N O T I F I C A T I O N

Invitation to submit comments on the draft Action Plan for the Bio-Bridge Initiative 2017-2020

Madam/Sir,

As you will recall, in its decision XII/2, paragraph 13 of section B2 on technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer, the Conference of the Parties (COP) welcomed with appreciation the Bio-Bridge Initiative (BBI), which was launched by the Government of the Republic of Korea as part of 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.

Following the twelfth meeting of the COP, the Secretariat entered into a funding agreement with the Republic of Korea to undertake preparatory activities to support the implementation of the Bio-Bridge Initiative, including putting in place the necessary tools and mechanisms, development of an action plan, identification and engagement of key partners and development of BBI pilot projects to test the proposed tools and mechanisms.

The Secretariat has prepared the attached draft Action Plan for the Bio-Bridge Initiative 2017-2020, with the support of the Quebec Centre for Biodiversity Science and the United Nations Environment Programme - World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC). The draft outlines the proposed vision, mission and expected outcomes of BBI and describes its proposed operational framework and activities.

I am therefore pleased to invite Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to provide views and comments on the draft action plan using the template annexed hereto. The comments should be submitted to the Secretariat by e-mail (secretariat@cbd.int) or by fax (+1 514 288 6588), as soon as possible but **no later than 31 August 2016**.

Taking into account the input received, the draft action plan will be finalized and made available for consideration by the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to be held on 4 to 17 December 2016 in Cancun, Mexico.

Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias
Executive Secretary

Enclosure

To: CBD, ABS, CPB, SBSTTA National Focal Points, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities and relevant organizations

**TEMPLATE FOR COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT ACTION PLAN FOR
THE BIO-BRIDGE INITIATIVE 2017-20120**

Contact information	
Given Name and Surname:	
Country or Organization:	
Ministry, Department or Agency, as applicable:	
E-mail:	
Phone Number	

Comments on the draft BBI Action Plan[1]

Page	Line	Comment
0	0	This is an example of an entry of a general comment
3	6	This is an example of a specific comment on Page 3, Line 6

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[1] If necessary, rows can be added to this table.
 Please submit your comments to secretariat@cbd.int or by fax at +1 514 288 6588.

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Bio-Bridge Initiative

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DRAFT ACTION PLAN (2017-2020)

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This document represents the first draft of the Action Plan, which has been prepared by the Quebec Centre for Biodiversity Science and the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre with the support of the Secretariat. This draft will undergo a participatory review process from July to August 2016, and a revised draft Action Plan will be made available to COP 13 in December 2016.

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1 **Table of Contents**

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1   **Abbreviations and Acronyms**

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ABT	Aichi Biodiversity Targets
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BBI	Bio-Bridge Initiative
BES-Net	UNDP Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CEC	Commission for Environmental Cooperation
CGIAR	Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centers
CONABIO	Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad (Mexico)
COP	Conference of the Parties
CHM	Clearing-house Mechanism
CTCN	Climate Technology Centre and Network
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GUPES	Global Universities Partnership on Environment for Sustainability
LDCs	Least developed countries
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement
INBio	Instituto Nacional de Biodiversidad (Costa Rica)
IPBES	Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NGO	Non-governmental organization
QCBS	Quebec Centre for Biodiversity Science
SBI	Subsidiary Body on Implementation
SBSTTA	Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
TSC	Technical and Scientific Cooperation
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP-WCMC	UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre

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1 Executive Summary

Context

The Bio-Bridge Initiative (BBI) is being developed as the overarching programme specifically focused on catalyzing and facilitating technical and scientific cooperation (TSC) under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and its Protocols. TSC is defined in the context of the CBD as a process whereby two or more countries pursue their individual or collective goals through cooperative exchanges of scientific knowledge, skills, resources and technical know-how (technologies).[1] TSC contributes to the attainment of biodiversity targets by allowing all Parties to the Convention and to the Protocols to share knowledge, tools, data, good practices and expertise with each other. BBI will facilitate TSC among Parties by:

- linking Parties which have specific technical and scientific needs with Parties or institutions that are able to provide the necessary technical support and resources to meet those needs through mutual partnerships; and
- creating the space for countries and institutions to share knowledge, good practices and lessons learned with each other.

BBI was launched at COP 12 to provide a more coherent, consistent and coordinated approach to promoting and facilitating TSC under the CBD and its Protocols. Initially supported by the Government of the Republic of Korea, BBI is intended to contribute substantially to the implementation of the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020* and achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

BBI is a catalytic programme with a long-term **Vision** of significantly scaling up TSC among Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and to its Protocols through regional and global partnerships and networks in order to achieve their national biodiversity targets. Achieving this vision requires the support and participation of all Parties, using a flexible and adaptive approach that will help ensure that TSC initiatives continue to meet the needs of Parties in the long term.

The **Mission** of BBI is to foster and facilitate TSC among countries and institutions in order to halt the loss of biodiversity and ensure that ecosystems are resilient and continue to provide essential services.

The development of this Action Plan has taken full account of CBD priorities for and experiences with TSC and capacity-building, as well as lessons learned by other similar mechanisms. It has also taken account of feedback from Parties and potential partner organizations, and will be informed by experiences and lessons learned from pilot projects in 2016. In developing the Action Plan it was assumed that Parties will mobilize resources to meet their TSC obligations under the Convention and its Protocols. It was also assumed that partners in a position to offer technical assistance will do so, and that further voluntary funding for BBI will be made available by Parties and donors. Successful implementation of this Action Plan, and the further promotion of TSC, will only occur with the full support of Parties and other key stakeholders.

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[1] UNEP/CBD/SBI/6/1, paragraph 3

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2 In order to ensure transparency and consistency in BBI implementation, a set of criteria,
3 standard operating procedures, templates and other tools will be developed to guide
4 operations of BBI. BBI will be client-oriented, flexible and accessible to Parties, prioritize the
5 needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, emphasize
6 cooperation at the regional level, and work in synergy with existing programmes and
7 mechanisms. In addition, BBI will develop guidance and resources that can be used to
8 encourage and support Parties to build institutional capacity and long-term cooperative
9 relationships with each other.

10 *Infrastructure and activities*

11 BBI will offer various types of services to Parties for promoting and facilitating TSC to meet
12 identified technical and scientific needs. BBI's main tools will include help desk(s), an
13 interactive web platform and meetings. An active network of partners will be key to
14 successful implementation, and will underpin all BBI activities.

