



Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/NBSAP/CBW-CAM/1/4
30 November 2008

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

CAPACITY-DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP FOR CENTRAL AMERICA ON NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS AND MAINSTREAMING OF BIODIVERSITY

México City, Mexico
26 - 27 March 2008

REPORT OF THE WORKSHOP

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Article 6 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) requires each Party to develop or adapt national strategies, plans or programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and to integrate, as far as possible and as appropriate, the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies. Noting the importance of national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) for the implementation of the Convention, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, at its eighth meeting, called for an in-depth review. This review process was used to recommend priority areas for capacity-development and to provide inputs to the process of revising the Convention's Strategic Plan beyond 2010.

2. As part of this review process, the Conference of the Parties recommended that regional and/or sub-regional workshops be convened to discuss national experiences in implementing NBSAPs, and the integration of biodiversity concerns into relevant sectors, including consideration of obstacles and ways and means for overcoming the obstacles (paragraph 6 of Decision VIII/8). The second meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention (WGRI-2), which was convened in Paris from July 9-13 2007, reemphasized the importance of organizing such regional workshops in its Recommendation 2/1.

3. Following these requests, the Executive Secretary organized a global series of regional and sub-regional workshops on capacity development for NBSAPs during 2008. As the third in the series, the regional workshop for Mesoamerica was convened from 26 to 27 March 2008 in Mexico City and organized in collaboration with the National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (CONABIO). The workshop was held back-to-back with the Workshop on the Evaluation of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment: Findings and Human Well-Being. Financial support was provided by the Government of Spain.

4. The purpose of the workshop was to:

(a) Strengthen national capacities for the development, implementation, reviewing, updating, and communication of NBSAPs, providing an opportunity for active learning for the Convention's national focal points or persons in charge of implementing NBSAPs in their country;

(b) Hold focused discussions on the integration of biodiversity considerations into relevant national policies, strategies and planning processes as well as cross-sectoral national strategies (such as those for sustainable development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals), including the identification of priorities, sharing information on approaches from across the region, and discussing ways and means for overcoming challenges;

(c) Provide training on the use of relevant tools and mechanisms that support effective mainstreaming;

(d) Provide information to Parties on the development of Fourth National Reports, including guidelines and available technical and financial assistance; and

(e) Identify steps forward in the development and implementation of NBSAPs that encourage biodiversity mainstreaming at national levels and include strategic communication, education, and public awareness.

5. The workshop format featured a mix of presentations with question and answer sessions, discussions in small working groups, and interactive sessions to introduce relevant tools. In combination with the other workshops in the series, the outcomes of the workshop provided valuable inputs to the review of implementation of the Strategic Plan, which was considered by the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Bonn, Germany in May 2008. Additionally, the global series of workshops provides important input into the revision of the Strategic Plan for 2011 to 2020 which will be considered at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Nagoya, Japan from 18 to 29 October 2010.

6. The workshop was attended by Government-nominated officials responsible for the development and/or implementation of NBSAPs in Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Mexico, and Panama. Ten resource persons from the region contributed their expertise on biodiversity conservation, biodiversity-based livelihoods, mainstreaming biodiversity concerns into economic and development sectors, developing and implementing biodiversity strategies and action plans at the sub-national level, and developing communication, education, and public awareness strategies. The workshop was conducted in Spanish.

7. The following report provides an overview of the workshop agenda, sessions, and discussions, the conclusions of the meeting, and the wrap-up discussion on the way forward. Annexes to this report provide the detailed workshop agenda (Annex I), the agenda of the Workshop on the Evaluation of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment: Findings and Human Well-Being (Annex II) and the list of meeting documents (Annex III). All background documents, the annotated agenda, and the final list of participants are available at: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=NBSAPCBW-CAM-01>.

II. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Item 1. Opening of the Meeting

8. Mr. Hesiquio Benitez Díaz, Director of Liaison and International Affairs at CONABIO, opened the meeting at 9 AM and welcomed participants. Highlighting key conclusions of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, and reflecting on the sessions held during the previous two days on the follow-up to the MA, Mr. Benitez Diaz stressed that human populations are dependent on biodiversity and the ecosystem services it provides. He underlined the important role NBSAPs play as tools to ensure

biodiversity is integrated into decision-making across sectors. He noted that the workshop offered participants an important opportunity to take stock of the implementation of NBSAPs within the region ahead of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in May 2008. Sra. Zulma Ricord de Mendoza welcomed the participants on behalf of the Central American Commission on Environment and Development. She stressed that information exchange between countries on NBSAPs and lessons learned on mainstreaming biodiversity concerns into economic sectors and national planning was important for strengthening regional cooperation on this important agenda.

9. On behalf of the Executive Secretary of the SCBD, Mr. David Cooper also welcomed participants and thanked CONABIO and the Government of Mexico for hosting the workshop. He also thanked the Governments of Spain for providing the financial support that made the workshop possible. Referring to the vital role biodiversity plays in human livelihoods, poverty alleviation and reduction, and economic development, Mr. Cooper emphasized that NBSAPs are not only cornerstones of national implementation of the Convention, but also, as reflected in the Article 6(b) of the Convention, must be considered as tools for integrating biodiversity concerns into decision making across all departments of government and all sectors of society and the economy. He congratulated all countries participating in workshop for completing NBSAPs, and noted the workshop offered an important opportunity for the exchange of national experiences in implementing and updating of NBSAPs, and for the exchange of experiences in linking NBSAPs with national development planning, as well as regional conservation, environment and sustainable development processes.

Item 2. Overview of the Objectives of the Workshop

10. After the opening statements, participants divided themselves into pairs for 5 minutes and were asked to discuss common learning objectives for the workshop. Each pair recorded these objectives and expectations on index cards and presented them to the entire group. This was followed by self-introductions. The index cards were collected, arranged according to themes, and displayed on the wall for referral during the course of the workshop. These main points are replicated below.

Exchange of Knowledge :

- That the workshop will provide an opportunity to share issues from across the region
- The Exchange of experiences on implementation of the CBD
- That the workshop will help in preparing the region to work closely together at COP-9
- Explore how to link the experiences from other international conventions, and from other international experts, related to the conservation of wildlife
- Discuss the issue of updating the national strategy and preparing the Fourth National Report

Regional Coordination:

- That this be the first workshop for Central America to work as a group with the CBD – as done with CITES
- Support a plan for Central America on the integration of biodiversity into development and support strategic instruments at the regional level to support Biodiversity Strategies
- What is the regional perspective?

Implementing NBSAPs:

- How to update a National Biodiversity Strategy
- Learn about the implementation of Strategies in other countries of the region and apply this to implementation of the newly endorsed State BSAP

- Learning about communication tools for NBSAP coordinators
- To discuss ways in which NBSAPs can be implemented in conjunction with other related plans and strategies
- What are the GEF funding mechanisms?

Updating and Revising NBSAPs:

- How can implementation of Biodiversity Strategies be improved and updated to include new decisions of the CBD?

Stakeholder Engagement and Implementation at Local Levels:

- How to strengthen the capacity for implementing the National Strategy and State Strategies
- What is being done at regional level to implement the strategies could also be done at State level
- In what manner can NBSAPs and BSAPs developed at the subregional level be formalized officially?

