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REGIONAL CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOP FOR WESTERN AFRICA, COMOROS, AND DJIBOUTI ON NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS AND MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY

Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, 29 September to 3 October 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 ^{1/} 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

* UNEP/CBD/NBSAP/CBW-WAFR/1/1.

^{1/} 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.”

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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 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-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 West Africa, 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/WAFR/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-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, ^{2/} 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^{3/}. 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;

^{2/} Third national reports had been received by 142 Parties by 7 July 2008.

^{3/} 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/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 ^{4/} 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 WEST AFRICA

11. Of the 18 Parties invited to participate in this regional workshop, all (100%) have completed a national biodiversity strategy, while 17 (94%) have completed both a national biodiversity strategy and action plan (See Table 1) – a completion rate considerably above the global average. Annex I provides a digest of the NBSAPs as featured in the country profiles on the Convention’s website. While some countries have prepared posters on aspects of their NBSAPs, none of these countries are from the West African region. These posters are available at: <http://www.cbd.int/meetings/wgri-02/poster-session.shtml>

12. No Party in the region has revised its national biodiversity strategy and action plan.

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. No country from the region provided 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).

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

IV. ACTIVITIES TO BE UNDERTAKEN DURING THE WORKSHOP

15. As noted in the annotated agenda (UNEP/CBD/NBSAP/CBW-WAFR/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:

^{4/} 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).

- (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 Western Africa, Comoros and Djibouti

Country	NBSAP (year of adoption) * year of completion indicated where year of adoption is unknown	National reports		
		1 st	2 nd	3 rd
Benin	Yes (2002)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Burkina Faso	Yes (1999)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cape Verde	Yes (1999) * In spite of requests, SCBD has not yet received a copy of the NBSAP	Yes	No	Yes
Comoros	Yes (2001)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Côte d'Ivoire	Yes (2002)	No	No	Yes
Djibouti	Yes (2001)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Gambia	Yes (1999)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ghana	Yes (2002) * Strategy only; Action Plan under development	No	Yes	Yes
Guinea	Yes (2001) WGRI-2 statement confirms that steps are being taken to update NBSAP however more funds are necessary	No	No	Yes
Guinea-Bissau	Yes (2006)	No	Yes	Yes
Liberia	Yes (2003)	No	No	Yes
Mali	Yes (2001)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mauritania	Yes (1999)	Yes	No	Yes
Niger	Yes (2000)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Nigeria	Yes (2006)	Yes	No	No
Senegal	Yes (1998)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sierra Leone	Yes (2003)	Yes	No	No
Togo	Yes (2003)	Yes	No	Yes

*Annex I***ANNEX I: MAJOR FEATURES OF NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS IN WESTERN AFRICA, COMOROS AND DJIBOUTI**

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.

Benin

The main strategic points of the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan are: reinforcement of the framework of intervening authorities in the management of biological diversity; the promotion of research; the promotion of values and pertinent indigenous knowledge; development of cooperation at the national, regional, as well as international level and the evaluation of genetic resources. The strategic points are reinforced with the following specific objectives: restoration of natural biological resources to a level higher than the needs of the public and that will allow for a significant contribution to economic development; from now until 2015, to modernize agricultural practices in an ecologically acceptable way; to take into consideration biological diversity in any actions concerning social and economic development and in education; to increase the value of biological diversity and genetic resources, by participating in chances for just and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources; and to create a viable framework for the cooperation, follow-up, co-ordination and orientation of all national activities dealing with the management of Biological diversity.

Burkina Faso

The global objective of the NBSAP is to ensure that populations manage biodiversity in a sustainable manner by 2025. The document emphasizes the need to motivate the population to preserve species and restore habitats, and to manage natural resources in a dynamic and sustainable manner. In addition, specific objectives have been established, such as: increasing agricultural, pastoral and timber production; protecting and restoring renewable natural resources; ensuring that the population's needs are fulfilled (ex. energy); and improving the quality of the environment. The objective of the action plan is to implement, in the pre-determined five-year period, realistic actions for the preservation and sustainable use of biodiversity by involving populations and giving them a sense of responsibility in regard to these issues.

