



Ref.: SCBD/STTM/DC/ac/81207

21 January 2013

NOTIFICATION

Identification of scientific and technical needs related to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Targets

Dear Madam/Sir,

The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, in decision XI/13, Section B, requested the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) to identify scientific and technical needs related to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and requested the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of the necessary resources, to:

- (a) Prepare information relating to:
 - (i) Scientific and technical needs related to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets;
 - (ii) Existing policy support tools and methodologies developed or used under the Convention and their adequacy, impact and obstacles to their uptake, and identify gaps and needs for further development of such tools and methodologies;
 - (iii) The adequacy of observations, and of data systems, for monitoring the biodiversity attributes addressed in the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, drawing, *inter alia*, upon information in the report of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/15/INF/6) and the report on the adequacy of biodiversity observation systems to support the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/15/INF/8);
 - (iv) Options for assessing the effects of the types of measures taken in accordance with the provisions of the Convention;
- (b) Report on progress on the above matters to a meeting of the Subsidiary Body prior to the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

In line with decision XI/13, I would encourage you to provide any information related to the scientific and technical needs related to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-

To : CBD National Focal Points, SBSTTA Focal Points and relevant organizations



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2020 at your earliest convenience, **but no later than 15 March 2013**, so that it can be compiled and made available to Parties for their further consideration. The annex to this notification contains further information on this issue as well as several guiding questions that you may wish to consider when providing information.

Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias
Executive Secretary

I. INTRODUCTION

1. To effectively respond to the requests by the Conference of the Parties in decision XI/13, the Subsidiary Body will need to have an informed discussion on these issues at the seventeenth meeting of SBSTTA. To facilitate preparation of the consideration of these issues by the Subsidiary Body, the present note has been prepared by the Executive Secretary.
2. The following section contains guiding questions which relate to the different elements of the request from decision XI/13. In providing information to the Secretariat, the following questions can be considered. Please note that any additional relevant information is welcome and that input can be provided in any form. Responses and comments received will be compiled and will form the basis of a discussion paper which will be provided to Parties for further consideration at a later stage.
3. Some information on the issues identified in decision XI/13 has already been compiled by the Executive Secretary. For example, information on ways and means to improve the effectiveness of the Subsidiary Body in light of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and issues, modalities and options for collaboration with the intergovernmental science policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services (IPBES) was made available to the sixteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice as document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/2. With regards to tools used under the Convention and their adequacy, the Annex of document UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/3/Add.2 provides a preliminary list of tools for implementation developed under the Convention and an analysis of their effectiveness. Further, in some cases, information on scientific and technical needs related to biodiversity has already been identified by Parties through, for example, the preparation of the National Reports, National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and/or National Capacity Self-Assessments (NCSAs).

II. QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION

A. Policy support tools and methodologies developed or used under the Convention and their adequacy, impact and obstacles to their uptake, as well as gaps and needs for further development of such tools and methodologies

4. Decision XI/13, in section B, paragraph 1 (a) (ii), requests the Executive Secretary to prepare information relating to existing policy support tools and methodologies developed or used under the Convention and their adequacy, impact and obstacles to their uptake, as well as gaps and needs for the further development of such tools and methodologies.
5. A variety of policy support tools and methodologies have been developed by the Convention, its Parties, and its partners. These tools and methodologies are in addition to the guidance provided through the Convention's various programmes of work. The tools and methodologies can generally be divided into three categories, those which have been explicitly acknowledged by the Conference of the Parties through its decisions, those which have been developed by the Executive Secretary in response to decisions or on his initiative, and those which have been developed by Parties, other governments, or organizations.
6. Below are some guiding questions on this issue that Parties may wish to consider in providing comments or information:
 - How adequate are the policy support tools or methodologies developed or used by the Convention?
 - What has been their applicability and impact at the national level?

- What have been the challenges or obstacles to their use or uptake at the national level?
- Bearing in mind that not all policy support tools and methodologies necessarily need to be developed by the Convention, what other tools developed nationally or by other organizations are relevant?

7. To facilitate responses to these questions, an indicative list of policy support tools and methodologies is contained in Appendix I to this note. Appendix I can be used when providing information related to this issue.