11. The participants agreed to the proposed programme of the workshop, but requested that some time be added to discuss preparation for COP-9.

12. After a plenary discussion on the learning objectives, Mr. David Cooper delivered an introductory presentation that outlined recent work of the Secretariat in its in-depth review of the implementation of the Convention. This included:

- (a) Key results of the global In-Depth Review of Goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan, including challenges and gaps to NBSAP implementation;
- (b) Key lessons learned on what elements make NBSAPs strategic and able to promote enhanced mainstreaming (conclusions from the In-Depth review of Goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan); and
- (c) Consolidated guidance on the development, implementation and updating of NBSAPs (WGRI Recommendation 2/1).

He emphasized the role that NBSAPs play as corner stones for the implementation of the CBD, not only for significantly reducing biodiversity loss by 2010, but also as tools for integrating biodiversity into decision-making across all departments of government and all relevant sectors of society and the economy. He stressed that biodiversity and the ecosystems that it underpins are essential for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

13. Mr Cooper concluded by providing an overview of the purpose, objectives, and expected outcomes of the workshop. By the end of the workshop, it was hoped that participants:

- (a) Would have evaluated the progress made in their countries and in the region;
- (b) Would have identified and become more aware of good practices in the region;
- (c) Were inspired and enabled to apply lessons learned from experience in the region;
- (d) Would have identified some mechanisms to overcome or mitigate obstacles;
- (e) Would have better understanding of the ecosystem approach and be aware of tools for its application; and
- (f) Would be aware of some tools and methodologies to support better communication, education, and public awareness strategies for NBSAPs.

Items 3 and 4. Status of Development and Implementation of NBSAPs in the Region and Updating and Improving NBSAPs

14. Agenda Item 3 (Status of Development and Implementation of NBSAPs in the Region) and Agenda Item 4 (Updating and improving NBSAPs) were considered together. Under these items, country representatives made short presentations outlining:

- (a) Status of implementation of their NBSAP and information on related strategies, programmes, and national legislation;
- (b) Major features of NBSAPs;
- (c) Priority actions identified for implementing NBSAPs;
- (d) Mechanisms identified for implementing NBSAPs
- (e) Obstacles encountered in the implementation of NBSAPs
- (f) Reviews undertaken of the implementation of NBSAPs and the assessment of the effectiveness of the strategy;
- (g) How biodiversity considerations have been taken into account and mainstreamed into sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes, and policies, including those related to sustainable development, poverty reduction, and achieving the MDGs; and
- (h) The use of communication, education and public awareness activities in NBSAP implementation and the further needs and challenges in this regard.

15. Presentations were grouped into sessions of one and a half hours and followed by question and answer sessions as well as plenary discussions. To facilitate interactive discussion as well as small group exercises, participants sat at round tables. Participants welcomed this opportunity to exchange national experiences and discussed with the Secretariat the importance of sharing such information through the Clearing House Mechanism. Highlights from the country presentations are noted in this section. PowerPoint presentations from each country can be found on the CBD website at: <http://www.cbd.int/nbsap/workshops/central-america.shtml>.

16. Mr. Darío Luque provided an overview of Panama's NBSAP, noting that the Strategy has 12 strategic objectives, and the Action Plan has 7 programmes with 23 sub-programmes. He also briefly outlined key legislation related to the implementation of the Strategy. While the legal framework is very strong, implementation of the Plan of Action has been limited since its adoption in 2000. Challenges include (i) the fact that the department in charge of biodiversity lacks an office, and staff and information are dispersed in different institutions, (ii) the implementation of existing laws and decrees must be better enforced, (iii) participation at the local level is sometimes lacking, (iv) there is no Communication strategy for the NBSAP, and (v) there is a lack of inter-institutional communication. However, the country has evaluated the Strategy and Action Plan and has made additions through the preparation and/or adoption of other policies. This evaluative process has included a project on self-evaluation of national capacities (Proyecto Autoevaluación de las Capacidades Nacionales Para la Administración del Medio Ambiente Global, NCSA) the preparation of a national biodiversity policy in 2006, a study on the process of implementing the National Environment Strategy for 2008 – 2012 (Actualización de la Estrategia Nacional del Ambiente de Panamá, 2007), and a consultancy on the implementation of the Strategic Plan for the National System of Protected Areas of Panama (Actualización del Plan Estratégico del Sistema Nacional de Áreas Protegidas de Panamá, 2007). In addition, he discussed how Panama would like to link the development of the Fourth National Report with a revision of the Strategy.

17. Ms. Sevilla Estrada, representing the System of National Conservation Areas (Sistema Nacional de Areas de Conservación, SINAC), presented Costa Rica's experience in developing, implementing, and evaluating its NBSAP, with some additional inputs from her counterpart Ms. Jiménez Fernandez who represented the Ministry of Environment and Energy (Ministerio de Ambiente y Energía). In Costa

Rica, two national institutions have been tasked with coordinating the implementation of the Strategy. The Strategy was developed through a two-year participatory and bottom-up process during which thirty-one national consultation workshops were held and inputs received from the country's eleven Conservation Areas, civil society, and economic sectors. The lead agencies took the opportunity to use this process to enhance public awareness of biodiversity and the CBD. Regional strategies for each of Costa Rica's eleven Conservation Areas have also been developed. The Strategy, as well as its Action Plan, both address the issue of mainstreaming biodiversity into national planning processes by including strategic elements linked to territorial planning, inter-institutional and inter-sectoral coordination, and environmental services and incentives. The Strategy has been integrated into the tourism, silviculture, agriculture, and health sectors, as well as cross-sectoral national planning processes including the National Development Plan (Plan Nacional de Desarrollo, 2006 – 2010), the national climate change strategy (Estrategia Nacional de Cambio Climático), the National Programme on Biocommerce (Programa Nacional de Biocomercio), the State of the Nation Report (Informe del Estado de la Nación), and the Strategy for the 21st Century (Estrategia Siglo XXI). Costa Rica also has taken steps to integrate and consider the strategy in its commitments to Central American conventions as well as global conventions and treaties. This focus on mainstreaming and inter-institutional coordination has enabled Costa Rica to implement their Strategy in ways that go beyond the strategic framework originally outlined when it was published in 2000. Taking advantage of the multi-stakeholder consultations that were organized in preparation of the Third National Report, Costa Rica used the opportunity to conduct an evaluation of the implementation of the Strategy. An evaluation matrix was produced which measured level of progress in achieving and implementing the Action Plan's 13 core strategic themes. Rankings of "low," "medium," and "high" were used, and the matrix included examples of concrete achievements under each of these themes. Costa Rica is considered a leader in developing a comprehensive programme on payments for environmental services. According to the Third National Report, over 450,000 hectares of forest receive payments through this programme. This programme combined with the country's Three types of environmental funds have leveraged significant financing in support of biodiversity conservation, the protected area system which covers over 25% of the national territory, as well as the forty-five officially-recognized biological corridors. With an emphasis on the participation of local communities, as well as a framework for engaging the private sector, the payments for environmental services programme offers an important avenue for mainstreaming. Ms. Estrada finished the presentation by evaluating the implementation of the NBSAP using the guidelines set out in COP decision VIII/8.

