

# Sixth National Report of Japan to the Convention on Biological Diversity

## Schedule of preparation for NR6

- 2017.7 Liaison Conference among Relevant Ministries and Agencies  
Startup of examining indicators
- 2017.8 Preparing a rough draft for the national report
- 2018.1 Preparing a draft for the national report  
Hearing opinions from opinion leaders, experts and private sectors, etc.
- 2018.5 Reporting to Nature Conservation Committee of the Central Environment  
Council
- 2018.6-7 Public comment
- 2018.5 Reporting to Nature Conservation Committee of the Central Environment  
Council
- 2018.12.25 Submitting to the Secretariat of the CBD

# Structure of National Report and List of Choices for Assessment of Progress of Each Target

**I** Information on the targets being pursued at the national level

**II** Implementation measures taken, assessment of their effectiveness, associated obstacles and scientific and technical needs to achieve national targets

**III** Assessment of progress towards each national target

**IV** Description of the national contribution to the achievement of each global ABT

**V** Description of the national contribution to the achievement of the targets of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (this section is optional)

**VI** Additional information on the contribution of indigenous peoples and local communities to the achievement of the ABT if not captured in the sections above (this section is optional)

**VII** Updated biodiversity country profiles

**III** : Progress towards each national target: Choose the answer from the following choices

- ① On track to exceed target
- ② On track to achieve target
- ③ Progress but at an insufficient rate
- ④ No significant change
- ⑤ Moving away from target
- ⑥ Unknown

# Current Status of Establishment of Japan's National Targets

Strategic Goal	Relevant Goals of the Aichi Targets	National Target
Strategic Goal A: Address the underlying causes for the loss of Biodiversity	1,2,3,4	A-1
Strategic Goal B: Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use	5,6,7,8,9,10	B-1,B-2,B-3,B-4,B-5
Strategic Goal C: To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity	11,12,13	C-1,C-2
Strategic Goal D: Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services	14,15,16	D-1,D-2,D-3
Strategic Goal E: Steadily promote policies based upon the NBSAP, strengthen scientific grounds as a foundation for such promotions, and promote capacity building in the biodiversity field	17,18,19,20	E-1,E-2

# Examples of Relevant Indicators for Each National target

National Target	Related Indicator Groups
<p>A-1: Achieving the “mainstreaming of biodiversity across society”, etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Status of recognition of the importance of biodiversity</li> <li>▪ The number of municipalities participating in municipal biodiversity Networks</li> <li>▪ The number of organizations participating in the Japan Business and Biodiversity Partnership</li> <li>▪ ▪ ▪</li> </ul>
<p>B-1: Reduce the rate of loss of natural habitats, as well as their degradation and fragmentation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Percentage of wetlands restored in particularly important water systems</li> <li>▪ Percentage of tidal flats restored</li> <li>▪ Percentage of areas needing improvements to their bottom sediment that were improved at three major ports</li> <li>▪ ▪ ▪</li> </ul>
<p>B-2: Engage in agriculture, forestry, and fisheries that ensure the conservation of biodiversity in a sustainable manner</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Total number of participants in regional community activities related to the conservation and management of regional resources, such as agricultural land and water</li> <li>▪ Cumulative number of new certifications of eco-farmers</li> <li>▪ Area of initiatives for direct payment system for conservation oriented agriculture</li> <li>▪ ▪ ▪</li> </ul>
<p>B-3: Improve the state of contamination from nitrogen and phosphorous, conserve aquatic organisms, and increase biological productivity, etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Achievement status of the Environmental Quality Standards(EQs) for water pollution</li> <li>▪ Achievement status of EQs on total nitrogen and total phosphorous concentrations in closed water areas</li> <li>▪ The number of red tides and algal blooms that occur</li> <li>▪ ▪ ▪</li> </ul>
<p>E-2:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ▪ ▪</li> </ul>

**Set 81 indicators equivalent to 13 national targets from A-1 to E-2**

## Part 1: Strategy

**[the four crises of biodiversity]** (Caused by exploitation, decreasing population, Invasive alien species and climate change)

