

MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY

Workshops on national biodiversity strategies and action plans

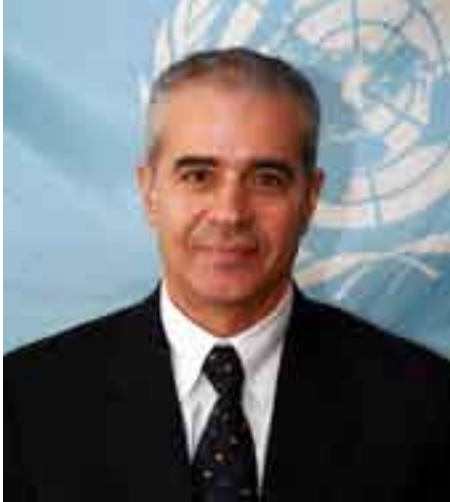


Convention on
Biological Diversity





FOREWORD



Biodiversity is essential for meeting human needs. Yet it continues to be lost at an alarming rate. To achieve the 2010 Biodiversity Target, and to achieve the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the value of biodiversity must be reflected in everyday decisions taken by all parts of society and in all sectors of the economy.

The key instruments for realizing this and for implementing the Convention are national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs). While their importance is enshrined in the text of the Convention itself, these instruments have been given renewed attention since the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Curitiba, Brazil.

As requested by the Conference of the Parties, the Working Group on the Review of Implementation of the Convention conducted an in-depth review of the state of NBSAPs, and developed consolidated guidance for their development, implementation and updating. Further the Secretariat has convened a series of regional and sub-regional capacity-building workshops on NBSAPs and biodiversity mainstreaming.

This publication provides an overview of the results from the five workshops held in the first months of 2008 in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America, with examples of NBSAPs in each region. The cases illustrate a range of best practices in mainstreaming biodiversity, communication, monitoring and reporting. They also demonstrate that we have a highly dedicated community of stakeholders working in all regions to achieve the objectives of the Convention.

Participants enjoyed the hospitality and efficient organization provided by the host countries of the workshops: Brazil, Germany, Mexico, Singapore and South Africa. Thanks are also due to the donors of the workshops, which, in addition to the host countries, include Canada, Germany, Japan, Norway, Spain and the United Kingdom, as well as the Asean Centre for Biodiversity.

The workshops are part of a wider capacity-building initiative of the Secretariat that also includes short training sessions on the margins of the Convention's major meetings and the preparation of training materials. The approach has been to build upon the wealth of experience and expertise among CBD focal points and others involved in implementation and to work with partner organizations to provide additional expertise where needed.

I trust that this publication will help foster the further exchange of experiences in implementing the Convention and that the success stories that it summarizes will motivate all Parties to redouble efforts to achieve the 2010 Biodiversity Target.

Ahmed Djoghlaoui
Executive Secretary



LEFT TO RIGHT
Kay Muldoon Ibrahim,
David Coates,
Charles Besançon,
Charles Besançon,
Camellia Ibrahim

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INTRODUCTION

The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, in 2005, concluded that unprecedented efforts would be needed to achieve the 2010 Biodiversity Target. At its eighth meeting, in 2006, the Conference of the Parties emphasized the need for enhanced implementation of the Convention, initiated an in-depth review of progress of implementation and recommended that regional and sub-regional workshops be convened on national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) and the mainstreaming of biodiversity into broader national strategies and action plans.

Accordingly, a major effort has been undertaken during the current biennium to review the status of NBSAPs and to strengthen their role in implementing the Convention and in mainstreaming biodiversity:

The Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention focused on this matter at its second meeting, reviewed the results of a desk-study and developed, updated and consolidated guidance on NBSAPs (see page 27).

The Secretariat, in partnership with host countries, donors and partner agencies, has organized a series of regional and sub-regional workshops to strengthen capacity in the development, updating and implementation of NBSAPs and in mainstreaming biodiversity. Five workshops have been held to date: South, East and Southeast Asia (Singapore, 14 – 18 January, 2008); Southern and Eastern Africa (South Africa, 4 – 8 February, 2008); Mesoamerica (Mexico, 26 – 27 March 2008); South America (Rio Branco, Brazil, 30 March – 4 April, 2008) and Europe (Isle of Vilm, Germany, 26 – 30 April 2008).

Participants in the workshops comprised officials responsible for the development and/or implementation of NBSAPs, nominated by CBD focal points, as well as resource persons.

The workshops have included the following elements:

- ▶ National presentations of the state of implementation followed by questions and answers and discussions.
- ▶ Complementary presentations at different levels of government (global, regional/sub-regional, sub-national, local)
- ▶ Examples from countries on mainstreaming
- ▶ Training by experts on specific topics needed to implement the Convention (for example, Strategic Environmental Assessment, the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, Communication, Education and Public Awareness)
- ▶ Briefings on the preparation of the fourth national reports
- ▶ Small group discussions, panel discussions, and interactive exercises.
- ▶ Field trips illustrating opportunities and challenges in biodiversity mainstreaming.



LEFT TO RIGHT
Kay Muldoon Ibrahim,
Kay Muldoon Ibrahim,
Charles Besançon,
David Cooper

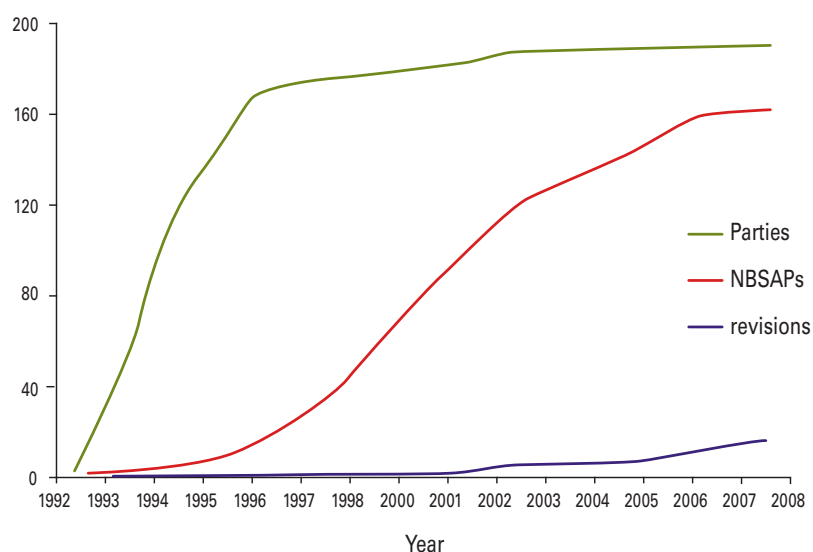
160 Parties (84 %) have NBSAPs or equivalent instruments, and 17 more have them under preparation [see graph]. At least 18 Parties have revised NBSAPs, and 14 more have revisions in progress. Revisions are designed to identify and meet new challenges and to respond to recent guidance from the Conference of the Parties. Some Parties are developing biodiversity strategies and/or action plans at the sub-national level.

MAIN MESSAGES

NBSAPs have provided a useful framework for the implementation of the Convention. In many countries NBSAPs have promoted the development of additional laws and programmes, and have catalysed action in a broader range of issues such as: invasive alien species; sustainable use; incentive measures; protection of traditional knowledge; access and benefit sharing; biosafety; and agricultural biodiversity.

Recently developed and updated NBSAPs tend to be more strategic than the first generation of NBSAPs and they have a stronger emphasis on biodiversity mainstreaming.

Development of NBSAPs



Increasingly, NBSAPs reflect broader national development and environment objectives. Newer NBSAPs also tend to be more closely linked to the cycle of national planning processes.

Progress is being achieved in the three broad types or approaches to mainstreaming:

- ▶ integration of biodiversity into economic sectors (agriculture, forestry, fisheries, tourism, education, health etc);
- ▶ integration into cross-sectoral policies and strategies (finance, national development, poverty eradication etc); and
- ▶ integration into spatial planning, especially at provincial/state and municipal levels.

Updated and consolidated guidance on NBSAPs has been developed under the Convention. There is an opportunity to link the preparation of the fourth national reports with revision of NBSAPs and the setting of national implementation targets.

There is a continued need for assistance from GEF and other sources to enable Parties to update their NBSAPs, and to monitor and promote implementation.

