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REVIEW OF PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR BIODIVERSITY 2011-2020, INCLUDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL TARGETS AND THE UPDATING OF NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS

*Note by the Executive Secretary***

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 is an ambitious plan developed with the purpose of inspiring broad-based action in support of biodiversity over the next decade by all countries and stakeholders. As part of the Strategic Plan, Parties have committed themselves to establishing their own national targets using the Strategic Plan and its Aichi Targets, as a flexible framework. They have also committed to develop, update or revise, as appropriate, their national biodiversity strategies and actions plans in line with the Strategic Plan.

2. In its decision X/2 the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to prepare an analysis/synthesis of national, regional and other actions, including targets as appropriate, established in accordance with the Strategic Plan, to enable the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention at its fourth meeting and the Conference of Parties at its eleventh and subsequent meetings to assess the contribution of such national and regional targets towards the global targets. In line with this decision, the Executive Secretary has prepared the present note drawing on, among other things, the national biodiversity strategies and actions plans developed by Parties, information gathered through the Regional and Sub-Regional Capacity-building Workshops for implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/4/INF/2), the outcomes of the Global Workshop on National Experiences in Implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/4/INF/14) as well as the fourth national reports.

* UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/4/1.

** This document was reviewed by the COP Bureau at its meeting on 5 April 2012. Following the guidance provided by the COP Bureau, the ADVANCE COPY posted earlier was revised and re-posted for consideration of the Working Group on Review of Implementation at its fourth meeting.

*** Reposted to include minor editorial changes in paragraphs 8 and 27 as well as paragraph 2 of the suggested recommendations.

3. In paragraph 15 of decision X/2, the Conference of the Parties decided to consider at its eleventh meeting the need for and possible development of additional mechanisms to enable Parties to meet their commitments under the Convention and the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. A notification has been issued by the Executive Secretary inviting views from the Parties on this subject. The views submitted will be compiled for consideration by the Conference of the Parties.

4. Section II of this document contains an assessment of progress in the development and updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, while section III presents information on national target setting and section IV provides information on progress towards some of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Section V contains draft recommendations for consideration by the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention.

II. PROGRESS IN DEVELOPING AND UPDATING NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS

5. Article 6 of the Convention on Biological Diversity states that each Contracting Party shall, in accordance with its particular conditions and capabilities, develop national strategies, plans or programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity or adapt for this purpose existing strategies, plans or programmes which shall reflect, *inter alia*, the measures set out in the Convention relevant to the Contracting Party concerned. Further in decision X/2 the Conference of the Parties urged Parties to review, update and revise, as appropriate, their national biodiversity strategies and action plans in line with the Strategic Plan. In addition, Aichi Biodiversity Target 17 calls for Parties to develop, adopt as a policy instrument, and commence implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan by 2015. Further guidance on developing, implementing and revising national and, where appropriate, regional, biodiversity strategies and action plans, and equivalent instruments is provided in decision IX/8.

6. As of February 2012, 173 Parties had developed national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) while 12 Parties had them under development. In other words, an overwhelming majority of Governments have been through the process of formalizing their approach to protecting biodiversity. Of the 173 countries that have prepared national biodiversity strategies and action plans, 38 have revised them since they were first adopted and 13 have them under revision. Nine Parties (Belarus, the European Union, France, Ireland, Italy, Serbia, Spain, The United Kingdom, and Venezuela) have developed or revised their national biodiversity strategies and action plans since the adoption of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. Further, one Party (Australia) adopted a national biodiversity and action plan that was developed in light of the preliminary framework of the Plan. The following preliminary assessment considers the above ten national biodiversity strategies and action plans according to the issues identified in decision IX/8 by the Conference of the Parties as being important to their development:

(a) *Meeting the three objectives of the Convention:*

- (i) Recent national biodiversity strategies and action plans generally address conservation and sustainable use in a balanced manner. However access and benefit-sharing is addressed to a lesser extent. This is likely attributable to the fact that the Nagoya Protocol is not yet in force;
- (ii) All of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans examined identify threats to biodiversity. Most refer to the five main global threats (habitat loss, climate change, invasive alien species, overexploitation and pollution). In addition, a few Parties identify threats specific to their national biodiversity as well as threats resulting from the activities of specific economic sectors;