Cape Verde ✓

An important objective of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan is to undertake a preliminary assessment of the state of conservation of all vegetable species. The White Book on the State of the Environment in Cape Verde (2004) and the National Environmental Profile currently provide information on the conservation of vegetable species. Also, project frameworks for marine and coastal protected areas and terrestrial protected areas will assess the state of floral conservation. At present, this protected areas network comprises 47 protected areas, totalling 64.237,75 hectares or 15,93% of the country's surface. The elaboration of management plans for protected areas, the ratification of the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES), and the adoption of Law Decree No. 7/2002 on the protection of flora and fauna, have contributed to the establishment of measures to protect and conserve vegetable and animal species threatened by extinction. The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and the National Plan of Action to Combat Desertification (PAN-LCD) include work programmes on dry and subhumid lands and emphasize cooperation and coordination of activities in regard to their implementation.

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).

Côte d'Ivoire ✓

Côte d'Ivoire's global vision for biodiversity conservation and the sustainable use of its components can be stated as follows: "By 2025, the country's biological diversity is managed in a sustainable manner, in relation to ecosystem balance, improved quality of life and heritage preservation for current populations and future generations, while taking into consideration subregional dynamics and regional and global dimensions."

Global objectives for this vision are in agreement with the goals of the Convention on Biological Diversity, namely, in situ and ex situ conservation of biological diversity; the sustainable use and valorization of the components of biological diversity, in relation to ecosystem balance and improved quality of life for the country's population; and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from genetic resources. Specific objectives include: the preservation of in situ terrestrial biodiversity in areas of high density within protected areas; development of an ex situ conservation system for components of biological diversity that are threatened, vulnerable or contain genetic resources necessary for the development of agriculture and livestock breeding; management system for biological resources to preserve ecosystems and resources indispensable to the needs of populations; awareness-raising within civil society on the importance of biodiversity conservation, resulting in daily conservation practices and collective attitudes compatible with the sustainable use of biodiversity; assigning responsibility to local populations for the implementation of biodiversity conservation measures, and associating them with the products generated from the components of biodiversity they have helped conserve.

Strategic directions and actions to achieve these specific goals were defined at a workshop that discussed four overarching themes, in relation to the national situation, a vision for the year 2005 and the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity. On this basis, directions for each theme were agreed upon that include: (1) Conservation of Biological Diversity (rehabilitation and conservation of biological diversity through in situ conservation; rehabilitation and conservation of biological diversity through ex situ conservation); (2) Use and Valorization of Biological Diversity (adequate valorization of biological diversity; promotion of the sustainable use of biological resources); (3) Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Derived from Biological Resources (adequate mobilization of benefits derived from biological resources; awareness-raising on the value of biological resources among populations; application of regulatory measures for issues related to the sharing of benefits derived from biological diversity); (4) Improved Legislative and Institutional Framework (development of a coherent legislative framework for biodiversity protection; relevance of international conventions to national realities; strengthening of a coordination framework to operationalize institutions in charge of managing biological diversity; awareness-raising and engagement of populations with regard to national biodiversity policy implementation).

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.

Gambia ✓

The Gambia has identified a wide variety of principles and targets, including sector specific goals. To achieve the long-term goals (that aim to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss and ensure the protection and sustainable use of its components), several specific operational objectives have been established in relation to: in-situ and ex-situ conservation; assessment and monitoring; alien species; scientific and technical capacity; public awareness; cooperation; legal, policy and administrative measures; local knowledge and practices; and synergies between related Conventions and Treaties.

