

Biodiversity Capacity Development Update



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Restoration
Projects
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Youth Trained
on Biodiversity
in South Africa



Six Restoration Projects Selected for Funding Under the Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative

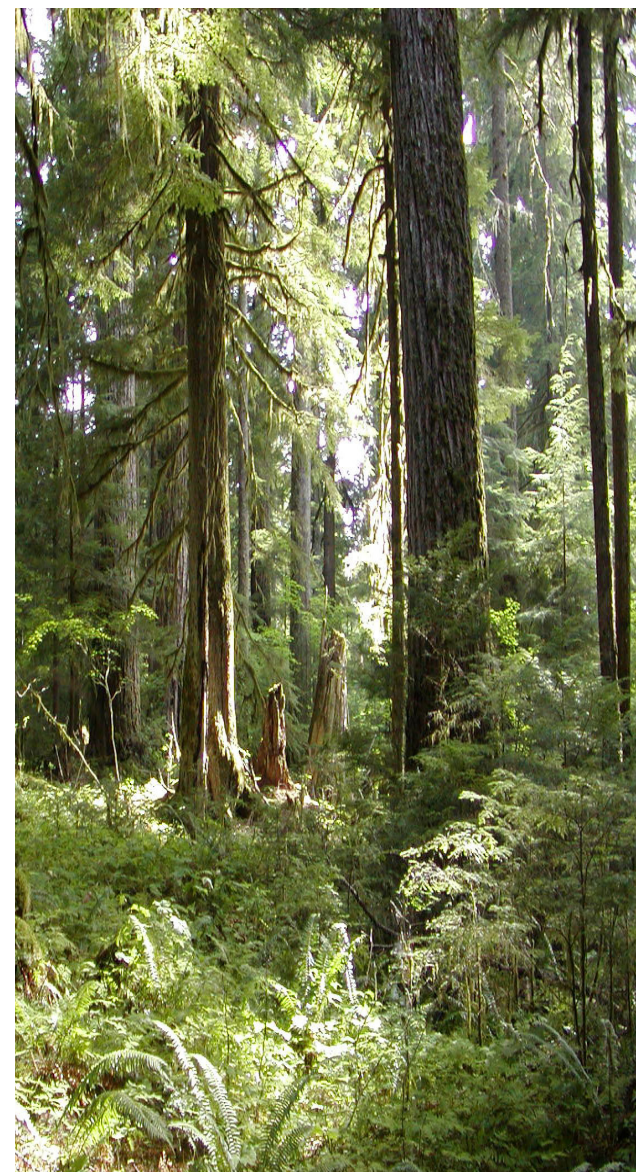
Following the call for submission of project proposals launched in February 2017 by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), on July 3, 2017, the Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative (FERI) granted \$100,000 in funding for six restoration projects in Bhutan, Cambodia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mexico and Peru. A total of 85 submissions were received from 41 countries.

The projects were selected by an expert committee taking into account their strong local community involvement, long-term monitoring approach and focus on critical ecosystem services. These projects join FERI's funding portfolio, which has supported 13 developing countries to date with nearly \$1 million dollars of direct support for the period 2016-2018. FERI is funded by the Korea Forest Service of the Republic of Korea and implemented by the CBD Secretariat. It supports developing country Parties to implement their national plans for ecosystem conservation and restoration within the framework of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets, especially Targets 5, 14 and 15.

Through a series of regional capacity-building workshops, national assessments and direct support to restoration activities, FERI provides countries with best practices and fosters

an exchange of information on emerging experiences, challenges and opportunities regarding forest ecosystem conservation and restoration. The next regional capacity-building workshop will be held in South Africa.

More details on the six selected restoration projects available at feri-biodiversity.org



Youth from Africa Trained to become Change Agents for Biodiversity

Fifty (50) youth from eleven (11) African countries participated in the “African Regional Youth Capacity-Building Workshop on Biodiversity” held from 14 to 19 August 2017 in Johannesburg, South Africa.



The workshop was organized by the Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN) in collaboration with the Department of Environmental Affairs of South Africa. Her Excellency Ms. Edna Molewa, Minister of Environmental Affairs of South Africa, addressed the workshop and encouraged the youth to work hard in their respective neighbourhoods to influence communities and become environmental change leaders for biodiversity.

During the workshop, the young conservationists learned about the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) of their respective countries. Similar to workshops recently held in Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean, the African workshop resulted in new youth initiatives to support NBSAPs, which will be implemented in collaboration with governmental and/or non-governmental organizations.



The results of the workshops will be presented to the delegates of the CBD's Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice in the margins of its next meeting in December 2017.

