



**Convention on  
Biological Diversity**

Distr.  
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/COP/11/INF/50  
4 October 2012

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE  
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY  
Eleventh meeting  
Hyderabad, India, 8–19 October 2012  
Item 3.2 of the provisional agenda\*

**PRELIMINARY STOCKTAKE OF EXISTING NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND  
ACTION PLANS (NBSAPS) SUPPORT INITIATIVES AND CAPACITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR  
THE REVISION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW GENERATION NBSAPS**

**(Prepared by UNEP-WCMC, on behalf of the NBSAP Forum)**

*Note by the Executive Secretary*

**I INTRODUCTION**

1. The Executive Secretary is circulating herewith, for the information of participants in the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, a document prepared by UNEP-WCMC, on behalf of the NBSAP Forum, presenting a preliminary stocktake of existing national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) support initiatives and capacity needs assessment for the revision and implementation of new generation NBSAPs.
2. This document is based on a desk-based analysis, a survey carried out by the CBD Secretariat, and a limited number of expert views. Parties attending the eleventh meeting are invited to contribute information that will provide a fuller picture of capacity needs and what needs to be done to better address those. A revised version of the document may be published by the end of 2012 with additional views and information sources.
3. The document is being circulated in the form and language in which it was provided to the Secretariat.

\* UNEP/CBD/COP/11/1



# Preliminary stocktake of existing National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs) support initiatives and capacity needs assessment for the revision and implementation of new generation NBSAPs

**PREPARED BY UNEP-WCMC  
ON BEHALF OF NBSAP FORUM**

This document is based on a desk-based analysis, a survey carried out by the CBD Secretariat, and a limited number of expert views. It is presented to the Parties at the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, inviting Parties' contribution to a fuller picture of capacity needs and what needs to be done to better address those. A revised version of the document may be published by the end of 2012 with additional views and information sources.



*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*



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October 2012

**Acknowledgements**

We would like to thank the following people for contributing to, and reviewing, the report: David Duthie (CBD Secretariat), Jamison Ervin (UNDP), Peter Herkenrath (UNEP-WCMC), Fabiana Issler (UNDP), Abisha Mapendembe (UNEP-WCMC), Nadine Saad (CBD Secretariat), Jessica Smith (UNEP-WCMC) and Kamar Yousuf (UNEP).

We would like to thank the Government of Norway, via the UNEP Division of Environmental Policy Implementation, for providing funding for the preparation of this report.

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

With the adoption of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 by the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Parties to the Convention were asked to update and revise their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) in light of the Strategic Plan and the accompanying Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Limited capacity is widely recognised as a key obstacle to the implementation of global environmental commitments and therefore, the “NBSAP Forum” has been formed by the CBD Secretariat, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in order to assess country capacity needs for revising and updating NBSAPs and to address the gaps in capacity support provided.

This Information Document is an output of the NBSAP Forum and has been made possible through the generous funding by the Government of Norway through the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Division of Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI). It presents the results of a stocktake of existing NBSAP initiatives, an assessment of capacity needs for the process of revising and updating the NBSAPs, and an overview of the gaps that capacity support would need to target. The analysis was undertaken by the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) in support of the NBSAP Forum, in order to

- Clarify countries’ capacity needs for updating and revising NBSAPs
- Help to identify specific areas of emphasis for the NBSAP Forum
- Contribute to an improved understanding of Parties’ progress in setting the mechanisms in place needed for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020

The focus of this document is on the stages of developing the (updated or revised) NBSAP, as opposed to its implementation, which is beyond the scope of this document. It is based on a desk-based analysis, a CBD survey and a limited number of expert views. It is presented to the Parties at the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the CBD Conference of the Parties, inviting Parties’ contribution to a fuller picture of capacity needs and what needs to be done to better address those.

### *1. Stocktake of existing NBSAP initiatives*

A stocktake exercise was undertaken in order to better understand which specific country needs have already been met and where there are gaps in supporting countries’ capacity to develop, update and implement NBSAPs. It reviews existing NBSAP support initiatives discussing the landscape of existing initiatives, organisations involved, geographic focus, relevance to NBSAPs updating stages, their sponsors and funders, outputs and approaches used to meet their goals. The study reveals the broad range of initiatives that are already carrying out activities that are directly supporting the NBSAP revision and updating process and will be relevant to the NBSAP Forum. They range from capacity building workshops by the CBD, workshops by other organizations, guidelines and guidance documents from the CBD and other organizations, initiatives providing financial support and resources to websites and projects and partnerships that provide multiple forms of support (e.g. capacity building workshops, financial support and guidelines and websites as components). The CBD webpages on NBSAPs provide a central information hub for the NBSAP support. It is anticipated that the NBSAP Forum will build on this existing experience, and will complement and draw on the existing landscape of initiatives contributing to the NBSAP update process.

### *2. Capacity needs assessment*

A number of key findings on the needs associated with revising and updating NBSAPs as well as implementing them emerged from the literature review.

Many capacity needs for the early stages of the process of revising and updating NBSAPs have been identified (by e.g. countries' NBSAP stocktakes, a United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies report, the CBD secretariat's workshop series, etc). Bringing the NBSAP process to the attention of decisions-makers is particularly relevant, as is the lack of mainstreaming and of resource mobilization. This refers in particular to the stages of biodiversity assessment, developing a strategy, and developing an action plan. Aichi Targets dealing with underlying causes of biodiversity loss, enhancing the benefits from biodiversity and ecosystem services, and resource mobilisation are the most difficult to set for many countries. Capacity needs here range from those related to economic policy and financial resources, human resource development, strengthening of national institutions and infrastructure, strengthening regional and sub regional cooperation, enhanced knowledge management to support to assess, on a scientific basis, the economic and other values of biodiversity and ecosystems, among others.

### ***3. Gap analysis of capacity needs***

The existing NBSAP support initiatives provide assistance to all NBSAP stages, with the focus put in this document on the early stages, before implementation. Given the wide range of capacity needs and the large number of countries, it is, however, obvious that continuous and intensified support is required for stakeholder involvement, the assessment of biodiversity, the development of a strategy, and the development of of an action plan. Guidance material and an NBSAP helpdesk would be of particular value. Support would not only come from the global and regional organisations already involved with biodiversity planning but also from other countries, including a range of southern countries, through south – south exchange. It is recommended that the list of priority activities in addressing Party needs for updating and revising NBSAPs is checked with Parties, in order to identify the best ways and means to deliver this support.

This document is based on a desk-based analysis, a survey carried out by the CBD Secretariat (although with a limited number of responses), and a limited number of expert views. One purpose of this document is to invite Parties to amend the list of capacity needs for the updating and revision of NBSAPs and to provide their views on the priority areas for capacity support outlined here. It is presented to the Parties at the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the CBD Conference of the Parties, inviting Parties' contribution to a fuller picture of capacity needs and what needs to be done to better address those. The NBSAP Forum would be grateful to receive such information (please address to [peter.herkenrath@unep-wcmc.org](mailto:peter.herkenrath@unep-wcmc.org)). A revised version of the document may be published by the end of 2012 with additional views and information sources.

## 1 INTRODUCTION AND RATIONALE

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Article 6 states that “each Contracting Party shall, in accordance with its particular conditions and capabilities:

- Develop national strategies, plans or programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity or adapt for this purpose existing strategies, plans or programmes which shall reflect, *inter alia*, the measures set out in this Convention relevant to the Contracting Party concerned
- Integrate, as far as possible and as appropriate, the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies”.

National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) are the principal instruments for implementing the Convention at the national level. To date, 176 (91%) Parties have developed NBSAPs in line with Article 6<sup>1</sup>.

In 2010, the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the CBD adopted the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. In the same decision, the COP urged Parties to review, update and revise, as appropriate, their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) in line with the Strategic Plan and the guidance adopted in decision IX/9. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is providing support to this renewed NBSAP process.

A United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS) report<sup>2</sup> that assessed NBSAPs called for the establishment of an NBSAP support mechanism to assist countries to develop and implement their NBSAPs and to monitor and analyse the experience of implementation. The report noted that support provided to countries for biodiversity planning has often been fragmented and uncoordinated. It concluded that in order to maximise the opportunities for meeting the goals and targets of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, greater efforts should be made to promote coordination and coherence. The report also concluded that arrangements need to be put in place for ensuring that available capacities are effectively employed to the greatest effect, that an overall picture of ongoing support initiatives is available, that gaps and unmet needs are identified, and that lessons learned are systematised and disseminated.

In response to these identified needs, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) are establishing a focused partnership to deliver targeted support on critical NBSAP challenges (the “NBSAP Forum”). All three organizations have explicit mandates to support this key process of CBD implementation, working through the GEF and other funds provided by the Government of Japan for implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. The partnership would underpin a structured and continuous process of supporting Parties’ capacity on NBSAPs, with a focus on the stages of developing the (revised and updated) NBSAP contra the implementation phase.

