduction, national development and human well-being, through the use of the methodologies and conceptual framework of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and other biodiversity valuation tools. He also stressed the need to identify the main threats to biodiversity, including direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity change.

National case studies, subnational initiatives

24. Ms. Chantal Nkey Ngonu (Democratic Republic of the Congo) delivered a presentation on the cross-sectoral integration of biodiversity in the mining, forest and agriculture sectors, as well as in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, stressing that activities were impeded primarily by inadequate organization of public institutions, the absence of framework environmental legislation, insufficient engagement of local and indigenous communities in resource management and poverty. Positive developments include the promulgation of a mining code calling for the prior conduct of EIA and consideration of biodiversity values within the mining perimeter. Additionally, the forest code (2002) highlights a new approach towards environmental services, non-timber forest services, synergies between biodiversity and climate change challenges, among other activities. The Ministry of Agriculture and Development has recently instituted a programme promoting the use of organic fertilizers and the rational use of pesticides. Intensive agricultural practices are also being promoted.

25. Ms. Marthe Mapangou (Gabon) delivered a presentation on a case study undertaken in Gabon on the integration of biodiversity in financial planning, promotion of economic diversification, including a mechanism for debt conversion among traditional creditors of countries in the Congo Basin, with a view to financing projects for biodiversity and poverty reduction. In the case of Gabon, biological resources are seen as an alternate source of financing to that provided by the petroleum sector. As a result of funds made available through debt conversion activities, Gabon has been able to expand activities, including those related to carbon market schemes, encouraging new types of cooperation among development partners and countries of the Congo Basin. She reminded participants that all COMIFAC countries have the opportunity to benefit from debt treatment initiatives supported by the “Paris Club”.

26. Mr. Martin Tchamba (WWF Cameroon) updated the workshop on the results obtained from the implementation of new forestry legislation and an innovative community approach to integrated forest management in southeast Cameroon. He stressed the usefulness of this model for other projects to be undertaken in the rest of the country as well as for WWF teams working in the Congo Basin. In the southeast, 14 locally-managed zones of cynegetic interest (ZICGCs) have been created which are managed by 9 committees responsible for the valuation of faunal resources. A general assembly for these committees, comprised of elected local officials, traditional chiefs, community delegates, has also been created. Work programmes for these committees are financed by taxes imposed on the leasing of zones of cynegetic interest, a “paratax” equal to 10% of the slaughter tax, and other sources. Financial returns managed by the committees have been used to ensure the implementation of activities for the proper functioning of villages, educational and hydraulic projects, monitoring of fauna, anti-poaching activities. Positive results obtained include a reduction in conflicts among stakeholder groups, stabilization of densities of animal populations in protected areas, raising of awareness on over-hunting and poaching among populations.

27. Mr. Peter Ghong Nchia (FAKO Division, Cameroon) presented on threats to biodiversity in the division located in the southwest province of Cameroon, an area considered a biodiversity hotspot and the location of Mount Cameroon. Threats to biodiversity in FAKO include: disappearing mangrove used for fuel wood and other uses; expanding agriculture; unsustainable harvesting techniques, soil and water pollution through the indiscriminate use of agro-chemicals; pollution of the marine environment with hydrocarbons from petroleum exploitation companies, vessels using the sea and companies with related activities; poor waste disposal systems; bush fires; natural disasters such as the eruption of Mount Cameroon and landslides. In response, the Government of Cameroon has appointed Divisional delegates for the Ministry of Environment and Protection of the Ministry of Nature and Forestry and Wildlife responsible for implementation of government biodiversity policy at the divisional level. Other actions taken include the creation of specialized institutions in the domain of biodiversity conservation, namely, the Limbé Botanic Garden and the Limbé Wildlife Centre; gazettelement of the Mount Cameroon region as a national park

Regional programmes, initiatives

28. Ms. Cyrie Sendashonga (CIFOR Regional Bureau for Central Africa) presented details on areas of research prioritized in CIFOR's 2008-2018 strategy, particularly those being undertaken in the region related to illegal forest exploitation, the role of forests in climate change mitigation and adaptation, monitoring and control of tree cutting in forest concessions, capacity reinforcement for small businesses engaged in the commercialization of non-timber forest products, community forestry, impacts of globalization, benefit-sharing, decentralized forest management, wood energy. She elaborated on the socioeconomic dimensions of CIFOR's programmes of work and on the importance of establishing partnerships within the region.