18. Mr. Ricardo Bautista Montoya Núñez presented Nicaragua's NBSAP, which was developed through a participatory process that included consultations with civil society, scientists, different economic sectors (such as fisheries, agriculture, and forestry), and NGOs. These consultations were held to help define the objectives and governing principles of the Strategy and its Plan of Action. Implementation of the NBSAP has been challenged by (i) the lack of economic resources designated to biodiversity, (ii) limited inter-institutional and sectoral coordination, (iii) lack of participation of the scientific community in collaborating or providing information, and (iv) lack of human resources. Sr. Montoya Núñez focused his presentation on the way forward, noting that encouraging wider participation and requesting support from the GEF to complete the Fourth National Report were priorities. He outlined the government's Biodiversity Policy, including the objectives, the principles in support of implementation, and the Policy's guidelines.

19. Ms. Zulma Ricord de Mendoza presented El Salvador's NBSAP, including the consultation and diagnostic processes employed to develop it. She noted several important drivers that supported the development of the NBSAP. These included the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor, the spatial planning policy, and the personal support of the President who included biodiversity concerns into his agenda. The Mesoamerican Biological Corridor is an especially important instrument, as protected areas are quite small, and the synergies that the Corridor has created have been critical. Public participation was a challenge, but now they are pleased to have a network of "ecosystem managers" in place and work with twenty-five NGOs as well as private landowners. As the country moves forward with implementing the NBSAP, they will evaluate whether they will update the Strategy or continue to implement individual components.

20. Mr. Carlos Hemán García and Ms. Sra. Daisy Johanna Samayoa presented Honduras's NBSAP, in which the Action Plan was conceived to be a practical and coherent guide for implementing the CBD and including the participation of civil society in the context of sustainable development. They outlined the strategic guidelines as well as the main achievements. For in situ conservation, these achievements include (i) the development of administrative and planning instruments for the management of protected areas (such as a manual of technical regulations, gap analysis, co-management plans, etc.), (ii) designation of new protected areas, (iii) inclusion of new private protected areas into the system, (iv) protected area legislation including the creation of funds and incentives and changes to related legislation, and (v) monitoring of indicator species. A key achievement related to CEPA was the integration of environmental education in the school system. The NBSAP has been considered a planning tool, and has been used and referenced in a number of national strategies and plans related to the management of natural resources, water policy, the tourism strategy, and territorial legislation, to name a few. Additionally, the NBSAP has been aligned with the National Plan of Action to Combat Desertification and Drought as well as the Strategy for Poverty Reduction.

21. Mr. Hiram Ordóñez Chocano presented the development of Guatemala's NBSAP and the subsequent evaluation. The purpose of this assessment was to prioritize national capacity needs for improving the implementation of Action Plan and develop recommendations to address implementation gaps. In terms of current implementation, economic incentives are directed mostly towards the management and conservation of forests, including payments for ecosystem services and non-timber forest products. Guatemala is developing a Clearing House Mechanism (CHM) to assist in information management and distribution.

22. Ms. Marina Hernández presented the process of preparing a NBSAP in the Dominican Republic. In 1994, an independent group prepared the Dominican Republic Strategy for Biodiversity Conservation 1994 – 2004 in collaboration with governmental institutions, NGOs, and representatives from academia and civil society. In subsequent years, the government has launched numerous initiatives, including, but not limited to, strengthening the protected area system, gap analysis on finances for protected areas, payments for ecosystem services, legislation on biodiversity and biotechnology, a project on regulations for access to genetic resources, mitigation of threats from invasive alien species, a project on biofuels, a biosphere reserve, and a biological corridor with Haiti and Cuba. In developing the country's NBSAP, the Dominican Republic is using as a reference the MA, with its focus on ecosystem services, human wellbeing, and valuation instruments, the MDGs, development plans to combat poverty, and the Strategic Plan of the CBD. The Dominican Republic has developed a Vision for 2025 to help guide the NBSAP. This Vision emphasizes sustainable use, the contribution of biodiversity to national development, and legal and institutional framework for the effective participation of sectors. Its long-term vision was developed through a consultative and participatory process.

23. Mr. Hesiquio Benitez Díaz presented Mexico's National Strategy for Biodiversity, which was adopted in 2000 and sets out a 50-year vision that sees large-scale conversion of natural ecosystems averted. It includes four main strategic thrusts: knowledge management; valuation of biodiversity; conservation; and diversification of use. While overall responsibility for the Strategy rests with the environment ministry SEMARNAT, implementation is promoted by a range of agencies including those responsible for forests, water management, and protected areas. Currently, a major effort is underway to decentralize implementation through the development of state biodiversity strategies. Development, implementation and monitoring of the Strategy is facilitated by CONABIO – the National Commission for the Conservation and Use of Biodiversity created in 1992. CONABIO's governing body includes relevant ministers and is presided over by the President of the Republic. Its main roles are to maintain the national system of information on biodiversity, support relevant research, and carry out assessments of biodiversity and the impacts of activities by government, the private sector and civil society. Recent activities include a gap analysis of the terrestrial and marine protected area systems and assessments of risks from invasive alien species.

24. In Mexico, CONABIO has launched an ambitious initiative to assist all States in developing their own Biodiversity Strategies. These are envisioned as representing a dynamic and strategic planning process that will direct the activities of different sectors of society to maintain biodiversity. The States of Michoacán and Morelos have developed State Biodiversity Studies as well as State Biodiversity Strategies. Strong support from local scientists, stakeholders, and politicians has been key to this process. Sixteen other States are now at various stages of developing their own strategies. CONABIO provides technical support for this process, which draws upon the methodologies of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. Although carried out independently, the State studies and strategies will inform the development of Mexico's revised NBSAP. Mr. Alejandro Méndez López and Ms. Laura Villaseñor Gómez, representing the State of Michoacán, and Mr. Hector Ávila from the State of Aguascalientes, presented their experiences with developing BSAPs at the State level. Michoacán has pursued mainstreaming not only by engaging different sectors, but also by working with the different Secretariats on conflict resolution. Additionally, mainstreaming is addressed through the strategic elements related to capacity-building and to local development and quality of life where the State is promoting organic agriculture, financing and commercialization of fair trade markets that sustainably use biodiversity, and the ethical and economic valuation of biodiversity. Knowledge and information management is also central and involves measures to protect local traditional knowledge. In Aguascalientes, the State is still in the process of developing the Strategy. As part of its communication and public awareness efforts, it is launching a website that will share biodiversity information online.

