



Regional and/or Subregional Technical and Scientific Cooperation Support Centres

Background Information

Introduction

At its fifteenth meeting held in December 2022, the Conference of the Parties established a mechanism consisting of a network of regional and/or subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres, to be coordinated at the global level by a global coordination entity, to assist in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the work of the Convention and its Protocols.

The overall goal of the mechanism is to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation among Parties and relevant organizations and to enable them to effectively utilize science, technology and innovation to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. For a full description of the mechanism, see annex II of decision 15/8.

Technical and scientific cooperation refers to a process whereby institutions in two or more countries pursue their individual or collective biodiversity-related goals through cooperative actions. This may include the creation and/or exchange of scientific knowledge, data, expertise, resources, technologies, and technical know-how. It may also include human resource development, institution building, joint training of personnel, exchange of experts, joint research programmes, joint ventures for the development and diffusion of technologies (including indigenous and traditional technologies), and transfer of technology and know-how.

Functions of the regional and/or sub-regional support centres

The core functions of the regional or subregional centres are set out in paragraph 26 of decision 15/8 and summarized as follows:

- (a) To promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer among Parties, including through joint research programmes and joint technology development ventures;
- (b) To provide a “one-stop service centre” that provides access to technical and scientific knowledge, expertise, tools and other resources;
- (c) To provide information on opportunities for technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer and innovations, including biotechnology research;
- (d) To mobilize resources to provide timely and targeted support for projects and activities that address specific identified technical and scientific needs;
- (e) To facilitate matchmaking between Parties with specific needs and Parties or organizations in a position to provide assistance in response to the priority needs identified;
- (f) To catalyze and support the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of technical and scientific cooperation projects and programmes that:
 - (i) Promote and incubate international and regional cooperation and partnerships using a programmatic approach;
 - (ii) Facilitate the development, transfer and diffusion of technologies and innovative national, regional and local solutions, including those of indigenous peoples and local communities, with their free, prior and informed consent, through scalable initiatives; and



- (iii) Facilitate access to, and utilization of, available scientific knowledge, information and data;
- (g) To strengthen capacities of regional, subregional and national institutions to facilitate technical and scientific cooperation with an emphasis on science, technology and innovation;
- (h) To facilitate knowledge sharing and organizational learning;
- (i) To identify, collate and disseminate good practices and lessons learned regarding biodiversity-related technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer and innovation, including biotechnology research;
- (j) To maximize synergies and collaborate with other technology transfer initiatives and mechanisms;
- (k) To perform such other activities related to science, technology and innovation as may be determined by the Conference of the Parties.

Selection criteria

The following criteria, agreed upon by the Parties in decision 15/8, will be used for selecting entities and organizations to host the regional and/or subregional support centres:

- (a) Demonstrated ability to provide technical advice and support to Parties in planning and implementing country-led projects and/or programmes;
- (b) Experience and expertise in the areas of work undertaken by Parties in implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols;
- (c) Capacity to mobilize resources for technical and scientific cooperation programmes;
- (d) Appropriate policies, procedures and other institutional mechanisms and demonstrated ability in place to manage multiple complex projects and programmes;
- (e) Appropriate policies and procedures in place to disclose financial information regarding the operations of the organization or institution, including the sources of financial resources and how they are allocated;
- (f) Active networks of collaborators, including institutions working at regional and subregional levels on biodiversity-relevant issues;
- (g) Experience in working with biodiversity-related conventions, intergovernmental processes, indigenous peoples and local communities, civil society and other stakeholders;
- (h) Experience in engagement in regional and subregional biodiversity-related networks and partnerships;
- (i) Demonstrated experience in facilitating technical and scientific cooperation.

Selection process



In accordance with the paragraph 32(b) of decision 15/8 and the recommendations of the informal advisory group (IAG) on technical and scientific cooperation¹ entities and organizations to host the regional and/or subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres will be selected through the process described below. The process will consist of two stages.

During the first stage, a notification will be issued inviting entities and organizations to express their interest to host a regional and/or subregional by filling out an online form based on the criteria listed in paragraph 3 above. The Secretariat will screen and evaluate the applications received using a rubric (standardized scoring scheme) developed by the IAG and submit a report containing a long list of entities and organizations with the highest scores for review and advice by the IAG on entities and organizations to be invited to participate in the second stage of the selection process.

During the second stage, entities and organizations with the highest scores will be invited to submit more detailed information, including information regarding their current institutional capacity, project portfolios, sources of financial resources, relevant institutional policies and procedures, and the financial management systems they have in place.

Based on the additional information received, the Secretariat will undertake an assessment and prepare a report with a shortlist of up to three entities and organizations per (sub)region. The shortlist will be submitted for consideration and advice by the IAG. The IAG will conduct a final evaluation of the shortlisted candidates and prepare a report recommending the most suitable entities and organizations. The IAG will also make a recommendation on the number of centres required. The report of the IAG will then be submitted for review by the Parties. The Secretariat will compile the views received from Parties and submit them together with the IAG report to the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties (COP Bureau). The COP Bureau will consider this information and select the most suitable entities and organizations to host the regional and/or subregional support centres.

The Secretariat will inform the selected entity(ies) and organization(s) and invite them to confirm acceptance of their selection within a period of one month. Upon receiving confirmation, the Secretariat will within a period of three months initiate and facilitate the process of signing the host agreement with the selected entity or organization and this will conclude the selection process.

Financing and resourcing of the regional and/or subregional support centres

As indicated in the functions and selection criteria above, the entities/organizations selected to host the regional and/or subregional support centres will be expected to mobilise resources for the technical and scientific cooperation support activities. In addition, the Conference of Parties requested the Secretariat to initiate and facilitate a process to identify donors that could provide additional funding to the selected entities and organizations to facilitate technical and scientific cooperation activities. Funding for the mechanism has not yet been secured but efforts are being made to identify sources that could be used to support the operations and programmes of the regional and/or sub-regional support centres.

¹ The IAG was established by the Conference of the Parties in decision 15/8 and its first meeting was held in Montreal from 14-16 June 2023. The outcomes of its first meeting are available at: www.cbd.int/meetings/TSC-IAG-2023-01.