The overall purpose of this Information Document is to

- Assist in the clarification of countries’ capacity needs for updating and revising NBSAPs
- Guide areas of emphasis for the NBSAP Forum

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.cbd.int/nbsap/>, as of 1 October 2012

<sup>2</sup> Prip, C., Gross, T., Johnston, S. and Vierros, M. (2010) Biodiversity Planning: an assessment of national biodiversity strategies and action plans. United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies, Yokohama, Japan. Available at: [http://www.ias.unu.edu/resource\\_centre/UNU-IAS\\_Biodiversity\\_Planning\\_NBSAPs\\_Assessment\\_final\\_web\\_Oct\\_2010.pdf](http://www.ias.unu.edu/resource_centre/UNU-IAS_Biodiversity_Planning_NBSAPs_Assessment_final_web_Oct_2010.pdf).

- Contribute to an improved understanding of Parties' progress in setting the mechanisms in place needed for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020

This document is the result of a desk-based analysis, a survey carried out by the CBD Secretariat, and a limited number of expert views. It is presented to the Parties at the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the CBD Conference of the Parties, inviting Parties' contribution to a fuller picture of capacity needs and what needs to be done to better address those. A revised version of the document may be published by the end of 2012 with additional views and information sources.

## 2 APPROACH TAKEN

### 2.1 Existing NBSAP support initiatives compilation and assessment

This review was compiled by means of a desk-based review of resources complemented by review and discussion with those in a limited number of institutions working to provide NBSAP support.

A template for collecting information on existing NBSAP support initiatives was developed (see Box 1 for the definition of an NBSAP support initiative).

#### Box 1 Proposed definition of an NBSAP support initiative

In this stocktake exercise, an NBSAP support initiative refers to an initiative, either formal or informal, including projects, that provide focused and prioritised support, be it technical and financial, to the NBSAP planning process at country level. The support could be directed to any or all of the following stages in the NBSAP planning process:

- (1) Bringing stakeholders together
- (2) Biodiversity assessment
- (3) Developing a strategy
- (4) Developing an action plan
- (5) Implementation
- (6) Monitoring & evaluation
- (7) Reporting<sup>3</sup>

Information on each NBSAP support initiative was captured in standard fields. The resulting list of initiatives formed the basis for the analysis.

### 2.2 Capacity needs assessment

The capacity needs assessment is based on a desk review of the existing information sources on NBSAP revision and implementation. This needs assessment follows here the overview of the existing initiatives as the latter are the main sources for the needs assessment. The assessment includes information from various CBD documents, reports from capacity building workshops on NBSAPs, biodiversity target setting and indicator development, as well as an ongoing UK Defra-funded project on costs for meeting the Aichi Targets in support of the work of the High Level Panel on Global Assessment of Resources for Implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. The CBD Secretariat undertook a survey with participants of the 2011 NBSAP workshops, and the relevant findings are inserted here. However, the number of responses to the survey was small (most responses were from African countries), so the results may not be representative.

<sup>3</sup> These steps are from the CBD capacity Building Module 2: The Biodiversity Planning Process: How to Prepare or Update a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, adapted from Mille & Lanou (1995; see box 5), available at <http://www.cbd.int/doc/training/nbsap/b2-train-prepare-update-nbsap-revised-en.pdf>.

Capacity in the context of NBSAPs is understood here as the capability of individuals, organizations and societies to set and achieve their own NBSAP objectives over time.<sup>4</sup>

### **2.3 Gap analysis**

The gap analysis is mainly based on the findings from the stocktake exercise and capacity needs assessment, validated through a review by partners of the NBSAP Forum, and presented to Parties for their views and for further refinement.

## **3 RESULTS OF THE STOCKTAKE EXERCISE**

### **3.1 Current landscape of NBSAP support initiatives**

A total of 24 broad NBSAP initiatives were identified. They range from regional and sub-regional capacity building workshops, guidelines and guidance documents, initiatives providing financial support and resources to websites and projects and partnerships that provide multiple forms of support (e.g. capacity building workshops, financial support and guidelines and websites as components) (Annex 1). Organisations leading these initiatives are mainly the CBD and other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), UN agencies, regional environmental organizations, bilaterals, international non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and government institutions. All but four leading organisations are based in the developed world. The four organisations based in developing countries are United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) although some of the organisations based in developed countries have offices in developing countries. Annex 1 provides an overview of the existing NBSAP support initiatives.

### **3.2 What are they delivering?**

The NBSAP support initiatives identified can be categorised into the following five groups based on the means through which support is provided.

- i) Capacity building workshops
- ii) Guidelines, guidance documents and tools
- iii) Provision of financial support and resources
- iv) Websites or wiki sites
- v) Projects and partnerships that provide multiple forms of support

#### **3.2.1 Capacity building workshops**

A series of regional and sub-regional capacity-building workshops on implementing NBSAPs and mainstreaming biodiversity was organised by the CBD Secretariat during 2008 and 2009, in response to decision VIII/8 (and thus before the adoption of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020). In Decision X/2, the Conference of the Parties emphasised the need for capacity building activities and the effective sharing of knowledge to support all Parties in the implementation of the Strategic Plan and the revision of NBSAPs. In response, the CBD Secretariat organised another series of regional and sub-regional capacity building workshops<sup>5</sup> during 2011 and 2012 to assist countries in establishing national targets in the framework of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and in revising and updating national biodiversity strategies and action plans in line with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. These workshops consist of two sets, Regional and Sub-Regional Capacity-Development Workshops on Implementing NBSAPs and Mainstreaming Biodiversity and Follow-up Regional Workshops for

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<sup>4</sup> In line with the definition of capacity development by United Nations Development Programme (2009) Capacity Development. A UNDP Primer. UNDP, New York, USA. Available at [http://www.undp.org/content/dam/aplaws/publication/en/publications/capacity-development/capacity-development-a-undp-primer/CDG\\_PrimerReport\\_final\\_web.pdf](http://www.undp.org/content/dam/aplaws/publication/en/publications/capacity-development/capacity-development-a-undp-primer/CDG_PrimerReport_final_web.pdf).

<sup>5</sup> For the CBD NBSAP capacity building workshops, see <http://www.cbd.int/nbsap/workshops2.shtml>.

Updating National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). In addition, other workshops include CBD workshops on the fourth national reports, economics and valuation, and biodiversity for development, as well as Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (BIP)-led workshops supporting development and application of indicators in updating NBSAP.

### **3.2.1.1 CBD regional and sub-regional capacity-development workshops on implementing NBSAPs and mainstreaming biodiversity (2011 and 2012)**

During 2011 and 2012 a series of regional and sub-regional capacity building workshops were organised by the CBD to assist countries in establishing national targets in the framework of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and in revising and updating NBSAPs, in line with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. The workshops shared five specific objectives (Box 2).

#### **Box 2 Workshop objectives - CBD Regional and Sub-Regional Capacity-Development Workshops on Implementing NBSAPs and Mainstreaming Biodiversity (2011 and 2012)**

- i. Facilitate national implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including by assisting Parties to develop national biodiversity targets in the framework of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets;
- ii. Assist Parties in reviewing, updating, revising and implementing the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, with consideration given to how it can serve as an effective tool for mainstreaming biodiversity into broader national policies;
- iii. Raise awareness to stimulate early actions to implement other Aichi-Nagoya outcomes, in particular, the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing and the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;
- iv. Support countries in making use of the findings of the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO-3) and the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) study, and in considering how the findings could be integrated into updated and revised NBSAPs;
- v. Facilitate active learning opportunities and peer-to-peer exchanges for National Focal Points and persons in charge of implementing and revising NBSAPs.

Source: CBD NBSAPs (<http://www.cbd.int/nbsap/workshops2.shtml>)

The major outcomes of these workshops included country plans for revising NBSAPs and the identification of areas of support for undertaking these actions.

### **3.2.1.2 CBD follow-up regional workshops for updating NBSAPs (2011-2012)**

These workshops follow up on those conducted earlier. They address various issues that the countries may have encountered or will encounter while updating their NBSAPs, with a focus on target-setting, stakeholder engagement and the development of country-specific plans for mobilising financial resources for the implementation of NBSAPs. By the time this review was carried out the following workshops had been organised: East, South and Southeast Asia; Mediterranean Countries; Africa; Pacific; North Africa and Middle East; South America, Mesoamerica, Caribbean; Europe, Central & Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

### **3.2.1.3 Other relevant workshops**

There are several other workshops on NBSAPs that took place with the support of the CBD (Box 3).

#### **Box 3 Other relevant workshops**

1. **Regional workshops on the fourth national reports to the CBD:** The following workshops on the fourth national reports have been organised at the regional level: South, East and South-East Asia (Tsukuba, Japan, December 2008); Caribbean and Central American countries (Panama City, Panama, December

2009), Asia and Horn of Africa (Manama, Bahrain, April 2010), Asia Pacific (Apia, Samoa, April 2010), Africa (Nairobi, Kenya, May/June 2010), Latin America and Caribbean (Panama City, Panama, June 2010), Europe (Budapest, Hungary, June/July 2010) and a workshop for Least Developed Countries (Addis Ababa, May 2009). These workshops had an important component on NBSAPs and their development and implementation.