29. Mr. Raymond Ndomba Ngoye (COMIFAC Assistant Executive Secretary) presented an overview on the integration of biodiversity within COMIFAC's "Plan de Convergence" that had been updated in 2004 and that contains a strategic objective related specifically to biodiversity conservation. At the subregional level, activities carried out by COMIFAC include among others: processes related to forest policy harmonization; creation of two transboundary protected areas through cooperation agreements signed with the trans-border conservation initiatives "Tri-National de la Sangha" (TNS) and the "Dja-Minkebe-Odzala Trinational landscape" (TRIDOM); creation of the Biodiversity Working Group for Central Africa (GTBAC); launching of the Observatory for Central African Forests (OFAC). He highlighted various difficulties with implementation of the "Plan de Convergence", including limited institutional and human capacity, unsustainable financing, weak coordination among actors and the necessity to clarify the roles of the COMIFAC Executive Secretary/national COMIFAC coordination units versus the role and functions of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership.

30. Mr. Paul Noupa (IUCN Regional Programme for Central and West Africa) presented an overview of IUCN's approach to link environmental health to human well-being through the use of the Ecosystem Approach in activities covered under the 2009-2012 IUCN programme for the region related to: forest conservation; water resources and wetlands; marine and coastal ecosystems; protected areas and biodiversity; law, policy and governance. IUCN has established several partnerships with regional bodies as well as actively contributes to issues such as the development and revision of Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, climate change, promotion of sustainable development for economic development. The organization currently hosts the MIKE (Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants) programme which has established a mechanism for subregional coordination. Additionally, IUCN contributes to subregional initiatives through work related to the programmes of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership, Marine and Coastal Regional Programme for West Africa (PRCM) and the ECOPAS programme for the 3 W parks of the Niger river.

31. Mr. Armand Asseng Zé (FAO) presented a study undertaken on the integration of biodiversity considerations in Central African forest concessions. The study involved 5 countries (Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Republic of Congo). Interviews were conducted with forest communities and partners (study bureaus, NGOs, certifiers) and persons in administration. Results of the study revealed that biodiversity considerations by forest communities were generally weak; inventorying methods varied; results of biodiversity studies under-utilized in decision-making; involvement of the population in related processes requires strengthening; the private sector, administration and the local populations require adapted support to improve this situation. Partnerships should also be strengthened as should further actions to reduce hunting. The results of this study were to have been made available to the forest communities by the end of 2008 and adapted actions would be proposed to support forest communities and other stakeholders in increasing biodiversity integration in forest production in the Congo Basin. The presenter underscored that the participation of COMIFAC's Biodiversity Working Group for Central Africa (GTBAC) is essential for the implementation of recommended actions that are also linked to activities of COMIFAC's "Plan de Convergence".

32. Dr. Daouda Ndiaye (UNDP-GEF Regional Coordination Unit) highlighted UNDP's position on activities related to biodiversity, poverty reduction and sustainable development. He stressed the importance placed on mainstreaming biodiversity into development policies as well as in the production sectors, sensitizing financial managers and investors to opportunities offered by biodiversity-friendly businesses. UNDP has also implemented programmes for building the capacity of communities, often through cooperatives, to assist in applying for funding from various institutions and establishing micro-credit facilities. Dr. Ndiaye also commented on a UNDP-UNEP facility which will be established in Nairobi and whose primary function will be to provide assistance to the regional offices in mainstreaming environment (including biodiversity and ecosystem services) into national development plans. UNDP also attaches a lot of importance to protected areas for biodiversity conservation, as well as to activities on climate change and biodiversity through collaboration with the UN-REDD Initiative for developing countries. However, resources from UNDP and GEF are limited and securing funds from other donors is one of the key roles of the UNDP.