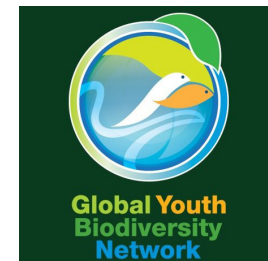
The workshops are part of Youth Voices, a project implemented by GYBN, in collaboration with the Umwelt und Entwicklung/DNR Forum, with technical support from the CBD Secretariat and funding from the Japan Biodiversity Fund and other partners and donors. The workshop series supports decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, which encourage Parties to work with stakeholders in the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.

More information on the Youth Voices project and the GYBN available at:

www.cbd.int/youth/gybn

www.gybn.org

www.facebook.com/thegybn



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Regional Training Workshop on National Adaptation Plans for Latin America and the Caribbean successfully held in Costa Rica

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) participated in the Regional Training Workshop on National Adaptation Plans for Latin America and the Caribbean held in San Jose, Costa Rica, from 4 to 7 September 2017. The workshop was conducted by the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to support countries in advancing their National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).

The workshop facilitators led participants through major considerations in formulating and implementing NAPs. This included how to design effective national processes fully aligned with national development planning, the Sustainable Development Goals, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and other relevant frameworks and goals. The workshop also allowed the participants and organizations to share examples of adaptation solutions in areas such as crop production, livestock, health and early warning systems as well as their countries' road maps, progress made and experiences in the formulation and implementation of NAPs.

The CBD Secretariat informed participants about the importance and value in promoting synergies across the biodiversity-related conventions, including how to make use of biodiversity-related actions to enhance specific

linkages between the Sustainable Development Goals, climate impacts, adaptation strategies, and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Examples of institutional arrangements and possible entry points for introducing such synergies at the national and regional levels were also discussed.

The workshop also provided an opportunity for participants to hear directly from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) on how to access funding for the formulation of NAPs. Other organizations attending the event, including the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI), the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), Oxford Policy Management (OPM), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), also provided information on available support, including technical resources and how countries can access such support. On the final day of the workshop, participants were taken on a study tour to livestock farms under the Fundecooperacion Adaptation Fund project, which focuses on sustainable livestock practices and dairy production by smallholder farmers. The project is contributing to reducing vulnerability and increasing resilience of the farmers to climate change.

The workshop was organized by the LEG, in collaboration with the Japan-Caribbean Climate Change Partnership (J-CCCP) and the NAP Global Network, and hosted by the Government of Costa Rica, through the Ministry of Environment and Energy. It was the fourth in a series of five regional workshops being conducted in line with the Paris Agreement, which has affirmed the critical importance of adaptation and established clear financial support for the formulation and implementation of NAPs through the Green Climate Fund, as well as other relevant sources.

More information about NAPs available at unfccc.int/nap



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Capacity of Caribbean Small Islands Developing States Enhanced Towards Achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 9 on Invasive Alien Species

A capacity-building workshop was convened by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Kingston, Jamaica, from 18 to 22 September 2017, to support Caribbean Small Island Developing States to identify and prioritize invasive alien species that need to be controlled or eradicated. The workshop also aimed at enabling participants to put in place measures to manage pathways and prevent their introduction by 2020.

A total of 39 participants attended the workshop. These included representatives of the biodiversity conservation sector and the national plant protection organization from Small Island Developing States in the Caribbean, the United Kingdom Overseas Territories in the Caribbean, resource persons from the Great Britain Non-native Species Secretariat, the Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International (CABI), the Secretariat of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), UN Environment and local observers from Jamaica.

Participants exchanged information on their respective roles regarding the management of invasive alien species and pests, including pre-border (prior to import), border and post-border management, with a view to identifying complementary roles and actions. Furthermore, participants conducted a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis and identified gaps in existing national and regional

policies, legislation, and capacity to perform actions on invasive alien species management prioritized at the national and regional levels.

Participants also developed logical frameworks aimed at addressing the gaps identified and actions to be taken towards the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Target 9. They followed the model proposed by the Secretariat, taking into account the priorities set by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) for its sixth cycle with the purpose of submitting full project proposals for potential funding. Participants also presented posters on best practices regarding actions taken in their own countries towards achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 9.

Photograph (c) Eric Salamanca

The workshop concluded with a list of actions to be taken nationally and regionally within the next 12 months to prepare action plans and project proposals, in line with CARICOM's Biodiversity Strategy to help them achieve Aichi Target 9, which will be submitted to the donors identified by participants. The major outcomes included improved communication between biodiversity conservation and agricultural sectors and collaboration to plan and implement comprehensive invasive alien species management projects and relevant activities at the national and regional levels.

More information on the programme of work on Invasive Alien Species as well as meeting documents, including the workshop report, available at www.cbd.int/invasive and www.cbd.int/meetings



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Sixteen Experts Trained to Lead National and Sub-National Training in Cross-Sectoral Planning and Management of Marine Resources

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity organized the Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) Training of Trainers Workshop in Seocheon, Republic of Korea, from 25 to 29 September 2017. This was the third SOI Training of Trainers workshop held (after previous workshops held in 2015 and 2016) and was convened with financial support from the Government of the Republic of Korea, through the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, and in collaboration with the National Marine Biodiversity Institute of Korea (MABIK) and various SOI partners.

