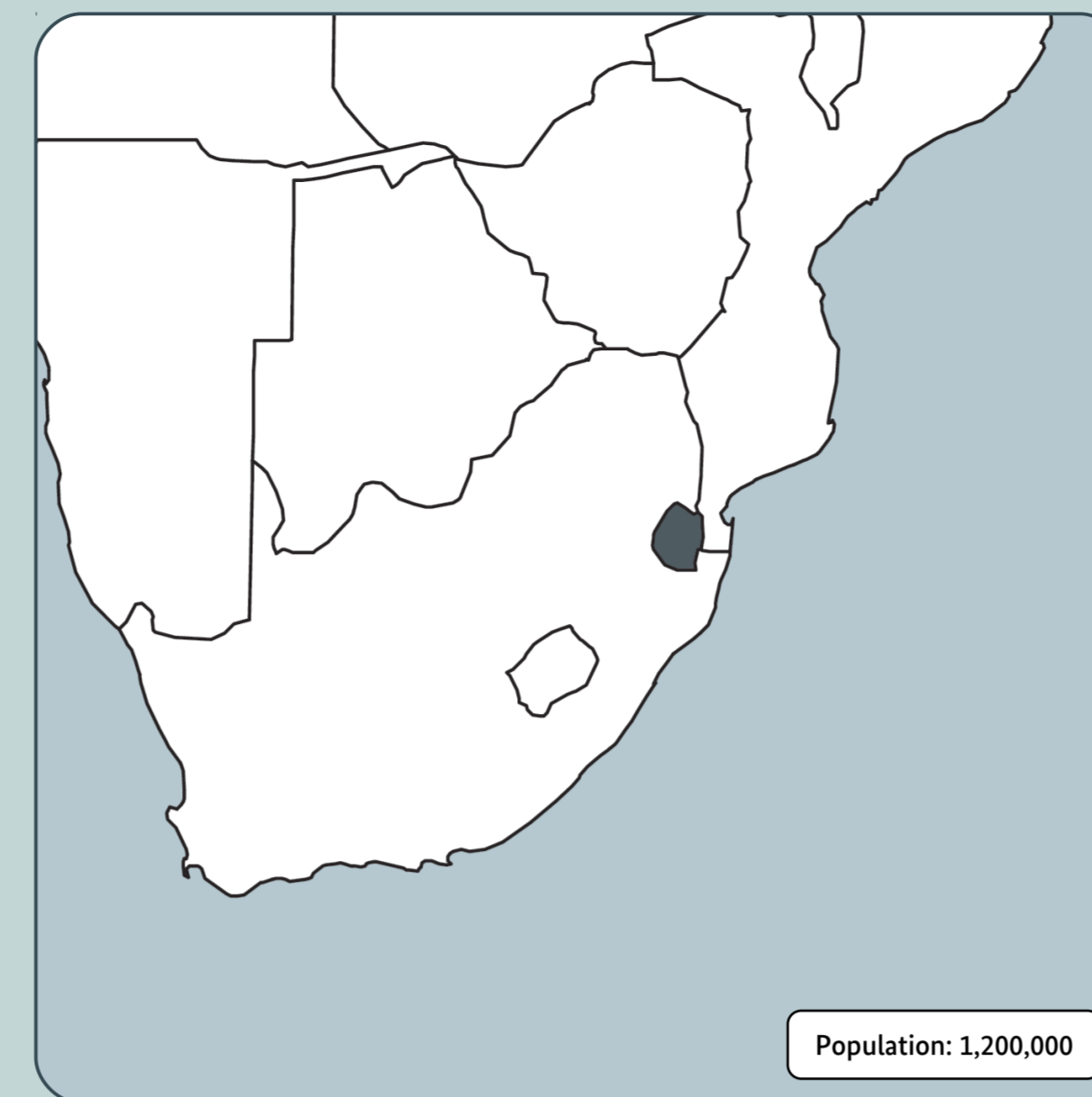
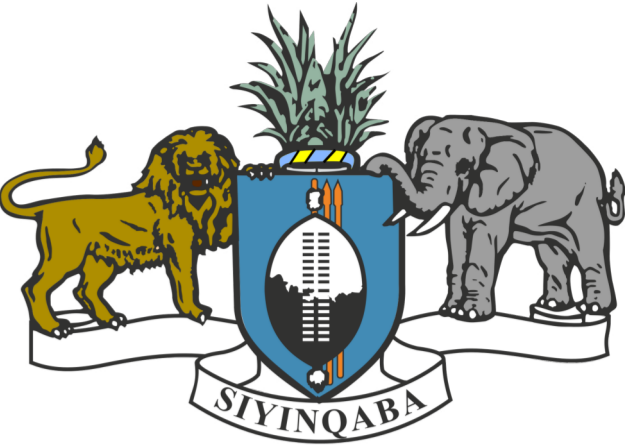


The Kingdom of Swaziland Efforts on Public Awareness, Education, Participation and Access to Information on Biosafety



With an area of 17 364km², Swaziland's landscape ranges from 21 m above sea level to 1862 m above sea level. From west to east climate goes from cool with rain in the Highveld, warmer with rain in the Middleveld to hot and dry in the Lowveld and Lubombo Plateau.

