

2024 Biodiversity Capacity-Building and Development Forum Key Messages and Recommendations

High-Level Messages



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“Capacity-building and development action plans, alongside finance plans, constitute an important component of the robust NBSAPs that are needed to implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.”

Ms. Astrid Schomaker,
CBD Executive Secretary

“We need to better understand the capacity needs and priorities of each country, their unique challenges, as well as collaborative partnerships, such as the NBSAP Accelerator Partnership, to help address these capacity needs.”

Mr. Mauricio Cabrera Leal, Vice Minister of Environmental Policies and Standardization, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of Colombia

“Some of the capacity challenges and gaps in implementing NBSAPs, include, limited technical skills in monitoring biodiversity targets and data management, limited institutional capacity for policy alignment, biodiversity planning and mobilizing resources to ensure sustainability of national systems.”

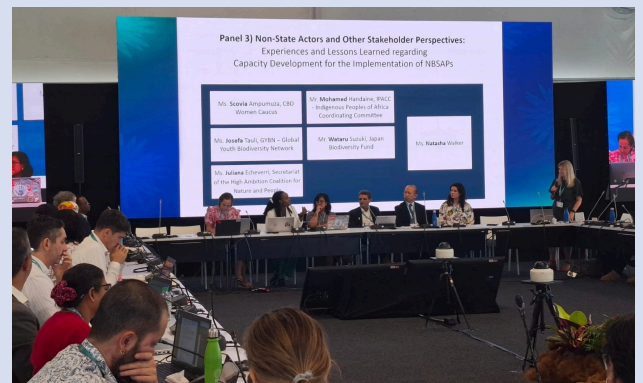
Ms. Inka Gnittke, Deputy Director General, Nature Conservation, Federal Ministry for the Environment of Germany

“We need to formulate capacity-building programmes with mid to long-term objectives, in areas such as policy formulation, laws and regulations, scientific research, education and public awareness, to ensure efforts are comprehensive and systematic. It is equally important to ensure adequate financial support for capacity-building.” Mr. Ning Liu, Director General, Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China

Panel Discussions



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01

Perspectives from Country Representatives

- Capacity-building is required for the effective implementation of NBSAPs.
- Carrying-out a national needs assessment is a critical first step in identifying capacity gaps and priority areas for action.
- Capacity development interventions cannot be stand-alone components. They
 - require a long-term vision and secured funding.
 - must engage partners and relevant stakeholders, and
 - must consider the local context, national priority needs as well as a whole-of-society, whole-of-government approach in their design.

02

Perspectives from Capacity-Building Providers

- It is important to carry out studies or surveys to identify needs and priority areas for capacity interventions, and scale up multisectoral interventions to mainstream biodiversity.
- Stakeholders, including indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth, academia and business, need to be involved from the beginning to co-design projects in a participatory manner and to share knowledge and lessons learned.
- Working in silos, bureaucracies, lack of seed funding for smaller projects and difficulties integrating a human-rights approach are some of the major challenges being faced at the national and regional levels.

03

Perspectives from Non-State Actors and Other Stakeholders

- Referencing the principle of “inclusion not invitation”, it is important to ensure that non-state actors, particularly marginalized groups, are not simply invited for consultation but are effectively and meaningfully included in all the stages of capacity-building (needs assessment, design, implementation and monitoring) at the national level.
- To ensure effective inclusion, language barriers as well as cultural sensitivities and conflicts must be addressed from the outset, and international and local partners must provide funding without taking away ownership from the beneficiaries.
- The short-term duration of projects, conditionalities and inflexibility, support that is not adapted to the national and local contexts, and lack of effective monitoring to measure real impact and systemic changes are some of the challenges being faced by stakeholders.

Key Observations



Capacity-building cannot be a stand-alone component, or a one-size fits all formula.



Capacity-building interventions and programmes need to be formulated with medium to long-term objectives tailored to specific local needs and national priorities



Capacity development programmes should include monitoring and evaluation support and periodic reviews of implementation

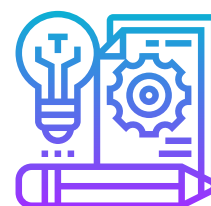
Adequate and sustainable means of implementation (predictable financial resources, capacity development, and technical and scientific cooperation) are needed to ensure full implementation of the CBD, its Protocols and the KMGBF



The design of capacity development interventions must involve various partners and stakeholders, through a whole-of-society and whole-of-government approach, to break down silos during the planning and implementation stages



Monitoring the effectiveness and impact of capacity-building efforts is a key aspect of a structured approach to capacity-building and development



The traditional model of providing training and capacity-building support at the individual level must shift towards strengthening institutions, enabling environment and leveraging partnerships and financing from multiple sources



Joint capacity development initiatives and biodiversity programmes must be promoted to accelerate cooperation, reduce competition between organizations and foster the sharing of knowledge and resources to amplify collective impact



Capacity-building and development, technical and scientific cooperation, and technology transfer should be promoted and carried out in a fair and equitable manner