The workshop provided a unique training opportunity in approaches to cross-sectoral planning and management of marine resources for 16 experts from the governments of Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Comoros, Dominica, Guinea, India, Madagascar, Myanmar, Peru, Samoa, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.

The workshop aimed to provide these experts, all with diverse backgrounds and responsibilities for marine resource management, with tools, skills and resources in cross-sectoral planning and management, and to support them in developing a capacity building programme within their own countries to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in marine and coastal areas.



Through lectures, small-group discussions and practical exercises, and with the support of leading expert trainers in different fields, the participants were trained in:

- Identifying capacity needs for achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in their respective countries;
- Tools for cross-sectoral marine and coastal planning and management (such as integrated marine and coastal area management, strategic environmental assessment, marine spatial planning);
- Incorporating traditional knowledge and engaging indigenous peoples and local communities in planning, decision-making and management;
- Approaches for multi-stakeholder communication and engagement;
- Coordinating multi-stakeholder cross-sectoral planning; and

- Key elements for designing, developing and undertaking training activities.

The participants were then paired with expert mentors to develop their capacity building programme, based on their country's capacity needs and the tools and approaches discussed throughout the week.



More information about SOI and workshop documents available at www.cbd.int/soi and www.cbd.int/meetings



Japan Biodiversity Fund Supports Pilot Projects in Ecuador and Sri Lanka

After organizing two rounds of sub-regional workshops to support the revision of national biodiversity strategies and action plan (NBSAP), in its first two years of operation, and as a complement to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity's portfolio of capacity building programmes, the Japan Biodiversity Fund (JBF) began supporting selected developing countries in the implementation of prioritized elements of their revised NBSAPs. Countries are assisted in developing proposals and implementing tangible on-the-ground work, which directly helps them forward and provides them with clear and measurable outputs.



Pilot projects are selected and developed with a clear capacity building vision in mind – all are intended to serve as demonstration projects for the wider group of Parties engaged in NBSAP implementation. So far the pilot projects that have been supported by the JBF have focused on four

weaknesses that were identified in a large number of pre-2010 NBSAPs, i.e. the lack of biodiversity mainstreaming in countries, the lack of use of spatial information, the lack of use of socio-economic data and indicators, and the lack of emphasis on the process of biodiversity planning and decision-making. Projects are currently underway in Ecuador, Sri Lanka, Antigua and Barbuda, Botswana, Ethiopia, Malawi and Burundi.

Ecuador: The aim of the project is to develop a solid monitoring plan for the Ecuadorian national biodiversity strategy and action plan (NBSAP), identify nationally available data to support monitoring, demonstrate the contribution of conservation/sustainable use to human well-being, and develop inputs for the revision of the National Development Plan (Plan Nacional del Buen Vivir). The project also entails the documentation and analysis of the NBSAP revision process that took place in the context of a major reorientation of government planning processes in the country. Work has involved several government ministries, including the national planning ministry, the national statistics institute and the newly established National Biodiversity Institute. The project is implemented by the Consortium for Sustainable Development of the Andean Ecoregion ([CONDESAN](#)) in close collaboration with the [Ministry of Environment of Ecuador](#). It is currently in its final stages of implementation and

its results and outcomes will be presented to high level officials of different ministries in Ecuador.



Sri Lanka: The objective of this project is to identify and integrate conservation priorities vis-a-vis the government's economic development plans. The project partner, the Environmental Foundation Ltd. (EFL), worked closely with the National Planning and Policy Division, which is revising the National Physical Plan, with the objective of integrating conservation priorities identified in the NBSAP and spatialized under this project. The project also includes the development of recommendations for the mitigation of human-elephant conflict. The implementing NGO has developed long-term close links with the Government of Sri Lanka and has ensured that the process of influencing land-use planning using project results will continue after the completion of the project.

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Japan Biodiversity Fund Supports Pilot Projects in Antigua and Barbuda, Botswana, Ethiopia, Malawi and Burundi

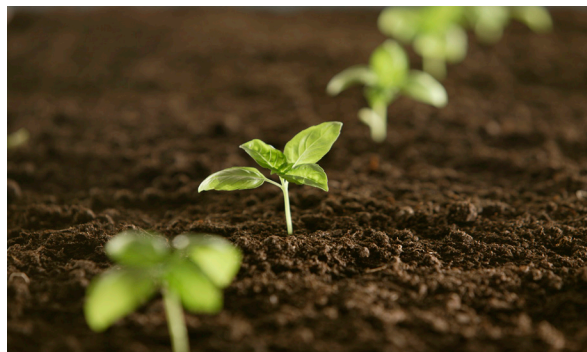
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Antigua and Barbuda: This pilot project is implementing a terrestrial ecosystem service valuation that focusses on the country's important tourism sector, and on the well-being of the local population. It will also conduct a scenario analysis on different development/conservation options in order to inform key decisions being made with regard to land-use. The project, implemented by the Marine Ecosystem Protected Area (MEPA) Trust, and supported by Wolfs Company on the valuation aspects, has very strong awareness raising and stakeholder participation components using the banner "Biodiversity is our Business".



