



**NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY CONSULTATIVE MEETING IN  
PREPARATION FOR CBD's SBSTTA 24/SBI 3 AND COP 15**

**15<sup>TH</sup> -16<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2020  
MOUNT ZION HOTEL- BUJUMBURA, BURUNDI**

**REPORT OF THE MEETING**

**EAC SECRETARIAT  
ARUSHA, TANZANIA  
OCTOBER, 2020**

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The National Biodiversity Consultative Meeting for the Republic of Burundi was held in Bujumbura from 15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2020 in accordance to the EAC Calender of activities for July-December, 2020 . The Meeting was coordinated and hosted by the Government of the Republic of Burundi through the Ministry in charge of East African Community Affairs, Youth, Sports and Culture. The meeting was facilitated by East Africa Community (EAC) Secretariat.

### 1.1 Objective of the Meeting

The overall objective of the National Biodiversity Consultations was to review progress in the implementation of the previous decisions and directives emanating from the global biodiversity policy discourse and identify national priorities to guide negotiations during 24<sup>th</sup> session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific, Technical and Technological Advise (SBSTTA 24), 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI 3) and 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP) for the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the development of post 2020 global biodiversity framework. The meeting also aimed at reflecting on the implementation status of the global instruments on biodiversity i.e. Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 including the Aichi Biodiversity targets. The specific objectives of the consultations were to:

- (a) Review progress in the implementation of the previous decisions and directives from the global biodiversity discourse;
- (b) Identify national biodiversity priorities and consider country preparations for SBSTTA 24 & SBI 3, 15<sup>th</sup> COP sessions of CBD; and
- (c) Reflect on the implementation status of the global instruments on biodiversity.

The agenda of the meeting is hereto attached as ***Annex I.***

### 1.2 Participation and Attendance

The Meeting was attended by national stakeholders from Sectors Ministries, Department and Agencies. Representatives from civil societies and EAC Secretariat were also in attendance. The list of participants is hereto attached as ***Annex II.***

### 1.3 Constitution of the Bureau

The Meeting was chaired by Ms Carine Hakizimana, Advisor (Productive Sectors Department) – Ministry of EAC Affairs , Youth, Sports and Culture while Fofu Alphonse, Biodiversity Researcher, Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock was the Rapporteur.

## **2.0 OPENING OF THE MEETING**

### **2.1 Remarks from the EAC Secretariat**

Eng. Ladislaus Kyaruzi, Principal Environment and Natural Resources Officer (PENRO), welcomed participants to the Meeting on behalf of the Deputy Secretary General (Productive and Social Sectors). He thanked participants for finding time out of their busy schedule to attend this important meeting. He thanked the government of the Republic of Burundi for hosting the meeting and the warm hospitality extended to the EAC Secretariat staff. He highlighted the objectives of the national and regional biodiversity consultative meetings and underscored the need for developing common position to guide negotiation and participation in the forthcoming CBD's SBSTTA 24 & SBI 3 and COP 15 that will be held in the first and last quarters of 2021 respectively.

He stressed the need for adequate preparation for effective participation in the forthcoming global biodiversity conference and development of post 2020 biodiversity framework. He further urged the meeting to identify key national priorities to guide development of the post 2020 biodiversity framework and negotiations at the SBSTTA 24, SBI 3 and COP 15.

### **2.2 Remarks from the Chairperson**

Ms Carine Hakizimana, welcomed national stakeholders on behalf of the Minister responsible for the East African Community Affairs, Youth, Sports and Culture. She thanked them for responding positively to the invitation by attending the meeting and EAC Secretariat for convening the national biodiversity consultative meetings. She highlighted progresses in the implementation of the decisions and directives emanating from the global biodiversity policy discourses. She highlighted the status of the biodiversity management and informed the challenges facing biodiversity conservation and management. The progress include streamlining and mainstreaming of the biodiversity into the Burundi's National Constitution, Burundi's National Development Vision 2025, Burundi National Development Plan 2018-2027 and Burundi National Forest Policy.

She urged Experts to identify biodiversity priorities with the view of informing development of the post 2020 biodiversity framework and common position to guide the negotiations during SBSTTA 24/SBI 3 and COP 15. In conclusion, she wished the Meeting fruitful deliberations.

## **3.0 PRESENTATION OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING**

EAC Secretariat presented a Concept Note for the National and Regional Biodiversity Consultative Meetings. The presentation highlighted the objectives of the meetings and background on the CBD. The presentation also provided an overview of the global biodiversity policy discourses and forthcoming SBSTTA 24/SBI 3 and 15<sup>th</sup> COP sessions. Under the global biodiversity policy discourse, the meeting was informed on Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 which is about to end and the on going initiatives in the development of the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. The presentation is hereto attached as **Annex III**

## **Observations:**

The meeting observed the following:

- (a) The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 is an overarching framework on biodiversity not only for the biodiversity-related conventions, but also for the entire UN system and all other Partners engaged in biodiversity management and policy development;
- (b) The Post 2020 Biodiversity Framework seeks to transform the ways we value nature and unlock its full potential in underpinning Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement on climate.

## **4.0 STATUS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS, DIRECTIVES AND RESOLUTIONS EMANATING FROM GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY POLICY DISCOURSE**

The implementation status of previous decisions, directives and resolutions emanating from global biodiversity policy discourse was given by Damien Nindorera, representative of the National CBD Focal Point. The presentation highlighted progresses toward Aichi Biodiversity targets, scientific scenario for vision 2050 biodiversity, mainstreaming biodiversity in the energy and mining, infrastructure, manufacturing and processing sectors and health and biological diversity linkage. The presentation also highlighted Burundi's progress on mainstreaming of climate change into biological diversity, conservation and sustainable use of pollinators, protected areas and other effective conservation measures by area, measures for the control of the invasive alien species and guidance on the contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities on biodiversity conservation. The presentation is hereto attached as **Annex IV**.

