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Item 9 of the provisional agenda*

FURTHER INFORMATION AND DRAFT TEMPLATE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF NATIONAL COMMITMENTS/CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

Note by the Executive Secretary

1. There is growing recognition that successfully protecting biodiversity and safeguarding biodiversity and the ecosystem services on which humanity depends will require heightened ambition and action. This will require all Parties to collectively contribute to the achievement of goals and targets in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. There will also be a need for a mechanism by which the collective impacts of these contributions can be assessed against the ambition of the global framework, and by which the results of such an assessment could feed back into national planning processes in order to increase the level of collective ambition as necessary.
2. The present document provides information on the role that national commitments/contributions¹ could play in the enhanced planning, monitoring, reporting and review mechanism being proposed in document CBD/SBI/3/11, and how they could relate to national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) and other national planning processes. Further, it considers how national commitments could complement commitments made under other intergovernmental and non-governmental processes, such as the other multilateral environmental agreements, including the Rio conventions, intergovernmental initiatives, such as the [United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration](#),² and the United Nations Decade for Ocean Science, and subnational and non-State actor commitments featured in the Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature and People,³ Cities With Nature⁴ initiative, and the Business for Nature⁵ initiative, among others.
3. It is envisaged that national commitments would be submitted officially by Parties through a standardized format. A possible format for the submission of national commitments is presented in the annex.
4. National commitments, as contributions to the global targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework could build upon voluntary commitments made pursuant to decision 14/34. In that decision, the Conference of the Parties invited Parties and other Governments to consider developing, as appropriate to

* CBD/SBI/3/1.

¹ A variety of terms are widely used in relation to the concept of “national commitments”. These include national targets; (national, biodiversity and political) commitments; contributions to the global targets; actions; ambitions; announcements; pledges etc. In this document, the term commitment is used with the understanding that it is a national contribution to the global targets set out in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

² See General Assembly resolution [73/284](#).

³ See <https://www.cbd.int/action-agenda/>

⁴ See <https://citieswithnature.org/>

⁵ See <https://www.businessfornature.org/>

their national contexts, individually or jointly, and on a voluntary basis, biodiversity commitments that contribute to the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention, strengthen national biodiversity strategies and action plans, facilitate the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and contribute to an effective post-2020 global biodiversity framework, without prejudging the outcomes of the process to develop this framework. Such commitments were to be shared through the clearing-house mechanism and other means (para. 11). In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties encouraged indigenous peoples and local communities and all relevant organizations and stakeholders, including the private sector, to consider developing, prior to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, biodiversity commitments that might contribute to an effective post-2020 global biodiversity framework and to make such information available as a contribution to the Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature and People (para. 12).⁶

A. Experience with national contributions towards the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020

5. In decision X/2, the Conference of the Parties urged Parties to develop national and regional targets, using the Strategic Plan and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets, as a flexible framework, in accordance with national priorities and capacities and taking into account both the global targets and the status and trends of biological diversity in the country, and the resources provided through the strategy for resource mobilization, with a view to contributing to collective global efforts to reach the global targets, and report thereon to the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting.⁷

6. In the same decision, 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 Conference of Parties at its eleventh and subsequent meetings to assess the contribution of such national and regional targets towards the global targets. In response to this request, the Executive Secretary has made relevant analysis on this issue available to the Conference of the Parties at each meeting since its eleventh meeting and to the Convention's subsidiary bodies at relevant meetings.⁸

7. Based on the analysis in the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* as well as documentation made available at successive meetings of the Conference of the Parties and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation:

(a) Very few Parties (less than 8 per cent) had established national targets in response to the Strategic Plan 2011-2020 by the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties. By August 2014, the number of Parties with targets increased slightly (about 11 per cent). By November 2016, about half (49 per cent) of Parties had established national targets. Currently, most Parties (about 88 per cent) have established national targets.⁹

⁶ Considerations regarding the development of national commitments/contributions related to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework were made available at the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in CBD/COP/14/9 (annex III). Voluntary commitments under the Action Agenda are available at: <https://www.cbd.int/action-agenda/contributions/>.

⁷ Decision X/2 also urged Parties to review, and as appropriate update and revise, their national biodiversity strategies and action plans, in line with the Strategic Plan and the guidance adopted in [decision IX/9](#), including by integrating their national targets into their national biodiversity strategies and action plans, adopted as a policy instrument, and report thereon to the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh or twelfth meeting. Aichi Biodiversity Target 17 also called for NBSAPs to be developed and adopted nationally, and for implementation to have commenced, by 2015.

⁸ A compilation of the national and regional targets submitted since the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties is accessible from <https://www.cbd.int/nbsap/targets/?aichi=10>. For example see documents [UNEP/CBD/COP/11/12](#), [UNEP/CBD/COP/12/10/Rev.1](#), [UNEP/CBD/COP/13/8/Rev.1](#), [UNEP/CBD/COP/13/8/Add.1/Rev.1](#), [UNEP/CBD/COP/13/8/Add.2/Rev.1](#), [UNEP/CBD/COP/14/5](#), [CBD/COP/14/5/Add.1](#), [CBD/COP/14/5/Add.2](#), [CBD/SBI/3/2](#), [CBD/SBI/3/2/Add.1](#) and [CBD/SBI/3/2/Add.1](#).

