



## Convention on Biological Diversity

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### CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOP FOR SOUTH AMERICA ON NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS AND MAINSTREAMING OF BIODIVERSITY

Rio Branco, Acre, Brazil  
31 March - 4 April 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, 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 – and that

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<sup>1</sup> Article 6 of the Convention in full 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.”

progress towards goal 3 is also poor. Noting 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 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).

4. This series of regional workshops on capacity-building 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 South America, as a basis for further work during the workshop (See Section IV).

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/CBW-SAM/1/3).

## **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 status of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and their updating;
- the extent to which biodiversity concerns have been effectively mainstreamed in accordance with Article 6(b) of the Convention;
- the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs);
- and the provision of financial resources, capacity-building, 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, held in July 2007, with data updated to 24 December 2007:

- (a) From information provided to the Secretariat from Parties, 157 Parties (83% of the total) have finalized their NBSAPs or equivalent instruments. Nineteen Parties have informed the secretariat that they are preparing their NBSAP. Fourteen 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) Thirteen 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;
- (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;

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<sup>2</sup> Third national reports had been received by 135 Parties by 24 December 2007.

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

- 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)

- (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 national biodiversity activities;
- (n) According to data from the Organisation for Economic Cooperation 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 need 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 SOUTH AMERICA**

11. Of the 10 Parties invited to participate in this regional workshop, 9 (90%) have completed national biodiversity strategies and action plans (See Table 1) – a completion rate somewhat above the global average. Annex I provides a digest of the NBSAPs as featured in the Country Profiles on the Convention’s website. Some Parties have prepared posters on aspects of their NBSAPs (as of 24 December 2007, these include Brazil, and Colombia). These are available at: <http://www.cbd.int/meetings/wgri-02/poster-session.shtml>

12. None of the Parties in the region have revised their NBSAP although one has indicated that revisions are in progress. Only one Party has not completed their NBSAP, however, has indicated that preparation is under way.

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 South American region only Brazil provided information, which was included in the 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).

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-SAM/1/1/Add.1, Annex III).

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<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).

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

15. As noted in the annotated agenda UNEP/CBD/NBSAP/CBW-SAM/1/1/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 South America**

Country	NBSAP (year of adoption)	National reports		
		1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>
<b>Argentina</b>	Yes (still awaiting adoption)	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Bolivia</b>	Yes (2001)	Yes	No	No
<b>Brazil</b>	Yes (2002); Currently being revised	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Chile</b>	Yes (2003)	Yes	No	Yes
<b>Colombia</b>	No, currently under development.	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Ecuador</b>	Yes (2001)	Yes	No	No
<b>Paraguay</b>	Yes (2003)	No	Yes	No
<b>Peru</b>	Yes (2001)	Yes	Yes	No
<b>Uruguay</b>	Yes (1999)	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Venezuela</b>	Yes (2001)	Yes	No	No

## ANNEX I

### MAJOR FEATURES OF NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS OF SOUTH AMERICA

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. Those entries marked with an \* indicate that the NBSAP is available in Spanish.

#### **Argentina \* ✓**

The general goals of Argentina's National Biodiversity and Action Plan are to: guarantee the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources; reduce adverse effects of production activities on biological diversity; and the equitable sharing of benefits derived from the appropriate use of genetic resources. The NBSAP lays out, according to the themes of the 2010 Biodiversity Target, different objectives and actions for each thematic area. These themes include: sustainable use of biodiversity, restoration of degraded lands, bio-regional planning and use of land, protected areas and education, communication and capacity-building. The actions identified in the NBSAP should serve to strengthen: the integration of biodiversity-related issues in the sectoral plans and programs that lead to the national development and increase in life quality; understanding of functions of genes, species and ecosystems; access to information related to biodiversity by different sectors of society; the process of moving towards models of use and consumption that are compatible with the maintaining of essential ecological processes, while trying to avoid a reduction in the natural capital of Argentina; the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits derived from the use of genetic resources; and the conservation of the cultural heritage of Argentina.

#### **Bolivia \***

The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan was designed with 5 areas of intervention: conservation of ecosystems, species and genetic resources of important cultural, ecological and economic value; attraction of investments in products and environmental services of biodiversity; strengthening of national capacity for management of biodiversity; and education, sensitization and social control for the management of biodiversity. These 5 areas integrate the priority themes identified in the national counsel such as institutional capacity, financial resources and species and ecosystem restoration, and include more than 22 programs and 125 work projects.

#### **Brazil** **(available in Portuguese)**

Upon signing the Convention on Biological Diversity, Brazil committed to actions that promote the conservation, sustainable use and the equitable sharing of benefits of the country's biodiversity. The Ministry of Environment then created the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action plan, whose main objective is the implementation of these commitments through the definition of strategies, programs and actions. This program began in 1998 and the main objectives are: development and publication of strategic studies; elaboration of the National Biodiversity Policy; creation and implementation of the Biodiversity Information Network; elaboration of the National Report for the CBD; proposal for the



implementation of the National Biodiversity Policy; and the strengthening of regional cooperation concerning biodiversity issues.

### **Chile \* ✓**

Chile's national biodiversity strategy includes three distinct target dates. Short-term measures (by 2006) provide for the protection of 50% of priority areas identified in the Regional Strategies on Biodiversity with a view to ensuring the protection of at least 10% of the areas of each ecosystem. Medium-term measures (by 2010) aim at the effective and official protection of 100% of priority areas, including a management plan for conservation and a responsible institution. Long-term measures aim at having the national network of marine and terrestrial protected areas effective by 2015, including the institutional framework and management plans. The plan of action of the national strategy includes measures on conservation; species conservation and genetic resources; promotion of sustainable practices; measures for comprehensive management; strengthening of institutional coordination; and public participation.

