



## **Convention on Biological Diversity**

Distr.  
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/NBSAP/CBW-MENA/1/2  
22 October 2008

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

---

### **REGIONAL CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP FOR THE ARAB STATES ON NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS AND THE MAINSTREAMING OF BIODIVERSITY**

Cairo, Egypt

14 to 18 December 2008

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

### **STATUS OF NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS**

*Note by the Executive Secretary*

#### **I. INTRODUCTION**

1. Article 6 of the Convention on Biological Diversity <sup>1/</sup> requires each Party to develop or adapt national strategies, plans or programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and to 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.

2. In its decisions VI/26, on the Strategic Plan for the Convention, and VI/27 A, on implementation of the Convention and, most recently, in decision IX/8, the Conference of the Parties of the Convention stressed that the development and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans constitute the cornerstone of national implementation of the Convention. This is reflected in goal 3 of the Strategic Plan, namely, that “national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the integration of biodiversity concerns into relevant sectors serve as an effective framework for the implementation of the objectives of the Convention”.

3. The Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention, at its first meeting, in September 2005, examined progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan and concluded that there is little progress towards goal 2 and that this remains a major constraint on implementation. The Working Group also noted that progress towards goal 3 is also poor. In view of this slow progress, the Conference of the Parties decided to conduct an in-depth review of the implementation of goals 2 and 3 of the

---

<sup>1/</sup> Article 6 of the Convention states that:

“(a) 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.

(b) Each Contracting Party shall, in accordance with its particular conditions and capabilities, 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.”

Strategic Plan. This note provides a summary of the results of that review, as considered by the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention, at its second meeting, in July 2007 (Section II), and presented to the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in May 2008 (UNEP/CBD/COP/9/14/Rev.1 and UNEP/CBD/COP/9/4).

4. This series of regional workshops on capacity development for NBSAPs is intended to contribute to the review process. Section III of the note provides information on the status and implementation of NBSAPs in the Arab States of the Middle East and North Africa region, as a basis for further work during the workshop (see section IV below).

5. Since considering the issue of national biodiversity strategies and action plans at its second meeting, the Conference of the Parties has issued guidance on the preparation and implementation of such strategies and plans and endorsed third-party guidelines developed to assist countries to fulfil their obligations under Article 6 of the Convention. The second meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention, held in July 2007, prepared consolidated and updated guidance (see UNEP/CBD/NBSAP/MENA/1/3). The ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, held in May 2008 in Bonn, adopted this guidance in Decision IX/8 (paragraph 8).

## **II. IN-DEPTH REVIEW OF THE STATUS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NBSAPS: A GLOBAL OVERVIEW**

6. As noted above, at its eighth meeting, the Conference of the Parties decided to consider, at its ninth meeting, the in-depth review of goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan (decision VIII/8). It requested the Working Group on Review of Implementation (WGRI) to prepare for the in-depth review by focusing in particular on the following elements:

- (a) The status of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and their updating;
- (b) The extent to which biodiversity concerns have been effectively mainstreamed in accordance with Article 6(b) of the Convention;
- (c) The implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs); and
- (d) The provision of financial resources, capacity development, access to and transfer of technology and technology cooperation.

7. The relevant goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan are:

***Goal 2: Parties have improved financial, human, scientific, technical, and technological capacity to implement the Convention.***

*Objective 2.1:* All Parties have adequate capacity for implementation of priority actions in national biodiversity strategies and action plans

*Objective 2.2:* Developing country Parties, in particular the least developed and the small island developing States amongst them, and other Parties with economies in transition, have sufficient resources available to implement the three objectives of the Convention

*Objective 2.5:* Technical and scientific cooperation is making a significant contribution to building capacity

***Goal 3: National biodiversity strategies and action plans and the integration of biodiversity concerns into relevant sectors serve as an effective framework for the implementation of the objectives of the Convention.***

*Objective 3.1:* Every Party has effective national strategies, plans and programmes in place to provide a national framework for implementing the three objectives of the Convention

*Objective 3.3:* Biodiversity concerns are being integrated into relevant national sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies

*Objective 3.4:* The priorities in national biodiversity strategies and action plans are being actively implemented, as a means to achieve national implementation of the Convention, and as a significant contribution towards the global biodiversity agenda.