Ghana ✓

The long-term goal of the country's strategy is to achieve the conservation and sustainable management of the country's biological diversity. This must be achieved throughout the whole country and within all representative ecological zones. Several key issues that require action have been identified and separated into several categories. The first is the creation and strengthening of the management of protected area systems. This includes initiatives like: the creation and rehabilitation of permanent protected forests, the creation of Globally Significant Biodiversity Areas (GSBAs), the implementation of Important Bird Areas (IBAs) which uses birds as indicators of habitat quality, and the establishment of biodiversity corridors. The second key issue is the creation and strengthening of management of ex-situ conservation systems. Thirdly, are the incentive measures and sanctions for the conservation and sustainable utilization of biological diversity, including economic and social incentive measures and sanctions.

Guinea

Guinea's general vision emphasizes the need for public awareness of the value of biodiversity and commitment to its preservation in order to protect the well being of future generations. The strategy concentrates on four principal objectives: (1) the conservation of biodiversity (identification of its components, reduction of the pressures on biodiversity, in-situ and ex-situ conservation, monitoring system); (2) the sustainable use of biodiversity (sustainable sectoral practices, biotechnology and biosafety); (3) the measures for conservation and sustainable use (reinforcement of policies, development of legal instruments, collaboration between stakeholders, motivation system, integration of biodiversity in development planning, research, human and institutional capacity building, education and public awareness, integration of biodiversity concerns into environmental impact assessment, creation of a national coordination mechanism between biodiversity related conventions, financial support mechanism); and (4) international cooperation (reinforcement of sub-regional, regional and international cooperation). The action plan is an ambitious document comprising many well detailed projects in relation to terrestrial ecosystems, inland water ecosystems, marine and coastal ecosystems, promotion of biodiversity (its value), and institutional and legal frameworks.

Guinea-Bissau ✓

Following the three main objectives of the Convention, Guinea-Bissau developed the following objectives for their NBSAP: to respect and implement, at the national level, all signed and ratified international conventions; support and encourage the programmes/projects related to the conservation of biological diversity; adoption of policies/decisions for the clear, efficient and fair allocation and use of biodiversity resources; adoption of political strategies, programs and actions for cooperation among the principle users of biodiversity resources; development of preventative actions against the degradation of biodiversity, such as the adoption of environmental impact assessments; prioritize in situ conservation which is adapted to the socio-economic situation of the country; and to develop the knowledge of biological resources in order to improve management practices. These objectives are given specific actions in different domains such as institutional, jurisdictional, educational, technical, research, and collaboration with other stakeholders.

Liberia

The various goals and related activities comprised in the NBSAP focus on issues, such as: protecting critical ecosystems; creating biodiversity awareness among sectors of the society; promoting international cooperation; committing to sustainable use to bring about socio-economic development; promoting equitable sharing of benefits; and contributing to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Mali

In addition to Mali's general goal and principles, the NBSAP contains numerous objectives, which relate to: the improvement of knowledge; the conservation of resources; the promotion of sustainable development, ecotourism, and fair sharing of benefits; and biotechnology and biosafety. The NBSAP also comprises an implementation strategy based on strategic axis and general measures, such as strengthening institutional and legislative frameworks, and raising awareness. Furthermore, the action plan centers around five specific programmes of work: strengthening of protected areas; sustainable management of biological resources; capacity building; promotion of traditional practices and knowledge; and preservation of local crop varieties as well as domestic breeds.

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.

Niger ✓

The strategic objectives focus on: a specific framework for biodiversity related sectors; the multisectoral integration of biodiversity programmes; technical models of integrated management; and further research and adequate use of results. The strategy covers 16 priority themes, such as wild fauna, energy, agriculture, territory planning, water management, community participation, traditional knowledge and spiritual values, and environmental emergencies. In addition, the action plan focuses on 7 projects related to: alternatives to conventional energy sources; conservation of genetic resources; sustainable use of ecosystems; monitoring of the constitutive biodiversity elements; capacity building and institutional support; biotechnologies and biosafety; and information, education and dissemination of biodiversity information.