- (iii) Most recent national biodiversity strategies and action plans highlight that biodiversity is important for human wellbeing with this importance being noted in several of their vision and mission statements. Further, several of the reports also refer to biodiversity as being the “natural capital” on which societal and economic well-being depends. Most of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans also note the intrinsic values of biodiversity. Only a few of the recently developed national biodiversity strategies and action plans explicitly refer to the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development;

(b) ***Components of national biodiversity strategies and action plans:***

- (i) Most recent national biodiversity strategies and action plans do not refer to the ecosystem approach. Two exceptions to this are Ireland, which notes that the objective of their national biodiversity and action plan is to be in line with the ecosystem approach as far as possible and Australia, which notes that the application of a whole ecosystem approach will contribute to the implementation of its plan;
- (ii) Most of the recently developed national biodiversity strategies and action plans are action oriented with actions being linked to national targets and/or other strategic elements of national plans. Similarly some Parties have identified clear priorities for implementation in their national biodiversity strategies and action plans. In other cases, a small number of actions or objectives have been identified, suggesting that a prioritization process has been taken even if explicit priorities are not identified. In a few cases there appears to be little prioritization as the plans contain a long list of actions to be taken with little indication as to what actions are particularly important to implement;
- (iii) Many of the recently developed national biodiversity strategies and action plans contain similar elements to the Strategic Plan, such as vision and mission statements, as well as objectives and targets. However few national biodiversity strategies and action plans are explicitly linked to specific elements of the Strategic Plan;
- (iv) Most recent national biodiversity strategies and action plans either contained clearly identified targets or contained elements which could serve as targets even if they were not identified as such. Some Parties have also mapped their targets to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and several of the national targets which have been developed are relevant to multiple Aichi Biodiversity Targets. However only a few Parties have targets which are measurable and time bound. (Further information on national target setting is contained in sections III and IV below);

(c) ***Support mechanisms:***

- (i) Most of the recent national biodiversity strategies and action plans address the issue of mainstreaming generally by noting the need to involve organizations, stakeholders and different levels of government in biodiversity issues. However, few of the NBSAP provide concrete information on how this mainstreaming will be accomplished. While some of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans do contain provisions related to the integration of biodiversity issues into other sectors, this issue is not addressed in great detail;
- (ii) There is relatively little information on funding strategies for the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans. However several Parties note

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that resources will be required and have identified possible sources of funding from within their own government. Further none of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans which have been developed refers to a specific communication strategy for their national biodiversity strategy and action plan. However most Parties note that effective communication will be important to the implementation of their national biodiversity strategies and action plans;

- (iii) Australia has established a target related to the participation of indigenous peoples and has incorporated this issue into one of their strategy's priorities of action. Most other national biodiversity strategies and action plans developed to be in line with Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 do not refer to the involvement of indigenous peoples and local communities or to traditional knowledge. Similarly almost none explicitly refer to gender;

(d) **Monitoring and review:** Most Parties have made provisions for assessing progress in the implementation of their national biodiversity strategies and action plans. One Party noted plans for developing a monitoring committee for its strategy and action plan as well as a national biodiversity observatory. Other Parties indicated that periodic monitoring will be carried out by existing organizations. Several Parties have identified indicators or indicator processes which could assist with monitoring progress in the implementation of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

7. Overall the recent national biodiversity strategies and action plans have been developed in line with guidance provided in decision IX/8. However there have been relatively few specific, measurable, ambitious, realistic and time-bound, ("SMART") targets established to date and the treatment of the ecosystem approach has been limited.