8. In line with decision VIII/8, the Executive Secretary synthesized and analysed information in NBSAPs, the 127 third national reports submitted by Parties by April 2007, <sup>2/</sup> and other information submitted by Parties in response to the invitation in decision VIII/8 to provide updates on the status of NBSAPs, obstacles to implementation, national reviews of implementation and the availability of resources. The Secretariat also consulted relevant academic studies and reports prepared by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and its implementing agencies. The latter includes evaluations of GEF support for enabling activities, National Capacity Self-Assessment reports and analyses of environment-related issues included in poverty reduction strategies and strategies for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

9. The following provides a summary of the main conclusions of the review, focusing on implementation of NBSAPs and the availability of financial resources<sup>3/</sup>. It reproduces the conclusions of the second meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention (July 2007) presented to the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (May 2008). Data in sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) have been updated to 7 July 2008.

(a) From information provided to the Secretariat from Parties, 160 Parties (84% of the total) have finalized their NBSAPs or equivalent instruments. Twenty Parties have informed the secretariat that they are preparing their NBSAP. Ten Parties have not prepared an NBSAP or initiated the process to do so, or have not informed the Secretariat that they have done so;

(b) Twenty Parties have revised NBSAPs, and fourteen 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;

(c) Stakeholder consultations have been a major part of NBSAP preparation. However, the range of stakeholders involved is often not adequate to ensure effective ownership of NBSAPs or to ensure mainstreaming of biodiversity beyond the environment community;

---

<sup>2/</sup> Third national reports had been received by 142 Parties by 7 July 2008.

<sup>3/</sup> The full results of the Secretariat's analysis is provided in the following documents:

- Implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Plan (UNEP/CBD/COP/9/14/Rev.1)
- Report of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention on the work of its second meeting (UNEP/CBD/COP/9/4)
- Status of implementation of goals 2 and 3 of the strategic plan focusing on implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and availability of financial resources: an overview (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/2)
- Synthesis and analysis of obstacles to implementation of NBSAPs, lessons learned from the review, effectiveness of policy instruments and strategic priorities for action (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/2/Add.1)
- Updated synthesis of information contained in third national reports (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/INF/1)
- NBSAPs: a meta-analysis of earlier reviews (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/INF/9)
- Review of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, biodiversity mainstreaming and implementation of the Convention: a bibliography (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/INF/10).

(d) While most NBSAPs include goals and targets, few are quantitative and few respond directly to the 2010 biodiversity target or other targets established under the Convention. In part, this results from the fact that most NBSAPs pre-date the establishment of the targets by the Convention on Biological Diversity;

(e) Similarly, reference to the Ecosystem Approach is absent from most NBSAPs, and most do not include reference to all of the relevant programmes of work and thematic issues under the Convention;

(f) Most NBSAPs include action plans. However, frequently, these tend to be focused on projects rather than on the fundamental issues that need to be addressed to achieve the objectives of the Convention. Few specify domestic funding sources;

(g) Effective communication programmes are lacking from many NBSAPs;

(h) Most countries report efforts to mainstream biodiversity into sectoral and cross-sectoral policies, plans and programmes. This is probably more effective with some sectors (e.g., forestry, tourism) than others. Mainstreaming of biodiversity into national development and poverty reduction strategies and broader planning processes appears to be generally weak;

(i) Most countries have identified priorities for implementation of their NBSAPs, but few of them have indicated in their national reports whether and to what extent they have been implemented. Some countries may have comprehensive reports on implementation but these are not systematically available to the Secretariat;

(j) Parties report that the most widespread constraints to implementation of the Convention are “lack of financial, human and technical resources” and “lack of economic incentive measures”. Articles 7, 12, 8(h) and 8(a-e) are reported to be the provisions most constrained by lack of resources;

(k) While nearly all countries indicate that they provide some financial support or incentives to national activities that are intended to achieve the objectives of the Convention, budget cuts are a serious problem in some countries. There are many examples of private contributions and resources generated from revenue measures, but the resources are generally small at national or international levels;

(l) Several countries have begun to introduce innovative financial mechanisms such as payments for ecosystem services, but, generally speaking, they have not yet borne fruit in generating sustainable financing. About one third of the reporting countries have adopted tax exemption status for biodiversity-related donations;

(m) Most countries do not have a process to monitor financial support in their countries, and only one-fifth of reporting countries have conducted a review of how their national budgets (including official development assistance) support of national biodiversity activities;

(n) According to data from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), about US\$ 9 billion dollars of biodiversity-related donor assistance have been provided for the period 1998–2005. No clear long-term trends in bilateral assistance can be discerned;

(o) While some positive outcomes are reported for specific activities, in general, technology transfer and cooperation under the Convention appears to have been very limited;

(p) Important progress has been made with respect to the exchange of information and scientific and technical cooperation in general. However, the overall role of the clearing-house mechanism in supporting such cooperation needs to be further elaborated. About one-half of the Parties have developed a national clearing-house mechanism.