2. **Workshops on economics and valuation:** The CBD Secretariat held a number of meetings on valuation, incentive measures and the economics of biodiversity: i) Regional Workshop for Southern Africa on Updating National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans: Incorporating work on valuation and incentive measures, in Kasane, Botswana, 14-20 March 2011; ii) Capacity-building Workshop for North Africa and the Middle East on the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity, Beirut, Lebanon, 21-23 February 2012; iii) Regional Workshop on Valuation and Incentive Measures for South America, Santiago, Chile, 15-17 May 2012; iv) Sub-regional Workshop on Valuation and Incentive Measures for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Tbilisi, Georgia, 29-31 May 2012.
3. **Workshops on Biodiversity for Development:** The CBD Secretariat has organised several meetings on biodiversity for development. These include expert meetings on south-south cooperation on biodiversity for development (Nairobi, Kenya, May 2010 and Incheon City, Republic of Korea, 18-20 May 2011) and the South-South Cooperation Forum on Biodiversity for Development (Nagoya, Japan, October 2010).
4. **Supporting information use and indicators in updating NBSAP:** The Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (BIP), facilitated by UNEP- WCMC, with financial support from UNEP, organised two capacity building workshops on information use and indicators in updating NBSAPs in East Africa and Southeast Asia in September 2011 and March 2012, respectively. The overarching objective of the workshops was to strengthen capacity in the production of targets and indicators as part of the NBSAP updating process.
5. **Workshop on how to integrate the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC) targets into updated and revised NBSAPs:** In February 2012, Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) in collaboration with the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) organised two back to- back plant conservation workshops. The first workshop addressed the GSPC from a policy perspective and focused on how to integrate the GSPC targets into updated and revised NBSAPs. The second workshop was a more practical training course looking at best practice in *ex situ* conservation techniques. The workshops were funded by the CBD Secretariat and Defra (UK).
6. **MEA synergies workshops (upcoming):** UNEP is organising an MEA synergies workshop on NBSAPs in Zimbabwe in November 2012. The workshop is funded by the Swedish Ministry of Environment.

Annex 2 presents a list of organisations and research centres that participated in the regional and sub-regional workshops (excluding government ministries and national environmental agencies). The list demonstrates the strong involvement of global and also regional environmental organisations.

The CBD NBSAP workshops are organised with the generous support of the Government of Japan and other donors. These include the following:

- *UN agencies:* UNEP, UNDP, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
- *Regional organisations:* the European Community, Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), Commission for the Forests of Central Africa (COMIFAC) and the League of Arab States
- *Non-governmental organisations and partnerships:* The Humanist Institute for Development Cooperation (HIVOS)

- *Governments:* Governments of Japan, Canada, Germany, Norway, Sweden (SIDA) and the United Kingdom (Defra and UK Darwin Initiative) as well as the governments that hosted the workshops
- *Private sector:* The Mercuria Energy Group

### 3.2.2 Guidelines, guidance documents and tools

Guidelines, guidance documents and tools are also a common form of support provided by the NBSAP initiatives that were reviewed in this study. Most of these guidelines were prepared or issued by the CBD in collaboration with UN agencies, bilaterals, international non-governmental organisations and government institutions.

The CBD in collaboration with UNEP and UNU-IAS has produced a set of multilingual (English, French and Spanish) capacity building modules<sup>6</sup> to provide CBD focal points, biodiversity managers and other national stakeholders with practical guidance for the process of preparing NBSAPs and for making the best use of NBSAPs once they have been prepared (Box 4).

#### Box 4 CBD Capacity Building Modules

The series of capacity building modules to support NBSAP preparation are as follows:

- **B-1.** An Introduction to National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (2011) (English, French, Spanish)
- **B-2.** How to prepare and update a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2011) (English, French, Spanish)
- **B-3.** Mainstreaming biodiversity into sectoral and cross-sectoral strategies, plans and programmes (2011) (English, French, Spanish)
- **B-4.** Setting National Biodiversity Targets & Using the CBD's Framework for the Post 2010 Targets (2011) (English, French, Spanish)
- **B-5.** Ensuring Inclusive Societal Engagement in the Development, Implementation and Updating of NBSAPs (2012)
- **B-6.** Getting political support for the NBSAP and financing its implementation
- **B-7.** Communication Strategy for NBSAPs
- **B-8.** Biodiversity Planning for States, Provinces, Cities and Other Local Authorities: How to Develop a Sub-National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (English, French, Spanish)
- **B-9.** Mainstreaming Gender Considerations in the Development and Implementation of NBSAPs

*Source:* CBD NBSAPs (<http://www.cbd.int/nbsap/training/>)

Before the adoption of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, the CBD COP (Decision VIII/8) adopted voluntary guidelines to Parties for review of NBSAPs. The purpose of these voluntary guidelines is to:

- a) Serve as a practical tool for use by Parties on a voluntary basis as they review implementation of their NBSAPs in order to assist Parties to improve implementation;
- b) Elicit consistent information from Parties supplementary to that provided in the third national report that will assist the Conference of the Parties to complete an in-depth review of implementation of NBSAPs under the Convention and to help mobilize international resources to address priority needs.

<sup>6</sup> CBD Capacity Building modules: <http://www.cbd.int/nbsap/training/>

The CBD Technical Series No. 49 (2010)<sup>7</sup> provides guidelines to assist the development of NBSAPs to meet the objectives of biodiversity conservation and simultaneously the promotion of gender equality. The Guidelines are divided in two modules: (1) “Linking conservation of biological diversity and gender equality” and (2) “Mainstreaming gender into national biodiversity strategies and action plans – process and content”.

The Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) have also issued guidance related to NBSAPs. CMS COP resolution 10.18 issued guidelines on the Integration of Migratory Species into NBSAPs and other outcomes from CBD CoP10<sup>8</sup>.

CITES issued a practical “how-to” guide for Parties which may wish to consider the inclusion of their CITES national and regional actions in the revised and updated NBSAPs. Such actions could include targets that contribute towards the effective implementation of the CITES Strategic Vision, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and the overall conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, as appropriate. The Guidelines are primarily intended for use by those institutions and staff responsible for the implementation of objectives and indicators under the CITES Strategic Vision as well as relevant national and regional targets and action plans<sup>9</sup>.

Preceding the adoption of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, various other guidelines and toolkits were developed mostly by intergovernmental organizations, international nongovernmental organisations and regional environmental organisations such as UNEP, the World Resources Institute (WRI), Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and Fauna and Flora International (FFI) either independently or in conjunction with other organisations and conventions and UN agencies (Box 5).

#### **Box 5 Other NBSAP guidelines and relevant publications**

##### ***Guidelines:***

- United Nations Environment Programme (1993) Guidelines for Country Studies on Biological Diversity, Nairobi, 1 October, 1993 (UNEP/Bio.Div./Guidelines/CS/Rev.2).
- Miller, K.R. and Lanou, S.M. (1995) National Biodiversity Planning: Guidelines Based on Early Experiences around the World. World Resources Institute/UNEP/IUCN, Washington, DC.
- Fernandez, J.J.G. (1998) Guide for the Preparation of Action Plans within the Framework of the Biodiversity Convention, UNDP/GEF (available in English and Spanish).
- Glow a, L. et al (1998) A Guide to Undertaking Biodiversity Legal and Institutional Profiles, IUCN Environmental Law Centre.
- Hagen, R.T. (1999) Guide for Countries Preparing National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, UNDP/GEF.
- UNEP Biodiversity Planning Support Programme (BPSP) Thematic Studies (2001- 2002): Integrating Biodiversity into Broader National Development Frameworks (Thematic studies in Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry, Tourism, Environmental Assessment, Economic Tools in Biodiversity Planning, Financial Planning for NBSAPs, Harmonization of Legal Obligations under MEAs).
- Fauna & Flora International (no date) National Biodiversity Strategy and Action: Planning BSAP Preparation: Materials Compiled for the BSAP Preparation Process, FFI, Cambridge, UK (available in English).

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-49-en.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> [http://www.cms.int/bodies/COP/cop10/resolutions\\_adopted/10\\_18\\_nsbaps\\_e.pdf](http://www.cms.int/bodies/COP/cop10/resolutions_adopted/10_18_nsbaps_e.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.cbd.int/doc/nbsap/CITES-NBSAP-Module.pdf>

- Prescott, J., Gauthier, B. & Nagahuedi Mbongu Sodi, J. 2000, Guide to Developing Biodiversity Strategy from a Sustainable Development Perspective, Institut de l'Énergie et de l'Environnement de la Francophonie (IEPF), Ministère de l'Environnement du Québec, UNDP and UNEP, Montreal, September (available in English, French and Spanish).
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**Other relevant publications:**

- Carter, E (2007) National Biodiversity Strategies & Action Plans. Pacific regional review. Commonwealth Secretariat and SPREP.
- Prip, C., Gross, T., Johnston, S. and Vierros, M. (2010). Biodiversity Planning: an assessment of national biodiversity strategies and action plans. United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies, Yokohama, Japan.