8. A series of regional and subregional capacity-building workshops for implementing the Strategic Plan have been organized by the Secretariat to assist countries in establishing national targets in the framework of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and in revising and updating national biodiversity strategies and action plans, supported by Japan through the Japan Biodiversity Fund and other donors.¹ Information gathered from these workshops make it clear that while only a few countries have completed the process of revising their NBSAP since the adoption of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, most countries are taking action in this regard. Of the 156 Parties that participated in these workshops, almost one quarter (22 per cent) indicated that they have revisions of their nbsaps¹ under way. Further, about 65 per cent of participants indicated that they are at various stages of planning for their revisions, such as in the process of developing terms of reference, assessing their previous plans and/or identifying stakeholders. The remaining Parties have either completed their revision (almost 4 per cent), are not planning on revising their national biodiversity strategy and action plan (3 per cent) or did not provide any information on this issue during the workshops (7 per cent). It is important to bear in mind that, as the timing of the workshops differed, this information may require updating.

9. Other information on progress in updating national biodiversity strategies and action plans from the workshops include:²

(a) **Africa.** Almost all Parties have indicated that they plan to update their national biodiversity strategies in line with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and to adopt targets based on the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. While several Parties have initiated action to start the updating

¹ Further information is provided in documents UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/4/3, UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/4/INF/3 and UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/4/INF/4.

² The summaries provided in this note are organized by the regions in which workshops have been held. Further information on the series of regional and subregional capacity-building workshops for implementing the Strategic Plan is available in document UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/4/INF/2 and from <https://www.cbd.int/nbsap/workshops2.shtml>.

process many have yet to start. Similarly there has been relatively little action to mainstream biodiversity considerations into national development and planning processes. However many Parties note that the development or revision of national poverty reduction strategies and similar frameworks offer an opportunity to mainstream biodiversity issues across government and sectors;

(b) *Asia:*

- (i) Almost all Parties indicated their intent to revise their national biodiversity strategies and action plans. Most Parties indicated that they had already initiated the revision process or had otherwise developed a plan to do so. Several Parties noted that they intended to form advisory groups or similar consultative bodies to facilitate the process;
- (ii) With regard to national target-setting, about half of those Parties providing information indicated that they intended to develop targets but at a later stage, such as once their national biodiversity strategies and action plans have been developed. The remaining Parties indicated that they have ongoing work related to target setting or are in the process of reviewing their existing targets. One Party noted that it intended to have targets ready for the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
- (iii) Most Parties indicated that the integration of their national biodiversity strategies and action plans would need to wait until other development and sectoral planning processes are reviewed. A few Parties indicated that the integration was already under way while a few were considering how this integration could best be accomplished;

(c) *Latin America and the Caribbean:*

- (i) Almost all countries have started revising their national biodiversity strategies and action plans. This is often being done with stakeholder participating or other public consultations. Some Parties have also formed advisory boards to assist with the process. Some Parties are evaluating their existing national biodiversity strategies and action plans before deciding on their next course of action, while a few others are in the process of actively revising them. Two countries have completed revising their national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- (ii) Most Parties have also started to consider the process of national target setting. In some cases, this is being done in conjunction with the processes for revising the national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and frequently with stakeholder participation. Some Parties have also begun prioritizing the Aichi Biodiversity Targets they wish to address;
- (iii) With regard to the integration of national biodiversity strategies and action plans into other national planning process, about half of the Parties participating in the workshops have begun to consider how this could be accomplished. The other Parties note that this integration will be challenging as the timing for other national planning and budgetary processes do not align with the period of the national biodiversity strategy and action plan. However, many Parties note that the revision of other national planning processes offer opportunities to incorporate the national biodiversity strategies and action plans within them.

(d) ***Europe:***

- (i) Most Parties have indicated that they will revise their national biodiversity strategies and action plans or have already started the revision process. A few Parties indicated that they did not intend to revise their national biodiversity strategy and action plan as it is already in line with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Several Parties have already finished their revision process;
- (ii) Most Parties are considering how to best develop targets. Some Parties are also examining their existing targets or undertaking analyses of them. One Party indicate that it does not intend to develop any new targets;
- (iii) With regard to mainstreaming biodiversity into planning processes, most Parties indicated that this was already being done, to varying degrees, under existing legislation;

(e) ***North Africa and the Middle East.*** Most Parties have indicated their intent to revise their national biodiversity strategies and action plans with several Parties noting that the process of revision will begin in 2012 or later. Similarly most Parties have indicated their intent to set national targets in line with their national priorities;