Botswana, Ethiopia and Malawi: This project consists of testing the methodology for mapping biodiversity priorities, developed by the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) and

the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP/WCMC). This methodology will allow developing countries with limited data availability to map, assess, and prioritize biodiversity conservation in their countries. In a possible second phase of this project, the three countries will use the outputs of the project to engage with different sectors in order to integrate biodiversity priorities into their plans.



Burundi: The pilot project aims to facilitate the mainstreaming of biodiversity into the work plans of key sectoral ministries, the country's Poverty Reduction Strategy, and into the President's programme. It builds on a process whereby sectoral biodiversity plans have already been prepared by five ministries including Agriculture, Transport and Public Works, Energy and Mines, Commerce and Industry, and the Ministry of Interior. Implemented by L'Office Burundais pour la Protection de l'Environnement, the project will strengthen the interinstitutional

focal points and Burundi's national clearing-house mechanism (CHM) to help monitor the implementation of these sectoral biodiversity plans. It will also enable the necessary institutional and administrative platforms and communication channels for this mainstreaming to progress, engaging high level decision makers, Senators and Parliamentarians in the process.

The Japan Biodiversity Fund was established by the Presidency of the tenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, in 2010, to support the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, revise the national biodiversity strategy and action plans (NBSAP) in accordance with the Strategic Plan, and strengthen the capacity of the Parties to implement the Convention.



Biodiversity-related Convention Secretariats and Relevant International Organizations Identify Capacity-building as an Area for Enhanced Cooperation

On 29 September 2017, executive heads of biodiversity-related conventions and representatives of organizations hosting the secretariats of the conventions met at the FAO Headquarters in Rome to discuss ways to enhance coordination and collaboration in supporting the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and decisions of their respective governing bodies.



During the meeting, it was noted that there are many opportunities for strengthened collaboration, particularly in the area of capacity-building. In this regard, it was agreed that the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) would convene a meeting of technical staff of the Secretariats and relevant organizations working on capacity-building to review existing mechanisms, programmes, projects and

activities; identify common areas and gaps across the conventions, which require capacity-building; propose means for exchanging best practices; and identify possible concrete joint actions. The meeting also proposed to identify and work with pilot countries where coordination mechanisms exist in order to promote good models and propose methods to encourage other countries to establish such mechanisms.

Dr. Cristiana Paşca Palmer, Executive Secretary of the CBD, who chaired the meeting, stressed the need to take urgent action to integrate biodiversity into relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral policies and programmes, implement policies and regulations in an integrated manner and reach out to diverse stakeholder groups. She also noted that governments will need more support from international and regional partners to implement their national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAP) and achieve their national biodiversity targets.

Participants emphasized the importance of NBSAP as a tool for enhancing cooperation on implementation of biodiversity-related conventions at the national level.

The biodiversity-related conventions include CBD, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES),



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention), World Heritage Convention (WHC), International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and the International Whaling Commission. The organizations that attended the meeting were the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), UN Environment (UNEP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

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Opportunities and Resources

Opportunities for ecosystem-based approaches to address climate change available under the [Green Climate Fund](#).

[GBIF Secretariat announces funding opportunities for projects in Asia](#). Deadline for submitting proposals is 20 December 2017.

[WWF Prince Bernhard Scholarships for Nature Conservation](#). Deadline 13 January 2018

Upcoming Events

Technical Workshop to Review the Voluntary Guidelines for the Design and Effective Implementation of Ecosystem-based Approaches to Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction, Brussels, Belgium, 22 - 23 November 2017

Regional Bio-Bridge Initiative Round Table for Latin America and the Caribbean, Bogota, Colombia, 27- 29 November 2017

Regional Dialogue and Learning Mission on Integrating Climate Change Action and Biodiversity Action at the National Level in South America, Bogota, Colombia, 27 November – 1 December 2017

About BioCAP

BioCAP: Biodiversity Capacity Development Update has been developed to provide periodic updates on the implementation of the short-term action plan on capacity-building adopted in Cancun by the Conference of the Parties, with a particular focus on the main outcomes of the capacity development and technical and scientific cooperation activities facilitated and supported by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in collaboration with partners. The inaugural issue of BioCAP is available on the [CBD website](#).



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