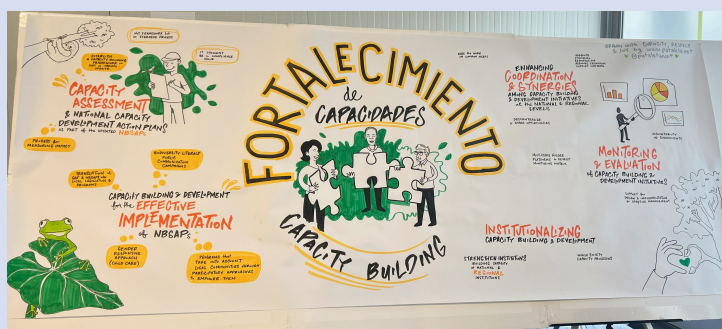
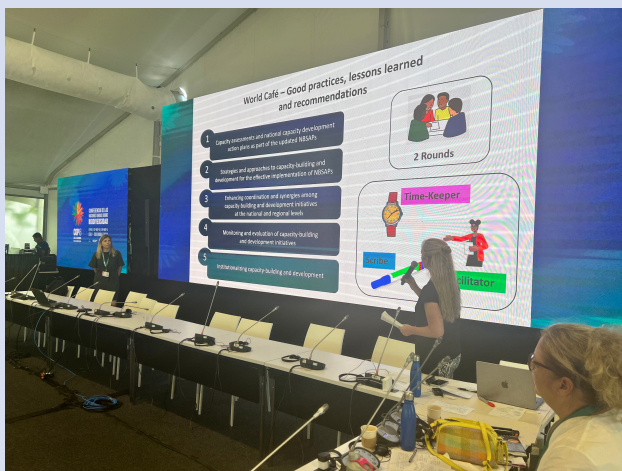


Countries need to undertake systematic, inclusive, country-led, capacity needs assessments to identify their national priorities

Strategies need to be implemented to retain capacities at the institutional level

The subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres could be a potential game-changer in delivering support to Parties

World Café Sessions



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Recommendations



Establish capacity-building processes, rather than frameworks, across and within sectors (i.e. Capacity-building as an iterative process, not a compliance issue)



Map the impact of capacity-building and development towards the delivery of NBSAPs to support the delivery of outcomes (i.e. Establish a process for measuring impact)



Establish institutions and other pathways for engagement at chief executive level of government on biodiversity on a permanent and sustained basis involving ministers from all relevant sectors



Launch basic biodiversity literacy public communication campaigns, targeting all of society to sensitize the public at large about biodiversity



Increase the participation of women in all kinds of capacity-building for biodiversity to ensure a gender responsive approach



Translate the KMGBF and NBSAPs into national legislation, laws, government programmes and in all national languages and dialects



Raise awareness at the national level and mainstream the biodiversity, degradation and climate change emergencies through participatory and collaborative approaches, which include multiple stakeholders such as policymakers, local governments, government agencies, NGOs, IPLCs, women and youth, for an effective, rights-based, transformative, cross-sectional and meaningful implementation of NBSAPs and the KMGBF



Design bottom-up, country-based, and demand-driven multi-year capacity-building programmes with long-term financial support considering the needs, culture, worldviews, different knowledge systems, socio-ecological contexts and priorities of local communicates and rights-based, transformative, cross-sectional implementation of the KMGBF and NBSAPs at the country level



Create a multi-stakeholder (decentralized) platform to align the Rio Conventions, particularly in areas of implementation and reporting, and share capacity-building and development opportunities



Identify common needs for implementation by the regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres



Ensure adequate and predictable funding for the regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centers to enhance synergies and capacity-building initiatives at the national and regional levels



Strengthen monitoring and evaluation of capacity-building and development initiatives by engaging relevant stakeholders in the development of monitoring metrics from the start to ensure desired impacts



Assess the value chain of capacity development that leads towards long-term solutions and sustainability (i.e. enhance accountability)



Ensure capacity development programmes have monitoring and evaluation support for the design and implementation throughout the cycle and have periodic reviews



Institutionalize capacity-building and development, inter alia, through strengthening institutions and creating systematic knowledge management systems at national and regional levels, and establishing a whole-of-society, whole-of-government capacity process to align national policies



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Background

Pursuant to decision 15/8, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), in collaboration with the Government of Colombia and the NBSAP Accelerator Partnership, organized the first Biodiversity Capacity-Building and Development Forum on 19 October 2024 in Cali, Colombia. More than 150 participants, including Party representatives, capacity

development practitioners and providers, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth representatives, as well as other relevant stakeholders, attended the Forum.

Held under the theme “*Strengthening Capacities for the Implementation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)*”, the 2024 Capacity-Building and Development Forum, with the assistance of two professional facilitators, provided participants an opportunity to:

- Share experiences, best practices and lessons learned in the design and implementation of national capacity-building and development initiatives in support of NBSAPs,
- Foster coordination and cooperation on biodiversity capacity-building and development initiatives, and
- Promote partnerships and synergies in the capacity-building and development efforts to support the implementation of NBSAPs and the KMGBF.

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