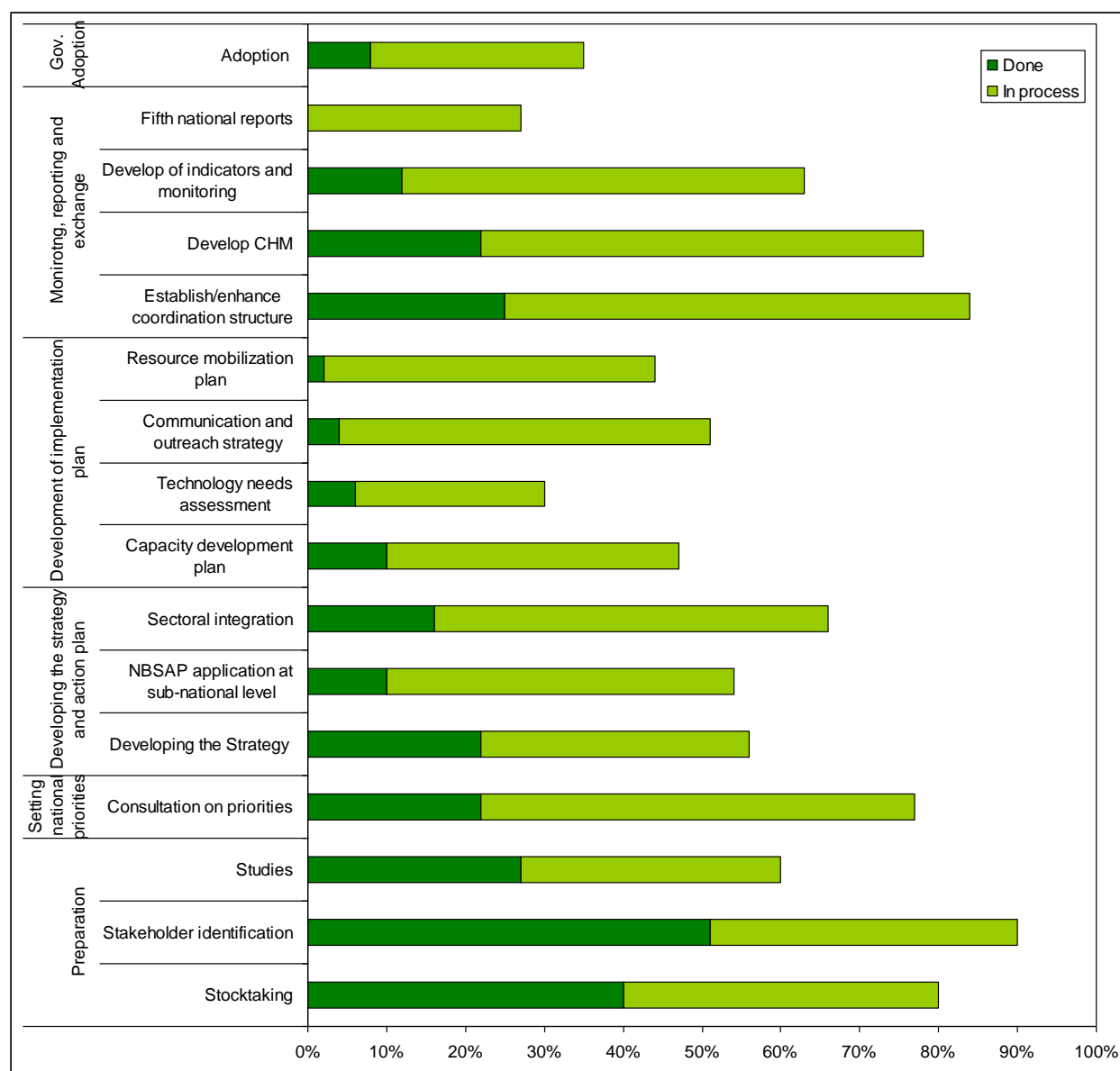
(f) ***Pacific.*** Most Parties have indicated their intent to revise their national biodiversity strategies and action plans and a few Parties have started reviewing their existing strategies and action plans for this purpose. One Party has already developed a revised strategy and action plan, which will be reviewed in 2015. Several Parties have also indicated their intent to consider the issue of national targets as they revise their national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

