



**EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY**

**REGIONAL CONSULTATIVE MEETING  
IN PREPARATION FOR THE 24<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE  
SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND  
TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE OF THE CONVENTION ON  
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

**26<sup>TH</sup> -27<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2020  
GOLDEN TULIP HOTEL  
DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA**

**REPORT OF THE MEETING**

**EAC SECRETARIAT  
ARUSHA, TANZANIA  
NOVEMBER 2020**

*B. S. Thali*

*8*

*Aw.*

*PW*

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Regional biodiversity Consultative Meeting in preparation for the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific, Technical and Technological Advise of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD's SBSTTA) was held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania from 26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2020, in accordance with the EAC Calendar of Activities for July-December, 2020. The Meeting was hosted by the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania and facilitated by East Africa Community (EAC) Secretariat through USAID/KEA funded project on collaborative conservation and management of the natural capital in East African Community.

### 1.1 Objective of the Meeting

The overall objective of the regional biodiversity consultative meeting was to consider the outcome of the national biodiversity consultations and consolidate them into regional biodiversity key messages, which will guide the region in the negotiations during the CBD's SBSTTA 24. The same document will also guide negotiations during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Session of the CBD's Subsidiary Body for Implementation (CBD's SBI 3) and the forthcoming 15<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD's COP 15).

The specific objectives of the regional consultative meeting were to:

- (a) discuss the biodiversity priorities to inform the EAC position paper;
- (b) consider the outcome from the National Climate Change Consultations in EAC; and
- (c) develop regional biodiversity position paper to guide negotiations during the forthcoming CBD's SBSTTA 24/SBI 3 and COP 15.

The Agenda and Programme of the meeting are hereby attached as **Annex I**.

### 1.2 Participation and Attendance

Regional Biodiversity and Natural Resources Management Experts from the six EAC Partner States attended the Meeting. The EAC Secretariat and LVBC staff were also in attendance. The list of participants is hereto attached as **Annex II**.

### 1.3 Constitution of the Bureau

Ms. Epiphanie Buzizi, Second Counsellor, High Commission of Rwanda in United Republic of Tanzania chaired the meeting while Dr. Isaiah Okuthe Kase, Deputy Director, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Republic of Kenya, was the Rapporteur.

### 1.4 Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda of the meeting was adopted and is hereto attached as **Annex III**.

## 2.0 OPENING OF THE MEETING

### 2.1 Remarks by Chairperson

The Chairperson welcomed delegates and thanked them for honouring the invitation and attending the meeting, which demonstrates their commitment to addressing the regional challenges on management and conservation of the biodiversity. She thanked the government of the United Republic of Tanzania for hosting the meeting and warm hospitality extended to the delegates. She also thanked EAC Secretariat for organizing the meeting in Dar es Salaam, the Tanzanian financial and economic Capital. She reminded the participants of the objective of the meeting and emphasised the need to make adequate preparations for effective participation in the global biodiversity processes. She reiterated the importance of the biodiversity in the region and the need for having a common position to guide the regional

The meeting observed the need for:

- (a) Continued implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, the current overarching framework on biodiversity while concluding the development of the post 2020 global biodiversity framework;
- (b) The regional position to be linked to the outcome of forthcoming Sessions of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN); and
- (c) Active regional involvement in the development of the post 2020 global biodiversity framework and negotiation in the forthcoming global biodiversity conferences.

## Recommendations

The Meeting recommended that the:

- (a) **Implementation of the the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 to continue while developing the post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework; and**
- (b) **EAC Partner States to actively participate in the development of the post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and negotiation in the forthcoming Global Biodiversity Conferences.**

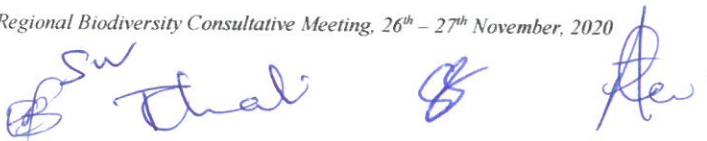
## 4.0 DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGIONAL BIODIVERSITY POSITION PAPER

Partner States experts considered the identified national priorities and recommendations made during the national consultative processes in developing the EAC Key Messages to the CBD's SBSTTA 24/SBI 3 and COP 15. The adopted EAC Key Messages are hereto attached as **Annex X**.

