

THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Regional Consultations

Introduction

In adopting its Multi-Year Programme of Work at its Eleventh Regular Session in 2007, FAO's Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (the Commission) agreed to the preparation of a report on *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture* (the Report). The Commission stressed that the process for preparing the Report should be based on information from Country Reports, thematic studies, reports from international organizations and inputs from other relevant stakeholders, and should take full advantage of existing information sources, including centres of excellence from developing countries. The Report should focus on the interactions between sectors (plant, animal, forest and aquatic genetic resources) and on cross-sectoral matters, providing baseline information on the state of diversity of micro-organisms, invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles, birds, plants and mammals that are found in and around production systems and often provide important ecosystem services supporting food and agricultural production. [Guidelines](#) have been made available to assist countries in the preparation of their report and a [webinar](#) on the Guidelines was held in December 2013.

On 10 June 2013, FAO [invited](#) countries to nominate National Focal Points (NFPs) for coordinating the preparation of their Country Report on the state of biodiversity for food and agriculture as a contribution to the Report. As of 1 August 2015, more than 90 National Focal Points have been nominated. The list of focal points is available [here](#).

At its Fifteenth Regular Session held in January 2015, the Commission extended the deadline for the submission of Country Reports contributing to the Report to "30 June 2015 and no later than 30 September 2015."¹

Objective of the consultations

At its Fifteenth Regular Session in 2015, the Commission stressed the importance of regional consultations which will be instrumental for the review of Country Reports, for the discussion of regional issues and the identification of strategic priorities for the conservation and use of biodiversity for food and agriculture in the regions. A meeting report will be prepared for each regional consultation summarizing the discussions as well as needs and priorities identified in the course of the consultation. The report will also contain summaries of the presentations.

Timeline

Consultations for *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture* are planned to take place between October 2015 and March 2016, as follows:

Latin America and the Caribbean	Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (RLC)	Mr. Raúl Osvaldo Benítez
Near East and North Africa	Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa (RNE)	Mr. Abdessalam Ould Ahmed
Africa	Regional Office for Africa (RAF)	Mr. Bukar Tijani
Asia	Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (RAP)	Mr. Vili Fuavao
Pacific Islands	Subregional Office for the Pacific Islands (SAP)	Mr. Gavin Wall
Europe and Central Asia	Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (REU)	Mr. Vladimir Rakhmanin
North America	Liaison Office for North America (LOW)	Mr. Ajay Markanday

¹ [CGRFA-15/15/Report](#), paragraph 11.

Participation

Eligible for participation in the regional consultations are National Focal Points (NFP) or officially designated delegates of countries which have either completed their Country Report or at least finalized a first draft of the Country Report. Attendance should also be open to observers from regional non-governmental organizations and experts invited on a case-by-case basis to support the discussions.

Budget

Limited funds will be available to cover interpretation, facilities, logistics, catering, etc. for the consultations in RLC, RNE, RAF, RAP and SAP. For these consultations, funds will also be available to cover travel, accommodation and full-board expenses of NFPs/ delegates requiring such assistance.

Tentative agenda of the consultations

A tentative agenda for the regional consultations is given in *Appendix I* to this concept note. It is foreseen that the regional consultations will take three days.

Involvement of FAO offices: Nomination of Focal Point

The consultations will be organized in close collaboration with the FAO offices indicated above. They are invited to kindly nominate a focal point for the coordination of the meeting preparations, selection of an appropriate meeting venue, identification of the date of the consultations, etc. The name and contact information of the Focal Point should be communicated to Ms Julie Bélanger (Julie.Belanger@fao.org) before 31 August 2015.

REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS
THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

TENTATIVE AGENDA

Time	Title	Presenter
DAY 1 morning		
8:30 – 9:30	Registration	
9:30 – 12:30	Opening of the Session Tour de table	All participants
	Opening address	ADG Regional Office
	Opening address	Secretary, CGRFA
	Status of preparation of <i>The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture</i>	Commission Secretariat
	Presentation of the programme and objectives of the consultation	Commission Secretariat
	Knowledge of Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture	
	Key findings and recommendations of Country Reports	National Focal Points
DAY 1 afternoon		
14:30 – 17:30	Key findings and recommendations of Country Reports (Cont.)	National Focal Points
	Strategic priorities for action	National Focal Points
	Use/Management of Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture	
	Key findings and recommendations of Country Reports	National Focal Points
	Strategic priorities for action	National Focal Points
DAY 2 morning		
9:30 – 12:30	Conservation of Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture	
	Key findings and recommendations of Country Reports	National Focal Points
	Strategic priorities for action	National Focal Points

Time	Title	Presenter
	Research, awareness, training	
	Key findings and recommendations of Country Reports	National Focal Points
	Strategic priorities for action	National Focal Points
DAY 2 afternoon		
14:30 – 17:30	Institutions, Policies	
	Key findings and recommendations of Country Reports	National Focal Points
	Strategic priorities for action	National Focal Points
	Regional and international cooperation	
	Key findings and recommendations of Country Reports	National Focal Points
	Strategic priorities for action	National Focal Points
DAY 3 morning		
9:30 – 12:30	Review and finalize regional recommendations for strategic priorities	All participants
DAY 3 afternoon		
14:30 – 17:30	Final discussions	All participants
	Evaluation of the Workshop	All participants
	Closing Remarks	