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17 BBI will provide a help desk service, which will support Parties in:
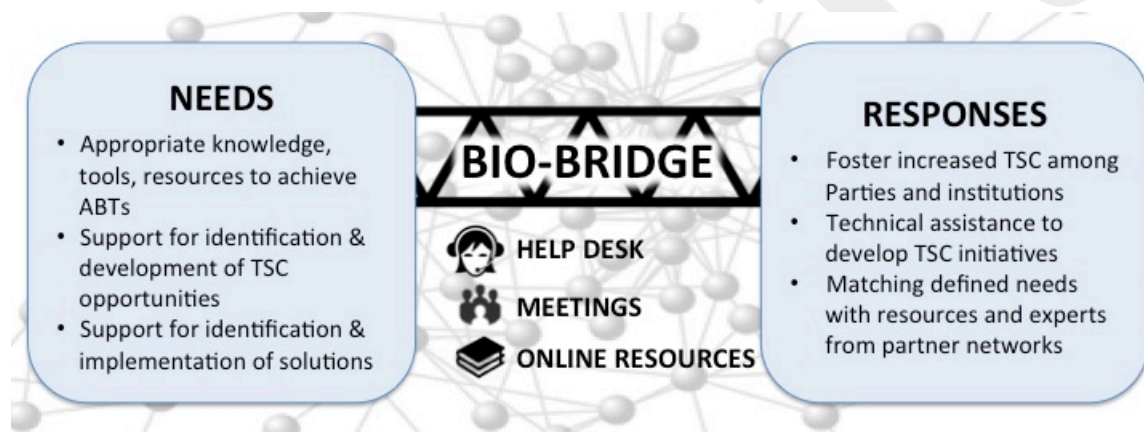
18 • identifying and articulating their needs so that opportunities for support through TSC
19 can be identified and assistance requested;
20 • identifying appropriate countries or institutions that can either provide support, or can
21 work with the Party to plan for that support; and
22 • promoting collaboration in developing plans and proposals that outline how
23 institutions and countries will cooperate in addressing specific issues.

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25 BBI will also provide opportunities for broader communication and partnership building
26 through:
27 • communication and outreach with Parties and partners, including through regional
28 and thematic meetings;
29 • providing occasional seed grants to catalyse TSC initiatives on specific topics.

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31 Furthermore, BBI will provide online resources through:
32 • developing a web platform to complement the help desk services and providing
33 access to relevant resources in promoting TSC on biodiversity-related issues;

- creating a database of partner institutions providing their areas of expertise, and links to other TSC and capacity development initiatives and tools; and
- building a portfolio of inspiring bright spots and case studies of good practices which could be emulated by others and scaled up.

In practice, BBI will operate as follows (see figure):

1. Parties requiring support will complete and submit a request for assistance form to the BBI help desk.
2. If necessary, the help desk will work with Parties to clarify the need for which assistance is required, and identify how it might be achieved through TSC.
3. The help desk will then determine what type of response is most appropriate for providing assistance, including directly responding to the Party for simple requests, identifying relevant case studies to learn from, identifying programmes or other tools of relevance, or facilitating the development of a TSC initiative to meet the need.
4. To develop a proposal for a new TSC initiative, the help desk will work with a network of partners to identify a suitable institutional partner to match with the country requesting assistance. The institution will be selected based on relevant experience and expertise. The help desk will facilitate the match and support the development of a joint proposal with small grants for this purpose.
5. The process will result in a developed concept note or proposal that can be used to seek funding for the proposed TSC initiative.
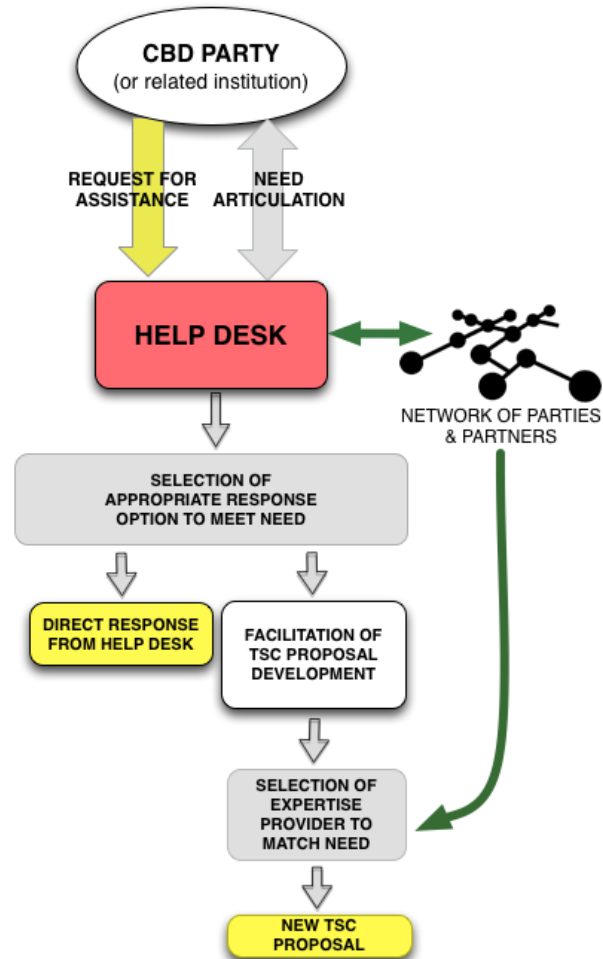
Operational structure

The Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI)[2], supported by an advisory committee, will oversee the work of BBI under the overall direction provided by the COP and COP-MOPs. A BBI core team within the CBD Secretariat will coordinate and administer the implementation of BBI, including overseeing the operations of the central help desk. Subject to the availability of funding, the central help desk could be enhanced by outsourcing some

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[2] Pending decision from the COP on this matter. The draft modus operandi of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation was approved by SBI at its first meeting, and submitted for consideration of COP 13 (SBI Recommendation 1/9).

1 or all its operations to an external partner organization or organizations, selected through a
2 competitive bidding process. Regional help desks may also be established to further
3 augment the work of the Secretariat and central help desk by focusing on regional needs
4 and opportunities, and communication of BBI within the regions.

5 *Implementation*

6 BBI will come on line and the help desk will be open to requests for assistance starting in
7 2017. Fundraising is essential in order to develop BBI's presence in a number of regions, to
8 support TSC projects, and to ensure long-term support for TSC initiatives under the
9 convention and its protocols. A BBI monitoring and evaluation framework will be developed
10 based on indicators and targets in order to improve performance over time, and to ensure
11 that the BBI meets, and continues to meet, the needs of Parties.

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1 Context

Globally, there is wide range of existing technical and scientific resources, knowledge, expertise, technologies and other opportunities that could be drawn upon to enhance the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources. Numerous organizations and networks with a wide array of knowledge, tools and expertise are dedicated to achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and are willing to cooperate with Parties that need support. Nevertheless, many countries are finding it challenging to gain access to, and benefit from, the specific technical and scientific knowledge that they need to meet their targets.