**[Five Challenges towards the conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable use of its components]**

### **[Targets]**

- ◆ long-term target(2050)
- ◆ short-term target (2020)

**[the grand design describing national land in a society in harmony with nature]**

Setting forth a target vision and specific descriptions to be achieved in 100 year time

**[Five Basic Strategies]** priority measures and policies until 2020

## Part 2: Roadmap for the Achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets

- ◆ **"13 national targets"** and **"48 key action goals for their achievement"**
- ◆ **"81 indicators"** for determining the achievement status of the national targets

## Part 3: The Action Plan

- ◆ Approximately **700** specific measures and policies
- ◆ **50** numerical targets

# Flow Chart for assessment of progress towards the implementation of National Targets

National Targets  
13 national targets including mainstreaming biodiversity (included in National Biodiversity Strategy of Japan 2012–2020)

## Ministry of the Environment/Relevant Ministries and Agencies

Step 1  
primary assessment by indicators (※)  
※81 Related Indicator Groups corresponding to national targets described in The National Biodiversity Strategy of Japan

National target	Improved indicator (%)	deteriorated indicator (%)	Reserving judgement (%)
A-1	80.8	15.4	3.8
B-1	100.0	0.0	0.0
B-2	80.0	15.0	5.0
B-3	57.4	21.3	10.6
B-4	64.3	14.3	0.0
B-5	11.1	0.0	88.9
C-1	57.9	26.3	0.0
C-2	60.0	13.3	6.7
D-1	75.0	0.0	25.0
D-2	66.7	22.2	0.0
D-3	–	–	–
E-1	100.0	0.0	0.0
E-2	100.0	0.0	0.0

# Flow Chart for assessment of progress towards the implementation of National Targets

National Targets

13 national targets including mainstreaming biodiversity (included in National Biodiversity Strategy of Japan 2012–2020)

Ministry of the Environment/Relevant Ministries and Agencies

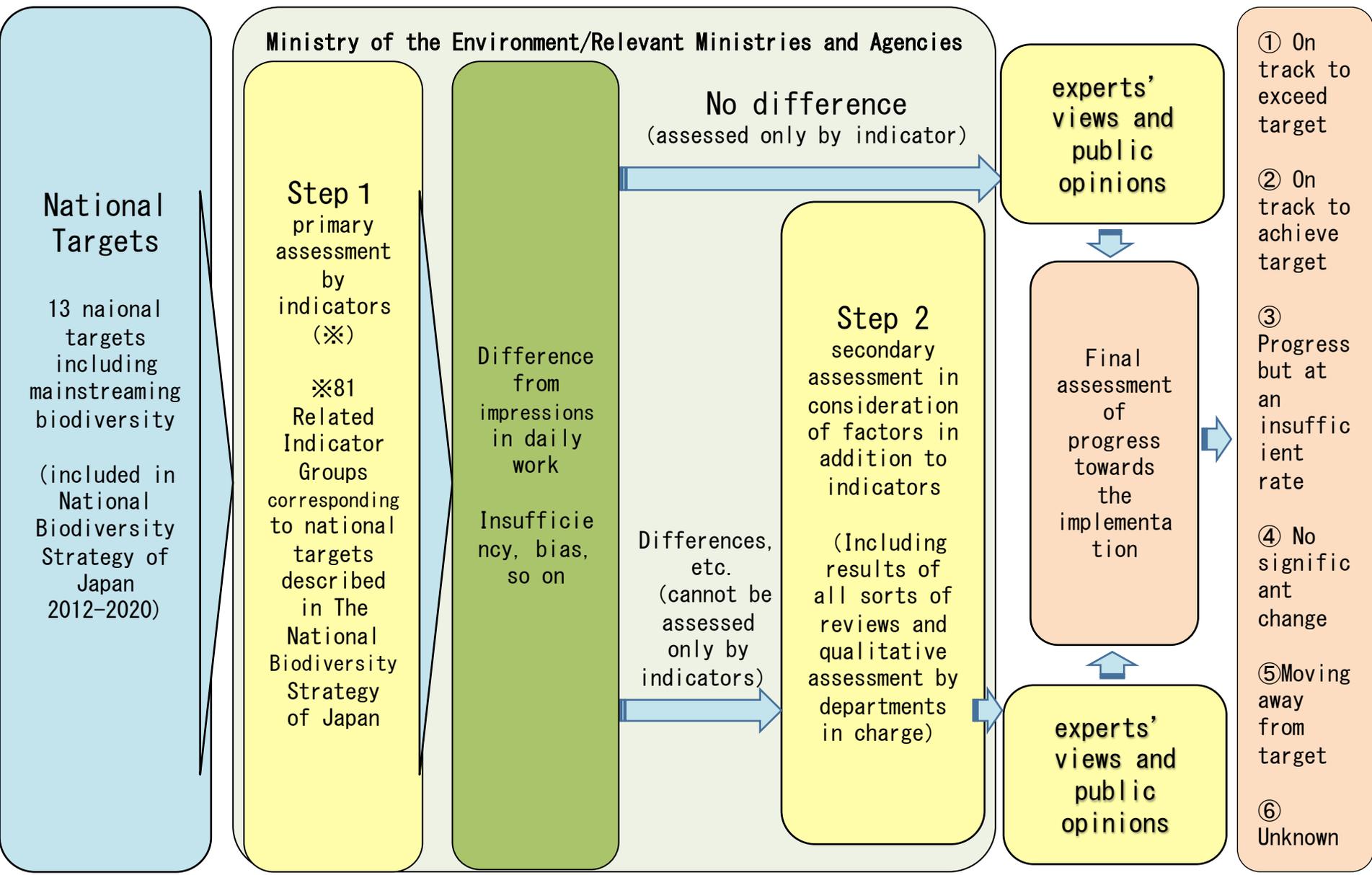
Step 1  
primary assessment by indicators (※)  
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B-3			10.0
B-4	3	14.3	0.0
B-5	11.1	0.0	88.9
C-1			
E-1			
E-2	2		0.0