SOUTH, EAST & SOUTHEAST ASIA WORKSHOP



Lin Yangchen

“There is a critical need to balance conservation and development. The workshop provided a valuable opportunity to exchange experience to achieve this goal”

—Ng Lang, CEO, NParks, Singapore

HOST

Singapore National Parks Board (NParks) at the Singapore Botanic Gardens organized in collaboration with the Asia Centre for Biodiversity

DATE

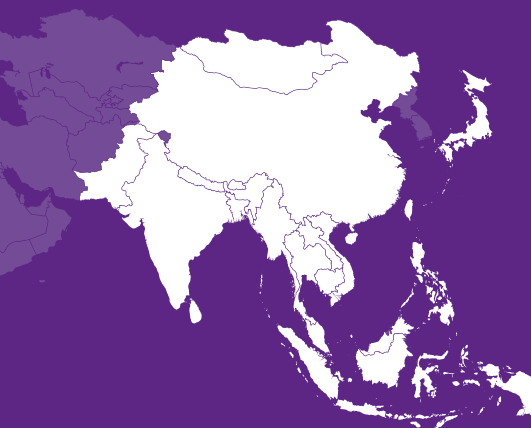
14th–18th January, 2008

PARTICIPATION

51 Participants
20 of 22 Parties (91%)

NBSAPs

20 of 22 Parties (91%)
Updated: 7 Parties (32%)



HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Nearly all countries in Asia have National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans in place and several have updated them.
- ▶ The newest CBD member, Timor Leste has begun the process of developing its NBSAP, and Brunei Darussalam announced its intention to accede to the CBD. Brunei Darussalam will be the 191st Party to the Convention.
- ▶ The Asia experience shows an evolution of NBSAPs. Updated NBSAPs and those that were developed recently tend to be more strategic and more focussed on mainstreaming with links to national planning cycles than older ones.



NBSAP workshop, Yixiong, Cai



NBSAP workshop, Yixiong, Cai

JAPAN

Japan’s third version of its National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan sets out a centennial vision for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in the context of major demographic change and climate change. The Strategy is built on three of the principles of the ecosystem approach: precaution, adaptive management and societal choice. The four general strategies of the NBSAP are the mainstreaming of biodiversity into the daily lives of individuals, recreating the relationship between people, local communities and nature, securing the linkages between forests, rivers, the sea and the countryside and taking actions in a global context. A distinct feature of the Japanese approach is the importance devoted to protecting managed and productive “Satoyama” landscapes. The Strategy recognizes the impact of Japan on the biodiversity of other countries through the import of food and timber and proposes actions to reduce this footprint.

Kanagawa Prefecture, Handano City



CAMBODIA

Cambodia's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan serves as a vision for Cambodia and is seen as a contribution to national development. The NBSAP promotes an improved quality of life, sustainable use, the protection of natural resources and equitable economic prosperity. Strategic priority actions are: promoting awareness and capacity building of government staff and local communities; promoting the implementation of community-based natural resource management; and clarifying ministerial jurisdictions. The latter involves reducing overlap of responsibilities and promoting inter-ministerial coordination and collaboration in a broader perspective of sustainable development. The implementation of Cambodia's NBSAP is adaptive, iterative and cyclical to allow for the involvement of stakeholders and for the NBSAP to be reviewed and expanded as conditions evolve.



Tonlé Sap Fishery, Marjo Vierros



Yixiong Cai

The opening session of the workshop was attended by Board Members of the Asia Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) and was followed by a signing ceremony of a Memorandum of Understanding between the CBD Secretariat and the ACB. The MoU provides a framework for cooperative action in promoting implementation of the CBD among member countries. "SCB and ACB are joining forces to implement the Convention in the region" said Rodrigo Fuentes, Executive Director of ACB, on signing the MOU with Ahmed Djoghla.



Lin Yangchen

BHUTAN

Bhutan's Biodiversity Action Plan seeks a "middle path" between preservation and development. The Plan recognizes not only the ecological opportunities for successful conservation arising from the country's extraordinary — and relatively intact — biodiversity, but also the economic opportunities for activities such as ecotourism and carbon trading. It incorporates a Buddhist perspective of "Tendrel Gi Choe" — the interdependence among all life forms. Originally developed in 1997, the Plan has been revised in light of a review of the first version.



Wild Rhododendron, Michael Buckley

SOUTH & EAST AFRICA



Kedar Hotel

“The countries of southern and eastern Africa are especially aware of the importance of biodiversity for poverty reduction and economic development. The workshop provided an opportunity to discuss progress in integrating biodiversity into national policies, identifying obstacles and ways they can be overcome”

Maria Mbengashe, Chief Directorate: International Marine and Biodiversity Cooperation, DEAT, South Africa

HOST

South African Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism

VENUE

South African Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism

DATE

4th – 8th February, 2008

PARTICIPATION

35 Participants

13 of 18 Parties (72%)

NBSAPs

18 of 18 Parties (100%)

Updated: 2 Parties (11%)



HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ All countries represented in the workshop have developed NBSAPs.
- ▶ Generally, NBSAPs have provided useful frameworks for national implementation of biodiversity activities.
- ▶ In some countries, NBSAPs have facilitated a focus on new issues such as invasive alien species.
- ▶ The workshop emphasized that, to be effective, NBSAPs must reflect broader national development and environment objectives.



Kedar Hotel

MADAGASCAR

The National Strategy for Sustainable Management of Biodiversity in Madagascar, first adopted in 2002, was revised to align it with the “Madagascar Action Plan” which sets the incoming government’s larger vision for the development of the country. The Government of Madagascar has taken several steps to mainstream biodiversity. Each ministry of the government has an environment unit and environmental issues are integrated into the planning process for each sector of the economy. Locally-specific objectives and action plans for the management of each of Madagascar’s 22 regions have been developed to ensure the wide implementation of actions for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. Indicators developed in the country to monitor biodiversity status and trends have been modified to bring them in line with the 2010 Biodiversity Target.



Baobab Trees, Morondava Madagascar, Eric Belvaux



South Africa Workshop, C. Ibrahim



Panel Discussion on the Way Forward, C. Ibrahim



Analysis of Group Objectives, C. Ibrahim



NAMIBIA

Sossusvlei, Namib-Naukluft National Park, Charles Besançon

Namibia's Ten-Year Strategic Plan of Action for Sustainable Development through Biodiversity Conservation is closely linked to the country's poverty reduction activities, its national development programmes and its mid-term development strategy called Vision 2030. More than a piece of environmental legislation, the NBSAP has become a component of the wider development policy of the country, as suggested by its title. The NBSAP provides a strategic framework for natural resource management activities, including trade and economic incentives. Communitybased natural resource management (CBNRM) is a key component. The NBSAP includes a detailed and prioritized action plan for 2001-2010 in the form of a matrix of activities. When developing its NBSAP, the Government of Namibia, created a technical interdisciplinary and multi-sectoral task force composed of representatives from government agencies, parastatal organizations, the private sector, education institutions, civil society and nongovernmental organizations.



BOTSWANA

Okavango Delta, Botswana Department of Environmental Affairs

Botswana's National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan, originally prepared in 2004, was revised in 2007. The Strategy promotes several laws, policies and plans that relate to various sectors including, tourism, sanitation, and community resource management. The NBSAP has facilitated several institutional and legislative improvements, including the use of environmental impact assessment, and the implementation of various projects to conserve and use biodiversity more sustainably, including an annual wildlife census and the establishment of an environmental information system. Importantly, the NBSAP has also allowed for the identification of several challenges and constraints, such as limited technical resources and the need for more integration between ministries. Examples of implementation activities facilitated by the NBSAP are several programmes related to the Okavango Delta, including a cross-sectoral conservation and sustainable use plan for the Delta and the "Biokavango Project", which will contribute to the day-to-day management of the wetland.