**Source:** CBD NBSAPs (<http://www.cbd.int/nbsap/guidance-tools/guidelines.shtml>)

### 3.2.3 Financial support and resources<sup>10</sup>

The Global Environmental Facility (GEF) is dedicated to the provision of financial support and resources to support the NBSAPs review and updating process. The Biodiversity Strategy for the fifth replenishment of the GEF (GEF-5) includes, as its fifth objective: "*Integrate CBD Obligations into National Planning Processes through Enabling Activities*". GEF -5 funds for NBSAPs and fifth national reports can be accessed through a number of ways<sup>11</sup>:

- i) Direct access from the GEF Secretariat
- ii) Access through an agency
- iii) For Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) through a UNEP Umbrella Project (currently in development).

### 3.2.4 Websites and wiki sites

The key webportal on NBSAPs is provided through the NBSAP pages on the CBD website. Here, information on the COP guidance, guidelines and guidance, the CBD capacity-building modules and workshops, financial support, and other information is presented and links to external web resources are provided.

UNDP has a wiki site whose main purpose is to provide technical and coordination support to those countries that are working with UNDP to apply for GEF Enabling Activity funds, including the development of NBSAPs, the creation of biodiversity clearing-house mechanisms, and the preparation of the 5th National Reports<sup>12</sup>. The site allows members to upload and download documents into the file storage, post discussions and ask questions on the discussion forums, upload and share photos on the photo gallery, share important dates on the shared calendar, and help make connections with others by creating member profiles. Although the site was created for UNDP-supported countries, anyone interested in developing NBSAPs, national biodiversity clearing-house mechanisms and 5th National Reports is invited to join the forum and participate. The website has links to support materials on ecosystem services, mainstreaming, climate adaptation and protected areas.

<sup>10</sup> See also above for the financial support provided to NBSAP workshops.

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.cbd.int/nbsap/guidance-tools/finance/>

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.nbsapsupport.groupsite.com/main/summary>

The CBD-mandated Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (BIP)<sup>13</sup> provides a communication hub website for developing and communicating compelling storylines from the combined suite of global indicators. The website also provides guidance to support national capacity-strengthening for the development and use of biodiversity / ecosystem service indicators as part of NBSAP updating and implementation.

In addition, all major organisations leading initiatives that are reviewed in this study (e.g. CBD, UNEP, UNU, GEF, CITES and BIP) have websites or webpages that provide information relevant to support the NBSAP updating process.

### **3.2.5 Projects and partnerships that provide multiple forms of support**

A number of initiatives deliver multiple forms of support such as capacity building workshops, guidelines and financial support. The UK Darwin Initiative-supported project *NBSAPs 2.0: Mainstreaming Biodiversity and Development* led by UNEP-WCMC and the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) is expected to deliver three annual workshops on capacity building and information and experience sharing, guidelines, networking and financial support to initially five participating countries in southern and eastern Africa. It is expected to extend this support to other regions.

Workshops such as the BIP capacity building workshops on information use and indicators in updating NBSAPs and CBD regional and sub-regional capacity-development workshops on implementing NBSAPs and mainstreaming biodiversity provide financial resources, guidance and guidelines to support the NBSAPs updating processes in addition to capacity building and strengthening.

Also providing various forms of support including workshops and guidance documents are the UNEP-WCMC and Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP) *Ecosystem values and valuation mainstreaming in NBSAPs* and the UNEP- *Ecosystem Management to Achieve Aichi Targets* projects as well as various forms of support to the NBSAP revision process by UNEP-DELIC (Division of Environmental Law and Conventions). All the initiatives are ongoing.

The IUCN Commission on Education and Communication provides support and capacity development for CEPA to NBSAPs as well as resource persons and other expertise for regional and sub-regional CEPA workshops of the CBD and other multilateral environmental agreements (e.g. the CBD CEPA workshops for the Caribbean in 2008 and for South-East Asia in 2009).

### **3.3 Relevance of existing initiatives to stages of the NBSAP revision and implementation process**

One of the aims of this study is to establish the relevance of existing support initiatives to the various NBSAP updating steps<sup>14</sup> namely

1. Bringing stakeholders together
2. Biodiversity assessment
3. Developing a strategy
4. Developing an action plan
5. Implementation
6. Monitoring & evaluation
7. Reporting

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<sup>13</sup> <http://www.bipindicators.net/> and <http://www.bipnational.net/>

<sup>14</sup> These steps are from the CBD capacity Building Module 2: The Biodiversity Planning Process: How to Prepare or Update a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, adapted from Mille & Lanou (1995; see box 5), available at <http://www.cbd.int/doc/training/nbsap/b2-train-prepare-update-nbsap-revised-en.pdf>.

All the initiatives identified contribute to one or more steps in the NBSAP updating process (Annex 3). For example, past and ongoing workshops by the CBD and Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (BIP), the guidelines and guidance documents such as the CBD capacity building modules, and the initiatives providing financial support and resources such as the GEF-5 support for NBSAPs and related activities contribute to most or all of the seven steps in the NBSAP revision and implementation process.

The support to the NBSAP update process provided by websites or wiki sites such as the UNDP Support Page for NBSAPs and other projects such as the IIED and UNEP-WCMC project *NBSAPs 2.0: Mainstreaming Biodiversity and Development*, the UNEP-WCMC - IEEP *Ecosystem values and valuation mainstreaming NBSAPs* project and the UNEP *Ecosystem Management to Achieve Aichi Targets* project also provide support to most steps in the NBSAP revision process.

### **3.4 Conclusion**

The findings and analysis of existing NBSAP support initiatives have revealed a sizeable number of NBSAP support initiatives. These include capacity building workshops; guidelines, guidance documents and tools; provision of financial support and resources; websites or wiki sites; and projects and partnerships that provide multiple forms of support. Several conventions, UN agencies, international nongovernmental organisations, regional environmental organisations and government institutions are leading or participating in these initiatives.

While some initiatives are more relevant to specific Aichi Targets, many of them support the addressing in the NBSAPs of the Aichi Targets as a whole. Indeed, the CBD NBSAP capacity-building workshops have addressed a range of targets and supported the capacity of countries to set national targets in response to all the Aichi Targets. In addition, given the cross-cutting nature of several targets, working on specific targets often addresses other targets as well.

The initiatives provide support to most of the stages of the NBSAP process, including the early stages of developing – and following the adoption of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 also revising and updating - the NBSAP. This is particularly relevant as the early stages lay the foundation for an adequate implementation of the NBSAP. The current process of updating and revising the NBSAPs therefore requires the particular attention of support initiatives.

It would be helpful to have a better understanding of the actual audience of the various support initiatives, in particular whether they reach a national audience beyond those immediately concerned with the NBSAP process (the ministries of environment and associated agencies). Is the support material helpful to those sectors that significantly impact on biodiversity, such as forestry, fisheries, planning and land use, transport, etc?

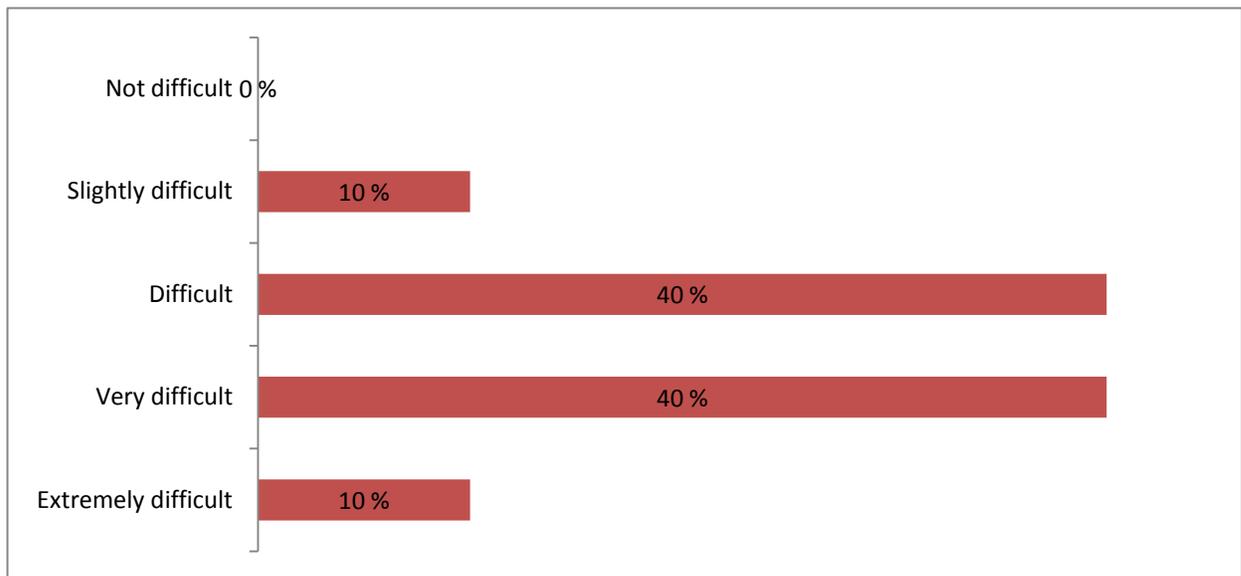
Since the adoption of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, the CBD with support from the Government of Japan and other donors has been enhancing efforts to support Parties in updating their NBSAPs in light of the Strategic Plan and the Aichi Targets. The formation of a global NBSAP support partnership or network including all the major players such as MEAs, governments, donors and NGOs would ensure that the preparation of updated NBSAPs can depend on a broader level of technical support through a variety of means and tools – support that cannot be achieved with the current level of funding and insufficient coordination.