Even though most of indicators are improved, Are we really coming closer to the achievement?  
(Differences from impressions in our daily work )

Is there any insufficiency or bias of the indicators?

# Flow Chart for assessment of progress towards the implementation of National Targets



## National Targets

13 national targets including mainstreaming biodiversity  
(included in National Biodiversity Strategy of Japan 2012-2020)

## Ministry of the Environment/Relevant Ministries and Agencies

**Step 1**  
primary assessment by indicators (※)

※81 Related Indicator Groups corresponding to national targets described in The National Biodiversity Strategy of Japan

Difference from impressions in daily work  
Insufficiency, bias, so on

No difference  
(assessed only by indicator)

**Step 2**  
secondary assessment in consideration of factors in addition to indicators

(Including results of all sorts of reviews and qualitative assessment by departments in charge)

experts' views and public opinions

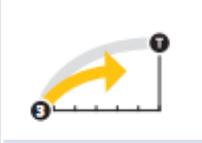
Final assessment of progress towards the implementation

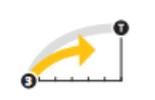
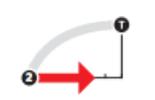
experts' views and public opinions

- ① On track to exceed target
- ② On track to achieve target
- ③ Progress but at an insufficient rate
- ④ No significant change
- ⑤ Moving away from target
- ⑥ Unknown

# Outline of Assessment of Progress In National Report of Japan

(※) In assessment of progress, choose an alternative in the following six choices. ①On track to exceed target ②On track to achieve target ③Progress but at an insufficient rate ④No significant change ⑤Moving away from target ⑥Unknown