10. The report of the Global Workshop on National Experiences in Implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, held in Brasilia from 12 to 14 March 2012 (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/4/INF/14), provides further information which can be used to assess progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan. During the course of the workshop, Parties were invited to report on the progress they had made in relation to different parts of the NBSAP process. In total, 51 Parties provided information and the results are illustrated in the figure below. The results from this workshop indicate that most Parties have either completed or initiated work on the first stages of the process of updating and revising the national biodiversity strategies and action plans (preparation, setting national priorities and targets, developing the strategy and action plan) while relatively few parties have completed or initiated work on the later stages of the process (development of implementation plans, institutional monitoring, reporting and exchange, adoption by the Government).

11. There has also been progress in accessing funds for the revision of national biodiversity strategies and actions plans. Historically, during the first four replenishment periods of the Global Environment Facility, a total of around US\$ 60 million has been provided to support preparation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, clearing-house mechanism activities and national reports in some 150 countries. As part of the fifth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (GEF-5), which runs from mid-2010 until mid 2014, 145 countries are eligible to receive funding to integrate their obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity into national planning processes through enabling activities. These funds are additional to the resources provided through the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR) mechanism. To date, around 120 countries are in the process of accessing funds. As of 23 March 2012, 82 of the 145 GEF-eligible countries have had their proposals approved, totalling \$18.9 million. One GEF-eligible country has decided not to use GEF resources for the revision process, and thus 57 per cent of GEF-eligible countries have received financial support to revise their national biodiversity strategies and action plans. Forty-three Parties are currently working with the

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and 72 Parties are working with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as GEF Implementing Agencies for this purpose. A further five Parties are accessing funds directly from the GEF secretariat. Following approval, Parties have to develop and endorse operational project documents with the GEF Agency before funds can be released and significant time-lag is observed before national agencies receive the funds. In January 2012, the GEF secretariat contacted GEF Operational Focal Points of the remaining countries that had not yet contacted the GEF secretariat, UNDP or UNEP regarding the revision of their national biodiversity strategies and action plans and continues to follow up to ensure proposals are submitted.

Figure. *Progress made in relation to different parts of the NBSAP process, as reported by a total of 51 Parties attending the Global Workshop on National Experiences in Implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (Brasilia, 12-14 March 2012)*



III. NATIONAL TARGET-SETTING

12. In decision X/2, the Conference of the Parties urged Parties and other Governments to develop national and regional targets, using the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi

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Biodiversity Targets as a flexible framework, in accordance with national priorities and capacities and the status and trends of biological diversity in the country, and the resources provided through the strategy for resource mobilization while also bearing in mind national contributions to the achievement of the global targets. Setting national targets is important as it can inspire programmes for change, provide a focus for concerted action, allow for progress to be measured, establish accountability, and to communicate the status and trends of biodiversity.

13. Based on the information gathered during the course of the regional and subregional capacity-building workshops, of the 158 Parties that participated in the workshops, about 52 per cent indicated that they intended to set targets and about 42 per cent of Parties did not provide information on this issue. Only about 4 per cent of Parties indicated that they did not intend to set any targets.

14. Of the Parties which have revised their national biodiversity strategies and action plans to be in line with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, several include elements that constitute “SMART” targets.³ For example:

(a) The United Kingdom has set an outcome of: “By the end of 2016 in excess of 25% of English waters will be contained in a well-managed marine protected area network that helps deliver ecological coherence by conserving representative marine habitats”;

(b) Ireland has established a target of: “Fish stock levels maintained or restored to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield, where possible no later than 2015”;

(c) The European Union has established a target of: “By 2020, ecosystems and their services are maintained and enhanced by establishing green infrastructure and restoring at least 15% of degraded ecosystems”;

(d) Australia has developed a target of: “By 2015, achieve a 25% increase in the number of Australians and public and private organizations who participate in biodiversity conservation activities”;

(e) Belarus has noted that an expected result of its strategy is: “To restore at least 15 per cent of degraded or transformed ecosystems”.