This challenge is recognised in various provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and of its Protocols.[3] The CBD Conference of the Parties (COP) recognises that technology transfer and cooperation are essential elements for the implementation of the Convention.[4] Technical and Scientific Cooperation[5] (TSC), as envisaged in Article 18 of the CBD, encompasses these elements, plus institutional development, joint research programmes and joint ventures, among others. At COP 11 and COP 12, Parties agreed that a coherent, consistent and coordinated approach to promoting and facilitating TSC was a priority.[6] The Bio-Bridge Initiative (BBI) was launched at COP 12 to meet this need. BBI will thus support Parties in their efforts to address Article 18 and other related provisions of the Convention and its Protocols regarding TSC and access to and transfer of technology and know-how relevant to the achievement of the objectives of the Convention and its Protocols.

BBI will provide an overarching programme specifically focused on promoting and catalyzing TSC to support achievement of all Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Table 1 presents some examples of TSC initiatives driven by Parties, representing types of cooperation that BBI could contribute to or facilitate in the future. Building on initial support provided by the Government of the Republic of Korea,[7] BBI aims to make a contribution to the enhancement of TSC in the context of the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020* and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets.[8] In doing so it will also support the implementation of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* and achievement of its Sustainable Development Goals. BBI will aim to provide services that can support all Parties, but consistent with decisions XI/2 and XII/2, it will in particular focus on providing support to developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

Much can be learned from the experience of similar mechanisms already in operation like the NBSAP Forum, and the Climate Technology Centre and Network (focused on TSC in the

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[3] Articles 16, 17, 18, and 19 of the Convention on Biological Diversity; Articles 22 and 23 of the Nagoya Protocol and Article 22 of the Cartagena Protocol Biosafety
[4] CBD, COP decision VII/29, preamble
[5] TSC is defined within the context of the CBD as a process whereby two or more countries pursue their individual or collective goals through cooperative exchanges of scientific knowledge, skills, resources and technical know-how (technologies).
[6] CBD COP decision XI/2
[7] UNEP/CBD/COP/12/INF/33
[8] CBD COP decision XII/2

context of climate change mitigation and adaptation), as well as those under development such as the IPBES matchmaking facility and BES-Net. This Action Plan draws on lessons learned from these and other programmes and tools, and promotes an adaptive, learning-by-doing approach to future implementation of the initiative.

The Action Plan will be evaluated and updated regularly to ensure that BBI activities are aligned with the needs of Parties and that resources are allocated to TSC approaches proven to result in measurable impacts to biodiversity and global access to knowledge, tools and resources. The success of BBI will depend on the active participation and collaboration of Parties and relevant institutions, both in identifying and clearly articulating needs and how to respond to them, and in building the partnerships that will result in effective transfer of skills and knowledge.

Table 1. Examples of types of TSC initiatives that BBI could facilitate in the future

Cooperation partners	Purpose of initiative	Outcome(s)	Resultant long-term cooperation
SANBI (South Africa) has cooperated with various institutions in Mozambique on conservation planning since 2014[9]	To cooperate on conservation assessments for plants of Northern Mozambique	Bursaries, technical advice and supervision for conducting conservation planning for threatened plants of Mozambique provided	Follow-up workshops involving both countries have taken place in 2015 and 2016 to complete assessment of all endemic Mozambican plants.
Since 1998 the Royal Belgian Institute for Natural Sciences (RBINS) has been cooperating with multiple countries to support the development of national clearing-house mechanisms[10]	To share technical approaches to developing operational biodiversity information networks that will contribute to increased information sharing and use in policy-making, communication, education and public awareness and generate scientific and technical cooperation for biodiversity	E-learning modules created, over 21 CHM websites developed, the majority are regularly updated	Cooperation has been ongoing. One of the countries involved from the early stages, Morocco, is now cooperating to support other countries to develop national CHMs.
INBio in Costa Rica has cooperated with institutions from Benin and Bhutan on the management of non-timber forest products, financed by the Netherlands (2012)[11]	To share knowledge and experience with Benin and Bhutan on research, gathering, domestication, cultivation and marketing of high valued non-timber forest products (mushrooms and insects) as part of climate change adaptation and food security strategies.	Bhutan developed and exchanged data and gene banks on relevant species and established a biodiversity information system. Benin is implementing its own platform	None on this project, but INBio regularly collaborates with many Parties to the CBD

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[9] UNEP/CBD/COP/12/INF/39/Add.1
[10] UNEP/CBD/COP/10/INF/6
[11] UNEP/CBD/WGRI/5/INF/2

2 Vision, Mission and Outcomes

2.1 Vision

The vision of the Bio-Bridge Initiative is:

Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and to its Protocols are actively cooperating and sharing knowledge, tools, technologies, expertise and other resources through regional and global partnerships and networks to achieve their national biodiversity targets.

2.2 Mission and objectives

In order to achieve this vision, the mission of the Bio-Bridge Initiative is:

To foster and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation among countries and institutions in order to halt the loss of biodiversity and ensure that ecosystems are resilient and continue to provide essential services.

This mission can be broken down into three interlinked objectives, which will together aid Parties in implementing the convention and its protocols, addressing the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020* and achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets:

- *To facilitate the clear identification by Parties of technical and scientific needs that can be addressed through TSC*

- *To increase access to TSC opportunities through a web platform and through active support for matchmaking*

- *To encourage Parties and harness expert and institutional networks to engage more in TSC activities*

2.3 BBI Outcomes

The desired outcomes of BBI can be summarised as follows:

- *Parties are seeking and finding opportunities and partners they need for biodiversity-related TSC*

- *Parties and other stakeholders are proactively sharing available biodiversity-related solutions with each other*

- *Parties and other stakeholders have facilitated access to technical and scientific assistance and knowledge*

- *Parties' needs are being addressed with technical and financial support of others*

- *Online tools, resources and programmes are being used to share and uptake solutions*

3 Operational Framework

BBI's core goal is the promotion and facilitation of TSC. BBI will identify and promote good practices through a coherent operational framework. The **operational framework** will be a guide to all BBI-related activities, and will promote the transparency of BBI operations and guide how they are executed and evaluated.

The 'principles' or 'characteristics' upon which BBI is being developed are based on the Party needs and priorities for TSC captured in various decisions of the Conference of the Parties, programmes of work and actions plans such as the CBD Multi-Year Plan of Action for South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development[12] and the programme of work on technology transfer and technological and scientific cooperation[13]. The initial "*characteristics*" that are guiding the development of the initiative at this stage are presented in Table 2. These are cross-cutting, in that they are being taken into account in the design of all BBI activities and infrastructure.