10. In their third national report, Parties were asked to indicate the relative importance of various obstacles <sup>4/</sup> to implementation of the provisions of the Convention and the thematic programmes of work, by ranking them as “high-level”, “medium-level”, or “low-level” challenges. Taking all reporting Parties together, the following ten challenges were ranked as “high” or “medium-level” by more than 70% of Parties for the implementation of Article 6:

- Lack of financial, human, technical resources (84%);
- Lack of economic incentive measures (82%);
- Loss of biodiversity and the corresponding goods and services it provides not properly understood and documented (76%);
- Lack of public education and awareness at all levels (75%)
- Lack of effective partnerships (74%);
- Lack of horizontal cooperation among stakeholders (73%);
- Unsustainable production and consumption patterns (72%);
- Lack of mainstreaming and integration of biodiversity issues into other sectors (71%);
- Inadequate capacity to act, caused by institutional weakness (70%);
- Lack of knowledge and practice of ecosystem-based approaches to management (70%).

### **III. THE STATUS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NBSAPS IN ARAB STATES OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA REGION**

11. Of the 19 Parties invited to participate in this regional workshop, 15 (79%) have completed a national biodiversity strategy and action plan, while 4 Parties (21%) have not yet finalized their NBSAP document (See Table 1) – a completion rate below the global average. Annex I provides a digest of the NBSAPs as featured in the country profiles on the Convention’s website. Two Non-Parties and Palestine have also been invited to participate in this workshop. While some countries have prepared posters on aspects of their NBSAPs, Lebanon is the only Party from the region that has prepared a poster. These posters are available at: <http://www.cbd.int/meetings/wgri-02/poster-session.shtml>

12. From the Middle East and North Africa region, Morocco alone has revised its national biodiversity strategy and action plan to date. However, the Secretariat is aware that Lebanon, Tunisia and Qatar have begun work in this regard.

13. As part of the global analysis, summarized in section II above, Parties were invited to submit information on the status of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, their implementation and updating, and the extent to which biodiversity concerns have been effectively mainstreamed in accordance with Article 6(b) of the Convention on Biological Diversity. From the Arab States of the Middle East and North Africa region, information for this compilation, prepared by the Secretariat for the second meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention (UNEP/CBD/WGRI/2/INF/7), was provided by three countries, namely, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia.

---

<sup>4/</sup> See UNEP/CBD/WGRI/2/2/Add.1 These obstacles correspond generally, but not exactly, to the list appended to the Strategic Plan (decision VI/26).

14. To complement and extend the global analysis, the Secretariat requested each participant to the Workshop, nominated by CBD National Focal Points, to provide further information on their country's NBSAP (See UNEP/CBD/NBSAP/CBW-MENA/1/Add.1).

#### **IV. ACTIVITIES TO BE UNDERTAKEN DURING THE WORKSHOP**

15. As noted in the annotated agenda (UNEP/CBD/NBSAP/CBW-MENA/1/Add.1), participants will be invited to discuss national experiences and lessons learned in the development and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, focusing on:

- (a) Status of NBSAPs or similar strategies and programmes;
- (b) Major Features of NBSAPs;
- (c) Priority actions identified for implementing NBSAPs;
- (d) Mechanisms identified for implementing NBSAPs;
- (e) Obstacles encountered in the implementation of NBSAPs; and,
- (f) Reviews undertaken of the implementation of NBSAPs and assessment of the effectiveness of the strategy;