15. Many of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans finalized prior to the adoption of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 contain targets and other elements which are nonetheless in line with it. These existing targets should not be forgotten as they can be starting points for additional national targets and/or be repositioned in light of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Examples of targets which have already been developed include:

(a) Central African Republic - By 2015, extend the protected areas network to 15 per cent of the national territory, in accordance with the National Environmental Action Plan and the National Strategy for Biodiversity Conservation;

(b) Costa Rica - By 2014, Costa Rica has identified and mapped: (i) the impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services that are potentially derived from adaptation measures and proposed or adopted mitigation measures to combat climate change and extreme weather events; and (ii) the necessary management measures for protected areas;

³ For further information, see the information note on progress towards achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/4/INF/1).

(c) Federated States of Micronesia - By 2020, at least 20 per cent of the nation's coral reefs are protected as "no-take" reserves;

(d) Germany - By 2020 the natural carbon-dioxide storage capacity of terrestrial habitats has been increased by 10%; and

(e) Grenada - The Government made a public pronouncement to effectively protect 25 per cent of its terrestrial and near shore coastal areas by 2020.

16. Further information on established national targets is available in the information note on national biodiversity for 2010 and beyond 2010, prepared for the third meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/3/INF/7).

IV. PROGRESS TOWARDS THE AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS

17. Progress towards the fulfilment of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets can be assessed in terms of commitments made by Parties as well as by the amount of progress which has been made in reaching the targets. A preliminary analysis of progress suggests that relatively little has changed since the Aichi Biodiversity Targets were adopted.⁴ While a number of Parties have made commitments in relation to the targets, there has been insufficient time to assess progress on the ground. With this in mind, the following sections provide a preliminary update on progress towards those targets where there have been significant changes or actions taken since the targets were adopted. It is anticipated that more complete information will be available at the time of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Target 2: By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.

18. Currently, there is no estimate of the number of countries that have integrated the values of biodiversity into development and poverty-reduction strategies or into national accounting. Recent national biodiversity strategies and action plans make reference to specific activities and to specific economic sectors where biodiversity mainstreaming needs to occur. However, relatively little information is available on the progress made in integrating biodiversity and ecosystems into day-to-day decision-making and planning processes, including the integration into pertinent decision-making support tools, and reporting systems such as national accounting. There are a number of ongoing initiatives which are contributing to this target. For example the study on The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) has helped to draw attention to the need for integrating biodiversity consideration into development and poverty-reduction strategies and national accounting systems. As a result, a number of countries have initiated national level TEEB type assessments, including Brazil, the Republic of Korea, India, Norway and the European Union, while the United Kingdom has completed a national environment assessment which assessed the economic and societal benefits provided by the country's natural environment. Further, as part of its twelfth development plan (2011-2015), China has made biodiversity and ecological conservation one of its priorities. At the global level the Wealth Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services (WAVES) partnership led by the World Bank is promoting sustainable development through application of comprehensive wealth accounting and the integration of green accounting into conventional development planning analysis. Further information on progress towards this target as well as Targets 3 and 4 is available in the note by the Executive Secretary on incentive measures prepared for the sixteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/15).

⁴ Information on each of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets can be found in UNEP/CBD/COP/10/27/Add1.

Target 3: By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio economic conditions.

19. Progress on addressing harmful incentives is mixed. Some Parties have committed to analysing public policies with a view to identify perverse incentives as well as options for their elimination, phase out, or reform and others have already undertaken such analyses, either comprehensively or for certain sectors. However, reported success in actually eliminating, phasing out or reforming harmful incentives is limited. There appears to be notably more progress in promoting positive incentive measures, with a broad range of incentive programmes already implemented in various sectors, including payments for ecosystem services; tax exemptions or tax deductibility schemes; support in commercialization and market development, including certification, and subsidized insurance for specific economic activities, for instance organic farming; and biodiversity banks.

Target 4: By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.

20. Bringing the use of natural resources within safe ecological limits is an integral part of the Vision of the Strategic Plan. While sustainable use does not account for a large share of total products and production areas there has been some progress for some components of biodiversity such as forests and some fisheries. Currently, many individuals, businesses and countries are making efforts to ensure that their resource consumption and production is as sustainable as possible. Activities include the provision of guidance and professional advice on how to improve resource efficiency, support for life-cycle analysis, testing consumer products, advancing fair trade, and the development of guidance and manuals for green procurement.