Table 2. BBI Characteristics (presented in no particular order)

Characteristics	Examples of associated implementation approaches
1. An **accessible, overarching programme** to address TSC needs expressed by Parties	Interactive multilingual web platform to facilitate and support cooperation, complemented by other forms of access that are not internet-based
2. A focus on the **identification and promotion of good practices** in responding to identified needs, including encouraging lasting cooperation and institutional capacity-building	An operational framework based on the identification of good practices to guide BBI activities
3. **Integrated systematic support** for needs articulation, proposal development, matchmaking, and promotion of good practices	Coordination with other programmes and mechanisms, including an effective web platform and associated 'help desk' functions, designed to support cooperation in a systematic manner
4. A **client-oriented and flexible approach** to support co-design of TSC initiatives with stakeholders and partners through a "help desk" function	An approach to design of services (both web platform and help desk functions), based on/responding to identified needs
5. An **emphasis on cooperation at the regional level**, with support and matchmaking through working with partner institutions and networks.	The most effective means of developing strong regional cooperation will be explored, including through possible regional help desks, and/or partnerships with key institutions that serve as regional network hubs
6. Prioritizing of resources to **meet the needs of developing countries** and countries with economies in transition	BBI services will be principally designed to respond to the needs of developing countries and economies in transition, and this will be embedded in the protocols

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[12] CBD, COP decision X/23
[13] CBD, COP decision VII/29

| 7. Working in **synergy with other programmes/initiatives/mechanisms**, building on their experience and filling identified gaps as appropriate	Continuous liaison and partnership building with other relevant mechanisms and programmes[14]

The BBI operational framework will be further developed from these characteristics taking into account feedback from Parties and relevant partners, the state of knowledge on TSC and capacity development, and the relevant experiences of similar mechanisms. The BBI operational framework will be updated regularly to build on BBI experience and lessons learned.

The delivery of the BBI mission will rely heavily on building *partnerships* with a wide range of key organizations. The purpose and form of such partnerships are addressed in section 5.

4 Infrastructure and activities to deliver the vision

This section sets out the strategies and activities that will be undertaken to deliver BBI's vision and mission, and achieve its objectives, as well as the infrastructure proposed for delivering this. Figure 1 presents how BBI activities will contribute to the achieving the mission and vision.

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[14] There is strong potential for BBI to work collaboratively with several TSC mechanisms, including the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN), IPBES matchmaking facility and the NBSAP Forum. Potential approaches to collaboration include the sharing of expert networks, the sharing of forms for applying for assistance, and cooperating on the development of responses to requests for assistance. Certain thematic streams could be designated as shared, for example on ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change with CTCN.
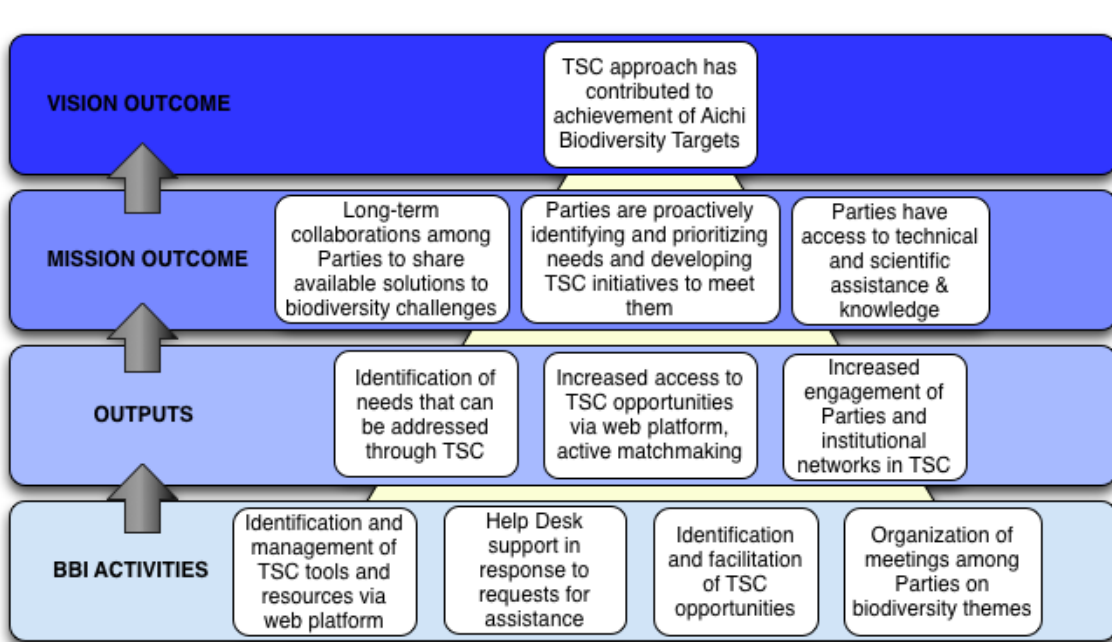
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2   **Figure 1.** Logical flow of activities designed to achieve BBI objectives
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4   **4.1 Overview of activities addressing the three objectives**

5   Table 3 provides a summary of how specific strategies and activities will contribute to
6   achieving the stated objectives. Drawing on this, Section 4.2 elaborates on the infrastructure
7   that will underpin all BBI activities, and section 4.3 provides further explanation of some of
8   the main activities and services of BBI.

Table 3: Summary of strategies and activities for achieving BBI objectives

Objective	Strategies	Rationale	Activities
1. To facilitate the clear identification by Parties of technical and scientific needs that can be addressed through TSC	Provide advice and, where necessary, technical support	Parties have expressed interest in a systematized, accessible support system for TSC. The need for assistance in articulating precise needs has been highlighted by multiple sources.	• Establish **BBI help desk(s)** to support Parties requesting assistance • Provide **guidance on effective approaches** for identifying needs that can be addressed through TSC • Receive and compile information on technical assistance needs through a **common form** • Develop and implement services to **assist articulation of needs** and elaboration of requests
2. To increase access to TSC through a web platform and through active support for matchmaking	Increase access to existing resources, tools and knowledge	Resources found useful for other capacity development and TSC initiatives include rosters of experts, replicable case studies, links to other mechanisms and tools, and descriptions of previous projects and their successes and lessons learned.	• Establish a **BBI web platform** as part of the CHM in order to facilitate access to all BBI-relevant resources • Develop a **knowledge base of resources** relevant to building TSC and using it to address needs • As part of this, provide **links to existing resources** and original material where necessary • Develop working relationships with **other relevant initiatives**, in order to building on existing experience
	Provide matchmaking services to increase uptake of TSC opportunities	Parties have indicated a need for a centralized, accessible help desk to provide assistance to facilitate TSC. In addition to needs articulation, support will be offered for early stage project development, identification of partners for TSC, online resources, identification of relevant programmes, sources of expertise, and relevant case studies.	• Support the identification of the **most appropriate response** to requests for assistance • Support the **identification of potential partners** for responding to TSC needs • Consider developing a database of needs and opportunities to support this work, drawing on other activities • Where appropriate, **support development of 'TSC proposals'** for new TSC initiatives • Where appropriate, provide **advice and support in seeking funding** to address proposals • Where appropriate, support **applications to partner mechanisms** engaged in TSC or capacity development