33. The Limbé Botanic Garden Delegation made a presentation on the role of the Central African Botanic Gardens and Arboreta Network (CABGAN), as the subregional arm of the African Botanic Gardens Network (ABGN) and promoter of cultural heritage favouring biodiversity conservation and ecotourism in the Congo Basin. CABGAN conducts activities in five major areas, namely: documentation of national and regional plant diversity; conservation of plant diversity; sustainable use of plant diversity and equitable benefit-sharing; promotion of education and culture in favour of plant diversity conservation; capacity-building in conservation. CABGAN also recognizes the potential to become a member of French-speaking Botanic Gardens of the world. Examples of activities, through which botanic gardens contribute to implementation of Article 15 on access to genetic resources, were highlighted. In addition to funding, communication and staffing obstacles, CABGAN experiences difficulties with representation of species and plant diversity loss. Increased funding through corporate sponsorships has been proposed as means to deal with financial constraints.

34. Ian Redmond, Chief Consultant, Great Ape Survival Project (GRASP), United Nations Environment Programme, provided participants with information on the GRASP initiative launched by UNEP in 2001 to raise awareness of the threat of extinction facing the great apes, the importance of conserving viable populations and habitat and assisting local communities in resource management. Great apes are also significant in terms of their function as an indicator species for ecosystem integrity and, as such, their conservation and poverty reduction are intertwined. The GRASP partnership is a unique mix of UN agencies, governments, civil society and the private sector, guided by an international executive committee and advised by an independent science commission. Mr. Redmond also presented a documentary film entitled 'Titus: the Gorilla King' which retraces the life of Titus, a Rwandan silverback gorilla, through numerous tumultuous events. The film will be broadcasted on the BBC later in the year.

35. Representatives of some local NGOs (Federation of Environmental and Ecological Diversity for Agricultural Revampment and Human Rights, Redemption Health Foundation, Réseau des Femmes Africaines pour le Développement Durable, Réseau des jeunes pour les forêts d'Afrique centrale, Struggle to Economise Future Environment) informed participants and members of the Secretariat during and following workshop sessions of activities being undertaken within their communities linked directly and indirectly to biodiversity conservation and the goals of the Convention. Pressures addressed include environmental pollution and degradation, forest poaching, deforestation, illegal logging, loss of medicinal plant species, among others. Examples of measures taken to mitigate pressures include the identification of additional agricultural opportunities, including fair trade opportunities and those linked to ecotourism, establishment of community forests, increased education in environment, hygiene and sanitation, consideration of gender and human rights.

36. Comments made by participants following presentations on biodiversity integration in sectoral and cross-sectoral in plans, programmes and policies, included the need for COMIFAC to optimize the coordination and management of funds and define its position regarding support for capacity development. The COMIFAC National Focal Point must also clearly communicate messages to the COMIFAC

Secretariat while coordinating and streamlining the application procedure for timely receipt of funds at the country level.

37. Participants also felt that the GTBAC should be exploited as a mechanism through which concerns can be voiced and that it was also necessary to establish a national and regional CBD committee to address issues beyond forests. Moreover, there is a need to promote certification schemes, define how EIA can be applied to access and benefit-sharing and to address bushmeat in matters related to forest concessions.

Field trip (links between biodiversity, NBSAPs and sustainable development)

38. On Wednesday, 24 September, participants took part in a field trip to the town of Buea at the foot of Mount Cameroon. The aim of the field trip was to illustrate the economic value of biodiversity, while demonstrating the links between biodiversity, NBSAPs and sustainable development. The field trip provided a good example of biodiversity mainstreaming that has resulted in the sustainable harvesting, treatment and commercialization of the *Prunus africana* tree, whose bark extract is used in the modern treatment of prostate enlargement and exported to Europe, United States and elsewhere. The Government of Cameroon has promoted the sustainable harvesting of this non-timber forest product as a means to fight against poverty in rural areas and to generate national revenue. Operations are conducted by the Mount Cameroon Prunus Management Common Initiative Group (MOCAP) in cooperation with government, private sector, community forest institutions, nature and conservation organisations, development agencies, research and scientific institutions.

