



Hiroshima Office for Asia and the Pacific (HOAP)

Series on Biodiversity



Executive Summary and Next Steps

December 2004

UNITAR would like to express its thanks to the many resource persons and participants who contributed their time and expertise to the workshop so graciously; to the Kushiro International Wetland Centre (KIWC), a most precious ally and co-organizer of the workshop; to the Government of Japan, who made this workshop happen; and, to all the partners who, from different corners of the world, worked with UNITAR to design and conduct it.

Introduction

The Series on Biodiversity, one of the seven main programme pillars of UNITAR Hiroshima Office for Asia and the Pacific (HOAP), aims at contributing to national policy planning relating to biodiversity conservation and management in the Asia-Pacific region. The 2004 training workshop organized in conjunction with the Kushiro International Wetland Centre (KIWC) focused on **wetlands, biodiversity and water: new tools for the ecosystem approach**. It was designed to **introduce** the participants to basic knowledge, information and updates on the legal system and current topics regarding the ecosystem approach, **present** leading policies and strategies including their successes and failures, **explain** legal and policy planning techniques, **discuss** case studies and practical exercises, and **enhance** long-term learning and exchange among the participants.



2004 Training Workshop

Some 40 participants, resource persons and staff represented 27 countries from Asia, Australia, Europe and North American continents.

The training workshop employed three main training methodologies:

- 1) **Presentations and lectures** by experts selected by UNITAR and representatives of its partner organizations.¹ Presentations were followed by in-depth Q and A sessions. The topics discussed were:
 - NGOs and the conservation and restoration of wetlands, biodiversity and water in Japan (keynote lecture) by *Yugo ONO*, Hokkaido University;
 - Introduction to water management – key stakeholders and institutional arrangements by *Jobaid KABIR*, Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA);
 - International and regional regimes governing biological diversity: legal framework, progress and trends with special focus on the implications for water management by *David COATES*, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity;
 - Ramsar Convention: global instrument for wetland and water management and its implementation in the Asia-Pacific region by *LEI Guangchun*, Ramsar Convention Secretariat;
 - Ecosystem approach and integrated water management by *Sibylle VERMONT*, Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape;
 - Lower Colorado River Basin Management by *Jobaid KABIR*;
 - Water management for wetland conservation in Kushiro by *Hisashi SHINSHO*, KIWC, *Yasuyuki HIRAI*, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport of Japan, *Kazuaki HOSHINO*, Ministry of the Environment of Japan;
 - Environmental monitoring along rivers – Danube River by *Libor JANSKÝ*, United Nations University (UNU);
 - National policy making for ecosystem management: requirements and lessons by *Bishnu BHANDARI*, Institute for Global Environment Strategies (IGES).



¹ The co-organizer and the sponsor of the Series are, respectively, the Kushiro International Wetland Centre (KIWC) and the Government of Japan. Partner organizations in the Series are, *inter alia* (in alphabetical order), Institute for Global Environment Strategies (IGES), Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA), Ministry of the Environment of Japan, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport of Japan, Prefectural Government of Hiroshima, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape, United Nations University (UNU) and University of Texas at Austin.

- 2) **Study tour** organized by KIWC to observe sites corresponding to water resource management in Kushiro. Three resource persons guided the tour and provided first-hand explanations of various unique features of the wetland and its diversity of plant and animal species. They also described challenges faced by the wetland and the opportunities existing for the future improvement of the ecosystem while revitalizing the local economy.
- 3) **Practical exercise** which formed an important part of the training workshop, employing case-study analysis by working teams. Four teams were established and assisted by a resource person. Teams were given 24 hours to formulate a policy document for the sustainable management of a given site and to present it in plenary. A variety of learning and training methodologies designed by UNITAR were included in the exercise.



Indus River Basin Team



Mekong River Basin Team



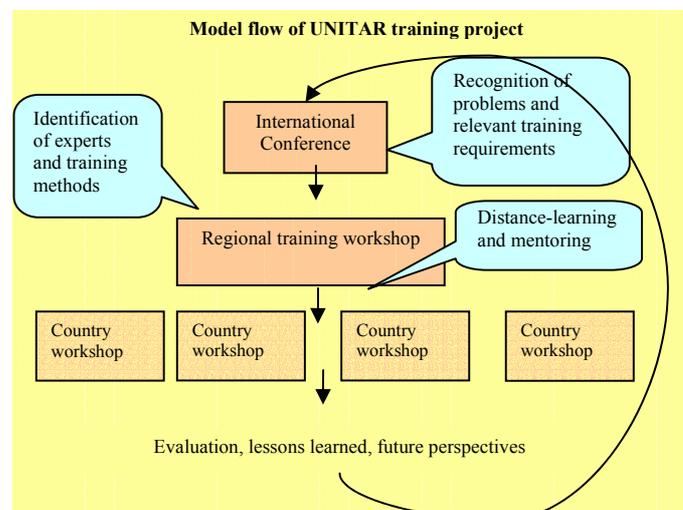
Yangtze River Basin Team



Lower Colorado River Basin Team

UNITAR "Training of Trainers (ToT)" Initiative

In order to expand the impact of training, UNITAR HOAP gives increasing importance to Training of Trainers (ToT). Potential trainers (the workshop participants) are invited to submit projects for country/sub-regional level training. UNITAR will assist training projects in such fields as project development, fundraising, training methodologies, consultation on thematic matters by UNITAR faculty, through distance-learning and the dispatch of experts.



Outcome and next steps

There are roughly four main outputs from the 2004 Kushiro workshop that will be made available by UNITAR:

- Training modules consisting of all the presentations and documents;
- Case studies prepared by the four working teams and evaluated in terms of substance (contents), structure, and presentation;
- Main points learned, summarized within a single document and opened up for further revision and discussion by the workshop community (participants, resource persons and UNITAR);
- Future trainers identified and partnership requirements shared through guidelines prepared by UNITAR.



The next step suggested in the year 2005-2006 will be the replication of the workshop methodologies at the national level, namely in one or more (depending on available funds) countries or at the sub-regional level workshops.