25. Ms. Alina de la Torre Rodríguez presented Cuba's NBSAP, which was developed in 1997. Since this time Cuba has largely focused on implementing their Action Plan. In 2005, Cuba updated and revised the Action Plan, a process which allowed the government to re-examine the impacts of the NBSAP and the manner in which biodiversity issues were being addressed and mainstreamed. The revision of the Action Plan took a highly participatory approach, utilizing a 4-tier multi-stakeholder consultation process with different sectors and civil society groups. This revision process has contributed to enhanced implementation and the strengthening of the legal and institution framework for the country's National System of Protected Areas. Further Cuba has created a CHM to facilitate the dissemination and exchange of information on biological diversity. Ms. De la Torre Rodríguez outlined the basic objectives of the Strategy and key achievements in the implementation of its Action Plan. In terms of mainstreaming, the Strategy's vision refers to the integration of environmental policies in a way that strengthens recognition of the value, use, rational management, and conservation of biodiversity. The government has signed memorandums of understanding with multiple sectors. For instance programmes to include biodiversity priorities have been included in the Agriculture sector, and tourism planning must take into account biodiversity concerns in all development stages. Furthermore, the national Strategy included sectoral and territorial strategies focused on biodiversity loss, with proposals on how to resolve these problems. Institutional strengthening has been important for implementation of the Action Plan, and the country has created centres for information, development and environmental education, biological security, protected areas, and environmental control and inspection.

26. Question and answer sessions followed each grouping of country presentations. A focus of this group discussion was on the issue of updating and evaluating NBSAPs and experiences from countries that have aided in this effort. Ms. Sevilla Estrada and Ms. Fernández noted that Costa Rica would like to do a second National study using the MA approach, but the lack of resources (especially the lack of human resources) creates a challenge. The representatives from Costa Rica stressed that the lack of resources limited the ability to completely revise the NBSAP or do a second Country Study. Even though the NBSAP was some years old, they continue to implement it taking a flexible and practical approach. They have gone beyond what was scripted in the NBSAP without formally rewriting the NBSAP. Along these lines, the workshop participants were especially interested in Cuba's experience and practical approach of revising only the Action Plan and keeping the original Strategy unaltered. Additionally, the valuation matrix that Costa Rica had used in its Third National Report to evaluate the implementation of its NBSAP was of particular interest to the other participants. Mr. Benitez Diaz noted a number of countries had mentioned that their Strategies were not well linked to the programmes of work and cross-

cutting issues of the CBD. It is often the case that while the Strategies are good, implementation of all components remains a challenge. Therefore before beginning a NBSAP revision and updating process, it is necessary to evaluate the implementation of the current strategy and what may be missing or lagging. Then based on such an evaluation, it is important to consider the most realistic manner of addressing those activities that are missing.

27. With regards to funding, Ms. Sevilla Estrada outlined Costa Rica's experience with developing a financing strategy. This has three phases: (i) an evaluation of necessary funds carried out from a strategic point of view, (ii) an evaluation of sources of financing, and (iii) the identification of financial gaps. Mr. José Guillermo Flores, from the Central American Bank for Economic Integration, noted that there was a general lack of involvement of institutions and sectors in the biodiversity conservation process. The decision-makers react with perverse incentives.

Regional Perspectives

28. Ms. Zulma Ricord de Mendoza provided an overview of the Estrategia Regional para la Conservación y Uso Sostenible de la Biodiversidad en Mesoamérica. This is one of the first examples of a regional strategy developed under the context of the CBD. It was developed under the coordination of the Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD), the body within the Central American Integration System (SICA) that works to define and coordinate regional cooperation on policies related to sustainable environmental development and conservation as well as harmonize and strengthen supporting activities in the seven member countries. With the CCAD's highest committee formed by the environmental ministers of the region, and with Mexico as an observer country, the adoption of the regional biodiversity strategy within this political context established it as an important framework for harmonizing the mainstreaming of biodiversity into economic, social, and political decision-making across the region. The mission is to promote and facilitate the regional cooperation and coordination of activities in order to achieve the awareness, valuation, conservation, and sustainable use of Mesoamerican biodiversity, in harmony with the national policies, strategies, and action plans as well as the international agenda on biodiversity. In terms of habitat protection of priority areas and their sustainable use, two of the major successes have been the consolidation of the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor and the formation of a regional system of terrestrial and marine protected areas. Core programmes developed under the CCAD, and closely tied to the regional biodiversity strategy, include:

- (a) The regional strategic programme of work on Protected Areas;
- (b) The regional strategic programme on monitoring and evaluation of biodiversity;
- (c) The regional programme for connectivity;
- (d) Regional programme on environmental policy and legislation;
- (e) Regional sector-based programmes and policies related to the Mesoamerican Reef System, biosecurity, and access to resources;
- (f) Advances in developing a regional strategy on climate change; and
- (g) A regional policy on the development and conservation on private lands approved in January 2008.

The Strategy is also linked to the Plan Ambiental de la Región Centroamericana (PARCA). Ms. Zulma Ricord de Mendoza stressed that the regional integration benefits biodiversity management throughout Mesoamerica by recognizing biodiversity conservation as a high priority and an integral part of sustainable development. The Strategy encourages the coordination of actions at a regional level, such as technical and scientific cooperation and exchange, and serves as a planning instrument for coordination at the policy and institutional level.

29. Mr. Pedro Álvarez Icaza presented ongoing work within the Mexican segment of the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor (CBMM). Activities are related to (i) a monitoring network that includes an information system for environmental management, the design and creation of information services, and the coordination of a team of experts, (ii) the reorientation of public policy where the biological corridor concept and approach are accepted as a valid instrument for mainstreaming, (iii) institutional appropriation where federal, state, and municipal institutions incorporate criteria for conservation and sustainable use into their programmes, and (iv) green markets, including payments for ecosystem services and a strategy for marketing of certified products. He also outlined cooperation with CCAD to increase the connectivity with the linked corridors in Central America. These activities also serve to increase education and public awareness of biodiversity conservation issues. He provided the examples of community forestry projects promoting organic chicle production covering over 2 thousand hectares, as well as coffee and honey production. These projects support local livelihoods, highlight the economic value of biodiversity, and serve to prevent changes in land-use. Further supporting the mainstreaming agenda is the fact that the CBM engages stakeholders from both the public and private sectors as well as civil society. The approach helps promote the corridor as an alternative conservation policy which compliments more normative protected area policies. The Corridor brings together federal and state institutions in charge of environmental management, Indigenous Peoples, social development, agriculture, livestock, and fisheries, through joint financing of projects and commonly defined regional public policies. Finally, he noted that the CBM is included within Mexico's National Strategy on Climate Action (Estrategia Nacional de Acción Climática) as one of the principle strategies for adaptation to climate change, especially in the most vulnerable tropical humid zones of the country.

Item 5. Integrating Biodiversity into Sectoral and Cross-Sectoral Plans, Programmes, and Policies

30. Agenda item 5 allowed the participants to focus on the issue mainstreaming biodiversity concerns into relevant sectoral strategies, plans and programmes, as well as on the use of some tools and methodologies that support mainstreaming. The purpose of this session was to enable participants to:

- (a) Identify some cases of the integration of biodiversity into broader national policies and planning processes, for example fisheries, tourism and land planning;
- (b) Have an improved understanding of the ecosystem approach and tools for its application, including the framework of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment linking biodiversity, ecosystem services and human well-being;
- (c) Be trained in the application of some tools and methodologies that can be employed in order to better integrate biodiversity into broader national policies, programmes and planning processes and to use NBSAPs as strategic tools for this purpose (including strategic environmental assessment); and
- (d) Have an increased awareness of some approaches and methodologies for the strategic communication of NBSAPs.