National target	Assessment of progress	Grounds for assessment
<p><b>A-1:</b> Achieving the “mainstreaming of biodiversity across society”, etc.</p>	<p>③Progress but at an insufficient rate</p> 	<p>It is evaluated that progress towards National Target A-1 has been being made, such as the increase of collaborative projects with private organizations and other bodies.</p> <p>Meanwhile, it is not sufficient to say that mainstreaming biodiversity has been widely and generally accomplished. Since further efforts are considered to be needed, it is evaluated that progress has been achieved towards target, but at an insufficient rate.</p>
<p><b>B-1:</b> Reduce the rate of loss of natural habitats, as well as their degradation and fragmentation</p>	<p>③Progress but at an insufficient rate</p> 	<p>The loss of natural habitats is not considered to have significantly expanded.</p> <p>Meanwhile, the Report of Comprehensive Assessment of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Japan (Japan Biodiversity Outlook (JBO2)), published in 2016, indicates that change in land use have been occurring at a small scale and there could be time lags before their impacts would become apparent. Accordingly, we evaluated that progress has been made towards target, but at an insufficient rate, as the closest category.</p>

National target	Assessment of progress	Grounds for assessment
<p><b>B-2:</b> Engage in agriculture, forestry, and fisheries that ensure the conservation of biodiversity in a sustainable manner</p>	<p><b>③Progress towards target but at an insufficient rate</b></p> 	<p>As many of the related indicators show a positive progress towards the target, it is evaluated that progress towards the target has been being made.</p> <p>In the meantime, there are no outstanding positive tendencies in some related indicators, compared to 2012, the standard year when the National Targets were set. Accordingly, we evaluated that progress has been made towards target, but at an insufficient rate.</p>
<p><b>B-3:</b> Improve the state of contamination from nitrogen and phosphorous, conserve aquatic organisms, and increase biological productivity, etc.</p>	<p><b>④No significant change</b></p> 	<p>As many of the clusters comprising related indicators have shown no considerable changes, it was evaluated that there were no significant changes.</p> <p>Meanwhile, since relevant efforts for improving water quality in closed water areas have been exerted from the long-term point of view, it is difficult to evaluate improvement conditions based on short-term fluctuations within the period of target achievements.</p>
<p><b>B-4:</b> Identify invasive alien species, organize information pertaining to the routes by which they establish themselves, lay out the order of priority for eradicating the invasive alien species, promote a restoration of the habitation status of rare species by controlling or exterminating high priority species, promote border control measures</p>	<p><b>③Progress towards target but at an insufficient rate</b></p> 	<p>While progress was confirmed in many clusters of related indicators, relevant measures against alien species need to be continued to promote the restoration of habitats for rare species in the coming period. Based on the results, it was evaluated that progress has been made towards the target but with insufficient rate, as the closest category.</p>

National target	Assessment of progress	Grounds for assessment
<p><b>B-5:</b> Promote initiatives for minimizing human-induced pressures that cause ecosystems which are vulnerable to climate change, such as coral reefs to deteriorate</p>	<p><b>③Progress towards target but at an insufficient rate</b></p> 	<p>Human-induced pressures as to coral reefs were analyzed and organized to specify prioritized issues to tackle. In addition, regarding alpine vegetation and coral reefs, consideration on the implementation of relevant measures as adaptation to climate change has been promoted. Meanwhile, since the goal “establishing ecologically acceptable values of human-induced pressures” has not been achieved yet, it was evaluated that progress has been made towards the target but with insufficient rate.</p>
<p><b>C-1:</b> Appropriately conserve and manage 17% of inland areas and inland water areas, and 10% of coastal areas and ocean areas</p>	<p><b>③Progress towards target but at an insufficient rate</b></p> 	<p>It was observed that 20.3% of terrestrial and inland water areas are conserved and managed and therefore the target has achieved in terms of terrestrial and inland water areas. Meanwhile, the area of marine protected areas remained 8.3% as of April 2018. In addition, some deteriorations were observed in related indicators. Therefore, it was evaluated that progress has been made towards the target but with insufficient rate.</p>
<p><b>C-2:</b> Prevent the population decrease for the known threatened species, maintain the genetic diversity of livestock animals, etc</p>	<p><b>③Progress towards target but at an insufficient rate</b></p>	<p>Significant progress was confirmed in many clusters of the related indicators. Meanwhile, some indicators, such as the percentage of threatened species, the number of Natural Habitat Protection Areas, and so on, remained at constant levels with no significant improvements. Therefore, it was evaluated that progress has been made towards the target but with insufficient rate</p>