39. Later the same day, participants visited Idenau seaport and market in southwest Cameroon where they were able to view operations associated with Cameroon's most exploited and commercialized vegetable *Gnetum* (also known as "Eru"). The harvesting of *gnetum* contributes to the economy, poverty reduction while providing employment to women and children. *Gnetum* is especially nutritious, rich in protein, minerals and therefore important to fight against malnutrition. It has several important medicinal uses and its leaves are used to produce whisky that is exported to Nigeria. However, in contrast to sustainable harvesting activities undertaken in Buea for *Prunus africana*, species of *Gnetum* are at present at risk of becoming extinct due to continued high demand and destructive harvesting practices. In response, the government of Cameroon has established policy to control harvesting through community forest management. Various conservation technologies are in experimental stages and several stakeholders are involved in conservation efforts.

ITEM 6. COMMUNICATION AND REPORTING

40. Mr. David Cooper presented the format for the fourth national report by Parties to the Convention, due at the end of March 2009, and explained which services the Secretariat, in collaboration with other organizations, had been developed to assist Parties to complete their national report in a timely manner. He informed that a portal dedicated specifically to the preparation of the fourth national report was accessible on the CBD website, at which related documents as well as various tools (e.g., financial resources, manual, sample fourth national report based on contributions of a number of countries) to assist countries with report preparation were available at this portal. Mr. Cooper emphasized that the process of preparing the fourth national report offered an opportunity for countries to develop national biodiversity targets as requested by the COP. He emphasized the importance of the timely submission of fourth national reports and the development of national targets and associated indicators for the assessment of progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan and the achievement of the 2010 Biodiversity Target to be undertaken by COP-10 in 2010.

41. Ms. Mary Fosi Mbantekhu, CBD National Focal Point for Cameroon, reported on progress made to date on the preparation of the fourth national report.

Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA)

42. Dr. Daniel Pouakouyou (Fauna & Flora International, Central and West Africa) presented on aspects related to NBSAP communication and the necessity for Central African countries to integrate biodiversity considerations in sectoral and cross-sectoral policies, particularly as relate to economic development and poverty reduction. He argued that the principal, secondary and tertiary actors should be targeted which include, among other institutions, ministries, public services, media, landowners, hotel associations, indigenous and local communities, NGOs, education sector. In addition, he argued that capacity for conservation organizations should be reinforced to enable them to sell their images and workplans. Dr. Pouakouyou referred participants to the steps recommended in the CEPA Toolkit developed by CBD and IUCN for integrating biodiversity in other sectors as outlined under the 4 umbrella topics of Internal Communication, Informal Communication, Negotiation/Interactive Communication and Joint External Communication. He further elaborated on the two different models contained in the CEPA Toolkit for communicating messages (*vertical* model for sending messages versus the *horizontal* model for initiating a two-way process)

Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM)

43. Mr. Bob Félicien Konzi-Sarambo (Central African Republic) delivered a presentation on the National Clearing-House Mechanism in the Central African Republic whose development and ongoing activities were enabled through a partnership with the Government of Belgium. He stated that one of the obstacles to implementation was the non-integration of the CHM in the NBSAP which could be achieved through the development of a stand-alone CHM strategy or a section on the CHM incorporated into the NBSAP (or revised NBSAP). As described in decision IX/30, the efficiency and visibility of the CHM can also be increased through the development of a CHM communication strategy for decision-makers, increased collaboration with national partners and networking all existing CHM sites and those under development. Mr. Konzi-Sarambo further highlighted the need to reinforce the functions of the CHM and COMIFAC support for the CHM, and to optimize the use of the CHM as a vehicle for dissemination and communication of biodiversity projects. To date, eight of the ten COMIFAC countries have designated a CHM National Focal Point as well as developed a National CHM website.