MESOAMERICA

(INCLUDING CUBA AND DOMINICAN REPUBLIC)



Laura Villasenor Gómez

“The Workshop provided a valuable opportunity to strengthen regional cooperation and to learn from a number of innovative approaches taken by the various countries, including payment for ecosystem services, and application of the ecosystem approach”

Hesiquio Benítez, CONABIO

HOST

National Commission for the Conservation and Use of Biodiversity, Mexico

VENUE

Mexico City, Mexico

DATE

26th–27th March, 2008

PARTICIPATION

25 Participants

9 of 9 Parties (100%)

NBSAPs

8 of 9 Parties (89%)

Updated: 1 Party (11%)



HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ In addition to adopting national biodiversity strategies, the countries of Central America have developed a Mesoamerican biodiversity strategy to strengthen regional cooperation.
- ▶ Participants recognized the opportunity to make use of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) framework linking biodiversity, ecosystem services and human well-being, when updating the strategies.
- ▶ The establishment of the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor is a major achievement combining regional, national and local community efforts.



Camino Real Pedregal Hotel

MEXICO

Mexico’s National Strategy for Biodiversity, adopted in 2000, sets out a 50 year vision that sees large-scale conversion of natural ecosystems averted. It includes four main strategic thrusts: knowledge management; valuation of biodiversity; conservation; and diversification of use. While overall responsibility for the Strategy rests with the environment ministry SEMARNAT, implementation is promoted by a range of agencies including those responsible for forests, water management, and protected areas. Currently, a major effort is underway to decentralize implementation through the development of state biodiversity strategies. Development, implementation and monitoring of the Strategy is facilitated by CONABIO — the National Commission for the Conservation and Use of Biodiversity created in 1992. CONABIO’s governing body includes relevant ministers and is presided over by the President of the Republic. Its main roles are to maintain the national system of information on biodiversity, support relevant research, and carry out assessments of biodiversity and the impacts of activities by government, the private sector and civil society. Recent activities include a gap analysis of the terrestrial and marine protected area systems and assessments of risks from invasive alien species.



Mangroves, Quintana Roo, Susan Alexander



Braulio Carrillo National Park, *Camellia Ibrahim*

COSTA RICA

The National Biodiversity Strategy was developed through a two-year participatory process including 31 national consultation workshops. Inputs were received from civil society, the economic sectors and all political parties. The Strategy defines clear roles for the Ministry of the Environment, the National Institute for Biodiversity (INBIO) which facilitates monitoring and implementation, and separate bodies for the review and assessment of progress. The Strategy has been integrated into the tourism, forestry, agriculture and health sectors as well as cross-sectoral national planning processes including national development plans, the national climate change strategy, and the Nation's Strategy for the 21st century. The ecosystem approach is applied to territorial planning. Costa Rica is considered a leader in developing a comprehensive programme on payments for environmental services (PES). Over 450,000 hectares of forest receive payments through this programme. With an emphasis on the participation of local and indigenous communities, as well as a framework for engaging the private sector, the PES programme offers an avenue to link biodiversity conservation and national development.

MESOAMERICA REGIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY

Environment ministers of the Central American countries, together with Mexico as an observer, have adopted the Regional Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Mesoamerica, providing a framework for harmonizing efforts to mainstream biodiversity into economic, social, and political decision-making across the region. The Strategy was developed by the Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD), which is part of the Central American Integration System (SICA). Two of the major successes have been the consolidation of the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor and the formation of a regional system of terrestrial and marine protected areas.



Camellia Ibrahim



Mesoamerican Biological Corridor, Pacific Coast, Costa Rica, *Camellia Ibrahim*



CONABIO

Participants in the Mesoamerican workshop also attended a symposium on the "Evaluation of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Findings and Human Well-being", organized by Mexico's CONABIO. At the two-day symposium, participants discussed the findings of the global assessment and Mexico's second country study on biodiversity and ecosystems "Natural Capital and Human Well-being" which is being developed using the MA conceptual framework.

SOUTH AMERICA



Camelia Ibrahim

“We all face a complex range of environmental challenges. Discussing our national experiences in implementing the Convention will help us to find solutions.”

Maria Cecília Wey de Brito, Secretary of Biodiversity and Forests, Brazil.

HOST

Brazilian Ministry of the Environment and Acre State Environment Secretariat. At the Forestry School, Rio Branco, Acre, Brazil

DATE

30th March – 4th April, 2008

PARTICIPATION

34 Participants
8 of 10 Parties (80%)

NBSAPs

10 of 10 Parties (100%)
Updated: 1 Party (10%)



HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ All countries in the region have national biodiversity strategies and the regions of Peru and Colombia are developing their own sub-national biodiversity strategies.
- ▶ Sub-regional strategies have been adopted by both the Andean Community and Mercosur, and a strategy is under development for the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization.
- ▶ Ecological and economic zoning is emerging as an important tool for integrating biodiversity into planning processes.
- ▶ The ecosystem approach is seen as a useful tool to integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development.



Escola da Floresta

Xapuri River, Acre, David Cooper



BRAZIL

Brazil adopted a National Policy on Biodiversity in 2002, developed on the basis of sectoral, thematic and biome-based technical analyses and following extensive consultations through national and regional workshops. The policy led to the

establishment in 2003 of a National Commission on Biodiversity (CONABIO), which brings together representatives of relevant ministries, indigenous people, civil society and the private sector. It also called for a national plan of action (PAN-Bio), elaborated in 2006. PAN-Bio includes 161 priority actions. Priority areas for conservation were identified in 2004 and 2007 on the basis of scientific criteria and multi-stakeholder consultations. Through a multi-sectoral approach involving 16 ministries across government, Brazil has invested in efforts to reduce biodiversity loss through increased monitoring of land-use change, zoning policies, increased law enforcement, incentives for sustainable use, and the creation of protected areas. Since 2002 the area of protected areas in the Amazon has been increased by more than 25% and deforestation rates there have been reduced by some 60%.

PERU

The “Vision for 2021” in Peru’s National Biodiversity Strategy sees the country obtaining greater benefits from the conservation, sustainable use and restoration of its biodiversity in order to satisfy basic needs and generate wealth for present and future generations. By official government decree in 2001, the elements of the National Biodiversity Strategy must be integrated into sectoral policies, plans, and programmes. At the sub-national level, biodiversity issues have been included



Vicuña, Arequipa region, *Camellia Ibrahim*

in the policies of 19 regional governments. The Strategy is seen not just as a scientific or technical document, but as a tool for management, with the ecosystem approach—bringing together ecological, social and economic perspectives—as a unifying concept. For example, the programme for the management of Andean ecosystems brings together campesinos and other stakeholders to discuss management options for the watersheds, protected areas and fragile ecosystems of the region. Other programmes derived from Peru’s National Biodiversity Strategy include the promotion of bio-commerce, conservation of agricultural biodiversity, and the integrated management of coastal and marine areas.

MERCOSUR BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY

On the margins of COP-8 in Curitiba, under the Argentine Presidency, the Environment Ministers of the 4 Mercosur member countries adopted the Mercosur Biodiversity Strategy. This sub-regional strategy will be an important instrument in mainstreaming biodiversity—and the priorities of the NBSAPs of the member countries—into the policies for sustainable development of the Mercosur trading bloc.



Iguaçu Falls, *Charles Besançon*

ANDEAN REGIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY

The Andean Community has developed the Regional Biodiversity Strategy for the Tropical Andean Countries, within the context of Decision 523, which gives strong emphasis on the importance of integrating biodiversity considerations into national sectoral and cross-sectoral planning. The Strategy was approved by the Ministers of Foreign Relations of 4 member states in 2002. It aims to identify and contribute to joint priority actions in support of conservation and

Blue-Footed Boobies, Peru, *Camellia Ibrahim*



sustainable use of biodiversity as well as the generation of viable avenues for sustainable development in the region. Programmes and activities on biosafety and biotechnology, agrobiodiversity, valuation and benefit sharing have been developed and implemented under the framework of the Regional Strategy. An Action Plan for the implementation of the Strategy is being further developed by the Andean Committee of Environmental Authorities.



German International Academy for Nature Conservation Isle of Vilm

“Communication is key to getting all stakeholders involved in implementing the Convention. A communication strategy should accompany the implementation of NBSAPs right from the beginning. The new German Strategy includes elements such as regional and national fora, media campaigns, websites and targeted communication to selected key private sector stakeholders.”