Objective	Strategies	Rationale	Activities
3. To encourage Parties and harness expert and institutional networks to engage more in TSC activities	Implement a communication and outreach strategy to increase understanding of the value and importance of TSC	Outreach and communication are necessary to publicize BBI and encourage TSC, improve access to technical support, and communicate BBI success stories to inspire further cooperation. It is also of critical importance to long-term sustainability of BBI. For TSC to have a far-reaching impact, institutions and expert networks of many different types and at different scales need to be mobilized.	• Develop and implement a **communication and outreach strategy** to reach all major stakeholders • Develop and implement a **web strategy** to effectively manage knowledge and facilitate cooperation • **Mobilize networks of organizations** and other stakeholders that will support BBI in the delivery of TSC • Make **presentations on BBI** at appropriate meetings, including at CBD COP, SBI and SBSTTA
	Organize regional and thematic meetings to facilitate new cooperation	Meetings are important for developing new relationships and opportunities. As needed, regional meetings may be organized on specific themes to showcase expertise and needs, and facilitate cooperation. Parties and institutions will be encouraged to host or contribute to these initiatives.	• **Consider when meetings would be a useful means** in developing opportunities for TSC • Periodically call for **offers to host meetings** focused on increasing TSC in particular areas and themes • **Plan and support meetings**, focusing in particular on regional and thematic opportunities for increasing TSC • Ensure that **meeting outcomes are communicated broadly**, so as to spread messages further
	Provide seed resources for TSC initiatives	In addition to facilitating the identification of experts to meet identified needs and the development of TSC proposals, BBI will provide some seed funding to bring partners together.	• Develop communication **messaging** that makes clear that BBI is not a funding mechanism • Develop **clear criteria** that identify when and how BBI can provide seed funding • Provide **seed funding** for development of BBI-related initiatives • Seek **additional resources** so that more projects can be provided start-up or seed funding

1 **4.2 Infrastructure to support TSC delivery**

2 There are two key elements of BBI's infrastructure that underpin many of the initiative's
3 activities: an interactive web platform, and help desk(s). These are described further here.

4 *4.2.1   Interactive Web Platform for TSC*

5 A web platform will be developed and maintained as a vehicle for promoting and facilitating
6 TSC. This will be developed as part of the CBD clearing-house mechanism, and integrated
7 with other online capacity development tools, taking into full account the CBD web strategy,
8 and any policies and procedures for managing the CBD website (including the CHM web
9 strategy to be agreed at COP 13).
10
11 It is anticipated that the web platform will provide a number of functions, including:
12   • communication and awareness raising
13   • knowledge base and access to resources
14   • online forum for knowledge exchange
15
16 Through networking, research and supporting
17 areas of work, BBI will develop and maintain an
18 up-to-date, online archive of resources relevant
19 to BBI operations and requests for assistance
20 from Parties (e.g. links to other TSC
21 mechanisms, tools, funding sources, technical
22 assistance experts, etc.). BBI will not duplicate
23 resources already exist on other websites and
24 databases, but will provide short descriptions
25 and web links. BBI will explore the potential for
26 developing an interactive web platform that
27 promotes a user-driven exchange and sharing of
28 resources, with reduced oversight by BBI (see
29 Text Box).

> **Interactive TSC platform**
>
> BBI will develop an interactive knowledge platform for CBD Parties and partners to share data, case studies and other tools. The platform will allow institutions to directly update information regarding their expertise and resources. A dialogue section would allow for informal sharing of knowledge. An existing model for such a platform is ResearchGate, which has been successful at developing an online research community actively engaged in cooperation.

30 *4.2.2   Help Desk(s)*

31 BBI will offer several 'help desk' services, notably technical assistance for needs articulation
32 and facilitation of matchmaking needs with available support or expertise (see section 4.3.1
33 below). The helpdesk services will complement information and opportunities that can be
34 identified through the web platform through more active support where circumstances
35 warrant it. Levels of implementation will be dependent on the funding available and on any
36 offers of further technical support by Parties and other organizations. Subject to the
37 availability of funding:

38   a) Central help desk support coordinated by BBI team within the CBD Secretariat could
39   be enhanced as the volume of work increases, by outsourcing some or all its
40   services to an external partner organization or organizations, selected through a
41   competitive bidding process, who could also increase outreach to other networks.
42   The external partner could assist the central help desk to, inter alia, handle requests

for assistance, identify matchmaking opportunities, coordinate the development of TSC plans and proposals where applicable and facilitate links to networks and communities of practice, and to other related initiatives. While there are advantages to establishing a help desk within an external institution with technical expertise and networks, the sustainability of the help desk will be a deciding factor in how and where it is established.

b) <u>Regional help desks may be established to further augment the work of the Secretariat and central help desk by focusing on regional needs and opportunities, and communication of BBI within the regions</u>. Regional support is an important component of the medium-term vision for the BBI, but will require additional fundraising and may be established incrementally. Potential benefits of regional help desks include better adaptation of BBI services in terms of language and knowledge of context, improved regional networking and a greater potential for lasting cooperation. BBI will also rely on support from regional networks of institutions that are already networked across CBD Parties and other relevant institutions, and already engaged in TSC and capacity development.

4.3 Main activities and services

4.3.1 Needs articulation and matchmaking through help desk

Technical assistance for needs articulation

The help desk will play a role in assisting Parties to precisely articulate their technical and scientific needs, and to elaborate and refine their requests for assistance describing how their needs fit with national biodiversity targets, plans and strategies. Any assistance will build upon advice and guidance that will be provided on the web platform. This service is key to transforming general nationally-identified needs as outlined in NBSAPs and other strategy documents to more precise needs that can be addressed through TSC.

Parties and stakeholders will be asked to submit their requests for assistance via a common form (available online, and in hardcopy). The form will be simple and easily accessible to encourage the submission of requests by Parties and accommodate diverse types of requests for assistance.

Match needs with appropriate available support

A central activity of BBI will be matchmaking between countries in need of assistance, and countries or institutions able to provide required support (sources of expertise and resources, etc.). The matchmaking activities may include the identification of resources, expertise, programmes and case studies relevant to a particular request for assistance, and facilitation of responses from BBI partners to the Parties requesting assistance. Some of this may be possible to address through the web platform, but in other cases direct support from the help desk may be more appropriate.