### a) Meeting Observations

The meeting observed the need for:

- a) effective post 2020 global biodiversity framework to ensure balanced approach to the three objectives of the convention i.e. biodiversity conservation; sustainable use of the components of biological diversity; fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources;
- b) the developed post 2020 biodiversity framework to take into consideration alternative innovative ways of mobilizing resources for the implementation;
- c) parties to strengthen conservation measures and promote the sustainable use of biodiversity in the natural resources-related sectors i.e. forestry, wildlife, livestock, fisheries, wetlands and agriculture;
- d) parties to establish and maintain means to regulate, manage or control the risks associated with development, transport and use of living modified organisms resulting from biotechnology which are likely to have adverse impacts on the environment;
- e) the post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework to strengthen the mechanisms for controlling and reducing the proliferation, spread and introduction of the invasive alien species to ecosystems including protected areas in the country;
- f) the post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework should take into account all challenges faced and lessons learnt during the implementation of the Global Strategic Plan on Biodiversity 2011-2020; and
- g) CBD's SBSTTA 24/SBI 3 and COP 15 to strengthen the cooperation and implementation of the Convention in conformity with the principles, in particular of the equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.



participation in the forthcoming continental and global conferences on biodiversity. She further urged delegates to consider issues identified during the national biodiversity consultative meetings and consolidate them into a regional biodiversity key messages document. She concluded by wishing the meeting fruitful deliberations.

## 2.2 Remarks by the EAC Secretariat

Hon. Christophe Bazivamo, EAC's Deputy Secretary General, Productive and Social Sectors (DSG PSS), welcomed delegates to the meeting on behalf of the Secretary General, Hon. Ambassador Liberat Mfumukeko. He thanked the government of the United Republic of Tanzania for hosting the meeting and warm hospitality extended to the EAC Secretariat at the headquarters. He thanked USAID/KEA for their support to the regional integration agenda. He commended Partner states for their efforts in fighting against COVID-19 pandemic and urged delegates to continue observing measures for controlling the pandemic. He highlighted the objectives of the 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 underscored the importance of the biodiversity in spearheading socio-economic development and the need to strengthen coordination and collaborative efforts with a view of improving conservation, reducing biodiversity loss and promoting fair and equitable sharing of genetic resources in the region.

He emphasised the importance of raising awareness on the regional and global instruments on biodiversity conservation. He further stressed the need for adequate preparation for effective participation in the forthcoming global biodiversity conference and development of post 2020 biodiversity framework and urged the meeting to identify key relevant regional priorities to guide development of the post 2020 biodiversity framework and negotiations at the SBSTTA 24/SBI 3 and CBD's COP 15.

On COVID-19 pandemic he noted the increased cases in the world in general and region in particular. He called for continued efforts to continue fighting following the guidelines, which have been developed for the region. He concluded by wishing the meeting fruitful deliberations.

## 2.3 Remarks by the Host

On behalf of the United Republic of Tanzania, Mr. Hassan Mnondwa, Trade Officer from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation welcomed the delegates. He thanked the EAC Secretariat for organizing the regional biodiversity consultative meeting and USAID/KEA for their continued financial support rendered to the regional integration agenda. He highlighted the objectives of the meeting and urged delegates to identify biodiversity priorities with view to inform development of the post 2020 biodiversity framework and common position to guide the negotiations during SBSTTA 24/SBI 3 and COP 15. In conclusion, he wished the meeting fruitful deliberations.

## 3.0 CONSIDERATION OF THE OUTCOME FROM THE NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY CONSULTATIONS

EAC Secretariat presented the reports of the national biodiversity consultations undertaken in Partner States i.e. Republics of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. The presentation highlighted issues and priorities that were observed and recommended by Partner States during their national biodiversity consultative meetings. The reports are hereto attached as **Annexes IV-IX**.



## b) Recommendations

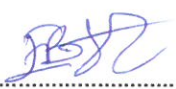


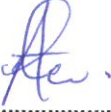

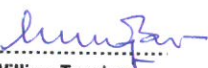
The meeting recommended to:

- (a) EAC Secretariat to share the adopted EAC key messages for CBD's SBSTTA 24/SBI 3 and COP 15 sessions to the Chair of the African Group of Negotiators (AGN) on biodiversity;
- (b) Partner States to collectively engage as a bloc in negotiations during CBD's SBSTTA 24/SBI 3 and COP 15 sessions; and
- (c) EAC Secretariat to mobilize more resources to strengthen EAC participation in the national, regional and international biodiversity processes.

## 5.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 5 pm.

Signed on this 27<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2020 by the Respective Heads of Delegation of Partner States as hereunder:

					
<b>Epiphanie K. Buzizi</b> Second Counsellor Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation	<b>Soita Wafuke</b> Assistant Director Ministry of East African Community and Regional Development	<b>Juma Saidi</b> Director-Productive Sectors Ministry of EAC Affairs, Youth, Sports and Culture	<b>John A. Maker</b> Director of Wetlands Ministry of Environment and Forestry	<b>Thomas J. Chali</b> Senior Environment Officer Vice President's Office	<b>William Tayebwa</b> Principal Environment Officer Ministry of EAC Affairs
REPUBLIC OF RWANDA	REPUBLIC OF KENYA	REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI	REPUBLIC SOUTH SUDAN	UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA	REPUBLIC OF UGANDA