Dr. Rainer Blanke, Deputy President of the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation

.....
HOST:

The International Academy for Nature Conservation, Island of Vilm, Germany

.....
DATE:

26th – 30th April, 2008

.....
PARTICIPATION:

32 Participants
19 of 48 Parties (40%)

.....
NBSAPs:

35 of 48 Parties (73%)
Updated: 6 Parties (13%)

HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Many European countries have developed indicators and data management systems to monitor progress towards the 2010 biodiversity target.
- ▶ A number of countries are taking measures to integrate biodiversity into the work of the sectoral ministries.
- ▶ The European Union and, in particular, its Habitats Directive, has spurred action to strengthen conservation efforts in many countries.
- ▶ Improving awareness of the contribution of biodiversity and ecosystem services is widely seen as a way of strengthening support for biodiversity conservation and use.



Calcarious Grassland, Dr. Klaus Neugebauer

GERMANY

The German National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan was developed through a highly participatory process with strong political support from parliament and government. It contains clear targets with deadlines for most of them. The indicators to monitor progress are closely aligned with the EU and CBD frameworks. Reporting is mandatory in each legislative period. In addition to measures addressed at conserving habitats, species and genetic diversity, the Strategy addresses many sectors of the economy including agriculture, mining and infrastructure development. The effects of German activities on biological diversity worldwide are also considered. The Strategy considers the opportunities provided by biodiversity for promoting innovation and employment such as organic farming, the marketing of regionally-produced products and tourism. Responding to the findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, the Strategy targets the indirect drivers behind pollution and nutrient loading, climate change and the degradation of natural habitats. An implementation strategy is now being developed through further consultations in each of the *Länder* and at the federal level.

FINLAND

The Finnish Government became the first European country to adopt its revised biodiversity strategy at the end of 2006. "Saving nature for people", Finland's second National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2006–2016 aims not only to halt the decline in biodiversity but also to prepare, by 2016, for climate change and other global changes that may threaten the natural environment in Finland. A key objective is intensifying sectoral responsibility. The associated Action Plan includes 110 measures for the implementation of the National Strategy, and, for each one, the Plan defines which ministries are responsible. The Plan is closely linked to each of the Convention's programmes of work.



Reindeer Herding, Poro Finland, Tapio Heikkilä



A. Burmester



Jana Vavrinova

CZECH REPUBLIC

The National Biodiversity Strategy of the Czech Republic was developed by the environment and agriculture ministries and approved by the government in 2005. The Strategy builds upon the Convention's programmes of work and cross-cutting issues, as well as relevant EU and national legislation. Targets and goals are included for each topic, such as nature protection, genetic resources, agriculture, forests, transport, climate change, and invasive alien species. The government resolution approving the Strategy requires the environment and agriculture ministers to develop an action plan and elaborate a system of indicators to monitor implementation. However, responsibility for developing the action plans for each topic rests with the sector departments. The strategy will be updated after 10 years.

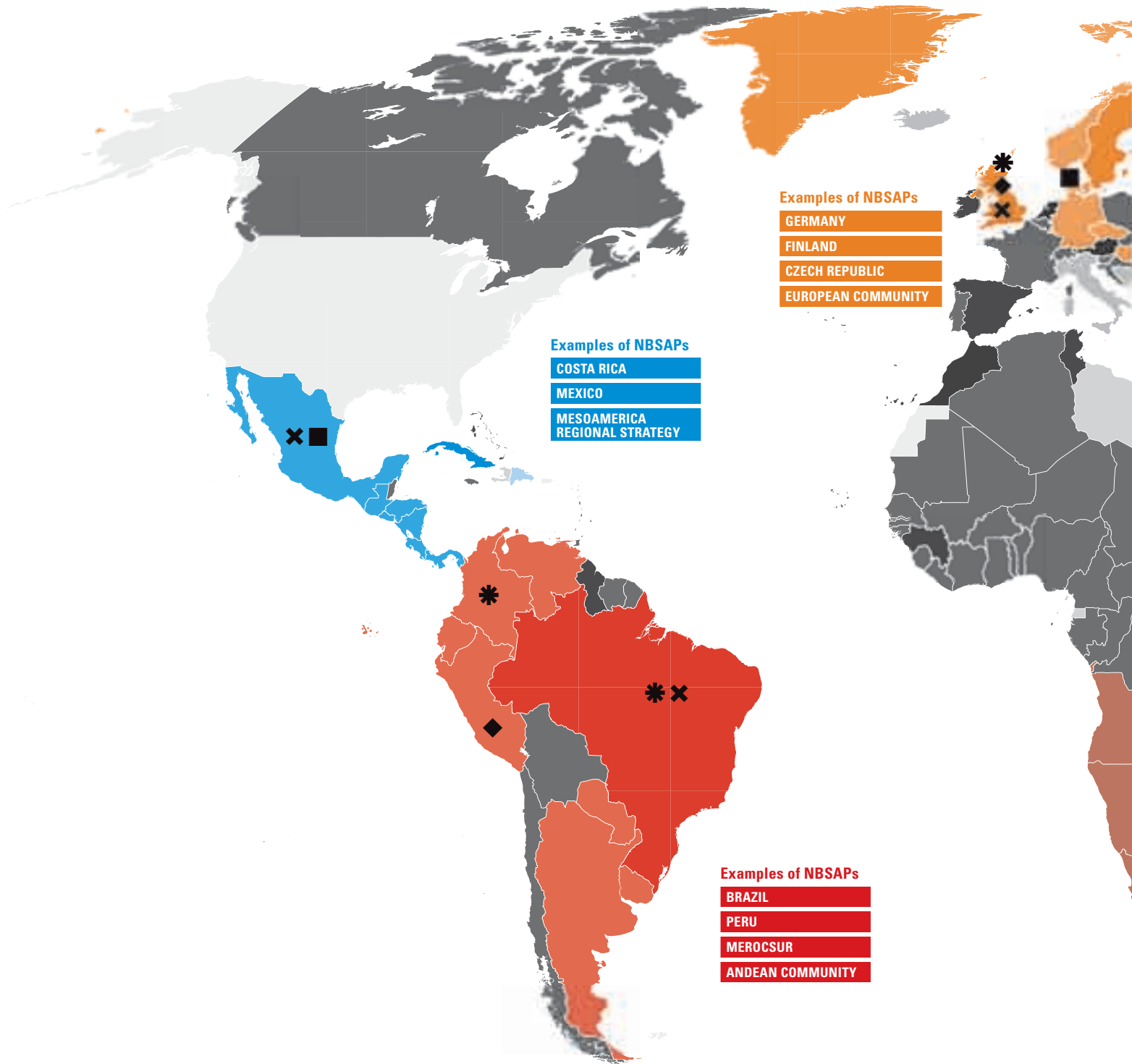


Bavarian Alps, Germany, Andrea Burmester

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

The European Community Biodiversity Communication, adopted by the European Commission in 2006, provides a strategic framework for the action in the European Union (EU) to meet the 2010 Biodiversity target. It includes a detailed action plan to conserve biodiversity in the EU and to contribute to protecting biodiversity globally through external assistance, trade policy and stronger environmental governance. A separate policy area aims to support biodiversity adaptation to climate change. A set of EU Headline Biodiversity Indicators has been adopted to monitor progress.