Target 5: By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.

21. Habitat loss, including degradation and fragmentation, is the most important cause of biodiversity loss globally. Natural habitats in most parts of the world continue to decline in extent and integrity, although there has been significant progress to reduce this trend in some regions and habitats. There are a number of ongoing initiatives that could be further built upon to help reach this target, including the signing, by ministers of 68 Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity during the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, of the WWF call to stop net deforestation by 2020, and REDD+ mechanisms. One example of a target which will contribute to this target is Brazil. In line with its 2010 target, Brazil reduced Amazon deforestation by more than 74 per cent between 2003-2004 and 2008-2009. Under the Brazilian national climate change plan, the country set a further target of reducing Amazon deforestation by 30 per cent every four years, compared to the previous period, until 2017; this was subsequently extended to 2020, when the rate is projected to fall to 80 per cent below the 1996-2005 average. The ultimate goal is to reach zero illegal deforestation in the medium and long term.

Target 11: By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.

22. Well governed and effectively managed protected areas are a proven method for safeguarding both habitats and populations of species and for delivering important ecosystem services. Currently, some 13 per cent of the world's terrestrial area is protected. Regionally, according to 2011 data from the World

Database on Protected Areas, 20.4 per cent of Latin America, more than 15 per cent of Eastern and Western Asia, 11.8 per cent of Sub-Saharan Africa, 4.9 per cent of Oceania and 4 per cent of Northern Africa are protected. As of 2011, 42 countries have set aside more than 17 per cent of their territories under protected areas and about 65 countries have 5-15 per cent of their territories under protection. Furthermore, 33 per cent of terrestrial ecoregions (273 out of 823) have more than 17 per cent of their area designated as protected areas. Similarly five out of the 14 terrestrial biomes (tundra, flooded grasslands and savannas, tropical and sub-tropical moist broadleaf forests, mangroves and montane grasslands and shrublands) have more than 17 per cent of their area under protection.

23. With regard to the marine environment some 4 per cent of areas under national jurisdiction are protected. Further while 7.2 per cent of world's territorial waters are protected, only 3.5% of exclusive economic zones are protected and very little of the open oceans (areas beyond national jurisdiction) are protected. As of 2011, thirty countries had more than 10 per cent of their territorial waters are under protection. A further 26 countries had between 3 and 10 per cent of their territorial waters protected.

24. Current protected area networks have gaps. These gaps include many sites of high biodiversity value such as Alliance for Zero Extinction sites and Important Bird Areas. Particular emphasis is needed to protect critical ecosystems. Under-represented ecosystems typically include coastal areas, oases, cave systems, karsts, grasslands, rivers and river canyons, marshes, tropical coral reefs, sea-grass beds, deepwater cold coral reefs, seamounts, tropical forests, peat lands, freshwater ecosystems and coastal wetlands.

25. More than 40 countries have completed a comprehensive ecological gap analysis as required under Convention's programme of work on protected areas and are in the process of implementing the results, including by establishing new protected areas and/or extending existing protected areas. In about 20 countries, attempts are under way to undertake comprehensive gap analyses. In some developed countries (Australia, Finland, Canada, and Germany) and in some developing countries (Brazil, Bhutan, Costa Rica) the protected area network is near comprehensive and ecologically representative, covering major biomes (forests, pastures, deserts, grasslands, mountains, and wetlands) and includes public, private and community protected areas.

26. Management effectiveness also remains an important issue. A 2010 global assessment of protected area management effectiveness found that 13 per cent of assessed protected areas had management that was "clearly inadequate" and 62 per cent had management that was basic.

27. Given the current progress in protected areas, it is likely that the target of at least 17 per cent of terrestrial areas protected will be achieved by 2020. However reaching the other elements of this target will require an increased focus on representivity and management effectiveness and major efforts to expand marine protected areas. Further information on progress towards this target is contained in the information note on review of progress on the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/4/INF/5).

Target 15: By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.