National target	Assessment of progress	Reason for assessment
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**D-1:**  
Strengthen the benefits received from biodiversity and ecosystem services through the conservation and restoration of ecosystems

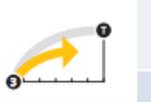
**③Progress towards target but at an insufficient rate**



The Report of Comprehensive Assessment of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Japan (Japan Biodiversity Outlook 2 (JBO2)), which was published in 2016, evaluated that many of the ecosystem services declined or remained at the same level compared to the past. Therefore, it cannot be said that, as a long-term trend, benefits obtained from ecosystem services have been strengthened. However, relevant indicators were confirmed to have seen progress. As such, related measures have been advanced. Accordingly, it was evaluated that progress has been made toward the target but with insufficient rate.

**D-2:**  
Contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation by restoration of 15% or greater for degraded ecosystems, etc.

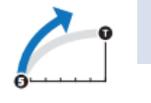
**③Progress towards target but at an insufficient rate**



The “Report of Comprehensive Assessment of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Japan (Japan Biodiversity Outlook (JBO2))”, which was published in 2016, evaluated that the impacts caused by development and change in land use are very strong and have been continuing at that scale for the long-term period. Meanwhile, measures for the conservation and restoration of natural ecosystems as well as forest sink measures have been steadily conducted. Accordingly, it was evaluated that progress has been made toward the target but with insufficient rate.

**D-3:**  
Ratify the Nagoya Protocol on ABS and implement the domestic measures for this Protocol

**①On track to exceed target<sup>(※)</sup>**

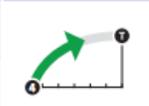


Japan accepted the Nagoya Protocol and started the implementation of domestic measures for the Protocol.  
\*already achieved

National target	Assessment of progress	Reason for assessment
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**E-1:**  
 Promote policies based on the National Biodiversity Strategy of Japan, Provide support to ensure that global initiatives

② On track to achieve target



Relevant measures were promoted such as the publication of Acceleration Measures towards Achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, based on the result of a comprehensive review of National Biodiversity Strategy 2012–2020 conducted in JFY2014. In addition, the number of Parties that formulated their national biodiversity strategies and action plans with the support of the Japan Biodiversity Fund has been increasing. Accordingly, it was evaluated as “on track to achieve target”.

**E-2:**  
 Have respect for local communities’ traditional knowledge mainstreamed, strengthen scientific grounds and the connections between science and policy, Effectively and efficiently mobilize the resources (funds, human resources, technologies, etc.) needed to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets

② On track to achieve target



The establishment of Regional Circular and Ecological Sphere was promoted for sustainable management of natural capital by utilizing local characteristics. The ties between science and policy has been strengthened through the participation in IPBES and contribution to its work, research and studies regarding marine ecosystems, and other efforts. Moreover, related indicators, such as the status of preparation of vegetation maps and the number of data registrations into GBIF, are confirmed to have progressed. Accordingly, it was evaluated as “on track to achieve target”.

# Conclusion

- ✓ We realized there some limitations in terms of setting indicators and assessment when preparing NR6.
- ✓ Accordingly, in addition to assessment by indicators, we set up opportunities to hear opinions about the result of the assessment from lots of stakeholders to supplement indicators.
- ✓ As a issue of process of development of the next NBSAP, we can point out that careful consideration is required to set up indicators rather than rushing the process.
- ✓ Furthermore, Japanese experts point out that it is important to set an indicator for continuity of activities related to biodiversity, because in many cases, there could be time lags before the impacts of human activities to natural environment, which is contingent, would become apparent.
- ✓ In the framework of six-level assessment set by SCBD, the third choice is “Progress but at an insufficient rate.” But, we cannot assert that whether a rate is really sufficient or not. In addition to that, even if there is a stable progress, we have to choose “an insufficient rate.” For the above reasons, it is needed to modify the framework.