**Table 1: Status of NBSAPS and national reports in Arab States**

Country/Territory	NBSAP (year of adoption)  *year of completion indicated where year of adoption is unknown or unclear	National reports		
		1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>
<b>Algeria</b>	Yes (2005) * year of adoption unclear	Yes	No	Yes
<b>Bahrain</b>	Yes (2007) *SCBD was informed in January 2008 that final NBSAP draft had been submitted to government for adoption in December 2007, however, SCBD has not to date received a copy of this document or confirmation of its adoption.	Yes	No	No
<b>Comoros</b>	Yes (2001)	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Djibouti</b>	Yes (2000)	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Egypt</b>	Yes (1998)	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Iraq</b>	Non-Party			
<b>Jordan</b>	Yes (2001)	Yes	No	Yes
<b>Kuwait</b>	No *SCBD has not to date received information concerning either preparation or finalization of the NBSAP	No	No	No
<b>Lebanon</b>	Yes (1998) * Informed in June 2006 that NBSAP was under review	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Libya</b>	No *SCBD has not to date received information concerning either preparation or finalization of the NBSAP	No	No	No
<b>Mauritania</b>	Yes (1999) * year of adoption unclear	Yes	No	Yes
<b>Morocco</b>	Yes (2002, 2004) *NBSAP was revised in 2004	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Oman</b>	Yes (2001)	Yes	Yes	No
<b>Palestine</b>				
<b>Qatar</b>	Yes (2004) *Statement to WGRI-2 in July 2007 confirmed that NBSAP revision was in process	Yes	No	Yes
<b>Saudi Arabia</b>	No *SCBD was informed at WGRI-2 in July 2007 that NBSAP in final stages of preparation	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Somalia</b>	Non-Party			
<b>Sudan</b>	Yes (2001)	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Syria</b>	Yes (2002)	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Tunisia</b>	Yes (1998) * SCBD was informed on 30 March 07 that Action Plan was in the process of being updated	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>United Arab Emirates</b>	No *SCBD was informed in July 2007 through the third national report that biodiversity considerations were being integrated into the National Environmental Strategy and Action Plan	No	No	Yes
<b>Yemen</b>	Yes (2005)	Yes	No	No

*Annex I***MAJOR FEATURES OF NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS  
OF ARAB STATES**

This annex provides brief outlines of the major features of national biodiversity strategies and action plans as provided on the Convention's website at <http://www.cbd.int/countries/>. Those entries with a tick mark (✓) have been finalized and approved by Parties on the basis of a draft prepared by the Secretariat. For the remaining countries, the profiles have been prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of information provided in the NBSAP and national reports, but have not been reviewed by the Party concerned.

**Algeria ✓**

Algeria's National Strategy focuses on the conservation and sustainable use of its biological diversity, and it is supported by a comprehensive action plan. Some of the principle objectives adopted are: the development of protected areas; the preservation of biodiversity through the preservation of habitats; and the creation of a National Center for the Development of Natural Resources (Executive decree no 04-198 of July 19, 2004). In order to meet these objectives an action plan was developed, and launched, with the following activities currently in progress: the establishment of a program to fight against the degradation of natural resources; a systematic inventory of all flora and fauna; the creation of a gene bank to conserve the genetic resources of both wild and domestic flora and fauna; the creation of new protected areas and the settlement of pristine natural areas (e.g. Tinerkouk protected area).

**Bahrain**

Although no specific national goals or targets have been developed in Bahrain to address the 2010 target, many measures have been taken that contribute to its achievement. For instance, Al-Areen Wildlife Park and Reserve maintains breeding populations of rare and likely threatened species including mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians. Successful captive breeding and re-introduction programs undertaken by Al-Areen have promoted the recovery of rare antelopes, such as the Arabian sand gazelle. Public awareness programs are implemented on regular basis, and the provisions of promoting the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity have been incorporated into the national educational curricula. Bahrain has recently prepared the National Environment Strategy (NES), which is currently under consideration for adoption by the competent national authorities. The agricultural sector is currently implementing programs to re-use treated wastewater for irrigation purposes in an attempt to overcome the increasing shortage of freshwater. Also, loans are provided to farmers intending to launch programs dedicated to the protection of date palms. There is a lot of pressure to adopt effective measures to minimize adverse stresses imposed by over-fishing. All destructive fishing methods, such as explosions, poisons and polythene nets, are prohibited. Alternatively, the sustainable traditional fishing methods, such as the wire and barrier traps are encouraged and maintained. For instance, only traditional fishing is permitted in the marine environment bordering Hawar Islands Protected Area. To ensure the sustainability of shrimp stock, shrimp harvesting is banned annually during the recruitment period. (Source: First National Report submitted to SCBD in 2006)



### **Comoros**

The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan is broken down into four general strategic objectives, which are then subdivided into specific objectives and programmes. The general objectives are as follows: 1) to be acquainted with and promote knowledge of the national heritage (implementation of an environmental information system and a census and study of the national heritage); 2) To acquire effective legal tools, institutions and public services (development of an operational framework); 3) development of specialists and education and sensitization of the local population; 4) and to manage rationally, the national heritage of Comoros (conservation and evaluation of the national resources, research into alternative solutions to major issues and an active stand against pollution).