Status of NBSAPs and Location of Case Studies



* Targets, indicators, assessment and monitoring

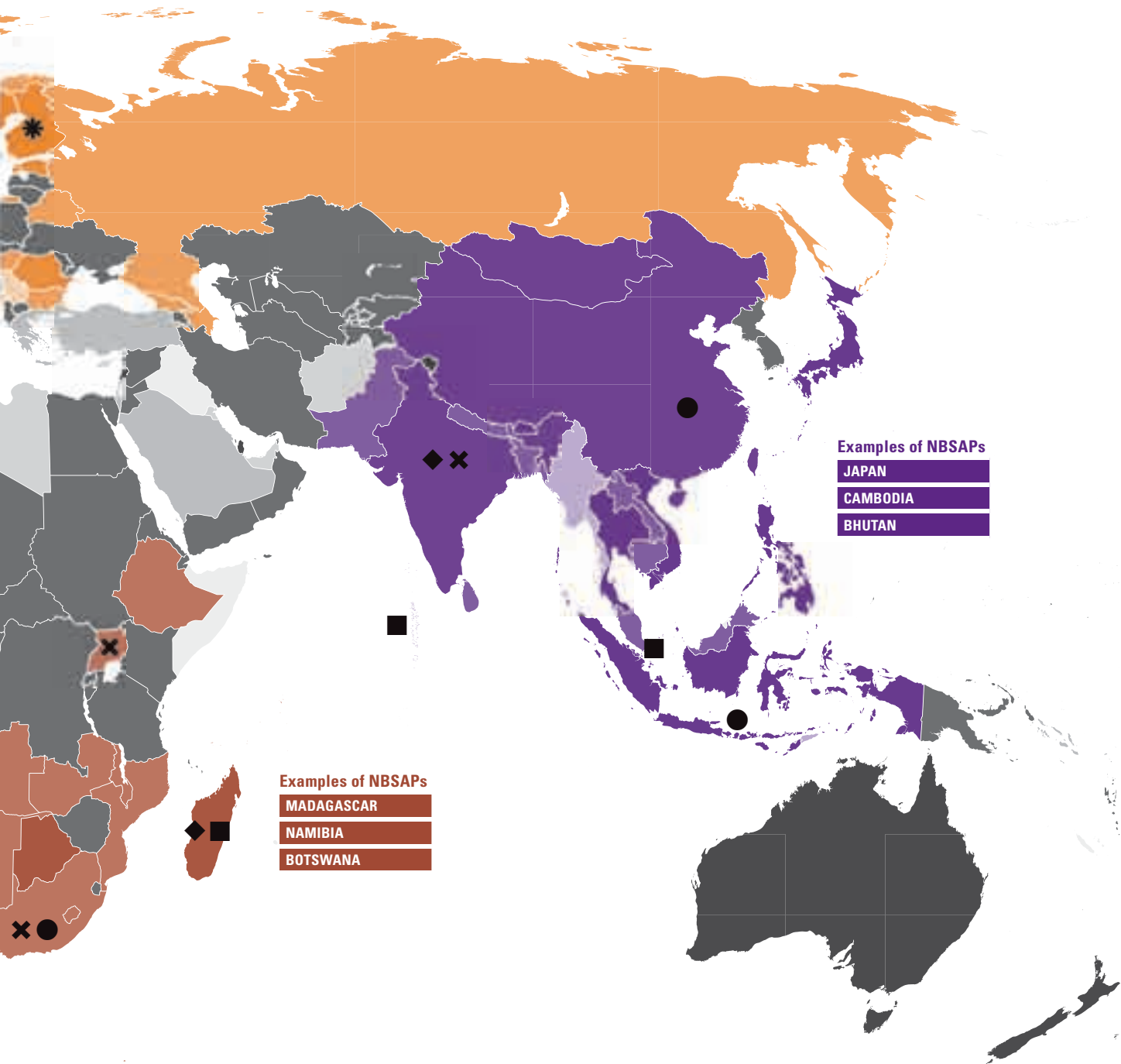
- Brazil's national biodiversity targets
- UK's headline indicators (include graph of farmland birds)
- An independent evaluation of the Finnish Biodiversity Strategy
- Colombia's Information System on Biodiversity

♦ Communication, awareness and stakeholder engagement

- India's biodiversity planning process
- Popular versions of Madagascar's NBSAP
- Germany's Alliance for Nature
- Promoting Public Awareness in Peru
- Biodiversity indicators in your pocket

x Integration of biodiversity into local planning

- Economic and ecological zoning of land use in Acre State, Brazil
- Local Biodiversity Action Plans and the Biodiversity Duty in the UK
- State Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans in India and Mexico
- Spatial Biodiversity Planning in South Africa
- Mainstreaming of biodiversity at the district level in Uganda



Examples of NBSAPs

- JAPAN
- CAMBODIA
- BHUTAN

Examples of NBSAPs

- MADAGASCAR
- NAMIBIA
- BOTSWANA

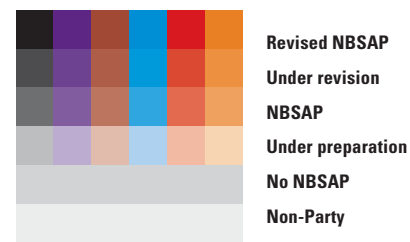
Mainstreaming biodiversity into economic sectors

- Biodiversity and tourism in the Maldives
- The Mexican model for community forest management
- The Velondriake Community—Managed Marine Protected Area Network, Madagascar
- Integrating biodiversity into water management in Singapore
- Wetland restoration in Denmark

Mainstreaming biodiversity into national development and poverty eradication policies

- Integrating biodiversity into poverty reduction strategies
- Integrating biodiversity into national development planning processes
- Building a biodiversity economy in Western Cape Province, South Africa
- Eco-compensation in China

Status of NBSAPs



TARGETS, INDICATORS, ASSESSMENT

Parties are encouraged to establish national targets within the framework adopted by the Conference of the Parties, and to establish mechanisms, including indicators, to monitor implementation of NBSAPs. Increasingly, Parties are using such targets and indicators systems to guide implementation and assess progress. They are also developing web-based information systems to facilitate the collection and dissemination of the necessary data. Revisions of NBSAPs should be informed by lessons learned from assessments of progress to date. Some examples of good practice, presented at the regional and sub-regional workshops, are presented on these pages.

Brazil's national biodiversity targets

Brazil has established 51 national biodiversity targets, building on the Convention's 2010 framework. The targets were developed by the Brazilian National Biodiversity Committee (CONABIO) in December 2006, following extensive analyses of the status and trends of biodiversity in each of Brazil's major biomes: the Amazon, the Atlantic rainforest, the Caatinga (NE dry forest), the Cerrado (tropical savanna formation), the Pampas Grassland, the Pantanal Wetland, as well as coastal zones. Three scenarios were developed in each case in order to identify targets that are ambitious but realistic. Examples of the targets, most of which are quantitative and outcome-based, are given in the table below.



Parque Departamental Chandless, Jesus de Souza

CBD Global Target

At least 10% of each of the world's ecological regions effectively conserved (Target 1.1)

Status of threatened species improved (Target 2.2)

Rate of loss and degradation of natural habitats decreased. (Target 5.1)

Biological resources that support sustainable livelihoods, local food security and health care, especially of poor people maintained (Target 8.2)

Brazilian National Target

At least 30% of the Amazon Biome and 10% in the other biomes and in the marine and coastal zone effectively conserved through Conservation Units of the National System of Conservation Units

100% of threatened species effectively conserved in protected areas

Reduce the rate of deforestation by 100% in the Atlantic Forest Biome, 75% in the Amazon Biome and 50% in the other biomes

Significant increase in activities to support on farm conservation of the components of agricultural biodiversity that guarantee the maintenance of sustainable livelihoods, local food security and health care, especially of local communities and indigenous peoples.

AND MONITORING



Ranta, Finland, Tapio Heikkilä

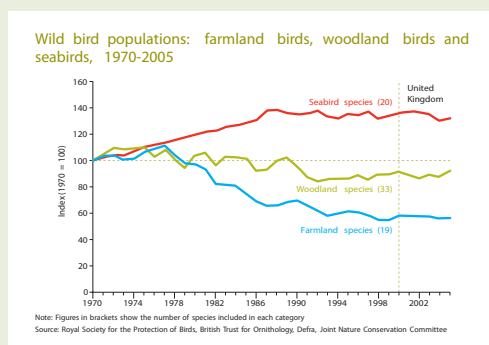


An independent evaluation of the first Finnish biodiversity strategy

The Finnish Ministries of Environment, Agriculture and Forestry, Transport and Communications, and Foreign Affairs jointly commissioned a major evaluation of the country's first National Biodiversity Action Plan (1997–2005) to inform its revision. The evaluation—conducted in 2004–5 by an independent team of researchers drawn from a number of Finnish research institutes—used 75 indicators. It aimed to assess: the state and trends of biodiversity in Finland; the effectiveness of the Action Plan and its impacts on these trends; prospects for reaching the 2010 target and new measures needed. The evaluation found that while the Action Plan had led to a number of favourable changes, measures taken so far are not sufficient to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010. The analysis showed that not all sectors had taken full responsibility for biodiversity conservation in their own areas. The results have been used in developing Finland's revised National Strategy and Action Plan (2006–2016).

