



Comments to the Draft Elements for the Long-Term Strategic Framework for Capacity Development to Support Implementation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

Introduction

The Regions4 Biodiversity Learning Platform¹ ([R4BLP](#)) is a global community of proactive regional governments that support subnational efforts in the conservation and protection of biodiversity, the promotion of healthy ecosystems and sustainable livelihoods for their citizens by exchanging good practices and lessons learned among its members. The R4BLP was launched by [Regions4](#) and is an operational partner of the Advisory Committee on Subnational Governments and Biodiversity² ([AC SNG](#)) to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and it provides assistance in the generation of knowledge that can support the Committee's advocacy efforts.

Recently, the AC SNG with the support of the R4BLP and the Catholic University of Santos (São Paulo, Brazil) launched the report "[Mainstreaming biodiversity: the Subnational Government Experience](#)" with a dedicated chapter to the topic of capacity building and training needs for mainstreaming biodiversity that will be considered at the 3rd meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, under agenda item 11, as an Information Document. The following comments are partially based on said document.

General comments

Firstly, we, the subnational governments members of the Advisory Committee on Subnational Governments and Biodiversity (AC SNG) and the Regions4 Biodiversity Learning Platform (R4BLP) would like to acknowledge the quality of the draft document prepared by the Executive Secretary.

We recognize and appreciate the inclusion and consideration of the relevance of subnational and local governments throughout the text and in particular, in the sections IV. Principles and Approaches for Effective Capacity Development and VI. Mechanism for Implementation. Both sections reflect the core elements of the strategic framework and the key involvement of subnational and local governments is pertinent and clear.

We believe that the draft elements sufficiently cover the main areas that would help governments, including subnational governments, adopt more strategic actions to further create capacities. Overall, the proposed structure is clear and comprehensive, and it lays

¹ Members of the R4BLP are the regions of Aichi, Azuay, Basque Country, Campeche, Catalonia, Gossas, Lombardy, Palawan, Québec, São Paulo and Wales.

² Members of the AC SNG, representatives of Aichi, Andra Pradesh, Auvergne-Rhone-Alpes, Basque Country, Campeche, Catalonia, Fatick, Gangwon, Goias, Gossas, Lombardy, North Rhine Westphalia, Ontario, Palawan, Paraná, Québec, São Paulo, Sichuan, Wales and Walga. Partners of the AC SNG, representatives of the European Committee of the Regions, the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies and the Consortium of Provincial Governments of Ecuador.



the foundation of a capacity development strategy that, we believe, will support the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

Therefore, we would like to suggest that the draft document considers including a timeframe aligned with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, in particular the 2030 vision. Additionally, we suggest that section III. Strategic Direction and Outcomes, particularly when it comes to examples of capacity results (p.9, box 1), as an output we suggest Subnational and Local Biodiversity Strategies to also be considered, and, as a long-term outcome, to include the concept of “robust vertical and horizontal integration among all levels of government”.

Discussion on Principles and Approaches for Effective Capacity Development

We welcome the principles and approaches considered in the document, and particularly appreciate the consideration of the importance of other actors involved in materializing the objectives of the Convention. Actors other than the national government have proven to be crucial to the successful implementation of biodiversity related initiatives.

There is, though, another principle we consider important and that is the engagement of local communities. Ultimately, indigenous peoples and local communities, including forest owners and rural women and youth, depend on biodiversity for their daily livelihoods and must be fully engaged not only in project design and implementation, but in capacity development for the sustainable use of biodiversity.

Discussion on Key Strategies to Improve Capacity Development Implementation

All proposed strategies are relevant to the improvement of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of capacity development efforts in support of the post-2020 biodiversity framework, however we would like to highlight that -although recognized in other key elements of the document- considering the critical importance of other government actors other than National governments is key.

With regards of the strategy *Integrate long-term capacity development in national strategies and action plans*, we would suggest that said integration should also address the integration of capacity development within subnational and local strategies and action plans as a key instrument for regional implementation. As a constituency of subnational governments, we welcome the inclusion of the “whole of government” approach as it is an important element to allow ownership and responsibility of the implementation of the framework.

We welcome the promotion of *South-South and triangular cooperation* as a strategy and would suggest going further and invite Parties to the Convention to enable its implementation by fostering networks of collaboration among a national territory and providing the financial means to materialize the cooperation.



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Discussion on Mechanism of Implementation

With regards on how to facilitate the implementation of the long-term strategic framework, we strongly believe that a global governance mechanism would be necessary to help guide efforts and put in practice the strategies proposed. There are great capacity-building and capacity-development platforms and initiatives, and we would suggest creating a network for learning and engaging with biodiversity conservation.

One of the conclusions of our work within the Regions4 Biodiversity Learning Platform and the Advisory Committee on Subnational Governments is that there continues to be a need for science-based information, knowledge and resources to successfully build and develop capacities at the subnational level of government and with local communities.

Therefore, a global governance mechanism that ideally would be linked to a financial mechanism that would allow the development of capacities on the ground and the implementation of the long-term strategic approach would make it actionable and can really put in practice the principles of the framework.