## 4 RESULTS OF THE CAPACITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

### 4.1 Capacity needs assessment for NBSAP revision and updating

A number of key findings on the needs associated with revising and updating NBSAPs as well as implementing them emerged from the review.

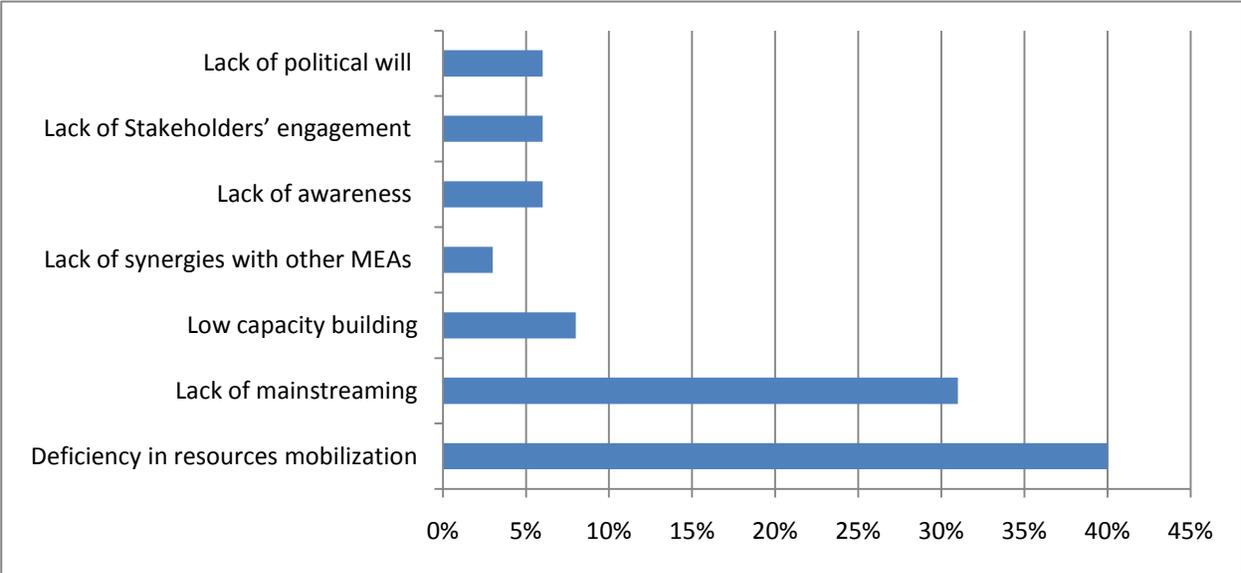
The CBD survey with participants in the 2011 NBSAP workshops<sup>15</sup> showed that difficulties with bringing the NBSAP revision and adoption process to the attention of decision-makers form a significant obstacle for many countries (figure 1). Lack of mainstreaming and of resources was seen as the biggest challenges to the revision of NBSAPs (figure 2).



**Figure 1: Difficulty of bringing the NBSAP revision and adoption process to the attention of decision makers (from the CBD survey with participants in the 2011 NBSAP workshops)**

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<sup>15</sup> Note that there was only a small number of responses so the findings may not be representative.



**Figure 2: Reasons for difficulties in the revision of the (from the CBD survey with participants in the 2011 NBSAP workshops)**

The survey found the following key constraints for the issue of incorporation of biodiversity and ecosystem service valuation in NBSAPs and relevant sectoral strategies, in order of importance:

- Finance issues
- Lack of political support for the assessment and integration of the value of nature to humans because of its intrinsic value
- Little work completed or available on biodiversity and ecosystem valuation for use in NBSAP updating/integration/ consideration of values in sectoral strategies
- General lack of technical and institutional capacity for incorporating biodiversity and ecosystem service valuation into policy processes more broadly
- Lack of collaboration between ministries/agencies for incorporating biodiversity and ecosystem service valuation into NBSAPs and sectoral strategies
- Lack of guidance materials on incorporating biodiversity and ecosystem valuation in NBSAPs and sectoral strategies
- Lack of ministerial/agency responsibility for incorporating biodiversity and ecosystem service valuation into NBSAPs and/or sectoral strategies

Table 1 shows the survey results in terms of the difficulty to nationally set the Aichi Targets.

**Table 1: Responses to the question on the most difficult Aichi Targets to set at the national level (from the CBD survey with participants in the 2011 NBSAP workshops)**

Target	Percentage response
<b>2, 3</b>	30% each
<b>20</b>	20%
<b>16</b>	19%
<b>5</b>	17%
<b>1, 9</b>	15% each
<b>4</b>	13%

<b>6, 7, 14</b>	11% each
<b>8, 10, 12, 18</b>	9%
<b>11, 15</b>	7%
<b>19</b>	4%
<b>13, 17</b>	2% each

The targets most difficult to set are those that deal with mainstreaming biodiversity into national development strategies and processes (target 2) and eliminating incentives, including subsidies harmful to biodiversity and developing and applying positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity (3). Many of the respondents also noted that the target on mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (20) is difficult to set, as well as target 16 on the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing, target 5 on slowing or stopping the loss of all natural habitats, including forests, target 9 on combating the spread and eradication of invasive alien species and target 1 on raising awareness of the values of biodiversity.

In table 2, capacity needs at the national level<sup>16</sup> have been grouped according to the early stages of the NBSAP process and the Aichi Targets. The early stages of the NBSAP process have been chosen as this is where the NBSAP Forum will be able to provide the most substantive support. The capacity needs range from those related to economic policy and financial resources, human resource development, strengthening of national institutions and infrastructure, strengthening regional and sub regional cooperation, enhanced knowledge management to support to assess, on a scientific basis, the economic and other values of biodiversity and ecosystems among others.

**Table 2: Capacity needs for the early stages of the NBSAP revision and updating process (the numbers in brackets refer to the corresponding Aichi Targets; this allocation is non-exhaustive as several targets are relevant for other targets as well)**

<b>NBSAP stages</b>	<b>Capacity needs</b>
1. Bringing stakeholders together	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bringing the NBSAP process to the attention of decision-makers (various)</li> <li>• Strengthening ownership of the NBSAP with stakeholders (17)</li> <li>• Strengthening participation of biodiversity-impacting sectors in the drafting, updating and implementation of NBSAPs (17)</li> <li>• Linking NBSAPs with national planning exercises, e.g. for development, biodiversity-impacting sectors, land-use (17)</li> </ul>
2. Biodiversity assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Getting a baseline for measuring public awareness (1)</li> <li>• Assessing biodiversity values (2)</li> <li>• Inventories of biodiversity harmful incentives (3)</li> <li>• Studies on key impacts of consumption and production patterns on biodiversity (4)</li> <li>• National wetland inventory and monitoring (5)</li> <li>• Researching and prioritising of invasive alien species (IAS) and pathways (8)</li> <li>• Assessing the integrity of coral reefs and other vulnerable ecosystems (10)</li> <li>• Assessing pressures arising from land-based pollution/sedimentation as well as from unsustainable fishing and recreational and other activities (10)</li> <li>• Inventory/ mapping of protected areas (11)</li> <li>• Monitoring of biodiversity in protected areas (11)</li> <li>• Conducting management effectiveness assessment for protected areas (11)</li> </ul>

