



IUCN, the CBD and Mercuria Energy Group strengthen capacity for economic approaches to biodiversity conservation in developing countries.

Report of a regional workshop in China.



Increased awareness and capacity in the use of economic tools, notably valuation of biodiversity benefits, will increase the appropriate use of economic incentives to encourage conservation and sustainable use of biological resources. The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has urged Parties and other Governments to develop national and regional targets, and to review and update their national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) in light of the new Strategic Plan. This process is to promote the integration of biodiversity targets into national development and poverty reduction policies and strategies, national accounting, economic sectors and spatial planning processes.



The CBD has repeatedly emphasized the need for capacity-building and effective sharing of knowledge to support all countries, especially developing countries, to implement the Convention. In response, the CBD Secretariat is organizing a series of regional or sub-regional workshops on updating NBSAPs during 2011 and 2012. Regional meetings have been organized for the Southern Africa Development and Educational Centre in Kasane, Botswana, from 14 to 20 March 2011; for European countries on the Isle of Vilm, Germany, from 15 to 19 April 2011; and in Beirut, Lebanon, from 2 to 7 May 2011, for members of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.



The East, South, and Southeast Asia Workshop on Updating the NBSAPs, took place from 9-16 May 2011 in Xi'an, China. The workshop was organised in collaboration with the Ministry of Environmental Protection of China, Shaanxi Province, the City of Xi'an and the Executive Committee for the 2011 Xi'an International Horticultural Expo, the Government of Japan, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and Mercuria Energy Group.

The IUCN-Mercuria partnership helped create a strong economics influence at the East, South, and Southeast Asia Workshop, by facilitating the active participation of IUCN's Economics team and by providing support to the more than 70 delegates from 21 countries in attendance. Ms. Nathalie Olsen, IUCN Environmental Economist, and Mr. Andrew Seidl, Head, IUCN Global Economics and Environment Programme, together with Mr. Markus Lehmann, the Economist of the CBD Secretariat, led two days of interactive sessions

focusing on the economics of ecosystems and biodiversity (TEEB) with particular emphasis on Targets 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan.



The workshop was attended by government officials responsible for the development and/or implementation of NBSAPs, and representatives from the development planning and finance ministries from: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor L'este and Vietnam.



Resource persons from UNDP Regional Centre for Asia, UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, UNEP-WCMC, UNU-IAS International Partnerships for Satoyama Initiative, ASEAN Center for Biodiversity, Birdlife Asia, IUCN Economics and IUCN Communication and Education Commission,

Chinese Academy of Sciences, Chinese Academy of Environmental Planning and Indian Institute of Technology Bombay contributed their expertise. The list of participants can be accessed at <https://www.cbd.int/nbsap/workshops2/seasi.shtml>



The sessions addressed economic valuation and policy, translating economic valuation into economic development opportunities, integrating ('mainstreaming') natural capital wealth into national accounting, removing or reforming harmful incentives, and promoting positive incentives through innovative policy and governance approaches.

IUCN-Mercuria and the CBD Secretariat will next team up for the South America and/or Oceania NBSAP Workshops, tentatively scheduled for October 2011 in Quito, Ecuador and Apia, Samoa, respectively.