B. Adequacy of observations, and of data systems, for monitoring the biodiversity attributes addressed in the Aichi Biodiversity Targets

8. Decision XI/13, in section B, paragraph 1 (a) (iii) requests the Executive Secretary to prepare information relating to the adequacy of observations, and of data systems, for monitoring the biodiversity attributes addressed in the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, drawing, *inter alia*, upon information in the report of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/15/INF/6) and the report on the adequacy of biodiversity observation systems to support the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/15/INF/8).

9. The report on the adequacy of biodiversity observation systems to support the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/15/INF/8) reviewed the availability of primary observations, the processes through which these are made, and how they can serve to monitor progress towards each of the 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets globally.

10. Below are some guiding questions on this issue that Parties may wish to consider in providing comments or information:

- How adequate are the observations and data systems in your country for reporting on the issues addressed in each of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets?
- What would be needed to improve their adequacy?
- What are the opportunities to make enhancements in the following areas: (i) *in situ* observations, (ii) remote sensing information, (iii) data management, (iv) data analysis and (v) preparation of decision support tools (e.g. indicators)?

C. Scientific and technical needs related to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets

11. Decision XI/13, in section B, paragraph 1 (a) (i), requests the Executive Secretary to prepare information relating to Scientific and technical needs related to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Background information on the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2012 is available at <http://www.cbd.int/sp/>.

12. Below are some guiding questions on this issue that Parties may wish to consider in providing comments or information:

- What tools and guidance have been adopted under the Convention that can support Parties implementing the Strategic Plan? What are the gaps?
- What information and tools are available specifically to aid Parties in establishing national targets and monitoring or assessing progress towards them? What are the gaps?

- What technical and scientific cooperation already exists between Parties for implementing the Strategic Plan? What are the gaps?
- What global initiatives and partnerships are available to support implementation of the Strategic Plan? What are the gaps?
- What capacity building support is provided by the CBD Secretariat and partners for implementing the Strategic Plan? What are the gaps?

13. To facilitate responses to these questions, a list of Aichi Targets and the above categories are represented in a table in Appendix II to this note. Appendix II can be used when providing information related to this issue.

D. Options for assessing the effects of the types of measures taken in accordance with the provisions of the Convention

14. Decision XI/13, section B, in paragraph 1 (a) (iv), requests the Executive Secretary to prepare information relating to options for assessing the effects of the types of measures taken in accordance with the provisions of the Convention. Options for assessing the effects of measures can include voluntary peer reviews, literature reviews, and project evaluations, among other things.

15. What options to assess progress or effects of the measures taken in accordance with the provisions of the Convention are being used at the national level?

Appendix I

Policy support tools and methodologies

This table contains a compilation of the policy support tools which have been developed by the Convention or the Secretariat. This list is indicative only and may not be complete, therefore any additions are welcome. The Aichi Targets which are most relevant to the tools and methodologies are also indicated. Space is provided to indicate the level of national application or use of the tool or methodology as well as its impacts and the challenges or obstacles to its application. Space is also provided at the end of the table to include tools or methodologies developed nationally or by other organizations which may be relevant.

Policy support tools and methodologies	Decision/ Reference	Most relevant Aichi Target(s)	Other relevant Aichi Target(s)	Information related to nation application or use of the policy support tool or methodology		
				<i>Level of application</i>	<i>Impact</i>	<i>Challenges to national application</i>
<i>Strategies</i>						
Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020	X/2					
Global Strategy for Plant Conservation 2011-2020	X/17					
<i>Programmes of work</i>						
Programme of Work on Agricultural Biodiversity	V/5	7, 13	4, 8, 14			
Programme of Work on Dry and Sub-humid Lands	V/23	5, 7, 14	11, 13, 15			
Programme of Work on Forest Biodiversity	VI/22	5, 7	11, 14, 15			
Programme of Work on the Biological Diversity of Inland Water Ecosystems	VII/4	7, 14	8, 11			
Programme of Work on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity	VII/5	6, 10	7, 11			
Programme of Work on Mountain Biodiversity	VII/27	5	11, 12, 14			
Programme of Work on Island Biodiversity	VIII/1	10, 12	5, 9, 11			
Programme of Work for the Global Taxonomy Initiative	VI/8, VIII/3	19	1			
Programme of Work on Protected Areas	VII/28	11	5, 6, 7			
Programme of Work on Technology Transfer and	VII/29	19				