<sup>16</sup> Table 2 compiles information from the NBSAP workshops, the survey undertaken by the CBD in relation with the NBSAP workshops and the project on costs for meeting the Aichi Targets in support of the work of the High Level Panel on Global Assessment of Resources for Implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Researching on damaging activities ('stress') impacting PAs (11)</li> <li>• Conducting preliminary national red list assessments (12)</li> <li>• Assessments of causes of threat to endangered species (12)</li> <li>• Identifying the ecosystems most in need of restoration (14)</li> <li>• Review of the potential contribution of all ecosystems to carbon storage and sequestration (15)</li> <li>• Identifying the ecosystems most in need of restoration (15)</li> <li>• Review of legislative, administrative or policy measures already in place or required in order to meet the obligations set out under the Nagoya Protocol (16)</li> <li>• Identifying , monitoring of and development of indicators for biodiversity components under threat (17)</li> <li>• Reviewing of the relevant knowledge and technologies potential availability in-country and of the gaps in knowledge and technologies necessary to implement the Convention (19)</li> </ul>
3. Developing a strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identifying and appraising reform options for harmful incentives (3)</li> <li>• Identifying and appraising options for positive incentives for biodiversity (3)</li> <li>• National public procurement strategies (4)</li> <li>• Developing sustainability criteria/good practices for agriculture, aquaculture and forestry (7)</li> <li>• Develop strategies to minimize the impacts on coral reefs and other vulnerable ecosystems (10)</li> <li>• Developing national strategies on protected areas and systems of land use planning for PA (11)</li> <li>• Identifying landscapes and seascapes in which habitat linkages are important for biodiversity conservation (11)</li> <li>• Developing strategies for prevention of the extinction of nationally threatened species (12)</li> <li>• Programme development and strategic planning for genetic diversity maintenance (13)</li> <li>• Developing and implementing restoration policies and projects for ecosystems including wetlands and peatlands (14)</li> <li>• National strategies for enhancement of the contribution of biodiversity to ecosystem resilience and carbon storage (15)</li> <li>• Adoption of national sets of targets that contribute to the Aichi Targets (17)</li> <li>• Strategies, including sui generis systems, for promoting/protecting traditional knowledge and the customary sustainable use of biological diversity (18)</li> <li>• Country-specific resource mobilization strategies, including indicators, and financial plans for biodiversity (20)</li> </ul>
4. Developing an action plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Action plans for the removal or reform of harmful incentives (3)</li> <li>• National sustainable production and consumption action plans (4)</li> <li>• Fuel efficiency standards for automobiles (8)</li> <li>• Establishing integrated coastal zone management programmes and marine spatial planning (10)</li> <li>• Developing and implementing sustainable finance plans for protected area systems (11)</li> <li>• Establishing funded action plans for the most threatened species (12)</li> <li>• Defining protected areas for conservation of threatened species (12)</li> <li>• Strengthening taxonomic capacity (12)</li> <li>• Developing national plans for ecosystem restoration (15)</li> <li>• Development of governance and regulatory frameworks associated with access and transfer of technology and innovation (19)</li> <li>• Exploring innovative financing schemes and systems for biodiversity (20)</li> </ul>

## 4.2 Conclusion

In conclusion, there are a sizeable number of capacity needs for the early stages of the process of revising and updating NBSAPs. Bringing the NBSAP process to the attention of decision-makers is particularly relevant, as is the lack of mainstreaming and of resource mobilization. This refers in particular to the stages of biodiversity assessment, developing a strategy, and developing an action plan. Aichi Targets dealing with underlying causes of biodiversity loss, enhancing the benefits from biodiversity and ecosystem services, and resource mobilisation are the most difficult to set for many countries.

## 5 GAP ANALYSIS OF CAPACITY NEEDS IN NBSAP UPDATING AND REVISION

This section presents an overview of the gaps that exist between the existing NBSAP support initiatives and the capacity needs for countries' updating and revision of NBSAPs. All the initiatives identified contribute to one or more steps in the NBSAP updating process (Annex 3). Currently all stages of the NBSAP update/revision process have existing initiatives providing, or proposing to provide, support targeted at them in the form of guidelines, best practices, case studies and templates, workshops, e-learning modules, south-south exchanges, online websites, wikis and direct technical support.

For example, the CBD capacity building workshops and CBD capacity building modules provide support to all stages of the NBSAP update process and implementation. These include support on how to prepare and update NBSAPs, the preferred structure of new-look NBSAPs, setting national biodiversity targets & using the CBD framework for the post-2010 targets (target setting and indicator development), tools for valuation of ecosystem and mainstreaming of biodiversity into sectoral and cross-sectoral strategies, plans and programmes, communication strategies for NBSAPs and mainstreaming gender considerations in the development and implementation of NBSAPs.

However, the CBD survey with participants in the 2011 NBSAP workshops resulted in a number of specific needs for the first two stages of the NBSAP process that, despite being largely addressed through the support initiatives, will require continuous attention. These are shown in table 3, ordered along the early stages of the NBSAP process.

**Table 3: Support required by countries for specific activities within the early stages of the NBSAP process (from the CBD survey with participants in the 2011 NBSAP workshops and other sources)**

NBSAP stage	Support required
Bringing stakeholders together	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publicize and improve accessibility of CBD guidance on how to prepare and update NBSAPs (e.g. making hard copies available to countries with limited internet connection).</li> <li>• Prepare good practice guidance on inception and engaging stakeholders in NBSAPs updating</li> <li>• Workshops to support the identification of main stakeholders</li> <li>• Establish an NBSAP Support Desk, online discussion forums and listservs/ email discussions to support the NBSAP revision process</li> </ul>
Biodiversity assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Template on the structure of stocktake of existing plans, policies and practices report</li> <li>• Workshops to support stocktake of existing plans, policies and practices, and of the root causes of biodiversity loss</li> <li>• Guidance document and check list on rapid assessment of national biodiversity and its links with human well-being</li> <li>• NBSAP Support Desk, online discussion forums and listservs/ email</li> </ul>

	<p>discussions to support the NBSAP revision process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitate exchange visits between countries</li> <li>• Synthesizing existing land cover maps and data to identify the most threatened habitats, the drivers of habitat loss, and the policies that directly or indirectly encourage the continued loss of natural habitats</li> <li>• Assessment of the status of national wetlands</li> <li>• Identifying those wetlands of highest conservation value based on biodiversity and human use values</li> <li>• Guidelines and best practices for national biodiversity information systems including effective Clearing-House Mechanisms</li> </ul>
Developing a strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support development of NBSAP communication strategies</li> <li>• Support south –south exchanges on best practices on conservation and sustainable use of genetic diversity</li> <li>• Tools and guidelines for mainstreaming genetic diversity in NBSAP and national development plans</li> </ul>
Developing an action plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support preparation for national sustainable production and consumption (SCP) action plans</li> <li>• Spatial data needed to underpin planning and priority-setting: decision-maker support tools (InVEST and IBAT-like) integrated into the NBSAP</li> <li>• Review of action plans for protected areas</li> <li>• Identification of best practices</li> <li>• Voluntary template for NBSAP chapter/section on protected areas</li> <li>• Guidance on the links between protected areas and poverty</li> <li>• Ecosystem-based climate resilience, adaptation and mitigation guidance</li> <li>• Guidelines and best practices for national biodiversity information systems including effective Clearing-House Mechanisms</li> <li>• Guidelines and best practices for identifying, accessing, combining and sequencing multiple sources of finance, including national budgets, for meeting countries' biodiversity management needs</li> </ul>

The CBD survey with participants of the 2011 NBSAP workshops (keeping its limitations in terms of number of responses in mind, see above) identified the most important ways international assistance can support the incorporation of biodiversity and ecosystem service valuation into NBSAPs and relevant sectoral strategies. These are, in order of importance:

- Specific guidance materials on incorporating biodiversity and ecosystem services valuation into NBSAPs and sectoral strategies
- In-country capacity building workshops
- Technical support from The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) Network
- Lessons learned and national examples of good practice for incorporating biodiversity and ecosystem services into NBSAPs and sectoral strategies
- Policy support tools
- Regional capacity-building and exchange workshops
- Advisory services
- Online help desks

During the CBD workshop some countries and organizations also indicated their willingness to share their expertise with other countries within their regions as part of south-south exchanges. During the CBD regional workshop for East Africa on updating NBSAPs in Kigali in Rwanda in June 2011 participating countries offered to support other countries in many ways (Table 4).