⁹ UNEP/CBD/COP/11/12, UNEP/CBD/COP/11/INF/12, UNEP/CBD/COP/13/8/Add.2/Rev.1. Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (2014), *Global Biodiversity Outlook*, fourth edition, Montreal, 155 pages. <https://www.cbd.int/nbsap/targets/>

(b) Parties used a number of different approaches in setting and submitting their national targets through the NBSAP or national reporting process. Only about half of NBSAPs analysed in the review under the Subsidiary Body on Implementation had mapped their national targets (or similar commitments) to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the national targets that were mapped to the Aichi Targets used different mapping approaches. An additional challenge was that some Parties did not include some or all national targets in their NBSAPs that were included in their national reports;

(c) National targets, generally, were poorly aligned with the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in terms of scope and level of ambition. Fewer than a quarter (23 per cent) of the national targets were well aligned with the Aichi Targets, only about a tenth of all targets were similar to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and none of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets were fully addressed in all NBSAPs.¹⁰

8. Taking into account the challenges in analysing previous national targets in an accurate, timely, consistent and transparent manner, the standardization of future national commitments would provide enhanced transparency in the planning, monitoring, reporting and review mechanism under the Convention. In the post-2020 period, the greater standardization of commitments, and setting an early deadline for them, would help to address the challenges noted above. Depending on national circumstances, national commitments could be included as an annex or addendum to NBSAPs.

B. What would national commitments consist of?

9. It is proposed that national commitments would identify the contribution that each Party intends to make towards the attainment of each of the targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The national commitments would be submitted in the run-up to, or shortly after the adoption of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the submission of commitments would be encouraged for all Parties.

10. National commitments could build upon existing and ongoing commitments from the current NBSAP or new commitments which have been made at the political level. The contributions submitted in these commitments would include a clear expected result for 2030, to match the targets in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and would be quantitative and measurable to the extent possible. If possible, Parties would be encouraged to set quantitative commitments which are aligned with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework monitoring framework headline indicators.¹¹

11. Parties will be encouraged to submit commitments which represent a whole-of-Government contribution to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. This would help to ensure that the scope and ambition of targets in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework are covered. This would require national focal points for the Convention to work with other ministries and authorities in order to acquire their buy-in, collaboration and commitments.

12. Parties could submit joint commitments with subnational authorities or national stakeholders as (part of their) national commitments, at their own discretion. The submission format would include a section in which Parties could clearly highlight joint submission cases so that care is taken to avoid double counting when aggregating commitments.

13. National commitments would be integrated into national planning processed as discussed in section E below.

C. How will national commitments be used for monitoring and review?

14. The expected outcomes of national commitments of all Parties would be aggregated to produce an assessment and global gap report which would indicate if the level of global ambition is commensurate with what is necessary to achieve the global targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. This information would be used by the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies to assess the aggregate level of ambition and the possible need to increase or “ratchet up” national ambition to attain the global targets.

¹⁰ CBD/SBI/3/2 and the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*.

¹¹ CBD/SBSTTA/24/3.

15. As explained in document CBD/SBI/3/11 on an enhanced review mechanism for the Convention and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, in the case where a global gap report would determine that the level of global ambition is not sufficient to meet the global targets, a new round of national commitments showing equal or higher ambition than the previous round would be called for by the Conference of the Parties and a new deadline would be established at that time.

16. It is envisioned that commitments made by subnational and non-State actors could also be aggregated in order to provide a more complete account of ambition by all actors toward the targets of the post 2020 global biodiversity framework.¹² In the event that Parties were to submit joint commitments with subnational or non-State actors, appropriate measures would be taken to minimize double counting.

D. When and how would national commitments be submitted?

17. National commitments would be due within one year after the adoption of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. It is proposed that commitments would follow a standard user-friendly template and be submitted via a dedicated registry on the Convention's clearing-house mechanism. A preliminary outline of such a template is presented in annex I.

18. The use of the dedicated template would facilitate the analysis and aggregation for the global gap report, and overcome a shortcoming from the previous Strategic Plan. While the submission of national contributions to the global framework through the submission of national targets was an element of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, the lack of standardization of content and the lack of a system for timely identification commitments impeded global analysis of commitments.

19. All national commitments entered in the registry would be publicly accessible and searchable through the clearing-house mechanism, and a dedicated portal will be designed, on the website of the Convention, to visualize national commitments by global target, country, region and other possible variables.