Poster on the NBSAP and linkage to 2010 Biodiversity Target

44. Mr. Suhel al-Janabi (GEO Media GbR) made a presentation on the online poster generation tool developed by *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ)* to enable users to easily create posters from their own computer. These posters offer a further opportunity for Parties to share national experiences in implementing the Convention through NBSAPs. From the region, COMIFAC had prepared a poster which was on display during the course of the workshop. Posters presented at the second meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention (Paris, July 2007) and at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Bonn, May 2008) can be viewed at <https://www.cbd.int/wgri2/poster-session.shtml>.

ITEM 7. THE WAY FORWARD: NEXT STEPS IN IMPLEMENTING AND UPDATING NBSAPS AND IN MAINSTREAMING OF BIODIVERSITY

45. The next two years – 2009 and 2010 – will be particularly significant for the Convention on Biological Diversity. In 2010, the Conference of the Parties is expected to review progress towards the 2010 Biodiversity Target and agree on an updated and revised Strategic Plan, including an updated post-2010 Biodiversity Target. The Conference of the Parties has indicated that all Parties should have NBSAPs in place by the end of 2010, updated if necessary. The year 2010 is also the International Year of Biodiversity, providing opportunities to promote public awareness about biodiversity and the Convention. As noted above, the deadline for preparation of the fourth national reports is 30 March 2009. The next two years will also be critical for further refining the Resource Mobilization Strategy adopted by

COP-9 as well as for furthering negotiations for the adoption of an international regime on access and benefit-sharing at COP-10 in 2010.

ITEM 8. CONSIDERATION OF THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE WORKSHOP

46. Under this item, participants considered the conclusions and recommendations of the workshop contained in Annex I for incorporation into its final report.

ITEM 9. CLOSURE OF THE WORKSHOP

47. At the closing session, Mr. Rufin Antoine Oko (Co-Pilot, GTBAC) thanked the organizers for all efforts made to hold the workshop for the countries of Central Africa. He emphasized the importance to follow up on the recommendations produced by the workshop as a contribution to the Millennium Development Goals and other processes, as well as out of a responsibility to present and future generations. He underscored that there is no room for paralysis, especially in regard to the activities of GTBAC.

Annex I

During the course of the workshop, participants debated options for improving the implementation of their NBSAPs. A certain number of conclusions have culminated in the formulation of the following recommendations. It is proposed that participants and the COMIFAC Secretariat pursue these recommendations and implement activities as required.

Conclusions and **Recommendations**:

1. In reality, implementation of the NBSAP in countries of the subregion remains weak. Also, an absence of measures for monitoring and evaluating implementation is observed.

Countries will establish or make more dynamic interdisciplinary and intersectoral committees for NBSAP implementation and monitoring.

A system for NBSAP monitoring and evaluation will be established at the subregional level by COMIFAC/GTBAC. Countries will produce regular reports using indicators that will be adopted at the subregional level.

2. Most countries acknowledge that an NBSAP revision is necessary to integrate the 2010 objectives, MDGs, measures linked to climate change, other Conventions (e.g., CMS), other pertinent initiatives (e.g., GRASP), emerging issues (e.g., access and benefit-sharing, biofuels, invasive species, GMOs, etc.).

Countries, in which an NBSAP revision has proven necessary, will undertake to revise their NBSAP at the earliest opportunity. Countries will include in their NBSAP clear and measurable objectives, involve relevant actors in the definition and monitoring of these objectives, and widely communicate these objectives.

3. The majority of Central African countries have not integrated considerations for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into their Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper.

Countries will organize meetings with the Ministry of Planning to examine how this gap can be addressed, and produce a report on the integration of biodiversity in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, before the end of November 2008. A synthesis report will be prepared by GTBAC for its meeting envisaged for January 2009.

4. Although new financing sources for NBSAP implementation are required, existing opportunities (e.g., financing from the Congo Basin Forest Fund (CBFF), United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Global Environment Facility (GEF)...) and emerging solutions (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) and Payment for Environmental Services (PES)) should be exploited and further contributions from the international community explored.