UK's biodiversity headline indicators

The UK uses an outcome-based reporting, focusing on the changes in biodiversity that result from actions rather than on the actions themselves. To facilitate communication, the UK has adopted a set of eighteen headline indicators that are aligned with the CBD and European Union frameworks. These include, for example: trends in the populations of wild birds and butterflies, plant diversity and the status of priority species and habitats. With an emphasis on promoting evidence-based decision making, a National Biodiversity Network has been developed providing a central database for gathering data from a range of monitoring schemes.



Colombia's information system on biodiversity

Colombia has established an Information System on Biodiversity (SIB), as part of its clearing house mechanism, that facilitates the management of data so as to support research, education and policy-making on biodiversity. Coordinated by the Humboldt Institute, the SIB brings together an alliance of research institutes, universities, NGOs, and managers of protected areas and ex situ collections. The SIB has supported the elaboration of: reports on the status of, and threats to, biodiversity, maps of priority areas for protected areas, red lists of threatened species, and assessments of the risks from invasive species. A system of indicators has been developed to monitor the implementation of the national biodiversity policy.



COMMUNICATION, AWARENESS AND

The effective communication of National Biodiversity Strategic Actions Plans is a necessity throughout their development and implementation. Communicating the importance and relevance of National Biodiversity Strategies and ministries can help generate support for actions to protect biodiversity as well as leverage funds for conserving and sustainably using biodiversity. Communication and dissemination are also important activities to engage civil society groups as well as the general public. The Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention has recommended that Parties develop and implement communication strategies for their NBSAPs.

Popular versions of Madagascar's NBSAP

Madagascar, recognizing the importance of stakeholder awareness and involvement for the successful implementation of an NBSAP, has taken steps to engage multiple audiences. Madagascar's National Strategy for the Sustainable Management of Biological Diversity is available in several formats to facilitate its broad dissemination. In addition to the full version, the main messages of the Strategy are published in synoptic booklets — available in both French and Malagasy — and as a cartoon.

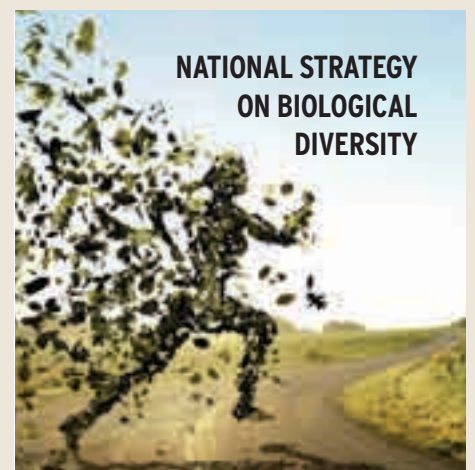


NBSAP posters: linking action to the 2010 target

Some fifty countries, regions and organizations have developed posters illustrating the implementation of NBSAPs and how the associated activities contribute to the achievement of the eleven goals under the 2010 Biodiversity Target. The posters, which are being displayed at COP-9, aim to raise the profile of NBSAPs among delegates to COP and facilitate dialogue among countries on approaches and best practices. They are also being used to promote awareness of national actions to implement the Convention in home countries. The posters have been developed using an interactive tool developed by GTZ.

Germany's Alliance for Nature

Communication and stakeholder engagement are central to the development and implementation of Germany's NBSAP, and a communication strategy was built in from the start. Many efforts were made to ensure that the preparatory process allowed genuine participation of civil society groups. Now, implementation is being carried forward through national and regional fora, and through outreach efforts to business, the media, and churches as well as NGOs. The German Ministry for the Environment has undertaken a major national public awareness campaign in the lead-up to the country's hosting of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. This is supported by an Alliance for Nature bringing together leaders from all stakeholder groups.



STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT



Village Decision-Making, India NBSAP



Public Inputs, Sikkim, India NBSAP

India's biodiversity planning process

In what is probably the world's biggest example of stakeholder engagement for biodiversity, some 50,000 people were involved in the biodiversity planning process in India. To ensure high participation, invitations were spread in 20 different languages using a variety of outlets, including mass and folk media. In addition, information regarding the preparation and implementation of the NBSAP was presented using biodiversity festivals, yatras and rallies, as well as conventional methods, such as workshops and seminars. Besides providing inputs to the national biodiversity strategy and action plan, the process resulted in the development of some 70 state, bioregional, thematic and local biodiversity strategies and action plans.



Promoting public awareness on biodiversity in Peru

Peru's National Biodiversity Strategy contains strategic objectives for the development and promotion of communication and education programmes. These include: consumer information on products and services that impact on biodiversity; the integration of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into all education levels; and biodiversity information designed specifically for different government sectors and for other key stakeholder groups such as industry, indigenous communities, and small producers. To facilitate wide use within government, research, industry, NGOs, and the Peruvian public, a national clearing house mechanism has been developed as a key information portal.

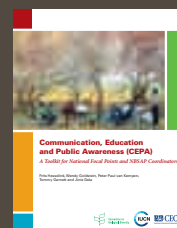
Biodiversity indicators in your pocket

In an effort to popularize information about biodiversity status and trends, and progress towards the 2010 biodiversity target, the UK has published a pocket guide, featuring information on progress as measured by its eighteen headline indicators.



CEPA toolkit

The IUCN Commission on Education and Communication has collaborated with the CBD Secretariat to develop a CEPA toolkit which has been presented at the regional and sub-regional workshops. Various members of the Commission have participated in the workshops to present the toolkit and share their expertise with participants.



INTEGRATION OF BIODIVERSITY INTO

Everyday decisions taken by local governments and other planning authorities have a major impact on biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. In fact, land-use change remains the biggest driver of biodiversity loss. The integration of biodiversity concerns into local decision-making is therefore key to the successful implementation of the Convention. The Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention has recommended that Parties promote and support local action for the implementation of NBSAPs by integrating biodiversity into local level assessments and planning processes and, where appropriate, by developing sub-national and local biodiversity strategies and action plans.



Cattle Ranching, Camellia Ibrahim



Participatory Mapping, Tierra Indígena Katukina Campinas, Marina Pessoa

Economic and ecological zoning of land use in Acre State, Brazil

The state of Acre in Brazil has implemented an economic and ecological zoning policy (ZEE) that directs land-use planning and decision-making related to agrarian reform and rural resettlement, the growth of economic sectors, the protected area system, demarcation of indigenous lands, and the water resources management plan. It provides a framework for discussions on resource management with local communities. Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are integral components of the zoning: 50% of the state is protected either as formal protected areas (10%), indigenous lands (14%), or conservation and sustainable use areas (26%) such as the Chico Mendes Extractive Reserve which provides latex, Brazil Nuts, medicinal plants and other non-wood forest products. Urban and agricultural development is contained in other areas. In developing the policy there was a strong commitment to stakeholder engagement and participatory processes using community mapping projects and other consultations. The ZEE is also being considered as a framework for transboundary cooperation with the neighbouring provinces of Pando in Bolivia and Madre de Dios in Peru. Using tools such as ZEE, deforestation rates in the state have been reduced by some 80% since 2002.

Local biodiversity action plans and the biodiversity duty in the UK

The main responsibility for implementing the Convention in the UK rests with the constituent countries of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, each of which have developed their own biodiversity strategies (or environment strategy in the case of Wales). Moreover, implementation is facilitated through 174 Local Biodiversity Action Plans developed by local authorities and local nature conservation organizations. These LBAPs which span the entire country define in detail arrangements among partners to protect particular species and habitats. At the UK level, parliament has enacted a “biodiversity duty” which requires all local authorities (as well as other public authorities, including ministries), to demonstrate that they have identified and taken opportunities to integrate biodiversity considerations into all relevant service areas and functions, and ensured that biodiversity is protected and enhanced in line with statutory obligations. Guidelines for the implementation of the duty have been prepared.



LOCAL PLANNING



Ejido Los Ciriancitos, Michoacán, Mexico, Tamara Ortiz-Ávila

State biodiversity strategies and action plans in India and Mexico

In most federal countries, responsibility for land use tends to reside at the state level. Increasingly therefore, states and provinces in these countries are developing their biodiversity strategies and action plans. In India all 33 States have developed Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans. In Mexico, the states of Michoacán and Morelos have developed State Biodiversity Studies as well as State Biodiversity Strategies. Strong support from local scientists, stakeholders and politicians has been key to this process. Sixteen other states are now at various stages of developing their own strategies. CONABIO — the federal biodiversity agency provides technical support for this process which draws upon the methodologies of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. Although carried out independently, the State studies and strategies will inform the development of Mexico's revised NBSAP.