The help desk will respond to requests for assistance using the most appropriate response options, ranging from simple to complex solutions. This is explained further in Table 4 below. Clear guidelines for selecting the most appropriate response option will be developed,

1   although they are expected to change as BBI matures and some types of response options
2   are emphasized. Guidelines will consider simplicity, cost-effectiveness, appropriateness for
3   context, available options within region, biodiversity impact, and timeliness, among others. In
4   some cases institutions may volunteer to provide expertise, while in other cases consultancy
5   fees may be paid to providers of expertise or technical assistance.
6
7   **Table 4:** BBI Response Options

	Response Option	Description	Examples
SIMPLE ↓ (gradient to) **COMPLEX**	1. Quick response directly from help desk identifying relevant expertise, resources	In the simplest of cases, Parties may be looking for a specific type of expert, or an expert that can speak a specific language. BBI will help to identify a suitable candidate and provide an introduction where possible.	The help desk provides an introduction to an expert or institution who may be willing to assist a Party with planning for management of alien invasive species.
	2. Match with existing programmes, working groups, mechanisms within the CBD that can provide an appropriate response	In some cases, other existing programmes operated by CBD Secretariat may best meet requests for assistance. The BBI help desk will connect these requests to those programmes.	The help desk refers a Party seeking assistance on protected area management to a relevant workshop being planned by a unit within the CBD Secretariat.
	3. Match with existing programmes, working groups, mechanisms external to CBD for specific topics	The BBI help desk will coordinate with MEAs and their capacity development and TSC mechanisms to respond to requests for assistance of relevance to multiple mechanisms.	The help desk refers a request for assistance on ecosystem-based solutions to climate change to the Climate Technology Centre and Network for support.
	4. Identification of exemplars that could be replicated, with support from institutions involved in case study or with similar knowledge and experience	Exemplars are a source of inspiration for countries seeking solutions to biodiversity challenges. BBI will identify case studies that could provide a methodological template for the Party seeking assistance and support Parties in their uptake and adaptation of any approaches identified (with the help of external partners).	The help desk identifies a case study that is relevant to a request for assistance on reforestation in arid regions and identifies a regional institution willing to support the adaptation of the approach used in the case study for use by the Party requesting assistance.
	5. Development of TSC proposals proposing new TSC initiatives, matching need with a relevant institution with required expertise and experience	The process to develop new TSC projects will involve a partner to help the Party in need to develop a plan or project proposal. The TSC proposal is an elaborated robust and well-articulated proposal that identifies TSC partners, a timeline, a budget and the expected outcomes. This proposal can then be used to seek funding.	The help desk requests suggestions from partner networks on institutions available to co-develop a proposal with a Party requesting assistance on legal frameworks for access and benefit sharing (ABS). Seed funding may be granted to catalyze cooperation between the expertise provider and the Party requesting assistance.

1. The process to facilitate new TSC project proposals (i.e. the most complex response in Table 4) is modeled on the CTCN operational procedures and guidelines. Figure 2 presents all of the steps involved in responding to requests for assistance:

   1. Submit a request for assistance to the BBI help desk.
   2. If necessary, the help desk will work with Parties to clarify the need for which assistance is required, and identify how it might be achieved through TSC.
   3. The help desk will then determine what type of response is most appropriate for providing assistance, including directly responding to the Party for simple requests, identifying relevant case studies to learn from, identifying programmes or other tools of relevance, or facilitating the development of a TSC initiative to meet the need.
   4. To develop a proposal for a new TSC initiative, the help desk will work with a network of partners to identify a suitable institutional partner to match with the country requesting assistance[15]. The institution will be selected based on relevant experience and expertise. The help desk will facilitate the match and support the development of a joint proposal with small grants for this purpose.
   5. The process will result in a developed concept note or proposal that can be used to seek funding for the proposed TSC initiative.
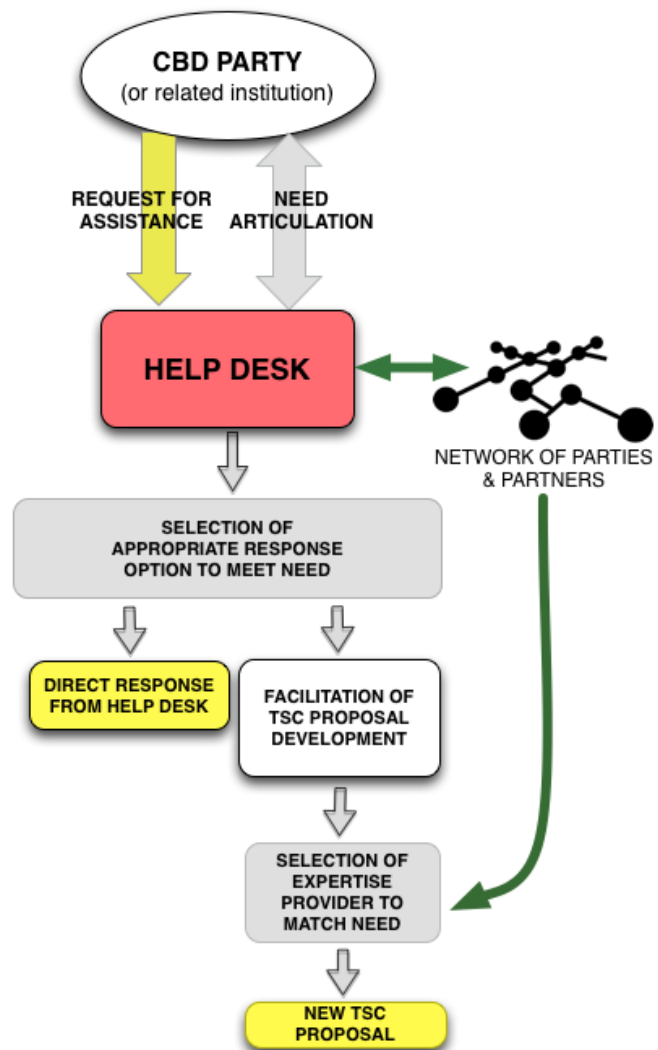
Figure 2. Responding to requests for assistance

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[15] The selection of expertise providers will follow guidelines promoting transparency and good practices in TSC, to be approved by the BBI governance body. Good practices in TSC include emphasizing (when appropriate) South-South and triangular cooperation, institutional capacity-building, lasting cooperation among countries, etc. BBI is developing an operational framework that will promote these good practices in all BBI activities (see section 3).

4.3.2   Encouraging TSC among Parties and partners

BBI will encourage Parties and networks of partners to engage more in TSC to meet biodiversity objectives. BBI will do this through: communication and outreach; regional and thematic meetings; and provision of seed grants to catalyse TSC initiatives.

Communication and Outreach

Communication and outreach is critical to begin developing new cooperation partnerships and initiatives in all regions and also to enable BBI long-term sustainability by ensuring TSC has a far-reaching impact. Outreach and communication are necessary to publicize BBI and encourage TSC among Parties, ensure access to technical support for countries not already engaged in cooperation, and communicate BBI success stories to inspire further cooperation.

