



Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.
GENERAL

CBD/SBI/3/11/Add.4
29 November 2021

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SUBSIDIARY BODY ON IMPLEMENTATION

Third meeting (resumed)

Venue and dates to be determined

Agenda item 9

DRAFT GUIDANCE FOR UPDATING OR REVISING NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS IN THE LIGHT OF THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

Note by the Executive Secretary

1. At the first part of its third meeting, the Subsidiary Body on Implementation had before it a note by the Executive Secretary on options to enhance planning, reporting and review mechanisms with a view to strengthening the implementation of the Convention (CBD/SBI/3/11) and a number of addenda, including one providing information and a draft template for the submission of national commitments/contributions to the post-2020 global biodiversity (CBD/SBI/3/11/Add.3/Rev.1). The present note provides guidance on updating national biodiversity strategies and action plans, as well as a template for submission of national targets that replaces the template provided in document CBD/SBI/3/11/Add.3/Rev.1. It has been prepared in the light of the discussions at the first part of the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body, as explained below.
2. The Subsidiary Body, at the first part of its third meeting, established a contact group to address agenda item 9. The outcome of the group's deliberations was reflected in a draft recommendation prepared by the Chair on options to enhance planning, reporting, and review mechanisms with a view to strengthening the implementation of the Convention (CBD/SBI/3/CRP.5). The Subsidiary Body decided to defer consideration of the draft recommendation submitted by the Chair until the second part of the meeting.
3. The draft recommendation, in its paragraph 4, refers to guidance for updating or revising national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) in the light of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework which would be annexed to the recommendation, and a footnote indicates that this is to be prepared in the light of further discussions, including at the third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, before the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. This is also reflected in the list of intersessional work arising from the part one of the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body, annexed to the report of the first part of the meeting (CBD/SBI/3/20).
4. Accordingly, and to assist the Subsidiary Body in its further consideration of this matter, on the basis of the draft recommendation contained in CBD/SBI/3/CRP.5, the Executive Secretary has developed guidance on updating national biodiversity strategies and action plans as well as a template for submission of national targets. These are provided in the annex below.

*Annex***GUIDANCE FOR UPDATING OR REVISING NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS IN THE LIGHT OF THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK**

1. National biodiversity planning is the main vehicle for implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity at the national level. National biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) have been widely used pursuant to Article 6 of the Convention. They are expected to be a key component of the enhanced planning, monitoring, reporting, and review mechanism of the Convention for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The present document provides guidance on national biodiversity planning and on the alignment of NBSAPs to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. This guidance is in line with Article 6 of the Convention and complements previous decisions of the Conference of the Parties on various aspects of NBSAPs (in particular decision IX/8, para. 8). This guidance also takes into account calls to integrate and mainstream biosafety and access and benefit-sharing in NBSAPs pursuant to decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meetings of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing.
2. NBSAPs should be seen as an umbrella process under which all national objectives and actions relevant to biodiversity can be planned, implemented, monitored, reviewed and adapted. They should involve all government sectors and all stakeholders across society to ensure that objectives, actions and expected outcomes are coordinated, that the concerns of different actors are addressed, and that their ownership and commitment towards implementation is attained. Additionally, the NBSAP process should garner high-level political support, ensure interministerial coordination and vertical integration, and facilitate implementation throughout the decade.
3. Countries are encouraged to adopt the NBSAP output documents as policy and/or legal instruments and to integrate them into broader strategies and plans, such as national sustainable development plans, national development plans, and poverty reduction strategies. The NBSAP documents should be considered living documents which can be revised or adapted as needed throughout the decade without interrupting implementation.
4. National implementation activities should continue even as the global biodiversity framework is adopted and Parties align their NBSAPs with the new framework. All efforts must be made to ensure this continuity, as not doing so may entail a loss of time for implementation.
5. Upon the adoption of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, Parties should review their NBSAPs and their existing national targets to determine the extent to which they are aligned with the new framework. This review should be completed within 12 months of the adoption of the new framework and should include implementation gaps, existing goals, targets and indicators, monitoring systems (including existing data, knowledge and knowledge systems), sectoral and cross-sectoral policies, finance and other means of implementation, and an assessment of the stakeholders and rightsholders involved in revision and implementation. This exercise will allow Parties to determine the extent to which the NBSAP is already aligned with the new framework and to identify those aspects of components that may need to be revised. In this way, the time and effort required to update the NBSAP can be minimized.

Minimum common elements of post-2020 updated/revised NBSAPs

6. In the post-2020 period, all NBSAPs should contain a set of minimum common elements in order to ensure their utility in the enhanced implementation, monitoring, reporting and review mechanism, while retaining their flexibility and their role as national implementation vehicles. The minimum common elements are:
 - (a) National targets aligned with the post-2020 framework: In the post-2020 period, Parties will be requested to set (or adjust) national targets as a contribution to the post-2020 global goals and targets. National targets should address each one of the targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and their alignment should be explicit. National targets may leverage commitments made under other

intergovernmental processes, such as the other multilateral environmental agreements, and the Rio conventions.¹ Parties should be ready to adapt or enhance their national targets as needed in the light of the results of the global stocktakes (both on ambition and on implementation);