**Table 4: Countries and organisations in East Africa with expertise that they can offer through south-south exchanges (from the CBD regional workshop for East Africa on updating NBSAPs, Kigali, Rwanda, June 2011)**

<b>Offer</b>	<b>Country or Agency</b>
Expertise in research, planning & protected area management	Kenya, Uganda
Expertise in establishing national initiative measures for conserving protected areas	Burundi, IUCN ESARO Protected Areas Programmes
Regional expertise on water weed management and wetlands	IUCN Invasive Species Initiative & IUCN ESARO Water Wetlands Programme
Regional experience of “red listing” of threatened species & drylands	IUCN ESARO Regional Programmes
Good governance experience & donors coordination	Rwanda
Experience in mainstreaming	Rwanda, Uganda
Reducing biological invasions, e.g., house crow	Djibouti
Experience in mobilization of civil society organizations	Kenya
Regional experience on forest conservation & development/management of forests	IUCN ESARO Comoros
National biodiversity information system design and ecosystem service assessment	UNEP-WCMC
Database on spiders and pollinator species in an afro-montane forest	Burundi
Development of a National Centre of Biodiversity	Comoros
Regional technical expertise	EAC
Leveraging global finances/funding for regional processes	EAC
Natural resource valuation	Uganda
Expertise in developing NBSAPs	Mauritius
Regional protocol on environmental management	EAC
Expertise in biodiversity indicator development & capacity-building	Uganda, Ethiopia, Comoros, UNEP-WCMC
Local consultants	Uganda
NBSAP communication strategies	IUCN-CEPA
Agrobiodiversity conservation in East Africa region	ICRAF Evergreen Agriculture Programme
Development of environmental policies & guidelines	Uganda
Regional experience in farmer-managed natural regeneration of degraded habitats through agroforestry	ICRAF
Pro-poor environmental services	ICRAF
Experience on formulating ABS	Ethiopia
Development of local biodiversity strategies and action plans & toolkit for implementation at local level	City of Cape Town
Experience in ensuring harmonization of legislation	Comoros
Source: CBD (2011) Regional Workshop For East Africa On Updating National Biodiversity Strategies And Action Plans Kigali, Rwanda, 27 - 30 June 2011. Available at <a href="http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/nbsap/cbwnbsap-eafr-02/official/cbwnbsap-eafr-02-02-en.pdf">http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/nbsap/cbwnbsap-eafr-02/official/cbwnbsap-eafr-02-02-en.pdf</a>	

## 5.1 Conclusion and recommendations

In conclusion, the existing NBSAP support initiatives provide assistance to all NBSAP stages, with the focus put in this document on the early stages, before implementation (bringing stakeholders together, biodiversity assessment, developing a strategy, and developing an action plan). Given the wide range of capacity needs and the large number of countries, it is, however, obvious that continuous and intensified support is required for stakeholder involvement, the assessment of biodiversity, the development of a

strategy, and the development of an action plan. Guidance material and an NBSAP helpdesk would be of particular value. Support would not only come from the global and regional organisations already involved with biodiversity planning but also from other countries, including a range of southern countries, through south – south exchange. It is recommended that the list of priority activities in addressing Party needs for updating and revising NBSAPs is checked with Parties, in order to identify the best ways and means to deliver this support. An additional question in this regard is whether the NBSAP support needs to better take into account sectors impacting on biodiversity but not necessarily immediately involved with the process of NBSAP revision and updating.

One purpose of this document is to invite Parties to amend the list of capacity needs for the updating and revision of NBSAPs and to provide their views on the priority areas for capacity support outlined here. The NBSAP Forum would be grateful to receive such information (please address to [peter.herkenrath@unep-wcmc.org](mailto:peter.herkenrath@unep-wcmc.org)).

## 6 ANNEXES

### Annex 1: Existing NBSAP support initiatives

Type of initiative	Name of initiative	Lead organisation(s)	Location of initiative(s)	Timeframe of the initiative.
<b>A. Worksh ops</b>	1. Regional and Sub-Regional Capacity-Development Workshops on Implementing NBSAPs and Mainstreaming Biodiversity	Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	South, Southeast and East Asia, Central Asia, South and East of Africa, Central Africa, West Africa, North Africa and the Middle East, Central American, South America, Europe, Caribbean region, Pacific Region	2008 and 2009
	2. CBD Regional and Sub-Regional Capacity-Development Workshops on Implementing NBSAPs and Mainstreaming Biodiversity	CBD	East, South and Southeast Asia, Central Asia, Southern , West, Central and Eastern Africa, North Africa and the Middle East, Europe, Central and Eastern Europe, South America, Mesoamerica, Caribbean, Pacific Region	2011 and 2012
	3. Follow-up Regional Workshop for Updating National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)	CBD	East, South and Southeast Asia, Southeast Asia, Southern Africa, Eastern Africa, East and Southern Africa, North Africa and the Middle East, Caribbean region, Pacific Regions, Mediterranean Countries, Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia	2011 and 2012
	4. Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC) workshop on how to integrate the GSPC targets into updated and revised NBSAPs and practical training course looking at best practice in ex situ conservation techniques	CBD Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI).	East and Southern Africa	February 2012

<b>Type of initiative</b>	<b>Name of initiative</b>	<b>Lead organisation(s)</b>	<b>Location of initiative(s)</b>	<b>Timeframe of the initiative.</b>
<b>B. Guidelines, guidance documents and tools</b>	5. CBD Capacity Building Modules	CBD United Nations University (UNU)	CBD Parties - CBD National Focal Points, biodiversity managers and other national stakeholders	Developed in 2007 but revised in 2011 and 2012
	6. Voluntary guidelines to Parties for review of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans.CBD - COP 8 Decision VIII/8 implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Plan	CBD	CBD Parties	March 2006
	7. CBD Technical Series No. 49 (2010) Guidelines for Mainstreaming Gender into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans	CBD The Humanist Institute for Development Cooperation (HIVOS)	CBD Parties	2010: one-off publication
	8. UNEP Guidelines for Country Studies on Biological Diversity (1993)	UNEP	CBD Parties	1993: one-off publication
	9. UNEP Biodiversity Planning Support Programme (BPSP) Thematic Studies (2001-2002)	Global Environment Facility (GEF) UNEP, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) The World Bank	CBD Parties and national biodiversity planners	2001 - 2002: one-off publications
	10. UNDP and GEF Guide for the Preparation of Action Plans within the framework of the Biodiversity Convention (1998)	UNDP GEF	CBD Parties	1998: one-off publication
	11. UNDP and GEF Guide for Countries Preparing National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (1999)	UNDP GEF	CBD Parties	1999: one-off publication
	12. Fauna and Flora International - National Biodiversity Strategy and Action: Planning BSAP Preparation: Materials Compiled for the BSAP Preparation	Fauna and Flora International (FFI)	CBD Parties	No date: one-off publication

<b>Type of initiative</b>	<b>Name of initiative</b>	<b>Lead organisation(s)</b>	<b>Location of initiative(s)</b>	<b>Timeframe of the initiative.</b>
	Process (no date)			
	13. The Prescott et al. Guide to Developing a Biodiversity Strategy from a Sustainable Development Perspective (2000)	Institut de l'énergie et de l'environnement de la Francophonie (IEPF), Ministère de l'Environnement du Québec, UNEP UNDP	CBD Parties	2000: one-off publication
	14. WWF/SPREP NBSAP Preparation Checklist for Pacific Island Countries	World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)	Pacific Island Countries	2007: one-off publication
	15. Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) Guidelines on the Integration of Migratory Species into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)	CMS	CMS Parties	2011: one-off publication
	16. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Guidelines on Contributing to the development, review, updating and revision of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) for CITES Parties April (2011)	CITES	CITES Parties	2011: one-off publication
<b>C. Financial support and resources</b>	17. GEF-5 Support for NBSAPs and related activities	GEF	CBD Parties	2012 and beyond
<b>D. Websites or wiki sites</b>	18. CBD NBSAP webpages	CBD	CBD Parties - CBD National Focal Points, biodiversity managers and other national stakeholders	For several years; beyond 2012
	19. UNDP Support Page for NBSAPs	UNDP	UNDP-supported countries in the project for the GEF Enabling Activity funds, including the development of	2012 and beyond

Type of initiative	Name of initiative	Lead organisation(s)	Location of initiative(s)	Timeframe of the initiative.
			NBSAPs and anyone who is interested in	
<b>E. Projects and partnerships that provide multiple forms of support</b> (e.g. workshop capacity building, financial support and guidelines and websites as components)	20. UNEP-WCMC and IEED project NBSAPs 2.0: Mainstreaming Biodiversity and Development project	UNEP-WCMC International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)	Botswana, Malawi, Namibia, the Seychelles and Uganda	2011 – 2015
	21. UNEP-WCMC and IEEP Ecosystem values and valuation mainstreaming NBSAPs project	UNEP-WCMC Institute of European Environment Policy (IEEP)	Seychelles, Georgia, Bangladesh Guatemala, Norway, Burkina Faso	2011- 2012
	22. UNEP- Ecosystem Management to Achieve Aichi Targets project	UNEP	Latin America	2012 -2013
	23. UNEP-DELIC (Division of Environmental Law and Conventions) - various forms of support to the NBSAP revision process such as the planned MEA synergies workshop on NBSAPs in Zimbabwe in November 2012	UNEP	CBD Parties	2011 and beyond
	24. Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (BIP) Capacity Building Workshops, website and e-learning and Training of Trainers on Information Use and Indicators in Updating NBSAPs	(UNEP-WCMC Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (BIP)	Eastern Africa, Southeast Asia, South Asia and South eastern Europe.	One series of regional workshops in 2012 and a second series in 2013

**Annex 2: List of other organisations that participated in NBSAP workshops** (excluding national governments and agencies; the list may not be complete in all cases)