The BBI communication and outreach strategy will include the following components:
- A plan to ensure that BBI services are marketed to and used by Parties, and that other key stakeholders are engaged in BBI activities. The communication strategy will take into account language, access to technology and other factors that vary across regions.
- Mechanisms to share success stories to inspire TSC initiatives and encourage contributions. For example, links to existing collections of 'bright spot' success stories in conservation and TSC will be highlighted on the BBI website, and stories and videos of BBI initiatives will be made accessible on website with a map interface.
- A communication plan to promote transparency of BBI operations and provide a simple mechanism to allow feedback from Parties. This will include a plan to regularly report on BBI implementation and TSC achievements.
- The identification of opportunities to promote TSC through BBI networks (side events at all major CBD meetings to showcase TSC in action, regional and thematic meetings to encourage new cooperation)
- A strategy to ensure that funders are aware of BBI and its objectives
- A plan to promote regional communication and outreach
- Strategies and priorities for mobilizing networks of organizations that will support BBI in delivery of TSC

Regional and thematic meetings

As needed, regional and thematic meetings will be used to showcase needs and solutions or themes that are of interest across countries or to certain groups of countries. Many countries are facing the same challenges in achieving their national biodiversity targets, but each of them has a history of biodiversity work with accompanying knowledge, approaches and experiences to share. Regional meetings (or 'BBI days' as part of other meetings) will serve to catalyze alliances among countries focused on sharing and developing biodiversity solutions to prioritized needs. In some cases global and regional stakeholders may be brought in to share specific tools or approaches with interested institutions.

Seed grants

Subject to the availability of funding, BBI may establish a small grants facility to assist in catalyzing TSC initiatives. This service would involve development and implementation of a transparent process of inviting and selecting proposals for potential TSC initiatives and providing small catalytic funds to start such initiatives. BBI will explore the benefits of focussing on particular themes for the annual calls for proposals focused on certain biodiversity topics or targets.

5 Operational Structure

BBI will require a flexible and adaptive governance approach to ensure that stakeholder needs and expectations are met.

5.1 Governance

The SBI Bureau[16] will provide oversight to implementation of BBI within the context of the direction provided by the COP and COP-MOPs. A representative of the Government of the Republic of Korea, and the chair of the BBI Advisory Committee will be invited to participate ex-officio in segments of the SBI Bureau meetings discussing matters related to BBI. The Bureau may, as appropriate, also invite resource persons to support its deliberations on BBI.

The Bureau will address the following issues, drawing as relevant on the advice of the BBI Advisory Committee:
- operational structure and institutional arrangements of BBI
- budget and prioritization of activities
- membership of the Advisory Committee, and advice on what it should address
- communication to Parties
- guidance on fund raising for BBI
- target setting and evaluation of outcomes
- periodic review of progress in achieving the BBI mission and objectives
- reporting to the COP

5.2 Advisory Committee

An Advisory Committee will be established to advise the Bureau and the CBD Executive Secretary on all aspects related to the implementation of BBI within the context of the direction provided in COP and COP-MOP decisions (and where relevant SBI and SBSTTA recommendations), and drawing on experience gained in implementing BBI and in implementing similar initiatives elsewhere.

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[16] Pending decision from the COP on this matter. The draft modus operandi of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation was approved by SBI at its first meeting, and submitted for consideration of COP 13 (SBI Recommendation 1/9).

The Advisory Committee will provide advice on matters relating to building and maintaining strategic partnerships with technical assistance providers, regional network hubs, international networks of biodiversity scientists and educators, and partner mechanisms engaged in TSC and capacity development. In order to do this it will comprise at least 10 representatives of these types of organizations, with due regard to ensuring regional balance, and equitable representation of different types of organizations. The committee will meet annually, and as necessary will also continue to work intersessionally through other means. In the interim until the Advisory Committee is established, a Project Selection Committee that was convened in early 2016 to provide a transparent assessment of candidate pilot projects for BBI[17] will continue to play an advisory role in BBI development.

Members of the Advisory Committee will be selected by the Executive Secretary in consultation with the SBI Bureau based on nominations made by Parties. The selection will take into account the expertise and experience of the nominated officials regarding technical and scientific cooperation initiatives and will give due regard to equitable geographical representation and gender balance. Committee members will serve for a term of two years, with a possibility of renewal for one more term. The Advisory Committee will provide advice on the following issues:

- best means for implementation of the Action Plan
- input and advice on protocols for responding to requests for assistance
- approaches for increasing alignment with potentially related initiatives
- decisions about the timing and location of key meetings
- increasing uptake of BBI support, including within the regions
- strategies for increasing impact of BBI activities
- opportunities for developing new TSC initiatives and partnerships
- periodic review of progress in achieving the BBI mission and objectives

5.3 Secretariat

Implementation of the BBI Action Plan will be coordinated and administered by the CBD Secretariat. BBI will be managed by a BBI team within the CBD Secretariat comprising of a BBI Programme Officer supported by a Programme Assistant. The team will be supervised by the Head of the Capacity Development Unit under the overall guidance of the Director of the Implementation Support Division of the Secretariat. The BBI team will also oversee the operations of the central help desk, and will engage frequently with partners and networks to encourage their involvement in TSC within and across regions.

5.4 Stakeholders and partners

The main BBI beneficiaries are Parties to the Convention and its Protocols. Priority for assistance will be given to developing countries, with particular focus on Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and countries with economies in transition. Organizations requesting assistance from BBI will need to demonstrate support from the respective CBD National Focal Point or another designated entity, or make the case

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[17] The Project Selection Committee is composed of representatives from the Government of the Republic of Korea, the Global Environment Facility, the CBD's Consortium of Scientific Partners, and the chairs of SBSTTA and the CHM Informal Advisory Committee.

1 that their requests are directly related to national biodiversity priorities (e.g. as articulated in
2 NBSAPs or National Reports).
3
4 In order to be effective on a large scale, BBI will facilitate, through the BBI web platform,
5 access to biodiversity knowledge, information and networks to a wide range of stakeholders
6 – not only CBD Parties, but also other key players including non-governmental and
7 intergovernmental organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities, academic
8 institutions, other mechanisms for biodiversity-related TSC and capacity development. Table
9 5 presents the different types of potential partners and stakeholders of BBI (noting that there
10 is some overlap between the different categories).
11
12   **Table 5**. Types of partners for BBI with examples of partner institutions