(b) Concrete action plans detailed spatially, temporally and financially: All NBSAPs should contain concrete actions planned spatially, temporally, and financially to help the country meet its national targets and contribute to the global targets. The resources necessary for implementation should be identified through the development of a national biodiversity finance plan, and the actors responsible for implementation should be identified and agreed at the time of planning and writing so that their buy-in and participation is guaranteed. The action plan is a fundamental part of national biodiversity planning and should be the roadmap which guides and facilitates implementation throughout the lifespan of the national biodiversity strategy and future iterations thereof;

(c) Monitoring and review mechanism using national and headline indicators: The implementation of the NBSAP, including concrete actions taken and their impacts, progress towards national targets, and contributions towards global targets, should be regularly monitored and reviewed using national indicators and the headline indicators for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, as well as the component and complementary indicators where relevant. This review should feed into the seventh and eighth national reports (and national reports under the Protocols, where relevant), and country-by-country review, and should inform the adaptation/enhancement of national targets and possible revision of the NBSAP based on lessons learned.

Process and timeline for aligning NBSAPs with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

7. National targets in a standardized format should be communicated to the Secretariat within one year of the adoption of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, using the template included at the end of this annex, through the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention. As mentioned above, in the case where existing national targets are already aligned with the new framework, it will be sufficient to enter them into the template, link them to the new global targets, and explain their alignment. New national targets will also need to be linked to the global targets and their contribution explained. This information could be submitted ahead of submitting a revised NBSAP. However, Parties that decide to update or revise their NBSAP within one year of adoption of the new framework could submit an updated or revised NBSAP and the national targets simultaneously.

8. The concrete actions that are planned in order to achieve the national targets can be adapted/developed either at the same time as the targets or as a second step after they have been established. The development of these actions should go hand in hand with the development of national finance plans so that all planned actions have corresponding funding sources identified.

9. Parties are encouraged to use a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach for the revision, implementation and review of their NBSAPs. They should develop, enhance and/or maintain a national coordination mechanism, including representatives of key government ministries and authorities (including at the subnational and local levels), national focal points for the Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols, national focal points of the biodiversity-related conventions and Rio conventions and for the Sustainable Development Goals, representatives of national statistical institutes and other data holders, indigenous peoples and local communities, non-governmental organizations, women's groups, youth groups, the business and finance community, the scientific community, academia, faith-based organizations, representatives of sectors related to or dependent on biodiversity, citizens at large, subnational authorities and other stakeholders, to oversee the revision, implementation, monitoring and review of the NBSAP and other biodiversity-relevant instruments.

¹ Examples include the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (<https://www.decadeonrestoration.org/>), and the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030), and subnational and other actor commitments featured in the Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature and People, Cities With Nature initiative, and the Business for Nature initiative, among others.

10. The NBSAP should be mainstreamed with the national sustainable development plan, the national development plan, the poverty reduction strategy, and other relevant national cross-sectoral plans, and with subnational plans. This implies both that the NBSAP should integrate relevant actions that contribute to these plans and strategies, and that these plans and strategies should integrate relevant actions that contribute to the NBSAP and its national targets.

11. Synergies among the NBSAP and the planning and implementation mechanisms of the other biodiversity-related conventions, Rio conventions and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements, and the Sustainable Development Goals should be identified and utilized to maximize efficiency and coherence.

12. The development and compilation of commitments from actors beyond national Governments is described in CBD/SBI/3/11/Add.6. These commitments may be a useful source of information for developing or revising an NBSAP. Additionally, Parties may include these commitments in their national ambition/targets, or they could be maintained as separate commitments from actors beyond the national Government, as appropriate to national circumstances.

**TEMPLATE FOR SUBMISSION OF NATIONAL TARGETS TOWARD THE POST-2020
GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK**

			Notes
1	National targets towards each of the global targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework		
	Global Target 1	National target: _____ _____ _____ Please explain briefly how this target will contribute to the attainment of the global target(s): _____ _____ _____ Other global targets to which this national target also contributes. Please check one or more from the drop-down menu (optional). <input type="checkbox"/> (Drop-down menu with all the global targets)	<i>This box to be repeated for all the targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework Response is required for each of the global targets</i>
2	Name of the national government authority responsible for coordinating implementation and reporting on this target		
3	Is this target (or a part thereof) related to a national target or other national commitment already made by your national government in the context of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development or another process?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No If yes, please indicate where/under what process this commitment has been made (for example your country's Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement, one or more of your country's Land Degradation Neutrality targets, one or more of your country's voluntary commitments (e.g. national ecosystem restoration targets; the Leaders' Pledge for Nature; the Action Agenda for Nature and People; Cities with Nature Commitment Platform, or other) _____ _____ _____ Name(s)/Number(s)/Ref.(s) of existing commitment(s): _____	<i>List as many as relevant.</i>

<p>4</p>	<p>Is this national target also part of a commitment submitted separately by subnational governments, or other actors beyond national governments?</p>	<p> <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No If yes, please indicate the following: Full text of /target commitment submitted by other actor(s) (if different to national biodiversity target): _____ _____ Actor(s) which submitted it: _____ _____ Context in which it has been submitted: _____ _____ </p>	<p><i>This entry would be only for <u>joint activities</u> involving the national Government <u>and</u> others. This box would be used to reduce double counting.</i></p>
-----------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------