Spatial biodiversity planning in South Africa

Drawing upon its strong expertise in systematic conservation planning, South Africa's innovative National Spatial Biodiversity Assessment (NSBA) identifies priority biodiversity conservation areas to inform subsequent land-use policy and decision-making at national, provincial, and municipal levels. Action Plans have been developed for certain priority areas such as the Cape region. The new Grasslands Project aims to promote land use opportunities compatible with the maintenance of biodiversity and to protect the most vulnerable high biodiversity sites.



Local Consultations, Robert Hoff

Mainstreaming of biodiversity at the district level in Uganda

Reflecting the progressive devolution of power to local governments, district authorities were involved in developing Uganda's National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan, and the country has also taken a decentralized approach to implementing the Plan. Synergy and policy coherence is promoted with the District Environment Action Planning process and other processes. To engage local communities in formulating community development and biodiversity conservation plans, the government has established local environment committees at parish level. Environment management plans at district, sub-county and parish levels have now been prepared for most of the country.

MAINSTREAMING OF BIODIVERSITY

Many economic sectors, such as agriculture, forestry, fisheries and tourism, as well as water supply, depend on biodiversity and the ecosystem services that it underpins. At the same time, activities in these sectors impact on biodiversity. A significant reduction in the rate of loss of biodiversity can only be achieved with the active engagement of those working in these sectors. There is a need to promote understanding and awareness of the ecosystem services that biodiversity provides and to identify ways to reduce the impacts of economic activity on biodiversity.

Biodiversity and tourism in the Maldives

The rich marine biodiversity of the Maldives is the backbone of its tourist industry which constitutes one third of the economy of the archipelago. Mainstreaming of biodiversity concerns is thus particularly important. The Maldives' National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan is an important tool for this purpose and has informed the development of the country's third Tourism Master Plan. Community participation is an essential part of this approach. Biodiversity issues have also been mainstreamed or linked to various national plans in the Maldives, including the country's National Development Plan, the National Environmental Action Plan, the National Adaptation Plan of Action, the Agriculture Master Plan and the Health Master Plan.



Tourism Development in the Maldives, Evgeny Kan

The Mexican model for community forest management



Ejido El Largo Chih., CONABIO

More than 80% of forest areas in Mexico are community owned. Such community management replaces earlier logging contracts and concessions. Although success has been variable, it generally has led to more sustainable management than earlier approaches. Among the 2,400 "community forest enterprises" the more successful cases have a number of features in common: strong community organization; a culture of managing resources; equitable sharing of benefits and responsibilities; and an absence of corruption. Twenty-five communities, managing some 500,000 hectares have established operations certified by the Forest Stewardship Council.

Wetland restoration in Denmark

The Action Plan for Biodiversity Conservation and Nature Conservation in Denmark (2004-9) devotes a chapter to nature restoration and new habitats. One example is the re-establishment of wetlands, which can reduce the washout of excess reactive nitrogen originating from agricultural fertilizers into open aquatic environments and sequester carbon through peat formation, as well providing important habitat for flora and fauna. In the Skjern River Valley the country's largest-ever drainage project was carried out in the 1960s: 4,000 hectares of meadow and marsh were drained for arable land as the meandering watercourses were replaced by long, straight channels and dikes. However, in 1987 the Danish Folketing (Parliament) decided to recreate the old natural environment in much of the river valley. Work finished at the end of 2002. 2,200 hectares of land have now been turned back into lakes, shallow wetlands, meadows and meandering watercourses. Benefits from the project, including improved salmon fishing, carbon sequestration, nutrient removal, and recreation, more than offset the € 34 million costs of the project.



Reclaimed Skjern River Delta, Jan Kofod Winther

INTO ECONOMIC SECTORS



Harvesting Octopus, Velondriake Marine Protected Area, Francisco Ramananjato

The Velondriake community — managed marine protected area network, Madagascar

In order to preserve local ecosystems and maintain traditional livelihoods and fisheries, village leaders in the community of Andavadoaka partnered with marine conservationists to develop the sustainable harvesting of octopus. Combining modern scientific monitoring with traditional ecological knowledge, a plan was developed involving seasonal bans on octopus harvesting and the establishment of marine protected areas including no-take zones. This community-led initiative has resulted in increases in the number and size of the octopus caught. A winner of the Equator Initiative, the project is being scaled-up through the development of a marine protected area network spanning twelve neighbouring communities. In addition to managing the marine protected area, the community is working to expand eco-tourism activities to generate additional income sources.

Integrating biodiversity into water management in Singapore

Two of Singapore's nature reserves — the Bukit Timah and Central Catchment Nature Reserves were created not only to protect their natural beauty and rich biodiversity but also to ensure the quality of the city's water supply. Currently, half of the island of 700 km² is managed as a water catchment. To increase self-sufficiency in water supply for its population of 4.5 million, Singapore is planning to increase the water catchment area to two-thirds of the territory by 2011. Singapore's Public Utilities Board is managing the water resources for multiple objectives including recreation and biodiversity conservation as well as water supply. Biodiversity studies carried out by the National Parks Board and its partners continue to provide baseline data for future monitoring programmes.



Central Catchment Nature Reserve, David Cooper

MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY INTO

The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment finds that the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services are barriers to achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and that, at the same time, many of the actions being undertaken to promote economic development and reduce hunger and poverty could contribute to the loss of biodiversity. Therefore, as highlighted by the Conference of the Parties, development, poverty reduction and biodiversity conservation need to be pursued in an integrated manner. The Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention has recommended that Parties, in developing, updating and implementing their NBSAPs, address existing planning processes in order to mainstream biodiversity concerns in other national strategies, including, in particular, poverty eradication strategies, national strategies for the Millennium Development Goals, and sustainable development strategies.

Integrating biodiversity into poverty reduction strategies

In recent years poverty reduction strategies have been key instruments in countries' efforts to eradicate poverty in line with the Millennium Development Goals. Given the importance of biodiversity to the livelihoods of the world's poor,



Uganda, Robert Holt

integrating biodiversity into poverty reduction strategies is an important objective of NBSAPs. For example, linking biodiversity conservation is emphasized in Uganda's NBSAP as a way to position biodiversity alongside sectors such as agriculture, education, and health. Here, the national environment management authority is working to ensure that biodiversity is mainstreamed in the government's revised Poverty Eradication Action Plan. In Rwanda, following studies carried out to demonstrate the costs of environmental degradation, biodiversity is being integrated into the country's Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy. Namibia and Madagascar provide other examples (see the reports in this brochure for the Southern and Eastern Africa workshop).

Integrating biodiversity into national development planning processes

An aim of the Indonesian Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan is to encourage changes in individual and societal attitudes to be more concerned with the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for the welfare of the community. The strategy is integrated into the country's medium-term national development planning process which began in 2004 and will last until 2009. This integration was facilitated by Indonesia's National Development Planning Agency (BAPPENAS) which also led the preparation of the NBSAP through a participatory process with the involvement



Forested hills above rice cultivation, Bali, istock photo

of several governmental and nongovernmental organisations. Regular evaluation of the implementation of the NBSAP is also integrated into the national development planning process. Key components of the NBSAP are outreach and resolution of conflicts over national resources. Activities implemented under the strategy emphasize the maintenance of ecosystem services. For example, through the national movement on land and forest rehabilitation some three million hectares of degraded lands are being restored over five years in order to protect water catchments.

10 NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY REDUCTION POLICIES

Building a biodiversity economy in Western Cape Province, South Africa

Western Cape Province, South Africa, is home to the smallest of the world's 15 floristic kingdoms, the Cape floristic region, which boasts very high levels of biodiversity. The province's environmental agency — Cape Nature — has developed a strategic approach to conservation by integrating biodiversity priorities into the work of the provincial government departments and local authority plans and frameworks, developing guidelines for environmental assessments, mainstreaming biodiversity priorities into agriculture production at both the sector and farm levels, working with the private sector to develop new sustainable markets, and building programmes that link conservation, social services, and poverty alleviation. For example, the Working for Water and Working for Wetlands programmes generate employment opportunities that support natural resource management and conservation programmes such as habitat restoration and management of invasive alien plants.