The original presentations are available on the CBD website at: <http://www.cbd.int/nbsap/workshops/central-america.shtml>. During group discussion, the participants reflected back to the Workshop on the Evaluation of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Findings and Human Well-Being, considering ways to apply the methodologies and results of the MA to their efforts to mainstream biodiversity concerns into and across sectors.

31. Mr. Atencio López Martínez focused his presentation on Indigenous Peoples' engagement in the Corredor Biológico Mesoamericano del Atlántico Panameño (CBMAP). Indigenous peoples (the Bri-Bri, Naso, Teribe, Ngöbe, Emberá, Kuna, and Wounaan) have an active and central role in the governance of the corridor, with over 1 million hectares of the CBMAP inside their autonomous territory. This includes biodiversity monitoring based on traditional knowledge, administrative activities, integration of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into the development sector, projects related to improving local livelihoods, projects related to the participation of women, information management and distribution, public awareness activities, training and capacity building, community surveillance

programmes, and a system for conflict resolution. For this reason, an Indigenous Development Plan (Plan de Desarrollo Indígena (PDI)) was developed that recognizes the socio-political and cultural systems as well as the land rights of Indigenous Peoples. The CBMAP initiatives are active in all of the indigenous communities, which accounts for 50% of the rural population of the Corridor and covers 60% of the Atlantic region of Panama. There are 100 sub-projects being implemented at the community-level, 73% of which are executed by indigenous groups. Mr. López Martínez outlined the details of how participation, consultation, and coordination are achieved, and how these rely on the establishment and implementation of mechanisms for communication.

32. Mr. José Guillermo Flores, representing the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), presented the CAMBio project in his capacity as the regional coordinator of the project. The project's overall objective is finance productive activities that directly link and support sustainable development and biodiversity conservation by providing credit to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) throughout the five countries in order to encourage biodiversity-friendly business ventures. At the policy level, CAMBio promotes biodiversity conservation through policy and incentives reforms. Geographically, the priority areas for investment under CAMBio are located within the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor. The project was developed to address two key challenges that were resulting in biodiversity loss: (i) the lack of attention to valuing biodiversity, and (ii) few options for the sustainable use of biodiversity. The project uses GEF resources to create two financial mechanisms designed to support the loans: Partial Credit Guarantee Programme and a Biodiversity Award for Micro and Small Enterprises (BIO-Award). GEF funds are also used to provide technical and business assistance aimed at MSME development and to guarantee the sustainability of the business initiatives that receive credits. CAMBio will be further implemented through partnerships with major NGOs, bilateral donors, and research and education institutions. The project was initiated in 2007 and will run to 2014.

33. The Mexican delegation provided a brief overview of the Regional Cooperation Strategy of the government's Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources (Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales, SEMARNAT) that aims to strengthen environmental cooperation throughout Mesoamerica. The strategy has three strategic areas: biodiversity and forests, climate change, and environmental competitiveness. Under each strategic area, the mainstreaming issue is highlighted. The objective is to have this regional strategy on the agenda at technical meetings, approved and guaranteed by the region's environment ministers, and presented to the Presidents of the region. It is hoped that this strategy will form the foundation to develop a more detailed cooperation programme with concrete actions.

34. Mr. Santiago Carrizosa began his presentation by introducing the concept of mainstreaming and highlighting some examples of the significance of mainstreaming biodiversity concerns into economic and social development. At the political level, mainstreaming is facilitated by (i) the strengthening of governability through the promotion of decentralization and ensuring accountability of decision-makers, (ii) political reform of land-use policies, (iii) reform of policies related to land rights, and (iv) minimizing the market failures, for example failures in the internalization of the value of biodiversity in the prices of goods. The biggest challenge is to first demonstrate the economic value of biodiversity to all actors, especially the decision-makers in the finance and planning ministries, and second to educate them that there exists a wide variety of mechanisms to capture this value. He continued by outlining some main mechanisms that support effective mainstreaming. These include (i) laws and policies that protect threatened species, fine those that harm biodiversity, and compensate those that conserve or utilize biodiversity in a sustainable manner, (ii) voluntary transactions that set prices, for example where the users of the ecosystem services in question agree on (a voluntary basis) on the value of the services, (iii) mechanisms where a government regulation obliges the buyers and sellers to negotiate with the objective of assigning a price to a good or service (i.e. a cap and trade system), and (iv) the valuation of markets themselves (e.g. carbon, genetic resources, ecotourism, traditional medicines, pharmaceutical products, etc). He concluded his presentation by indicating what support UNDP offers at the regional level, including (i) support as an executing agency to projects incorporating biodiversity into development, (ii)

leading efforts to internalize the value of biodiversity in the goods and services being exchanged in the market, (iii) access financial resources in support of forest conservation through schemes to avoided deforestation, and (iv) capacity-building on the development and implementation of financing strategies for protected areas.

35. Mr. Adrian Reuters provided a brief overview of WWF – TRAFFIC, a global network whose goal is to deliver innovative and practical solutions to wildlife trade issues and to tackle illegal and/or unsustainable wildlife trade. TRAFFIC takes a multi-stakeholder approach and works to involve as many sectors as possible. In order to pursue its objectives, TRAFFIC works with governments to assist in enacting and implementing policies and legislation that ensures wildlife and plant trade is not a threat to biodiversity conservation efforts. TRAFFIC also focuses on economic incentives, working with both the government and private sector on economic policies and practices that support effective trade regulations. Finally, much of their activities are focused on communication and public awareness and the promotion of sustainable consumptive behaviour.

Item 6. Communicating and Reporting on NBSAPs

36. Clearly communicating the importance of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and enhancing public education and awareness of these strategies and action plans, are very important for mobilizing public support for and public participation in their development, implementation and updating as well as mainstreaming biodiversity into relevant sectors. And, of course, reviewing and reporting on the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans are also important for assessing the effectiveness of the strategies and, on that basis, updating NBSAPs and further enhancing the implementation of NBSAPs.

37. Mr. Arturo Curiel Ballesteros, representing the Institute of Environment and Human Communities (Instituto de Medio Ambiente y Comunidades Humanas) at the University of Guadalajara, as well as IUCN's Commission on Education and Communication (CEC), presented on strategic communication for NBSAPs. Specifically, he introduced participants a resource recently developed by IUCN CEC in collaboration with the Secretariat of the CBD: Communication, Education, and Public Awareness (CEPA): a Toolkit for Coordinators of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (available at www.cepatoolkit.org). He stressed that proper and strategic communications and public awareness strategies help to reduce conflicts and should be integrated into a project from the beginning. CEPA also plays an important role in policy-making through attention placed on sensitizing the public to the threats to biodiversity as well as the proposed policy and management solutions. Mr. Curiel Ballesteros presented some illustrative examples of the different phases of a CEPA strategy, including engagement of journalists and media. He concluded by focusing on education, providing an example from Mexico where there is a revision of the school curriculum to include additional attention to environmental issues and the development of criteria to evaluate the text books as well as the environmental knowledge of students.