<b>Workshops</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>Name of organisations</b>
Regional and Sub-Regional Capacity-Building Workshops on Implementing NBSAPs and Mainstreaming Biodiversity for Central Africa. Limbé, Cameroon	22 to 25 September 2008	Central Africa	Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC)
Regional Workshop for East Africa on Updating NBSAPs, Kigali, Rwanda	27 to 30 June 2011	East and Southern Africa	The East African Community (EAC)
The Eastern Africa Capacity Building Workshop on Information Use and Indicators in Updating NBSAPs, Entebbe, Uganda	27 to 29 September 2011	East and Southern Africa	NatureServe
The African Regional Workshop on the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, Johannesburg, South Africa	13- 15 February 2012	East and Southern Africa	South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI)
Regional workshop for southern Africa on updating NBSAPs incorporating work on valuation and incentive measures, Kasane, Botswana	14-20 March 2011	Southern Africa	Kalahari Conservation Society (KCS)
Follow-up Regional Workshop for Africa on Updating National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	27 February to 1 March 2012	East and Southern Africa	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)
Regional Workshop for North Africa and the Middle East on Updating NBSAPs, Beirut, Lebanon	2 to 7 May 2011	North Africa and the Middle East	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).
Regional Workshop for North Africa and the Middle East on updating NBSAPs: Focus on examination of associated indicators, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman	27 to 30 August 2012	North Africa and the Middle East	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). UNEP Regional Office for West Asia (UNEP-ROWA) The League of Arab States Biodiversity Indicators Partnership Technical Secretariat of the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment (CAMRE) of the League of Arab States, Regional Office for West Asia of the United Nations Environment Programme

<b>Workshops</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>Name of organisations</b>
The Southeast Asia Capacity Building Workshop on Indicators as part of NBSAP updating, Tam Dao National Park, Viet Nam	25-28 March 2012	Southeast Asia	ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific NatureServe IUCN Asia Regional Office Conservation International Wildlife Conservation Society
Regional and Sub-Regional Capacity-Building Workshops on Implementing NBSAPs and Mainstreaming Biodiversity for Central America, Mexico City, Mexico	26 to 27 March 2008	South America	UNDP/GEF, Banco Centroamericano de Integración Económica, Comisión Centroamericana de Ambiente y Desarrollo, Comisión Centroamericana de Ambiente y Desarrollo, WWF – TRAFFIC, Organizacion Dad Nakue Dupbir, Universidad de Guadalajara, Universidad Michoacana de San Nicolas de Hidalgo
Workshop on the updating and revision of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) for South America, Quito, Ecuador	13 to 16 July 2011	South America	Permanent Secretariat of Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), IUCN, GIZ, the Humbolt Institute, Tesai Reka Paraguay, COICA, Centro de Estudios Multidisciplinarios Aymara (CEM-Aymara), Traffic Sudamerica, Fondo Ambiental Ecuador, and Comunidad Andina
Regional Workshop for Mesoamerica on Updating National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans, San José, Costa Rica	28 November – 2 December 2011	Mesoamerica	UNEP, UNDP, GEF, Conservation International (CI), IUCN, La Comisión Centroamericana de Ambiente y Desarrollo (CCAD), El Instituto Nacional de Biodiversidad (INBio), El Instituto Regional de Biodiversidad (IRBIO)
Regional and Sub-Regional Capacity-Development Workshops on Implementing NBSAPs, Mainstreaming of Biodiversity and Integration of Climate Change for the Pacific Region, Nadi, Fiji	2 to 6 February 2009	Pacific Region	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)
Regional Workshop for the Pacific on Updating NBSAPs, Nadi, Fiji	3 to 7 October 2011	Pacific Region	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), The Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO),

<b>Workshops</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>Name of organisations</b>
			IUCN, UNEP, UNDP, RARE Conservation, BirdLife International, Island Conservation
Follow-up Regional Workshop for countries of the Pacific on Updating National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), Rotorua, New Zealand	6 to 9 August 2012	Pacific Region	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)
Capacity-Development Workshop for the Caribbean region on National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), Mainstreaming of Biodiversity and the Integration of Climate Change, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago	3 – 7 November 2008	Caribbean region	Cropper Foundation Caribbean Community Secretariat (CARICOM) Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)
Regional and Sub-Regional Capacity-Building Workshops on Implementing NBSAPs and Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Europe, Vilm, Germany	26 to 30 April 2008	Europe	Convention on Migratory Species, IUCN Commission on Education and Communication, IUCN Countdown 2010
Second Regional Capacity-Development Workshop on National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and Mainstreaming Biodiversity for Europe (second workshop), Vilm, Germany	13 to 17 June 2009	Europe	Stockholm Institute of Environment, SevS Natural and Human Environment Consultancy
A regional workshop for the updating and revision of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans for European countries, Vilm, Germany	15 to 19 April 2011	Europe	Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East (RAIPON)
Capacity-Building Workshop on Updating and Revising NBSAPs, Geneva, Switzerland	30 June – 1 July 2011	Pan-Europe	European Centre for Nature Conservation, CEEweb, UNEP-WCMC
Regional Workshop for Central and Eastern Europe on Updating NBSAPs, Minsk, Belarus	5-8 December 2011	Central & Eastern Europe	GEF, UNDP, CMS, United Nations University, Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East (RAIPON), IUCN, IUCN Commission on Education and Communication
Regional Workshop for the regions of Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia on updating National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans will be held for both of these regions, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova	10 to 14 September 2012	Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia	Secretariat of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS) Biodiversity Indicators Partnership

<b>Workshops</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>Name of organisations</b>
Regional Workshop for Mediterranean Countries on Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans: Coordinating Local and National Action in the Mediterranean Basin, Montpellier, France	17 to 19 January 2012	Mediterranean Countries	City of Montpellier and ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability

**Annex 3: Available NBSAP support for each stage of the NBSAP revision and implementation process**

Type of initiative	Name of initiative	NBSAP Stage						
		Bringing stakeholders together	Biodiversity assessment	Developing a strategy	Developing an action plan	Implementation	Monitoring & evaluation	Reporting
<b>A. Workshops</b>	1) Regional and Sub-Regional Capacity-Development Workshops on Implementing NBSAPs and Mainstreaming Biodiversity(2008 and 2009)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	2) CBD Regional and Sub-Regional Capacity-Development Workshops on Implementing NBSAPs and Mainstreaming Biodiversity (2011 and 2012)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	3) Follow-up Regional Workshop for Updating National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) (2011 and 2012)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	4) Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC) workshop on how to integrate the GSPC targets into updated and revised NBSAPs and practical training course looking at best practice in <i>ex situ</i> conservation techniques (February 2012)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
<b>B. Guidelines, guidance documents and tools</b>	5) CBD Capacity Building Modules	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	6) Voluntary guidelines to Parties for review of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (CBD Decision VIII/8)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	7) CBD Technical Series No. 49 (2010) Guidelines for Mainstreaming Gender into	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		

Type of initiative	Name of initiative	NBSAP Stage						
		Bringing stakeholders together	Biodiversity assessment	Developing a strategy	Developing an action plan	Implementation	Monitoring & evaluation	Reporting
	National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans							
	8) UNEP Guidelines for Country Studies on Biological Diversity (1993)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	9) UNEP Biodiversity Planning Support Programme (BPSP) Thematic Studies (20012-2002)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	10) UNDP and GEF Guide for the Preparation of Action Plans within the framework of the Biodiversity Convention (1998)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	11) UNDP and GEF Guide for Countries Preparing National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (1999)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	12) Fauna and Flora International - National Biodiversity Strategy and Action: Planning BSAP Preparation: Materials Compiled for the BSAP Preparation Process (no date)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	13) The Prescott et al. Guide to Developing a Biodiversity Strategy from a Sustainable Development Perspective (2000)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	14) WWF/SPREP NBSAP Preparation Checklist for Pacific Island Countries	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	15) CMS Guidelines on the Integration of Migratory Species into NBSAPs	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	16) CITES Guidelines on Contributing to the development, review, updating and revision of	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

Type of initiative	Name of initiative	NBSAP Stage						
		Bringing stakeholders together	Biodiversity assessment	Developing a strategy	Developing an action plan	Implementation	Monitoring & evaluation	Reporting
	NBSAPs							
<b>C. Financial support and resources</b>	17) GEF-5 Support for NBSAPs and related activities	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>D. Websites or wiki sites</b>	18) CBD NBSAP webpages	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	19) UNDP Support Page for NBSAPs	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
<b>E. Projects and partnerships that provide multiple forms of support (e.g. workshop capacity building, financial support and guidelines and websites as components)</b>	20) UNEP- WCMC and IIED Darwin Initiative-supported project NBSAPs 2.0: Mainstreaming Biodiversity and Development project	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	21) UNEP-WCMC and IEEP Ecosystem values and valuation mainstreaming NBSAPs project	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	22) UNEP Ecosystem Management to Achieve Aichi Targets project	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
	23) UNEP-DELCC (Division of Environmental Law and Conventions) - various forms of support to the NBSAP revision process. E.g. planned MEA synergies workshop on NBSAPs in Zimbabwe in November 2012	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	24) IUCN Commission on Education and Communication's Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) Specialty Group	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	25) Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (BIP) Capacity Building , website and e-learning and Training of Trainers on Information Use and Indicators in Updating NBSAPs	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