The Biosafety Act, 2012 obligates the Swaziland Environment Authority to disseminate information to the public and also to make all relevant information available to the public. The Authority is executing this with funding support from UNEP-GEF through its Biosafety Implementation Project.



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The poster template was provided by GIZ on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The above mentioned organizations do not take any responsibility for any content of the poster.

Layout by GeoMedia/MediaCompany.

Not all five Strategic Goals are covered due to the following reasons:

1. Focus has only been made to Biosafety activities that have been done to achieve the Aichi Targets
2. Biosafety has been mainstreamed mostly under Goals A, B, C and E of the NBSAP
3. Not much Biosafety activities have been done under Goal B of the NBSAP

Poster developed by:

Bongani Z. Nkhabinde

for the:

CBD/UNEP Poster Session

A



The activities include:

- a. Development and Implementation of a Public Awareness, Education and Participation Strategy and Action Plan
- b. Schools Competitions on Biosafety (The first of its kind on Biosafety)
- c. Mainstreaming Biotechnology and Biosafety into the Curricula at lower school and tertiary institutions in partnership with the National Curriculum Center and the University of Swaziland and the Competent Authority (The Swaziland Environment Authority).
- d. Conducting Workshops in Rural Communities
Biosafety workshops are held at the rural communities through role plays on the use, handling and regulation of GMOs.
- e. Conducting Workshops for Law Enforcement Officers, Media and Border-Personnel

By 2022, more than 70% of Swaziland Nationals will be cognizant of biodiversity and ecosystems, their value and the steps they can take to conserve and use these sustainably

C



Other activities undertaken include:

- Activities that have been undertaken include:
- a. Regional Workshops for Agriculture Extension Officers in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture
 - b. Regional Workshop for Farmers to build farmer capacities in modern biotechnology, the benefits, the concerns as well as the regulation of GMOs through the Biosafety Act, 2012. This was done in collaboration with the Swaziland National Agriculture Union
 - c. Involvement of the Gene Bank's Seeds Registrar in Biosafety activities
The Competent National Authority has forged strong links with the Registrar of Seeds in the Ministry of Agriculture's Gene Bank.

By 2022, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and domesticated animals and their wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, in Swaziland, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.

E



Activities that have been done relating to Aichi Biodiversity Target 19 include:

- a. Setting up the National Biosafety Clearing-House (nBCH) and updating the Central Portal of the BCH with stakeholder workshops on information access and sharing on biotechnology and biosafety. The nBCH also provides an interactive portal (queries can be addressed to biosafety@sea.org.sz).
- b. Setting up the Biosafety in SD Facebook page and Twitter account (biosafetyswaziland@biosafety6) with the aim of reaching out the youth through social media.
- c. Development of Information, Education & Communication (IEC) Material. IEC material that has been developed include brochures, posters, banners as well as manuals.
- d. Establishing information exchange points at rural community level through the Tinkhudla centers and among chiefs

By 2022, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied in Swaziland.

November 2016

NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY TARGETS

A

Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society

- Target 1: By 2022, more than 70% of Swaziland Nationals will be cognizant of biodiversity and ecosystems, their value and the steps they can take to conserve and use these sustainably
- Target 2: By 2022, biodiversity values have been integrated into all national, regional, municipal and rural development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes, and are being incorporated into accounting and reporting systems
- Target 3: By 2022, biodiversity values have been integrated into all national, regional, municipal and rural development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes, and are being incorporated into accounting and reporting systems
- Target 4: By 2022, the Government of Swaziland, municipalities, businesses, local communities and stakeholders at all levels have developed and are implementing plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.

B

Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use

- Target 5: By 2022, the rate of loss, degradation and fragmentation of Swaziland's natural habitats is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero.
- Target 6: By 2022 all of Swaziland's aquatic resources are sustainably managed.
- Target 7: By 2022, all areas under agriculture, fisheries, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of Swaziland's biodiversity.
- Target 8: By 2022, Pollution in Swaziland has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity
- Target 9: By 2022, Invasive species that are alien to Swaziland and their pathways are identified and prioritized; priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.
- Target 10: By 2022 pressures on Swaziland's vulnerable and most valuable ecosystems such as (Savannah woodland Mosaic forests and wetlands) are identified and prioritized; priority pressures are controlled or eradicated

C

To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity

- Target 11: By 2022, at least 20 per cent of Swaziland's land area, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, protected landscapes and multiple resource use areas are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas.
- Target 12: By 2022, the extinction of species known to be threatened in Swaziland has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those that are endemic and those most in decline, has been improved and sustained
- Target 13: By 2022, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and domesticated animals and their wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, in Swaziland, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.

D

Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services

- Target 14: By 2022, the capacity of ecosystems to deliver essential services and support the livelihood of the people of Swaziland is maintained.
- Target 15: By 2022, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced in Swaziland, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.
- Target 16: By 2016, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and by 2022 fully operational and consistent with national legislation.

E

Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building

- Target 17: By 2016, Swaziland has developed, adopted as a policy instrument and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan.
- Target 18: By 2022, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of local Swazi communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are documented and respected, in accordance with national legislation and relevant international obligations, and have fully integrated the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity with the full and effective participation of local communities, at all relevant levels.
- Target 19: By 2022, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied in Swaziland.
- Target 20: By 2016 the NBSAP is fully integrated in the government and relevant implementing institutions' budgeting systems and other sources of funding are mobilized.