38. Ms. Camellia Ibrahim gave a brief introduction to an poster generation tool that has been developed jointly by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) and the CBD Secretariat and that enables users to easily create posters illustrating the ways in which NBSAPs, or similar plans and strategies, implement different goals of the 2010 Biodiversity Target. Additional information on this tool is available at: <http://www.cbd.int/meetings/wgri-02/poster-guidelines.shtml>. Following this short introduction, Ms. Daniela Melgarejo and Ms. Yolanda Barrios presented two posters developed by Mexico, one that highlighted the Second Country Study, and one that focused on implementation of the CBD at the local level through State Biodiversity Strategies. Mr. Darío Luque presented a poster for Panama that outlined the ways the NBSAP implemented the 2010 Target. Additionally, the presenters discussed ways in which these posters could be used as part of a CEPA strategy.

39. Mr. Cooper provided an overview of the guidelines for the Fourth National Report, which focuses on implementation of NBSAPs and progress towards the 2010 Biodiversity Target. He also introduced a reference manual developed to assist with the preparation of the Fourth National Report. Mr. Carrizosa reminded participants about technical support that is available from UNEP and UNDP in addition to financial assistance available from the GEF for eligible Parties. In his presentation, Mr. Cooper noted that the Fourth National Report will provide an important opportunity to assess progress towards the 2010 target, drawing upon an analysis of the current status and trends in biodiversity and actions taken to implement the Convention at the national level. It also will assist Parties in evaluating and considering what further efforts are needed. The National Reports are used to provide guidance to the Conference of the Parties, and information contained in the Reports will also be used for the Global Biodiversity Outlook 3. There have been a number of changes made in the format of questions in the Fourth National Report, compared to the Third Report, which will allow more flexibility. The Reports are also of use to Parties for activities at the national level. In his introductory presentation, Mr. Cooper stressed the relationship between the preparation of the Fourth National Reports and the revision and updating of the NBSAPs and how these processes can be linked efficiently and effectively. Countries that had begun the process of developing their Fourth National Reports were invited to share their experience with other countries.

III. THE WAY FORWARD: NEXT STEPS IN IMPLEMENTING AND UPDATING NBSAPS AND ON MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY

40. As requested by the participants in the Opening of the workshop, the group held a plenary discussion on the regional priorities for COP-9. Each country identified the five most relevant agenda issues that they felt were priorities for the region. After a group discussion, the participants narrowed the priorities to: biofuels, Protected Areas, Marine biodiversity, Access and Benefit Sharing, and Invasive Alien Species. Ms. Zulma Ricord de Mendoza offered to present the results of this discussion to the CCAD presidency and investigate the possibility of holding a regional meeting in preparation for the COP.

Panel Discussion on the Way Forward

41. Mr. David Cooper provided a brief overview of the roadmap to the ninth and tenth meetings of the Conference of the Parties. This was followed by a Panel Discussion during which each panellist was asked two questions:

1. What concrete actions to further the development, updating and implementation of NBSAPs will you commit to in your countries following this workshop?
2. What is a priority area where support is required from the international community?

The members of the Panel were Mr. Dario Luque (Panama), Ms. Lesbia Sevilla Estrada (Costa Rica), Ms. Marina Hernández (Dominican Republic), and Ms. Andrea Cruz (Mexico).

42. With regards to concrete actions that panel members would commit to following the workshop, Mr. Luque stated that focusing on the NBSAP guidelines annexed to decision VIII/8 and preparing the 4th National Report were priorities. Ms. Sevilla Estrada noted that it was important for all the participants to share the lessons learned and conclusions of the workshop with their colleagues and with relevant decision-makers. This includes not only high-level decision-makers, but also those at lower levels who are managing the day-to-day activities related to the CBD and NBSAPs. Suggesting actions for evaluating the NBSAP is another major priority. Ms. Hernández noted that it was particularly important for the Dominican Republic to find a way to include new elements, such as issues and decisions of the CBD, the MDGs, and elements and/or approaches from the MA, into the NBSAP. For Ms. Cruz, communicating priorities in the language of the CBD at the technical and State levels is a challenge. Therefore, a priority is to adapt it in ways that make sense and can be useful to the stakeholders and actors involved in the NBSAP. Creating tools that facilitate the exchange of experiences and capacity

development is another priority activity. In terms of implementation of the NBSAP, this is a major priority for Mexico, and she noted the usefulness of Costa Rica's approach to evaluating the implementation of its NBSAP.

43. Turning their attention to the regional and international arena, Mr. Luque noted the usefulness of the workshop and requested that the SCBD hold additional sub-regional workshops that could cover a wider range of themes, in which representatives from financing agencies also attend, and that have more participation from NGOs. Furthermore, he noted that Mexico has a wealth of relevant information and experience from implementing its NBSAP over a geographically large and diverse area, and that information exchange between Mexico and Central American countries was particularly important. Ms. Sevilla Estrada stated that she hoped for additional financial support and cooperation opportunities from the international community. However, most important was the promotion of strategic alliances between the countries of her region. She hoped that GEF would develop clearer priorities and lines of communication, and be more flexible in its procedures for allocating resources. Finally, she echoed Mr. Luque's comment that the Secretariat of the CBD should follow this workshop with other forums that foster the exchange of experiences between countries as these forums aid countries to better implement their strategies. Ms. Hernández noted that financial and technical assistance in support of enhanced implementation of NBSAPs was required from the international community. She agreed with the other Panel members that the Secretariat of the CBD should facilitate more opportunities for the exchange of information between countries, and that this was particularly important for SIDS and LDCs. Additionally, there was a need to establish more direct mechanisms for countries to work together at the regional level.

44. Following the panel discussion, the floor was opened to comments. The participants made the following comments:

(a) It is important to develop a user-friendly aide for understanding CBD decisions and commitments that someone who is not familiar with the Convention could participate in CBD-related activities (to help expand the knowledge base and capacity of staff responsible for implementing the CBD so that the workload does not rest with only one person).

(b) Financial agencies should have more flexibility.

(c) It is important to improve communication strategies so that a larger number of actors can be involved in the implementation of the Convention.

(d) It is important to communicate to the States in Mexico that many countries are involved in developing biodiversity strategies so that a) they can take note of the importance of NBSAPs, and b) so that more States can develop BSAPs.

(e) In addition to looking for new mechanisms for communicating information, we should use the resources that exist and work to make current processes more efficient.

(f) Explore alliances with IUCN's Mesoamerica Programme (IUCN / ORMA) on the issue of education.

(g) It is essential to reiterate the comments from the Panel discussion that stressed the importance of the information exchange, but the emphasis also should be on identifying forums for the exchange of information.

(h) At the State level, we have changed the negative perception that biodiversity strategies were only procedures for completing CBD requirements, but rather that they are tools that are useful at the local level for addressing environmental challenges.