### **Djibouti**

According to the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, the principal issues to be addressed include: alleviation of advanced degradation caused by anthropogenic pressures; revision of the urban scheme and an improvement in the management of solid and liquid wastes; motivation and implication of all stakeholders; promotion of new sustainable activities such as ecotourism; decentralization of environmental information which must reach the ensemble of districts and encouragement of sustainable development at the local level.

### **Egypt ✓**

The NBSAP (1998) sets out 6 guiding principles to research, assess and manage biodiversity; to develop national strategies and legal frameworks as supporting measures, and to build and mobilize national capacities and resources to implement and monitor projects. Great attention is given to endangered species. Endangered trees and plants are being replanted, mangroves along the Red sea are being rehabilitated through protection measures, rare bird and turtle habitats are being closely monitored. Special attention is also given to alien invasive species, considered very damaging to biodiversity and the economy, but proper treatment exceeds the country's current capacities. A network of 27 natural protectorates representing the principal ecosystem types with scientific importance, biodiversity richness or threatened species is under development. That way all actors, private and public, and all people are part of the global solution. Two ethical principles guide Egypt's actions: equitable sharing, and responsibility towards future generations.

### **Iraq**

Non-Party

### **Jordan**

Insuring sustainable biodiversity management is an integral part of Jordan's global plan for development. The guiding principles behind the action plan are based on religious values for respect of the natural world, social equity and wealth distribution, respect for pastoral and local cultures, adequate scientific knowledge, and cooperation and benefit sharing among all stakeholders at local, national, regional and international levels. The plan features five major strategic goals: a) in-situ conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, especially forest and agricultural lands, b) adequate use and management by proper institutions of natural resources (water, soil, plant cover), c) maintain or develop incentives and legislation that support the conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable use of biological resources; d) cooperation with other countries and equitable benefit sharing, and e) better understanding of ecosystems for appropriate use. Priority actions include the establishment of: a national Red data list for flora and fauna species at risk; a national botanical garden; green belts to combat desertification; a Fisheries and Marine Life Institution; and a specialized center for plant biodiversity.

### **Kuwait**

Not available due to non-submission of NBSAP and national reports

### **Lebanon ✓**

Lebanon's NBSAP (1998) was updated with an addendum (September 2005) to take into account the thematic work programs and cross cutting issues defined by the CBD and the new obligations resulting from the 2010 challenge including: a timeframe, an estimated budget, required human resources and the expected outcome. The NBSAP is divided into 4 thematic areas: forest and range, fresh water, marine ecosystem, and agrobiodiversity. Measures to achieve these goals include expansion of protected areas, biodiversity studies and updates, sustainable resource use and creation of partnerships with local stakeholders, NGOs and international agencies. More than 30 projects were developed. The NBSAP covers areas such as: stability of the ecosystems, forests and ranges management, conservation of inland water biodiversity, sustainable management and wise use of fresh water resources, conservation of marine and coastal natural resources, in-situ conservation for sustainable development, development of a National Biosafety Framework, and agrobiodiversity. Although noticeable progress has been made in some areas, it is still slow in other areas. For example, there is no specific action plan for known endangered species.

### **Libya**

Not available due to non-submission of NBSAP and national reports

### **Mauritania**

The strategy comprises eight major principles related to: value of biodiversity; sustainable development; in-situ conservation; ex-situ conservation; participation of population; rational management and Ecosystem Approach; indigenous and local knowledge and practices; collaboration between departments and levels of government, and sharing of costs, knowledge and benefits. Furthermore, the document focuses on 17 sectoral themes including conservation, territory planning, biotechnologies and biosafety, and participation of population, NGOs, and the private sector.

### **Morocco ✓**

The strategy comprises five strategic objectives: (1) rational management and sustainable use of biological resources (in-situ and ex-situ conservation, participatory approach, monitoring, restoration, etc.); (2) improved knowledge on biodiversity (scientific research, training, information management, etc.); (3) awareness raising and education (awareness programmes adapted to the general public and students, training for future awareness raisers); (4) legislation and institutions (capacity building, harmonizing Morocco's international engagements with its national legislations, etc.); and (5) international cooperation. Morocco's action plan focuses on terrestrial biodiversity, marine and coastal biodiversity, and wetland biodiversity. In addition, the country has established a great number of indicators to assess Morocco's progress, such as the variation of the degree of forest fragmentation.