Type of Partner	Potential role(s)	Examples
Potential applicants to BBI	Request assistance through BBI, support related institutions in their requests for assistance, share expertise, experience with other Parties	Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities and their related institutions at national and sub-national scales
Technical assistance providers	Provide expertise and other technical assistance and support for matchmaking, support development of project proposals, support quick responses to requests for assistance from Parties	CBD partner organizations, biodiversity institutions, private sector partners
Regional network hubs[18]	Support BBI activities in regions, including communication and outreach, support for BBI initiatives, prioritization of needs	UNEP or UNDP regional offices, regionally-active biodiversity institutions
Key processes and tools to align with	Coordinate with BBI to develop synergies and joint TSC approaches, prevent duplication of services, increase accessibility of services to Parties and improve net outcomes	Climate Technology Centre and Network, NBSAP Forum, BES-Net, Sub-Global Assessment Network
BBI governance	Provide policy guidance, strategic direction and political legitimacy to BBI	SBI Bureau
BBI advisors	Evaluate outcomes, provide feedback on direction, help build credibility and relevance of BBI, support communication and outreach	CBD partner organizations and networks
Potential donors	Provide funding for TSC initiatives and specific BBI activities (e.g. regional meetings)	GEF, development assistance agencies, foundations, relevant United Nations bodies

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14

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[18] If it goes ahead, the establishment of formal, supported regional network hubs will be subject to further funding and a rigorous and transparent process for identifying and agreeing hubs. Meanwhile, informal network hubs may volunteer to play a networking role in BBI activities. Guidelines for the establishment of any form of regional hubs will be developed in a transparent manner as BBI is implemented.

6 Implementation

6.1 Roadmap for establishing BBI

The initial period of implementation of BBI operations will be critical to its long-term sustainability. Table 6 presents a summary of activities to be completed in order to begin implementing the BBI action plan. BBI will come on line and the help desk will be open to requests for assistance starting in 2017. Implementation will continue until 2020 (and beyond, if additional funding is secured) based on the infrastructure established in 2016-2017.

Table 6. Roadmap for BBI establishment

Activities	Project year (months)					
	2016		2017			
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Develop web platform						
Develop interim BBI website (limited functionality)	▓					
Design and create web platform based on web strategy		▓				
Establish help desk(s)						
Define details of central help desk (location, who will operate it, TOR and operating protocols)	▓	▓				
Define details of regional help desks (location, who will operate them, TOR and operating protocols)	▓	▓				
Establish help desk(s)		▓				
Implement a communication and outreach strategy to increase understanding of the value and importance of TSC						
Develop communication strategy to reach all CBD Parties and partners	▓	▓				
Design web strategy to align with communication strategy	▓	▓				
Build collaboration and alignment with potential partner institutions	▓	▓	▓			
Explore opportunities for engaging partners at regional level in promoting and facilitating access to TSC	▓	▓	▓	▓		
Communication and outreach with Parties and partners to publicize BBI and encourage TSC			▓	▓	▓	▓
Organize regional and thematic meetings to encourage new cooperation						
Identify opportunities and organize first regional meeting(s)				▓		
Develop seed grant programme						
Develop criteria and focus for seed grants		▓				
Develop evaluation and selection process for seed grants		▓				
Provide technical assistance to Parties via help desk for the precise expression of needs and TSC requests						
Develop and test draft form and process for providing assistance	▓	▓				
Refine and finalize form and process		▓				
Finalize criteria related to eligibility and prioritization of requests for assistance		▓				
Provide matchmaking service to Parties via help desk						
Develop process for identifying TSC partners to provide expertise	▓	▓				
Develop criteria for eligibility of partners to co-develop proposals		▓				

Activities	Project year (months)					
	2016		2017			
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Develop, test and finalize proposal development process		▢	▢			
Develop BBI Operational Framework to guide all BBI activities and encourage good practices						
Develop BBI operational framework	▢	▢				
Develop related operational protocols for BBI activities/services	▢	▢				
Evaluation of BBI performance						
Receive feedback on BBI activities and priorities	▢	▢				
Finalize indicators and performance targets related to impact		▢				
Develop evaluation process (timetable, deliverables, participation)		▢				
Governance bodies						
Develop agreement with COP Bureau for governance of BBI	▢	▢				
Develop TOR for Advisory committee		▢				
Identify members of Advisory committee		▢				
Convene committee		▢				▢
BBI Staff						
Hire BBI programme officer			▢			
Hire CBD Secretariat support staff	▢					
Hire help desk staff		▢	▢	▢		
Budget						
Propose budget for 2017-2020	▢					
Receive feedback on budget, identify shortfalls and need for fundraising	▢					
Finalize budget and develop fundraising strategy		▢				
Financial sustainability						
Identify fundraising goals and approaches		▢				
Identify and liaise with potential donors			▢	▢	▢	▢
Hold regular discussions on strategies for financial sustainability		▢				▢

1

2 **6.2 Financial sustainability**

3 BBI is designed to be the overarching programme for TSC for CBD and its Protocols. The
4 Republic of Korea has provide funding to catalyze the development of BBI and this funding
5 will cover the salaries, but not all activities and services. In order to ensure its long-term
6 sustainability, BBI will need to raise further financial resources from additional voluntary
7 contributions by Parties and partners. In the future, consideration may need to be given to
8 incorporating the BBI budget into the regular budget of the Convention.
9

10 Fundraising is also essential in the short term, in order to develop significantly BBI's
11 presence in a number of regions, and to support more than catalytic TSC projects. A
12 fundraising strategy will be developed to optimize BBI implementation during the first four
13 years, and for the long term to ensure BBI sustainability into the future.
14
15

1 **6.3 Monitoring and evaluation**

2

3 A BBI monitoring and evaluation framework will be developed to measure and report on
4 performance outcomes using indicators and targets. Fundamentally the purpose of
5 evaluation is in order to improve performance over time, and to ensure that the BBI meets,
6 and continues to meet, the needs of Parties. The framework will focus on completed
7 activities, as well as other key performance indicators. The evaluation process for BBI
8 should not be overly time-consuming, and this will be taken into account in planning the
9 evaluation process.

10

11 BBI will also develop a simple mechanism to allow easy and immediate feedback from
12 Parties on activities in which they are involved. BBI may solicit feedback especially in the
13 first two years to evaluate the perceived value of its services, the TSC initiatives facilitated
14 through BBI, as well as alignment of BBI activities with evolving needs of Parties. Monitoring
15 of requests submitted by Parties will additionally enable BBI to revise priority activities based
16 on needs.

17

18 Consideration will also be given to the degree to which BBI is achieving the identified
19 outcomes (see section 2.3). This may be inherently more subjective as there will be multiple
20 influences. However this might be addressed through a survey early on in implementation for
21 establishing a baseline, and then a follow up survey three years later. Consideration of this
22 will be scheduled into the early implementation of BBI.

23

24 Overall responsibility for assessing BBI performance will rest with the SBI Bureau. The
25 Bureau will consider both efficiency of the operational structure, and the effectiveness of
26 support being provided. As indicated above, the Bureau will also review, as appropriate, the
27 indicators and targets used for assessing BBI performance, based on advice from the
28 Advisory Committee. It is expected that the targets and indicators may need to be
29 recalibrated after the first year of implementation for the reasons given earlier. Periodic
30 independent evaluations will occur every 4 years, with the first in 2020.