Item 8. Considerations of the Conclusions of the Workshop

45. Following the panel discussion and subsequent plenary, the group considered the key conclusions of the workshop. The participants examined and adopted the following:

- The importance of NBSAPs as a principal tool for CBD implementation is recognized. NBSAPs provide a logical framework that allows for the prioritization of issues and the development of public policies in support of biodiversity conservation and laws for biodiversity protection.
- Message to the GEF at COP on the relevance of scientific information and assessments for the objective evaluation of the implementation of NBSAPs. Given that biodiversity planning is a dynamic process, updated information is necessary to inform the updating of NBSAPs. COP should provide guidance to the financial mechanism of the CBD to support such activities.
- In some countries, as much as 8 years have passed since the NBSAP was published.
- There is a range of progress and implementation across the region, with examples including:
 - Second versions of Country Studies
 - Updates of the Country Studies
 - Evaluations of the implementation of National Biodiversity Strategies
 - Second versions of National Biodiversity Strategies and updated Plans of Action
 - The regional Biodiversity Strategy
- It is necessary to consider developing criteria for evaluating the progress of National Strategies for the purpose of deciding whether they should be updated, adjusted, or reformulated. Additionally, finding a uniform format for these evaluations is suggested, however it is important to take into account that each country must work at their own pace and under their own particular conditions.
- Assess the possibility of using the voluntary guidelines of COP decision VIII/8 that includes a matrix for evaluating the status of progress of NBSAPs. Additionally, develop a scale or criteria for measuring performance of NBSAPs for the purpose of preparing the Fourth National Reports.
- Implementation activities for Biodiversity Strategies exist and are being carried out even though these activities are not always reported in countries' national reports.
- Work is being done at the sub-national level through preparing and conducting studies and the development of sub-national biodiversity strategies.
- The integration of a majority of sectors and decision-makers in the development and implementation of the strategies is lacking, as is the engagement of these stakeholders in the early stages of developing NBSAPs.
- Even though there has been progress with the Mesoamerican Strategy, it is necessary to evaluate progress and revise accordingly.
- The "biological corridor" concept has provided a major contribution as a tool for spatial planning and has become a participatory development instrument for strengthening protected area systems and conserving biodiversity
- Evaluate the possibility of including a new cooperation modality for the exchange of experiences on funding requests, funding sources, and the development, updating, and evaluation of strategies.

- It is necessary to look for synergies with other treaties linked to the objectives of the CBD.
- Regional cooperation is important, including cooperation that is undertaken through the CCAD as well as other cooperation initiatives in Mesoamerica.
- The importance of communication tools, such as the CEPA toolkit, is recognized.
- Find opportunities to replicate positive experiences such as those successes that have occurred under the framework of the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor.
- Establish mechanisms and methodologies for monitoring such as indicators.
- Communication and education on the value of biodiversity to the public must consider integrating all principal groups of society – both the powerful and the disenfranchised. Multiple educational processes should be developed drawing upon the extensive experience developed in the region and evaluating at the regional level proposals like the IUCN / CEC CEPA toolkit and other innovative methods that appeal to both the intellect and to emotions to motivate action for the conservation sustainable use, and restoration of biodiversity.

Item 9. Closing of the Workshop

46. On behalf of the Executive Secretary of the CBD, Mr. David Cooper gave some closing remarks and thanked the countries for their active participation in the workshop, and thanked Mexico for its support in hosting the workshop. Mr. Benitez Diaz also thanked the participants, and reiterated the importance of further enhancing regional cooperation on this important agenda. The workshop was closed at 18:00 on Thursday, 27 March 2008.

Annex I
PROGRAMME

MIÉRCOLES, 26 DE MARZO DE 2008		
0900 - 1015	ITEM 1	<p>Opening of the Workshop</p> <p>Opening Statements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CONABIO, México (Mr. Hesiquio Benitez Díaz) • CCAD (Ms. Zulma Ricord de Mendoza) • SCBD (Mr. David Cooper)
	ITEM 2	<p>Overview of the Objectives and Programme for the Workshop</p> <p>Self-Introductions of Participants</p> <p>Introduction (Mr. David Cooper, SCBD)</p> <p>Discussion</p>
1015 - 1030		<i>Group Photo</i>
1030 - 1100		<i>Coffee Break</i>
1100 - 1330	ITEM 3	<p>Status of Development and Implementation of NBSAPs in the Region</p>
	ITEM 4	<p>Updating and Improving NBSAPs</p> <p><i>Chair: Ms. Fátima Vanegas</i></p> <p>National Perspectives (country presentations)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panamá (Mr. Darío Luque) • Costa Rica (Ms. Lesbia Sevilla Estrada and Ms. Jiménez Fernández) • Nicaragua (Mr. Ricardo Bautista Montoya Núñez) <p>Discussion</p> <p>National Perspectives (cont.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • El Salvador (Ms. Zulma Ricord de Mendoza) • Honduras (Mr. Carlos Hernán García / Sra. Daisy Johanna Samayoa) • Guatemala (Mr. Hiram Ordóñez Chocano) <p>Discussion</p>
1330 - 1500		<i>Lunch Break</i>
1500 - 1615		<p><i>Chair: Ms. Marta Jiménez Fernández</i></p> <p>National Perspectives (cont.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dominican Republic (Ms. Marina Hernández) • México (Ms. Andrea Cruz with additional commentary from Mr. Alejandro Mendez Lopez and Ms. Laura Villaseñor Gómez (Michoacán) and Mr. Hector Ávila (Aguascalientes)) • Cuba (Ms. Alina de la Torre Rodríguez) <p>Discussion</p>

1615 - 1645		<i>Tea Break</i>
1645 - 1800		<p>Regional Perspectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PNUD (Mr. Santiago Carrizosa) • CCAD (Ms. Zulma Ricord de Mendoza) • Mesoamerican Biological Corridor (Mr. Pedro Álvarez Icaza) <p>Discussion</p>
1900		<i>Departure for Reception</i>

JUEVES, 27 DE MARZO de 2008		
0900 - 1030	ITEM 5	<p>Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Sectoral and Cross-sectoral Policies and Programmes</p> <p><i>Chair: Sra. Andrea Cruz</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mesoamerican Biological Corridor in Atlantic Panama: Indigenous Communities and the Development of Protected Areas (Mr. Atencio López Martínez) • CamBIO (Mr. José Guillermo Flores, CABEI) <p>Discussion</p>
1030 - 1100		<i>Coffee Break</i>
1100 - 1300		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy for Sustainable Development in Mesoamerica (Ms. Mariana Bellot, SEMARNAT, México) • Integration of Biodiversity into Development (Mr. Santiago Carrizosa, PNUD) <p>Discussion</p> <p>NGO perspectives (Mr. Adrian Reuters)</p>
1300 - 1430		<i>Lunch</i>
1430 - 1545	ITEM 6	<p>Communicating and Reporting on NBSAPs</p> <p>Communication, Education, and Public Awareness (CEPA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “CEPA Toolkit” (Mr. Arturo Curiel Ballesteros, IUCN-CEC) <p>Discussion</p> <p>NBSAP postres for COP-9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Camellia Ibrahim (SCBD) • Ms. Daniela Melgarejo and Ms. Yolanda Barrios (México) and Mr. Darío Luque (Panamá) <p>Fourth Nacional Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. David Cooper (SCBD) and Mr. Santiago Carrizosa (UNDP) <p>Discussion</p>
1545	–	<i>Tea Break</i>