Working for Water, Western Cape Nature Conservation Board

Eco-compensation in China

China has been exploring various mechanisms of payment for ecosystem services. These mechanisms, which include fiscal transfers to local governments, investments in eco-projects as well as some market-based incentives, are being led by the central government. For example, in the wake of unprecedented floods in 1998 caused by ecological degradation, the government established a policy by which local governments and farmers are compensated for returning some farmland to forest or grassland. This has contributed to significant afforestation and reforestation in these regions. Meanwhile, local governments have also been exploring locally specific payment for ecosystem service mechanisms. Current efforts focus on small river basins, protected areas and ecologically vulnerable



State Forestry Administration of China, Wan Lin

areas where the payers and the beneficiaries can be easily identified. For example, in Zhejiang, a city located in the lower stream of a river has agreed to provide space for factories that might otherwise be located in an upstream city, with tax returns from these factories being shared with upper stream communities. In this way river pollution in downstream areas is avoided. Some other successful cases include the joint environment fund for the Ming River Basin in Fujian, a land conservation contract in Jiangxi and a water use agreement between Beijing and Hebei.



LEFT TO RIGHT
David Cooper,
David Costes,
Charles Besançon,
Camellia Ibrahim

THE WAY FORWARD

Follow-up to the workshops

The regional and sub-regional workshops demonstrate a commitment in countries to implement the Convention and to make progress towards the 2010 Biodiversity Target. They have revealed that there is a wealth of expertise among Parties and that many useful guidelines, training materials, case studies and reports have been developed. At the same time, the workshops highlight the need for a continued and strengthened programme of capacity building. At each workshop, participants committed themselves to some follow-up actions and identified where further support is needed.

Participants committed themselves:

- ▶ to share information and lessons learned with colleagues in their countries
- ▶ to continue to share experiences with peers in other countries
- ▶ to prepare posters on their NBSAPs for display at home and at CBD meetings
- ▶ to review their NBSAPs in light of the lessons learned at the workshops, and to update them where necessary
- ▶ to prepare their fourth national reports

Participants called for:

- ▶ a continued programme of workshops to strengthen capacity in countries through mutual learning and training
- ▶ an enhanced clearing house mechanism to share relevant guidelines, training materials, case studies and reports among Parties
- ▶ the development of additional guides and training materials on how to develop and update NBSAPs, and on how to mainstream biodiversity
- ▶ enhanced technical assistance from regional and international organizations and the CBD Secretariat
- ▶ continued and enhanced support from the financial mechanism for the development, updating and implementation of NBSAPs, including support for the country studies or assessments where needed

Milestones

- ▶ March 2009: Deadline for Fourth National Reports
- ▶ January 2010: Launch of the International Year for Biodiversity
- ▶ May 2010: Publication of the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook
- ▶ October 2010: Tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

Pacific planning meeting

A one-day planning meeting for the Pacific region was organized on the margins of the 8th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas (Alotau, Papua New Guinea, October 2007). At the event organized in partnership with the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), participants from the countries of the Pacific Region considered the results of a SPREP study on the status of NBSAP development across the region and discussed the regional challenges and priorities for biodiversity mainstreaming. The event offered an opportunity to identify country-specific and regional priorities to be addressed in the NBSAP workshop later in 2008.

Further workshops in this series

The workshops summarized in this publication are the first in a series. Additional workshops will be organized for the remaining regions and sub-regions. The following dates are tentative.

- ▶ Caribbean: June 2008
- ▶ Central Africa: September 2008
- ▶ Western Africa: October 2008
- ▶ Central Asia: November 2008
- ▶ Pacific Islands: November 2008
- ▶ North Africa and Middle East: December 2008
- ▶ North America: February 2009



Guidance for NBSAPs

The development, implementation and review of NBSAPs are part of a cyclical process of biodiversity planning.

The guidance developed by the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention, at its second meeting in July 2007, is intended to ensure that NBSAPs provide an effective and up-to-date national framework for the implementation of the Convention and its three objectives.

According to the guidance NBSAPs should identify priority actions including strategic actions and include national capacity-development plans, a communication strategy and a plan to mobilize financial resources.

NBSAPs should take into account the ecosystem approach and highlight the contribution of biodiversity, and ecosystem services, to human well-being making use of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment.

Parties are encouraged to establish national targets, to support the implementation of NBSAPs consistent with the framework for the 2010 Biodiversity Target.

The guidance emphasizes the integration of the three objectives of the Convention into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies. Parties should engage all relevant stakeholders and use NBSAPs to address existing planning processes in order to mainstream biodiversity concerns in other national strategies, including, in particular, poverty eradication strategies, national strategies for the Millennium Development Goals, sustainable development strategies, and strategies to adapt to climate change and combat desertification, as well as sectoral strategies, and ensure that NBSAPs are implemented in coordination with these other strategies. It also calls on Parties to promote and support local action for the implementation of NBSAPs, by integrating biodiversity considerations into sub-national and local planning processes.

Parties should establish national mechanisms including indicators to monitor implementation of NBSAPs and progress towards national targets, to make available reports on implementation, and to review, and where necessary, revise NBSAPs.

The Working Group on Review of Implementation also recommends that COP invites the financial mechanism, to provide adequate funding to developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, for the implementation and revision of NBSAPs.



The fourth national report

National reports are essential for the proper functioning of the Convention. They ensure that the Conference of the Parties — the decision making body — is informed of the implementation of the Convention in countries. The fourth national reports are particularly important as sources of information for the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook and for monitoring progress towards the 2010 Biodiversity Target.

The fourth national reports will focus on outcomes and impacts of actions or measures taken to implement the Convention. Parties are specifically requested to provide information on the implementation of their NBSAPs and on biodiversity mainstreaming. There is an opportunity therefore to combine preparation of the report with the review of NBSAPs.

A number of countries have already prepared advance sample chapters for the fourth national report (Australia, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Finland, Rwanda, South Africa, Thailand and the United Kingdom) and these are being made available through the clearing house mechanism of the Convention.



LEFT TO RIGHT
Botswana Department of
Environmental Affairs,
David Coates

RESOURCES AND GUIDANCE MATERIALS

NBSAP workshops

A website dedicated to the series of workshops has been developed by the Secretariat and is accessible at <https://www.cbd.int/nbsap/workshops.shtml>. The site contains the presentations made at the workshops (on which the cases presented here are based). As they become available, the full workshop reports will be posted there. A summary report on the outcome of the workshops held to date is provided in document UNEP/CBD/COP/9/14/Rev.1 which will be considered during the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Information on further meetings will also be made available on this page.

NBSAP training modules

A set of training modules on national biodiversity strategies and action plans, as well as other issues related to the implementation of the Convention, has been jointly developed by the United Nations Environment Programme, the Secretariat of the Convention and the United Nations University. These modules are available at <https://www.cbd.int/nbsap/guidance-tools/training-modules.shtml>.

The fourth national report

Guidance material for the preparation of the fourth national report is available at <https://www.cbd.int/reports/guidelines-nr-04.shtml>. This site includes the official guidelines for the fourth national report developed in accordance with Decision VIII/14, as well as a reference manual that provides more detailed suggestions for the preparation of report and a list of useful web links and further resources. Sample chapters contributed by some countries in advance are also available here.

Other tools and guidance

The Conference of the Parties has developed a comprehensive set of guidance for the implementation of the Convention (See: <http://www.cbd.int/guidelines/>). Additional tools are available in the form of technical publications, toolkits etc (see: <http://www.cbd.int/information/>). Other organizations have also developed many relevant tools.

Tools used at the workshops are listed here.

Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA)

The CEPA Toolkit is available at <http://www.cbd.int/cepa/toolkit/index.html>. See also <http://www.cbd.int/cepa>

Strategic Environmental Assessment

A guide to the CBD's voluntary guidelines on biodiversity-inclusive impact assessment is available at <http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-26-en.pdf>. See also: <http://www.cbd.int/impact>

The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment

Information on the MA is available at www.maweb.org. WRI has prepared a useful "Guide for Decision Makers", available at: <http://www.wri.org/publication/ecosystem-services-a-guide-for-decision-makers#>

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