Nigeria

In recognizing that the most serious threat to biodiversity conservation is poverty, the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan pursues a programme for the sustainable use of biodiversity through addressing the fundamental problems associated with poverty. The action plan promotes a decentralized approach and the engagement of local populations for natural resource management. Unplanned urban development and oil industry operations have also been identified as major threats to the sustainable use of the components of biological diversity. To address this biodiversity/industry interface, the establishment of the private sector driven “Bio-resources Industry Organization of Nigeria (BIN), was initiated to engage the private sector and civil society in monitoring biodiversity use for the production of consumer goods. The NBSAP states that an inter-ministerial panel or Biodiversity Institute was to be established. The role that the media can perform in biodiversity information management has also been acknowledged. In spite of this attention, biodiversity conservation has not yet been recognized as a feasible investment in national economic development. Consequently, biodiversity valuation has not been fully integrated into national economic planning.

Senegal

The strategy comprises four major objectives, which are (1) the conservation of biodiversity in high density sites, (2) the integration of the conservation of biodiversity in programmes and activities related to production, (3) the fair sharing of roles, responsibilities and benefits in regard to biodiversity management, and (4) the education and awareness raising of all stakeholders concerning the importance of biodiversity and the need to conserve its components. Furthermore, the NBSAP lists 9 types of priority biodiversity sites, the first priority being national parks and reserves, followed by the marine and coastal ecosystems, and the inland water ecosystems. Other priority sites include mangroves and many types of forests, notably sacred forests and woods. Profound causes of loss of biodiversity are also listed, such as bush fires and habitat fragmentation, as well as the lack of cooperation in the management of park border areas, and lack of knowledge regarding the status of reserves. Actions to be implemented are derived from those lists.

Sierra Leone

The vision of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan is to seek conservation measures that provide a solid framework for the sustainable exploitation of Sierra Leone's biological diversity for the benefit of present and future generations. The achievement of this vision will hinge upon the participation of a well-informed civil population through the implementation of the following objectives by 2025: establish and properly manage all protected areas; maintain essential ecosystem services and biological resources to sustain the growing population dependent on the use of biodiversity; create jobs through the conservation and sustainable utilization of biodiversity; create a fair redistribution of benefits and opportunities arising from the conservation and sustainable utilization of biodiversity; develop human capacity and provide a conducive environment for the participation of communities in the conservation of biodiversity; rehabilitate all mined and degraded areas; prevent the introduction and spread of harmful alien and genetically modified organisms; improve the general understanding of biodiversity through research, public education and awareness; and participate in and promote the sustainable utilization and conservation of biodiversity at the international level.

Togo ✓

In 1987, a ministry was created charged with the protection of the environment and the management of its natural resources. This political will was supported by: the adoption of Law No 88-14 on 3 November 1988 instituting the Environmental Code; the ratification of numerous conventions, treaties and international accords relating to environmental and natural resources management; the adoption of the National Environmental Policy in December 1998; and the National Environmental Action Plan on 4 July 2001.

The national policy for environmental issues focuses on the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment. This policy dedicates the principle of sustainable use of the country's resources in order to meet the ends of solidarity and equality between present and future generations. It counsels for the integration of environmental aspects into strategies, programmes and projects of all national developmental sectors.

The strategic orientations of this policy are:

- Reinforcement of capacities for environmental management,
- Promotion of the national ecological conscience by encouraging a more complete understanding of environmental issues and the development of favorable attitudes towards the environment,
- To take into account environmental issues in developmental planning and management,
- Promotion of the healthy and sustainable development of natural resources and the environment,
- The re-enforcement of sub-regional and international cooperation for concerted management of environmental problems.

These transversal strategic orientations aim specifically the integration of environmental issues in all activity sectors. The Action Plan for the Conservation of Biological Diversity constitutes the operational translation of the National Strategy. This action plan was not formed in isolation of other environmental actions expressed in the National Action Programme for the Environment and the National Programme for Environmental Management. In fact, mutual re-enforcement and synergies are searched for within the implementation different action areas. Beyond the clear link with the National Programme for Environmental Management, the biodiversity action plan targets 4 areas: in situ conservation; ex situ conservation; the viability of conservation efforts; and the sustainable and equitable valuation of biodiversity.