1615		
1615 1745	<p>– ITEM 7</p> <p>ITEM 8</p>	<p>The Way Forward: Next Steps in Implementing and Updating NBSAPs and on Mainstreaming Biodiversity</p> <p><i>Co-Presidentes: Mr. Hesiquio Benitez Díaz (CONABIO) and Mr. David Cooper (SCBD)</i></p> <p>Panel Discussion on the Way Forward</p> <p>Consideration of the Conclusions of the Workshop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. David Cooper (SCBD) and Ms. Gael Almeida (CONABIO) • Discussion
1745 - 1800	ITEM 9	<p>Closing of the Workshop</p> <p>Workshop Evaluation</p> <p>Closing Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Hesiquio Benitez Díaz (CONABIO) and Mr. David Cooper. (SCBD)

Annex II

PROGRAMME FOR THE WORKSHOP ON THE EVALUATION OF THE MILLENNIUM
ECOSYSTEM ASSESSMENT FINDINGS AND HUMAN WELL-BEING

MONDAY, 24 MARCH 2008	
8:30 – 9:00	<p>OPENING</p> <p>Opening Remarks:</p> <p>José Sarukhán (National Coordinator, CONABIO)</p> <p>Juan Elvira Quesada (Minister of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT), Mexico)</p> <p>Representative from the Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA, UK)</p>
9:00 – 9:45	<p>SESSION I: INTRODUCTION TO THE MILLENNIUM ECOSYSTEM ASSESSMENT</p> <p>KEYNOTE PRESENTATIONS:</p> <p>The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment: linking ecosystem services and social welfare (Rosamunde Almond, WCMC/UNEP)</p>
9:45 – 10:15	<p>The 2010 Target and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (David Cooper, SCBD)</p>
10:15 – 11:00	<p>Session of questions from participants</p>
11:00 – 11:15	<p><i>Coffee break</i></p>
11:15 – 12:00	<p>SESSION II: SOURCES OF INFORMATION AND SCALES</p> <p>The importance of using the right information for the right scale (Jorge Soberón, Compiler in the Second Biodiversity Country Study of Mexico)</p>
12:00 – 12:30	<p>Session of questions from participants</p>
12:30 – 13:30	<p>SESSION III: SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION AND DECISION-MAKING</p> <p>What Technical-Scientific information is available and how to use it for decision- and policy-making? (José Sarukhán, CONABIO)</p>
13:30-14:00	<p>Session of questions from participants</p>
14:00 – 15:30	<p><i>Lunch</i></p>
15:30 – 16:15	<p>SESSION IV: USING THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION TO STRENGTHEN DECISIONS</p> <p>NATIONAL LEVEL</p> <p>Trends of Change and Conservation of Biodiversity in Mexico (Rodolfo Dirzo, Compiler in Second Biodiversity Country Study of Mexico)</p>

16:15 – 16:45	Session of questions from participants
16:45 – 17:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>
17:00 – 17:30	SESSION IV: USING THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION TO STRENGTHEN DECISIONS (cont.) LOCAL LEVEL State Strategy of Michoacán (Laura Villaseñor, Biodiversity State Government of Michoacán) (Alejandro Méndez, Secretary of Environment of the State of Michoacán)
17:30- 18:15	(Ejido Noh-Bec, Quintana Roo, Rodolfo Llovera Sosa President)
18:15 – 18:45	Session of questions from participants
19:00	<i>Reception</i>

TUESDAY, 25 MARCH 2008	
9:00 – 9:45	SESSION V: DEVELOPING POLICIES TO SUSTAIN ECOSYSTEM SERVICES Use and Management of Biodiversity and its Environmental Services (Julia Carabias, Compiler in the Second Biodiversity Country Study of Mexico)
9:45 – 10:15	Session of questions from participants
10:15 – 11:00	SESSION V: DEVELOPING POLICIES TO SUSTAIN ECOSYSTEM SERVICES (cont.) Future scenarios for the elaboration of public policies that encompass ecosystem services (Exequiel Ezcurra, Compiler in the Second Biodiversity Country Study of Mexico)
11:00 – 11:30	Session of questions from participants
11:30 – 11:45	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11:45 – 13:30	WORKING GROUPS SESSION I 3 GROUPS WORKING SIMULTANEOUSLY Set of questions I (OBSTACLES)
13:30 – 15:00	<i>Lunch</i>
15:00 – 16:30	WORKING GROUPS SESSION II 3 GROUPS WORKING SIMULTANEOUSLY Set of questions II (NEEDS)
16:30 – 16:45	<i>Coffee Break</i>

16:45 – 17:30	SESSION VI: CONCLUSIONS
17:30 – 18:00	CLOSING REMARKS Giles Paxman (Ambassador of the United Kingdom in Mexico) José Sarukhán (National Coordinator of CONABIO)

Annex III
LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Document Number	Document Title
UNEP/CBD/NBSAP/CBW-CAM/1/1	Provisional agenda
UNEP/CBD/NBSAP/CBW-CAM/1/1/Add.1	Annotations to the Provisional Agenda
UNEP/CBD/NBSAP/CBW-CAM/1/2	Status and Implementation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans
UNEP/CBD/NBSAP/CBW-CAM/1/3	Updating NBSAPs, mainstreaming biodiversity, Communication and Reporting
Information and background documents (Previously available)	
UNEP/CBD/NBSAP/CBW-CAM/1/INF/1	Voluntary Guidelines to Parties for Review of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans
UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/2	Status of implementation of goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan focussing on implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and availability of financial resources -- an overview
UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/2/Add.1	Synthesis and analysis of obstacles to implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, lessons learned from the review, effectiveness of policy instruments and strategic priorities for action
UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/INF/1 (English only)	Updated synthesis of information contained in third national reports
UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/INF/2 (English only)	Regional preparatory meetings on implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans and mainstreaming biodiversity
UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/INF/9 (English only)	National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans: A Meta-Analysis of Earlier Review
UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/INF/10 (English only)	Review of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, Biodiversity Mainstreaming and Implementation of the Convention: A Bibliography
Decision VIII/8	Implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Plan
Decision VIII/9	Implications of the findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment
WGRI Recommendation 2/1	Implementation of goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan

CBD Training Modules (English only)

A-1. Guide to the Convention on Biological Diversity

A-2. Role of the CBD National Focal Point

A-3. An Introduction to National Reporting

B-1. An Introduction to National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans

B-2. How to prepare and update a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

B-3. Mainstreaming biodiversity into sectoral and cross-sectoral strategies, plans and programmes

B-4. Setting national biodiversity targets, making use of the CBD framework for the 2010 biodiversity target

B-5. Ensuring stakeholder engagement in the development, implementation and updating of NBSAPs

B-6. Getting political support for the NBSAP and financing its implementation

B-7. Communication Strategy for NBSAPs

Other Resources:

Guidelines for the fourth national reports Draft reference manual for preparing the fourth national reports