### **Oman**

Oman completed and adopted its National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan in 2001. Oman's NBSAP presents a vision for Oman of a society that is conscious of the role and issues related to biodiversity, convinced of its responsibilities towards future generations and determined to use natural resources in a sustainable manner and in harmony with all other living things. In support of this vision, the Strategy incorporates a series of guiding principles that provide a foundation for implementation. The main strategic goals identified in Oman's NBSAP include: safeguarding habitats and productive renewable resources for rational and sustainable exploration; conserving habitats, plant and animal biodiversity, especially of those uncommon and also of special interest; improving the understanding of ecosystems and increasing resource management capability; developing legislation that insures the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources; developing incentives that will promote biodiversity conservation and provide employment for local people; and equitably sharing the benefits of sustainable resources, including genetic resources. The NBSAP proposed a series of priority actions under the following themes: conservation of natural resources, terrestrial and freshwater fauna, marine life and fisheries, terrestrial and aquatic flora, agriculture resources, energy resources, mineral resources, industry, technology and services, urban environment, water resources, public participation, social and spiritual values and quality of life.

### **Qatar ✓**

Qatar's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan was finalized in October 2004. Based on an assessment of the status of biodiversity in the country, Qatar's NBSAP identified a total of 11 strategic goals under the following titles: protected areas, ecotourism sites and facilities, marine and coastal resources, rangelands and desertification, agrobiodiversity and desertification, environmental legislation, scientific research, education and public awareness, invasive alien species and biosafety standards, environmental monitoring and environmental impact assessments, and multilateral environmental agreements. For example, strategic goals regarding protected areas include the expansion of the national system of terrestrial and marine protected areas to protect representative examples of all of the major ecosystems, key biological sites and species of special management concern in Qatar. Concerning marine and coastal resources, the goal is to protect and conserve living resources for the development of a sustainable marine fishing and recreation industry in Qatar. Under each goal, there are some specific actions proposed to achieve it and a set of indicators to monitor progress towards it. Finally, the NBSAP also identified mechanisms for implementing its goals, including partnerships, projects, coordination units, sources of funding, review and reporting processes.

### **Saudi Arabia ✓**

A National Biodiversity Strategy for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was prepared by the National Biodiversity Committee. At this moment this strategy is submitted to the Ministerial Council for consideration and approval. This Strategy is divided into five parts:

Part One introduces the purpose and scope of the National Biodiversity Strategy which is to promote the conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable use of its resources by placing it at the centre of national planning and development. The scope of the Strategy is broad and includes the protection, restoration, sustainable use, equitable sharing, and systematic monitoring of Saudi Arabia's biodiversity. Part one also contains the introduction to the Convention of Biological Diversity.

Part Two looks at Islamic vision and basic principles guiding the conservation of biological and stress the fact that the conservation of the natural environment is an imperative command of Allah. The protection of the natural environment from abuse by man leads to the welfare of man himself together with that of all other beings.

Part Three reviews the status of terrestrial biodiversity with its 2250 species of flora, 76 species of mammals, 444 species of birds, amphibians, reptiles and insects. The status of marine and freshwater biodiversity is also covered. The major threat for each of those sectors is discussed.

Part four contains seventeen strategic goals for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity that include In-situ Conservation both Inside & outside Protected Areas; Ex-situ Conservation; Conserve and Develop Forest and Woodlands, Desert Rangelands, Living Marine Resources, Agricultural Biodiversity, Regulate Access to Genetic Resource and Introduce National Biosafety Standards; Update and Enforce Environmental Legislation; Support Scientific Research; Enhance Environmental Education; Achieve Socio-Economic Development; Encourage Collaborative Management and Promote Cooperation for Biodiversity; Generate Income from Wildlife Resources and Develop Nature Based Tourism

Part Five deals with mechanism for implementing and monitoring the strategy and stress the fact that all the government agencies, non-governmental organizations, scientific institutions and local stakeholders in Saudi Arabia will need to participate. The mechanism for implementing the strategy includes an organizational chart and a description of its components.