## **Observations:**

The meeting observed that:

- (a) Burundi has tried to implement the Aichi biodiversity targets but faced challenges related to finance and human resources;
- (b) Burundi has already developed sectoral integration plans in 5 key sectors, including energy and mining, which need to be extended to other sectors;
- (c) Most of Burundi's protected areas have management plans drawn up in a concerted manner;
- (d) The country has developed and submitted to the CBD Secretariat the Sixth Country Biodiversity Report;
- (e) The Sixth Country Biodiversity Report focuses on the implementation of the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan and progress achieved towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

## **5.0 COUNTRY PREPARATION FOR CBD's SBSTTA 24/SBI 3**

The representative of the National CBD Focal Point, Mr. Damien Nindorera presented Burundi's preparation for the forthcoming CBD's SBSTTA 24/SBI 3 as well as COP 15. The presentation highlighted country contribution to the Global Framework for Biodiversity beyond 2020, country biodiversity priorities, assessment and management of risks related to Living Modified Organisms (LMOs) and capacity building. The presentation is hereto attached as **Annex V**.

### **Observations**

The meeting observed that:

- (i) Burundi has already submitted its contribution to the global post 2020 biodiversity framework;
- (ii) The Burundi's national biodiversity priorities highlights amongst other things issue related to the invasive alien species, biodiversity and health, biodiversity and agriculture and biodiversity and socio-economic linkages;
- (iii) There is a need for a single law covering all aspects of biodiversity i.e. wild biodiversity, Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS), Biosafety etc); and
- (iv) There is a need for strengthening cooperation between countries and specialised institutions in order to facilitate the transfer of technology and knowledge in biodiversity.

## **6.0 NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY PRIORITIES AND PREPARATIONS FOR SBSTTA 24/SBI 3 AND CBD's COP 15**

The National experts formed two groups to deliberate on the national priorities in line with SBSTTA 24/SBI 3 Agenda. Therefore, the deliberation will inform post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and guide participation in the forthcoming SBSTTA 24/SBI 3 and 15<sup>th</sup> COP of the CBD. The outcomes of the group works highlight key national priorities on post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework; biodiversity and agriculture; synthetic biology; biodiversity and health; invasive species; risk assessment and risk management of living modified organisms and Programme of work of the Intergovernmental Science – Policy platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystems Services (IPBES).

### **Observations**

- (a) There is a need for strengthening cooperation between countries and specialised institutions in order to facilitate the transfer of technology and knowledge in biodiversity;
- (b) There is a need for the development of the post 2020 biodiversity framework to seriously take into Parties submission on their country biodiversity priorities;
- (c) There is a need for maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people;
- (d) There is a need for improvement in resilience to natural disasters by investing in Ecosystem Based Adaptation (EBA) initiatives;
- (e) There is an increase in the proliferation, spread and introduction of the invasive alien species to ecosystems including protected areas in the country;

- (f) There is a need to conserve and enhance the sustainable use of biodiversity in agricultural and other managed ecosystems to support productivity, sustainability and resilience of such systems;
- (g) Biodiversity values need to be integrated into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and effectively mainstreamed across the sectors plans;
- (h) Implementation of the measures to prevent potential adverse impacts of biotechnology on biodiversity is paramount;
- (i) There is a need to promote the full and effective participation of local communities including indigenous people and involvement of women and girls as well as youth in decision-making related to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity; and
- (j) Synthetic biology and Gene drive technology are yet to be fully understood by local researchers compelling the need for necessary steps to be taken for preparedness.

## **7.0 THE KEY NATIONAL PRIORITIES FOR POST 2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK**

The following are the key National Priorities for Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework:

1. Encourage the involvement of local communities, indigenous and / or disadvantaged peoples (Batwa, women and young people) in the management of biodiversity and the improvement of their living conditions;
2. Sensitization, awareness-raising and advocacy towards and with all stakeholders including high-level officials for the conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity;
3. Protect sites of particular importance for biodiversity through protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures;
4. Undertake socio-economic valuation and assessment of ecosystem services;
5. Promote both in situ and ex-situ conservation of species of ecological and socio-economic importance;
6. Strengthen technology and human resources capacities for biodiversity conservation and management;
7. Improve the implementation of the guidelines and standards to regulate the movement and use of LMOs, pesticides and inorganic fertilizers;
8. Guidance on the management of invasive alien species;
9. Reform socio-economic sectors towards sustainable practices, including along their national and transnational supply chains;
10. Development of alternative energy sources;
11. Set up infrastructures for the pre-treatment of waste water for pollution control;
12. Strengthening cooperation with countries and specialized institutions for the transfer of technology and knowledge in the field of biodiversity;
13. Set up a Biodiversity Conservation National Fund.

## **8.0 RECOMMENDATION**

The meeting recommends to the EAC Secretariat to mobilise resources for the implementation of national biodiversity priorities.

The meeting was closed at 15.00 hours.

**Signed on this 16<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2020 as hereunder:**

**CHAIRPERSON**

**RAPPORTEUR**

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**Ms. Carine Hakizimana**  
Advisor (Productive Sectors)  
Ministry of EAC Affairs , Youth, Sports  
And Culture

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**Fofu Alphonse**  
Biodiversity Researcher  
Ministry of Environment,  
Agriculture and Livestocks

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