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Cooperation						
Programme of Work on the Implementation of Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity	V/16	18	14			
<i>Tools, guidelines or principles acknowledged in decisions of the Conference of the Parties</i>						
The Tkarihwaï:ri Code of Ethical Conduct to Ensure Respect for the Cultural and Intellectual Heritage of Indigenous and Local Communities.	X/42	18	16, 17			
Guiding Principles for the Prevention, Introduction and Mitigation of Impacts of Alien Species that Threaten Ecosystems, Habitats or Species	VI/23	9	5, 12			
Akwé: Kon Voluntary Guidelines for the Conduct of Cultural, Environmental and Social Impact Assessment regarding Developments Proposed to Take Place on, or which are Likely to Impact on, Sacred Sites and on Lands and Waters Traditionally Occupied or Used by Indigenous and Local Communities	VII/16	18	17			
The Ecosystem Approach	VII/11	All				
Guidelines on Biodiversity and Tourism Development	VII/14	4				
Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity	VII/12	4, 6, 7				
Bonn Guidelines on Access to Genetic Resources and Fair and Equitable sharing of the Benefits Arising out of Their Utilization	VI/24	16				
Voluntary Guidelines on Biodiversity-Inclusive Impact Assessment	VIII/28	2	4			
Proposals for the Design and Implementation of Incentive Measures	VI/15	3	2			

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Proposals for the Application of Ways and Means to Remove or Mitigate Perverse Incentives	VII/18	3	2			
Proposed Voluntary Guidelines to Parties for Review of NBSAPs	VIII/8	17	All			
Options for Preventing and Mitigating the Impact of Some Activities on Selected Seabed Habitats, and Ecological Criteria and Biogeographic Classification System of Marine Areas in Need of Protection	UNEP/CB D/SBSTTA /13/INF/13	6, 10				
Mountain biological diversity: Indicative list of technologies relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of mountain biological diversity and other related thematic areas and cross-cutting themes	UNEP/CB D/SBSTTA /8/7/Add.1	5	7			
Marine Spatial Planning and Voluntary Guidelines for the Consideration of Biodiversity in Environmental Impact Assessments and Strategic Environmental Assessments in Marine and Coastal Areas	UNEP/CB D/SBSTTA /16/7	6, 10	2, 5			
Voluntary Guidelines for the Consideration of Biodiversity in Environmental Impact Assessments and Strategic Environmental Assessments in Marine and Coastal Areas	UNEP/CB D/SBSTTA /16/7/Add. 1	6, 10	5			
Advice on the Application of Relevant REDD+ Safeguards for Biodiversity, and on Possible Indicators and Potential Mechanisms to Assess Impacts of REDD+ Measures on Biodiversity	UNEP/CB D/SBSTTA /16/8	15	5			
Guidance on ways to conserve, sustainably use and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services while contributing to climate change mitigation	X/33, para 8 (a) to (z)	10, 15	11, 14			

Policy support tools and methodologies	Decision/ Reference	Most relevant Aichi Target(s)	Other relevant Aichi Target(s)	Information related to nation application or use of the policy support tool or methodology		
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and adaptation						
<i>Developed by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity</i>						
Training Manual for the Description of Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAS) in Open-Ocean Waters and Deep-Sea Habitats	UNEP/CB D/SBSTTA /16/INF/9	6	10			
GSPC Toolkit		12				
Ecosystem Approach Sourcebook		14				
CBD Technical Series 6: Sustainable management of non-timber forest resources		4, 7				
CBD Technical Series 9: Facilitating conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity		5, 7	4			
CBD Technical Series 10: Interlinkages between biological diversity and climate change		10, 15				
CBD Technical Series 12: Solutions for sustainable mariculture - Avoiding the adverse effects of mariculture on biological diversity		6	10			
CBD Technical Series 13: Technical advice on the establishment and management of a national system of marine and coastal protected areas		11	6, 10			
CBD Technical Series 14: Integrated marine and coastal area management (IMCAM) approaches for implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity		6, 10	8			
CBD Technical Series 15: Biodiversity Issues for Consideration in the Planning, Establishment and Management of Protected Area Sites and Networks		11	2			
CBD Technical Series 22: Guidelines for the Rapid Ecological Assessment of Biodiversity in		10, 14	8			