A unit within COMIFAC will be created to coordinate and ensure the efficient use of existing and future financing options. Innovative mechanisms for debt conversion, such as that presented by Gabon, should be explored in each of the COMIFAC countries.

5. The benefits linked to biodiversity and ecosystem services for improving the well-being of the local populations are poorly understood. The economic value of biodiversity must be better studied in order to convince decision-makers and assembly of actors of the importance of biodiversity conservation.

Case studies specific to the region should be conducted, tools on the Ecosystem Approach and economic valuation adapted to regional particularities, and capacity reinforced for required activities.

A workshop to assemble partners in the Departments of Finance and Planning should be organized at the subregional level (at minimum).

6. The consideration of biodiversity in forest concessions is sub-optimal.

COMIFAC and its member countries should encourage forest concessions to better consider biodiversity in their planning documents, through the use of existing tools and guidelines for increasing public awareness, exchange of best practices and incentive measures (e.g., PES, certification).

7. The sustainable exploitation of non-timber forest products can provide an interesting alternative for local populations and biodiversity conservation.

Support for the creation of small- and medium-sized businesses and for the organization and development of existing options on this subject is therefore encouraged.

8. The particular role of women, youth and local and indigenous communities and conservation organizations, such as botanic gardens, is insufficiently considered in the NBSAPs.

From this point onward, these groups will be systematically involved in the revision and implementation of the NBSAP.

9. Communication, education and public awareness (CEPA) is essential to effectively integrate biodiversity in sectoral policies and cross-sectoral strategies. However few NBSAPs have communication strategies for these activities. National Focal Points for the Clearing-House Mechanism have difficulties to maintain the efficiency and proper functioning of their clearing houses and to update their national websites.

With assistance from COMIFAC, each country will develop a communication strategy at the earliest opportunity. Among the products expected, the preparation of a poster demonstrating how activities undertaken at the national level (NBSAP) contribute to the achievement of the 2010 Biodiversity Target is recommended.

The development of a national strategy for CHM implementation linked directly to the NBSAP will be undertaken in each country represented and COMIFAC will assist at the regional level with this process.

10. The preparation of fourth national reports is indispensable for the evaluation of NBSAP implementation in the countries of the subregion. CBD Parties are requested to undertake this exercise every 4 years and the fourth national report should be submitted to the Secretariat before 30 March 2009.

Each country will undertake to submit the fourth national report in a timely manner. The COMIFAC/GTBAC will examine progress on the reports at its meeting in January 2009.

11. It was observed throughout the workshop that frequent institutional changes, certain practices and the failure to consult the Ministry of Environment impede NBSAP implementation.

In response, the reinforcement of public awareness activities in respect of better environmental governance is proposed.

*Annex II***PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK**

* Joint with CMS workshop on integrating migratory species into NBSAPs

MONDAY, 22 SEPTEMBER

0900 - 0930	1	Opening of the workshop* Cameroon Government, COMIFAC, CBD Secretariat
0930 - 1000	2	Overview of the objectives and programme for the workshop* Introduction (SCBD and SCMS) Plenary discussion
1000 - 1030		<i>Coffee break</i>
1030 - 1200	3 4	Status of development & implementation of NBSAPs in the region* Updating and improving NBSAPs* Country presentations: (1-4) Plenary discussion and small-group work
1200 - 1400		<i>Lunch break</i>
1400 - 1530		Country presentations: (5 – 8) Plenary discussion and small-group work
1530 - 1600		<i>Tea break</i>
1600 - 1800		Country presentations: (9 – 10) Plenary discussion and small-group work
[1800– 2000]		<i>Reception, courtesy of COMIFAC</i>