### **Colombia \* ✓**

The National Biodiversity Policy looks to manage biodiversity resources considering them as a key element for the present and future sustainable development of Colombia. Biological diversity is made up of tangible components such as molecules, genes and species populations and communities, grasping entire ecosystems and landscape scenarios. It also includes non-tangible components such as associated knowledge, innovations and practices of traditional and non-traditional origin. Biodiversity encompasses a dynamic nature in time and space that demands the conservation of its components as well as its evolutionary processes. The benefits derived from the use of its resources must be distributed in a fair and equitable manner through agreements that involve the active participation of all communities affected by such, considering that it is fundamental on account of the environmental services comprised in its resources.

### **Ecuador \***

The 2020 vision of Ecuador's National Strategy is: that Ecuador conserve and sustainably use its biodiversity, which is expressed in a better quality of life for its population, in the optimal use of its associated economic, social, cultural and environmental resources, and in the equitable distribution of the costs and benefits, derived from the use and conservation of biodiversity resources, among Ecuadorian society. To develop this vision the National Strategy and Action Plan proposes 4 main strategic axes, along with management measure, priority areas and actions. The 4 strategic axes are: consolidate and strengthen the sustainability of production activities based on native biodiversity; ensure the existence, integrity and functionality of all biodiversity components (ecosystems, species and genes); balance pressures from conservation and sustainable use on biodiversity; and guarantee the respect and exercise of individual and collective rights to participate in decisions relating to access and control of resources, and ensure that the benefits from the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, as well as the knowledge, innovations and practices of the indigenous communities and local populations are justly and equitably distributed.

**Paraguay \***

The mission of the national strategy is to support the formulation, implementation and evaluation of the plans, programs and projects for the study, conservation and sustainable management of the country's biodiversity, based on actions coordinated by the different actors (government, civil society, indigenous communities, private sector, educational institutions) and with consideration to the respect of traditional knowledge. There are 19 general strategic objectives, which are: development of energy resources; in situ and ex situ conservation of natural resources; threatened species conservation; taxonomy and species conservation; development of wild resources; sustainable forest management; development of agricultural resources; development of an information system; development of ecotourism; biotechnology and biosafety; urban and rural development; policies on atmospheric and aquatic resources; sustainable management of territories under the National Defense Ministry and Military Forces as well as those of indigenous communities; education, training and circulation of biodiversity information; studies of country's biodiversity and its value; improvement of legal framework and institutional structure; and promotion of public and community participation in biodiversity related issues. Each of these strategic objectives are then examined in detail, looking at past trends, current status, objectives to be obtained in the next 5 years, activities to be implemented, indicators to be used and finally, expected results.

**Peru \***

The vision of the strategy is that by 2021, Peru will be the first country in the world to have the best benefits for its population from its conserved and sustainably used biodiversity, as well as having restored all its biodiversity components in order to meet the basic needs and well-being for present and future generations. The overall objective of the NBSAP is the conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components, fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their use, adequate access to those resources, appropriate transfer of pertinent technologies, taking into account the rights to those resources and technologies, as well as appropriate financing. There are 8 specific strategy lines, which have specific objectives and actions defined for each one. These are: the conservation of biodiversity in Peru; integrating sustainable use of biodiversity into the management of natural resources; establishing special measures for the conservation and restoration of biodiversity faced with external processes; promoting participation and engagement from the Peruvian society in the conservation of biodiversity; improving knowledge of biodiversity; perfecting the instruments needed for management of biodiversity; enhancing Peru's image at the international level; and implementing immediate actions.

**Uruguay \* ✓**

The National Biodiversity Strategy (NBS) provides a general framework for the conservation and sustainable use of Uruguay's biodiversity. It includes an assessment of current status and problems regarding: in situ and ex situ conservation; impact assessment; research and training; exchange of information; access to genetic resources; public education and awareness; integration of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into development programs/plans/policies; and incentive measures. For each of these themes, the NBS provides policy guidelines and sets out priority actions to reach specific objectives. Since its publication in 1999, several policy changes and actions have been implemented, including the passing of the General Law of the Environment (which includes important articles regarding biodiversity and biosafety), the Law that created the National Protected Area System, and the preparation of a biodiversity strategy focusing on coastal and marine ecosystems (2005). Currently, the Ministry of Housing, Territorial Planning and Environment (MVOTMA), as Operative Focal Point of the CBD in Uruguay, are working to update the NBS and to develop and implement an action plan to reach the objectives of the CBD at the national level.

**Venezuela \***

The main objectives of the National Strategy and Plan of Action are the sustainable use of the country's biodiversity as well as its protection and acquaintance, in order to fulfill its conservation. Fifteen strategy lines were defined, addressing knowledge, valuation and dissemination of biodiversity; the promotion of biodiversity conservation either in situ or ex situ; society participation, in general, in every aspect related to biodiversity; the incorporation of subjects related to biodiversity in education processes and programs; participation of local and indigenous communities in the management of biodiversity; minimization and prevention of negative impacts caused by man on biodiversity; to promote Biosecurity, Bioethics, Biotechnology and its transfer; incorporation of marine-coastal biological resources in biodiversity sustainable use plans; strengthening regional and sub-regional policies for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity; strengthening institutions and legal framework for biodiversity management; and studies of global climate change and its relationship to biodiversity. For each of these strategy lines objectives were specified as well as the actions to be taken to meet the objectives and the bioregions to which this is all targeted.

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