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Inland Water, Coastal and Marine Areas						
CBD Technical Series 26: Voluntary Guidelines on Biodiversity-Inclusive Impact Assessment		2	4			
CBD Technical Series 27: Valuing wetlands - Guidance for valuing the benefits derived from wetland ecosystem services (published as Ramsar Technical Report # 3)		2	5, 8			
CBD Technical Series 24: Closing the Gap: Creating ecologically representative protected area systems		11				
CBD Technical Series 26: Guidance for Promoting Synergy Among Activities Addressing Biological Diversity, Desertification, Land Degradation and Climate Change		5, 10, 15	14			
CBD Technical Series 28: An Exploration of Tools and Methodologies for Valuation of Biodiversity and Biodiversity Resources and Functions		2	1			
CBD Technical Series 30: Guide to the Global Taxonomy Initiative		19				
CBD Technical Series 32: Sourcebook on Remote Sensing and Biodiversity Indicators		19				
CBD Technical Series 35: Implementation of the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas: Progress and Perspectives		11				
CBD Technical Series 36: Protected Areas in Today's World: Their Values and Benefits for the Welfare of the Planet		11				
CBD Technical Series 37: Synthesis and Review of the Best Available Scientific Studies on Priority Areas for Biodiversity Conservation in		11	6, 10			

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Marine Areas beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction						
CBD Technical Series 39: Cross-Sectoral Toolkit for the Conservation And Sustainable Management of Forest Biodiversity		4	5, 14, 15			
CBD Technical Series 44: Making protected areas relevant : a guide to integrating protected areas into wider landscapes, seascapes and sectoral plans and strategies		11				
CBD Technical Series 48: Pets, Aquarium, and Terrarium Species: Best Practices for Addressing Risks to Biodiversity		9				
CBD Technical Series 49: Guidelines for Mainstreaming Gender into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans		17				
CBD Technical Series 53: Biodiversity Indicators & the 2010 Biodiversity Target: Outputs, experiences and lessons learnt from the 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership		19	All			
CBD Technical Series 58: Developing Ecosystem Indicators: Experiences and lessons learned from sub-global assessments and other initiative		14, 19	All			
Good Practice Guide: Tourism for Nature & Development		4				
Good Practice Guide: Sustainable Forest Management, Biodiversity and Livelihoods		4, 5	14			
Good Practice Guide: Pastoralism, Nature Conservation and Development		5				
Good Practice Guide: Drinking Water, Biodiversity and Development		14				

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Good Practice Guide: Biodiversity, Development and Poverty Alleviation		14	All			
Good Practice Guide: Ecosystem Goods and Services in Development Planning		2, 4	14			
Good Practice Guide: Linking the Thematic Programmes of Work of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to Poverty Reduction and Development		All				
Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) - A Toolkit for National Focal Points and NBSAP Coordinators		1				
Options for the Application of Tools for Valuation of Biodiversity and Biodiversity Resources and Functions		1, 2				
Programme of Work on Protected Areas E-Learning Modules		11				
Managing Tourism & Biodiversity: User's Manual on the CBD Guidelines on Biodiversity and Tourism Development		4				
NBSAP Capacity Building Modules		17	all			
Quick Guides to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets		all				
<i>Other Relevant Tools</i>						

Appendix II

Scientific and technical needs related to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets

In this table space is provided, for each of the 20 Aichi Targets, to insert information related to (i) CBD tools and guidance, (ii) national target setting, monitoring and assessment, (iii) technical and scientific cooperation among Parties, (iv) global initiatives and partnerships and (v) capacity building support. Guiding questions for these categories are available in section C above. Information can be divided according to what is already available (existing), and what are the gaps can be provided.

Aichi Targets ¹	CBD Tools and guidance		National target setting, monitoring and assessment		Technical and scientific cooperation among Parties		Global initiatives and partnerships		Capacity building support	
	Existing	Gaps	Existing	Gaps	Existing	Gaps	Existing	Gaps	Existing	Gaps
Target 1: <i>By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.</i>										
Target 2: <i>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.</i>										
Target 3: <i>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.</i>										
Target 4: <i>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.</i>										
Target 5: <i>By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and</i>										

¹ More information on the Aichi Targets is available at: <http://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/>