E. What is the relationship between national commitments and updated NBSAPs and other national strategies or plans?

20. NBSAPs will continue to be the main national planning, coordination and implementation instruments under the Convention. While the national commitments would indicate what the Party intends to achieve in relation to the global goals and targets, the NBSAPs would outline how this would be achieved. NBSAPs would lay out the actions each Party would undertake (including the specific timing, locations, funds and actors involved) in order to achieve their national commitments. NBSAPs would need to be revised to align with the Party's national commitments as elaborated above. NBSAPs would also outline capacity development, mainstreaming, communication, education and public awareness, and other national efforts as is outlined in the NBSAP guidance adopted in decision IX/8 and other related decisions of the Conference of the Parties.

21. Parties would be encouraged to adopt their NBSAPs at the highest levels of government in order to ensure that they are whole-of-government instruments and to update their NBSAPs as and when appropriate given national processes and circumstances.¹³

22. Processes to develop NBSAPs should be inclusive and participatory, taking into account the knowledge and interests of a broad array of national stakeholders including women, indigenous peoples and local communities, civil society, youth, the research and academic sector, and the private and financial sectors. The commitments of subnational and non-State actors should be considered in the relevant Party's NBSAP revision process, and action plans towards their attainment should be included in the NBSAP.

¹² Described in more detail in CBD/SBI/3/INF/21.

¹³ More information on the NBSAP process is provided in CBD/SBI/3/11.

F. How will national commitments complement other biodiversity-related commitments already made by national governments in other forums?

23. Many countries have already made official biodiversity-related pledges under other processes, including the other Rio conventions (the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification) and the biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements (such as the Convention on Migratory Species, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and others).¹⁴ Many have also made biodiversity related commitments under voluntary processes such as the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People (<https://www.campaignfornature.org/high-ambition-coalition>), the Leaders Pledge for Nature launched during the United Nations Biodiversity Summit held in September 2020 (<https://www.leaderspledgefornature.org/>), and the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, among others. Countries that have made commitments will be encouraged to enter those pledges, where relevant, in their submission and to link these with specific targets in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

G. How will national commitments complement commitments made by subnational and non-State actors?

24. In the post-2020 period, it will be fundamental to garner the ambition, action and support of subnational and non-State actors to implement the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Leadership from governments and subnational and non-State actors can reinforce each other and together change the pace of action. The framework will therefore require a concerted effort by all actors, and a recognition of the contributions of all. Additional information on subnational and non-State actor commitments is provided in CBD/SBI/3/INF/21.

25. It is proposed that commitments of indigenous peoples and local communities and all relevant organizations and stakeholders including the private and financial sectors, and of subnational authorities would continue to be submitted on a voluntary basis. A registry for non-State actor pledges exists in the Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature and People as called for in decision 14/34, paragraph 12. However, standardization of subnational and Non-State actor commitments submitted through the Action Agenda, or through partner platforms and registries, is needed to include these in the analysis and aggregation for the global gap report. As mentioned, cross-referencing of joint commitments between State and subnational and non-State actors would be employed to minimize double counting.

¹⁴ “Driving ambition through national biodiversity commitments - Bringing experiences from other sectors to bear” (CBD/SBI/3/INF/19).

Annex I

DRAFT TEMPLATE FOR SUBMISSION OF NATIONAL COMMITMENTS

			Notes
1	Party on behalf of which this commitment is being submitted		
1.1	If this includes commitments also submitted separately by subnational governments, or non-State actors, please list.		<i>This entry would be only for <u>joint activities</u> involving the national government and others. This box would be used to reduce the chance of double counting.</i>
2	Name of the national government authority responsible for this commitment		<i>Responsible would mean for overseeing implementation and reporting on progress.</i>
3	Is this a new commitment towards the adopted post-2020 global biodiversity framework?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, this is the first submission post-2020 global biodiversity framework <input type="checkbox"/> No, this is a revision of a national commitment already made under the post-2020 global biodiversity framework Name/Number/Ref. of commitment: _____ _____	<i>Note that for the subsequent submissions (after the first), a Party may wish to revise only a subset of target-level information and maintain the same information for other targets.</i>
3.1	This commitment (or a part thereof) is related to a commitment already made in the context of:	<input type="checkbox"/> Your country's nationally determined contribution under the Paris Agreement <input type="checkbox"/> One or more of your country's Land Degradation Neutrality targets <input type="checkbox"/> 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) <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ _____ Name(s)/Number(s)/Ref.(s) of existing commitment(s): _____ _____	<i>List as many as relevant.</i>

4	<p>National commitment towards each of the global targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework</p>		
	<p>Global target 1</p>	<p>National commitment:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Please explain briefly how this national commitment will contribute to the attainment of the global target (s):</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Please summarize the main policy measures or actions that will be taken in order to achieve this (optional)</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Other global targets to which this national commitment also contributes. Please check 1 or more from the drop-down menu (optional).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (Drop down menu with list of all the global targets.)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> This global target is <u>not relevant</u> to national circumstances.</p> <p>Please explain _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p><i>This box to be repeated for all the targets of the post 2020 global biodiversity framework</i></p> <p><i>Response is required for each of the global targets</i></p>