After the cabinet approval of the strategy a seventeen sets of proposed action plans will be set in action to serve as a guide for the implementation of the strategic goals. The final detailed working action plans for each stage will need to be individually prepared and implemented by those ministries, organizations or institutions that have been identified in the strategy as well as cross sectoral coordination among all parties concerned.

### **Somalia**

Non-Party

### **Sudan**

The final goal of the action plan is the conservation of the components of Sudan biological diversity, whether plant, animal or microorganism, to enhance the opportunities for their utilization. The intermediate goals are broken down into the following example categories and have several measures/incentives for each one: filling the gaps in scientific knowledge; agricultural biodiversity; forestry provenance research; documentation; property rights; organizational structures; requirements for start-up; Nile water development projects; Sudan environment debt and economic valuation.

### **Syria ✓**

The National Strategy and Action Plan included environmental considerations to decrease all environmental threats in development projects for the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources. One of the important objectives is the protection of all natural sites in forests and other natural ecosystems. The main indicator used to monitor progress is total protected land, and the objective is to increase the percentage of protected areas from the current 1.28% to 10% of the total land area. The action plan is divided in two sections. The short and middle-term (1-5 years) major objectives are: a) scientific studies on the status and trends in biodiversity, and especially of rare and endangered species, and the increase in their numbers; b) the establishment of protected areas representing unique local varieties; c) capacity building; d) the establishment of a national gene bank and a herbarium, especially for endemic species; e) and the identification of causes of biodiversity loss and adequate policy development. The long-term (6-10 years) objectives are: the establishment of a national network of protected areas representing all ecosystems and the establishment of biological agricultural practices for the sustainable use of biodiversity.

### **Tunisia ✓**

Tunisia's National Biodiversity Strategy was completed and adopted in 1998. The general strategic goal of the Tunisian NBSAP is the conservation of its biological diversity. Under this goal a number of objectives have been identified, including the preservation of areas, ecosystems and elements of biological diversity not impacted by human activities; the restoration and rehabilitation of areas, ecosystems and elements of biological diversity being degraded; sustainable use of biodiversity, biological and genetic resources with economic gains; and restoration of equilibrium in the components of biological diversity. In order to achieve these objectives, 6 action programmes were defined whose principle aims are to: develop a system of generation and utilization of knowledge and information on biodiversity; limit genetic erosion; protect ecosystems; adequately manage ecosystems; integrate biodiversity in sectoral strategies; and establish an appropriate institutional and regulatory framework. These aims will be met through the implementation of specific actions for each category, such as:

valuation of biodiversity elements; training for control agents of biodiversity protection; improving sustainable use of biological resources; and implementing a national program for in situ conservation.

### **United Arab Emirates**

It aims at understanding the underlying causes of the country's environmental problems – desertification, salinization, biodiversity loss, and human economical impacts. This strategy will include public awareness campaigns, the establishment of a national strategy to rationalize the use of some resources (water, agricultural and grazing lands), and the development of adequate human institutional and legal resources. More protected areas should be declared and a gene bank for traditional fauna and flora instituted in conservation areas. Five goals can be identified: biodiversity conservation, fragile ecosystems conservation (coral reefs, drylands, rocky beaches, humid areas, special attention to locally and regionally endangered species (sea turtles, vultures, sea birds, invertebrates, whales and sharks), preventing the introduction of alien species, especially in agriculture. A major project, in conjunction with the Environmental Research and Wildlife Development Agency (ERWDA), has launched and aims at providing researchers, government agencies and the public at large with easily accessible high quality spatial environmental data that will ultimately support sustainable decision and policy making in the UAE and beyond.

### **Yemen**

Yemen's NBSAP was developed by following five principles, namely equity, solidarity and share responsibility, ecological soundness, know-how and eco-technology and Islamic values. On the basis of a detailed situation analysis of biodiversity in Yemen, Yemen's NBSAP identified four strategic goals, including conservation of natural resources, sustainable use of natural resources, integrating biodiversity in sectoral development plans and implementation of enabling mechanisms. The action plan identified seven major actions to achieve these goals. They are (1) Establishment and development of a comprehensive national integrated protected areas system; (2) Development and implementation of an integrated coastal zone management plan; (3) Development and implementation of specific policies, legislation and regulations on biodiversity issues; (4) Implementing essential measures for the conservation of agro-biodiversity; (5) Reviving traditional and indigenous knowledge in natural resources management systems; (6) Enhancing national biodiversity education and awareness program; and (7) Developing and implementing regulations and guidelines for biosafety.

-----