TUESDAY, 23 SEPTEMBER

0830 - 1000		Regional perspectives (COMIFAC, UNDP, UNEP) Plenary discussion and small-group work
1000 - 1030		<i>Coffee break</i>
1030 - 1200		Integration of Migratory Species into NBSAPs* Presentations (SCMS, GRASP, Country presentations) Plenary discussion and small-group work
1200 - 1400		<i>Lunch break</i>
1400 - 1530	5	Integrating biodiversity into sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies Presentations (to be finalized) Plenary discussion and small-group work
1530 - 1600		<i>Tea break</i>
1600 - 1730		Tools and approaches for Integrating biodiversity into sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies: the ecosystem approach Presentations (to be finalized) Plenary discussion and small-group work
1730 - 2000		<i>Break and Dinner</i>

2000 - 2100		Presentations from the small groups
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WEDNESDAY, 24 SEPTEMBER

0830 - 1000	6	<i>Communicating and Reporting: CEPA and strategic communication for NBSAPs</i> Presentations (to be finalized) Plenary discussion and small-group work
1000 – 1030		<i>Coffee break</i>
Rest of the day	5	<i>Integrating biodiversity into sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies (continued): FIELD STUDY VISIT</i>

THURSDAY, 25 SEPTEMBER

0830 - 1000	6	<i>Communicating and Reporting on NBSAPs: The Fourth National Reports and the Clearing House mechanism</i> Presentations (SCBD, Country examples) Plenary discussion and small-group work
1000 - 1030		<i>Coffee break</i>
1030 – 1200	2	<i>Updating and improving NBSAPs</i> Plenary discussion on open questions
1200 – 1400		<i>Lunch break</i>
1400 – 1600	7	<i>The way forward: next steps in implementing and updating NBSAPs and mainstreaming biodiversity</i> Upcoming events under the Convention Panel discussion
1600 - 1630		<i>Tea break</i>
1630 - 1700	8	<i>Consideration of the Conclusions of the Workshop</i>
1700 - 1730	9	<i>Closing of the Workshop</i>

*Annex III***LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

Document Number	Document Title
UNEP/CBD/NBSAP/CBW-CAFR1/1	Provisional agenda
UNEP/CBD/NBSAP/CBW-CAFR1/1/Add.1:	Annotations to the provisional agenda
UNEP/CBD/NBSAP/CBW-CAFR1/2	Status and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans
UNEP/CBD/NBSAP/CBW-CAFR1/3	Updating NBSAPs, mainstreaming biodiversity, communication and reporting
Information and background documents (Previously available)	
UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/2	Status of implementation of goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan focussing on implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and availability of financial resources -- an overview
UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/2/Add.1	Synthesis and analysis of obstacles to implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, lessons learned from the review, effectiveness of policy instruments and strategic priorities for action
UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/INF/1	Updated synthesis of information contained in third national reports
UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/INF/2	Regional preparatory meetings on implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans and mainstreaming biodiversity
UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/INF/9	National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans: A Meta-Analysis of Earlier Review
UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/INF/10	Review of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, Biodiversity Mainstreaming and Implementation of the Convention: A Bibliography
UNEP/CBD/COP/9/14/Rev.1	Implementation of the Convention and Its Strategic Plan
Booklet (English Only)	Mainstreaming Biodiversity: Workshops on National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans
Decision VIII/8	Implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Plan
Decision VIII/9	Implications of the findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment
Decision IX/8	Review of Implementation of Goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan

CBD Training modules (English Only):

A-1. Guide to the Convention on Biological Diversity

A-2. Role of the CBD National Focal Point

A-3. An Introduction to National Reporting

B-1. An Introduction to National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans

B-2. How to prepare and update a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

B-3. Mainstreaming biodiversity into sectoral and cross-sectoral strategies, plans and programmes

B-4. Setting national biodiversity targets, making use of the CBD framework for the 2010 biodiversity target

B-5. Ensuring stakeholder engagement in the development, implementation and updating of NBSAPs

B-6. Getting political support for the NBSAP and financing its implementation

B-7. Communication Strategy for NBSAPs

Other Resources:

Guidelines for the fourth national reports

Draft reference manual for preparing the fourth national reports

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