28. Deforestation, wetland drainage and other types of habitat change and degradation lead to the emission of carbon dioxide, methane and other greenhouse gases. However, in many countries, degraded landscapes represent immense opportunity for both biodiversity restoration and carbon sequestration. One initiative which will make significant progress towards the attainment of this target is the Bonn Challenge. The Challenge is a global effort to restore 150 million hectares of degraded and deforested lands by 2020. Further a number of Parties have established ecosystem restoration targets of around 15% per cent, and a number of Parties, such as Costa Rica, are already undertaking restoration activities which will contribute to this target.

Target 16: By 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.

29. The third objective of the Convention provides for “the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources”. At its tenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization. The entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol will provide greater legal certainty and transparency for both providers and users of genetic resources. Given that this Protocol is an international regime the initial target is for its ratification and entry into force by 2015. The Nagoya Protocol will enter in force 90 days after the fiftieth instrument of ratification is received. To date there have been 92 signatories to the Protocol and two Parties have ratified it.

Target 17: By 2015, each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan.

30. National biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) are the key instrument for translating the Convention and decisions of the Conference of the Parties into national action. For this reason it will be essential that Parties have developed, adopted and commenced implementing as a policy instrument an updated NBSAP which is in line with the goals and targets set out in this Strategic Plan by 2015. While 173 Parties have developed NBSAPS only 10 (Australia, Belarus, the European Union France, Ireland, Italy, Serbia, Spain, the United Kingdom, and Venezuela) have revised them following the adoption Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. However it is clear from the Regional and Sub-Regional Capacity-building Workshops for implementing the Strategic Plan that most countries have started the process of revising their national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

Target 20: By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.

31. Most countries indicate in their fourth national reports that limited capacity, both financial and human, is a major obstacle to the implementation of the Convention. The capacity which currently exists in countries needs to be safeguarded and increased from current levels, in line with the process laid out in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, in order to enable countries to meet the challenges of implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. The Conference of the Parties adopted a resource mobilization strategy during the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to assist Parties in enhancing international financial flows and domestic funding for biological diversity (decision IX/11). During the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, Parties also decided to adopt targets for resource mobilization at its eleventh meeting, provided that robust baselines have been identified and endorsed and that an effective reporting framework has been adopted (decision X/3). In the same decision a set of indicators for monitoring the implementation of the strategy for resource mobilization was agreed and sets out the steps in a process to be carried out prior to the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, making use of these indicators. In line with this, the Executive Secretary has prepared methodological guidance on the indicators and a preliminary reporting framework for use by Parties and Parties have been invited to submit relevant information by the 1 July 2012. In addition, informal workshops and consultative processes are being held to promote awareness, capacity and mutual understanding among Parties and stakeholders on the challenges of scaling up finance for biodiversity and on the development of country-specific resource mobilization strategies as part of the process of updating national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

V. SUGGESTED RECOMMENDATIONS

32. The Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention at its fourth meeting may wish to adopt a recommendation along the following lines:

The Ad Hoc Open-ended Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention

1. *Takes note* of the limited progress which has been made in implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020;
2. *Notes* the importance of setting specific, measurable, ambitious, realistic and time bound national targets as a means of implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 at the national level;
3. *Recalling* decision X/2, *urges* those Parties that have not yet done so to develop, revise or update, as appropriate, their national biodiversity strategies and action plans in line with the Strategic Plan and to set national and regional targets, using the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets as a flexible framework and in accordance with national priorities and capacities while also bearing in mind national contributions to the achievement of the global targets;
4. *Also urges* Parties and other Governments, with the support of intergovernmental and other organizations, as appropriate, to implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 as a matter of urgency;
5. *Recalling* that the role of the Conference of the Parties is to keep the implementation of the Convention under review, *recommends* that the Conference of the Parties consider an update of this review in light of the information available at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties and issue guidance as appropriate;
6. *Invites* Parties to submit information on their plans for revising and or updating their national biodiversity strategy and action plan and national target setting so that it can be made available to the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to update the information contained in this document and to make it available for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting;
8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to compile the submissions for strengthening and/or developing additional mechanisms to enable Parties to meet their commitments under the Convention and prepare possible options for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting.
