



# Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.  
GENERAL

CBD/SBI/3/11/Add.1/Amend.1  
25 November 2021

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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## SUBSIDIARY BODY ON IMPLEMENTATION

Third meeting (resumed)

Geneva, Switzerland, 12-28 January 2022

Agenda item 9

### **NATIONAL REPORTING UNDER THE CONVENTION: REVISED GUIDANCE AND DRAFT TEMPLATE FOR THE SEVENTH AND EIGHTH NATIONAL REPORTS**

*Note by the Executive Secretary*

#### *Amendment*

1. At the first part of its third meeting, the Subsidiary Body considered national reporting under the Convention and its protocols under agenda item 9 (mechanisms for reporting, assessment and review of implementation). In considering the item, the Subsidiary Body 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 on national reporting under the Convention and its protocols (CBD/SBI/3/11/Add.1). The addendum included:

- (a) A summary of the experiences and lessons learned from the preparation of the sixth national reports to the Convention;
- (b) A summary of responses to some of the requests contained in decision 14/27, paragraph 3;
- (c) A synthesis of views and suggestions on future national reporting under the Convention emanating from the first and second meetings of the Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, the Thematic Consultation on Transparent Implementation, Monitoring, Reporting and Review for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, and the twenty-third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, as well as the views expressed in relevant regional and thematic consultations and through submissions related to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;
- (d) Considerations and principles for the development of the draft template for the seventh national report.

2. In addition, proposed elements for the draft template for the seventh national report were provided in an annex. A list of countries that had submitted their sixth national report as of 30 September 2020 was provided in a further annex.

3. The information provided in the above-mentioned note remains relevant. However, the template provided in annex I has been updated, as explained below.

4. At the first part of its meeting, the Subsidiary Body established a contact group to address 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 part II of the meeting.

5. The draft recommendation, in its paragraph 8, refers to guidelines and a template for future national reports which would be annexed to the recommendation, and a footnote indicates that these are to be

prepared in the light of further discussions, including at the resumed sessions of the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body before the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. This is also reflected in the list of intersessional work arising from the part 1 of the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, annexed to the report on the first part of the meeting (CBD/SBI/3/20).

6. Accordingly, and to assist the Subsidiary Body in its further consideration of this matter, on the basis of draft recommendation contained in CBD/SBI/3/CRP.5, the Executive Secretary has revised the guidelines and template issued for the first part of the meeting (CBD/SBI/3/11/Add.1, annex I). The revised guidelines and template are provided in the annex below.

*Annex***NATIONAL REPORTING UNDER THE CONVENTION: REVISED GUIDANCE AND A DRAFT TEMPLATE FOR THE SEVENTH AND EIGHTH NATIONAL REPORTS**

1. Parties are required by Article 26 of the Convention to submit national reports to the Conference of the Parties on measures taken for the implementation of the Convention and their effectiveness in meeting the objectives of the Convention. The seventh national reports are due by **30 June 2025** and the eighth national reports are due by **June 30 2029**.<sup>1</sup> Given the time required to prepare, approve and submit a national report, Parties are encouraged to start preparing their national reports well before the deadline.
2. The seventh national report should provide an initial assessment of progress made towards the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, while the eighth national report will provide a comprehensive review of progress in implementation, using the most up-to-date data and information from as many sources as possible, including the headline indicators and the component and complementary indicators and other national indicators, where relevant, as well as the most recent reviews of national implementation and other national assessments, in particular the review of the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) that provide a basis for developing national ambition or targets and/or updating or revising NBSAPs to implement the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.
3. The seventh and eighth national reports should provide an assessment of progress in the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, in particular outcomes of actions taken, drawing upon information concerning the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans in particular national targets therein, and other actions taken to implement the Convention. To enable global analysis of progress, Parties should use the headline indicators of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework in assessing their progress at the national level.<sup>2</sup> They may also wish to use the component and complementary indicators, and other national indicators, as relevant and appropriate.
4. In preparing the seventh national report, Parties are encouraged to include information or analyses as requested in related decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting,<sup>3</sup> as they are essential for monitoring and assessing progress in the implementation of related strategies or action plans adopted as part of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. In preparing the eighth national report, Parties are encouraged to include related information as requested in related decisions of the Conference of the Parties since its fifteenth meeting. The seventh and eighth national reports should also include financial reporting.<sup>4</sup>
5. Further to decision 14/27, in which the Conference of the Parties decided that the submission of the next reports under the Convention and its Protocols would be synchronized, Parties should involve the respective national focal points for the Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols (if different from the primary national focal point for the Convention) in the preparation of the seventh and eighth national reports. In addition, Parties are encouraged to involve relevant stakeholders in the preparation of their seventh and eighth national reports. This includes representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities, subnational governments, representatives of relevant sectors, national statistical offices, business, academia, non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations. Parties are also encouraged to involve the national focal points of the biodiversity-related conventions and the Rio conventions, in addition to the national focal points for the Sustainable Development Goals and other relevant international and regional conventions. Parties are further encouraged to use national reports, reviews or communications submitted under these conventions and in connection with the Sustainable Development Goals as an

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<sup>1</sup> This will be confirmed by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting.

<sup>2</sup> CBD/WG2020/3/3/Add.1.

<sup>3</sup> Once the Conference of the Parties adopts the template for the seventh national report, a list showing any requests for information will be annexed to the decision.

<sup>4</sup> This will be confirmed by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting.

important basis for assessing progress in the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

6. The actions taken by non-state actors will also contribute to implementation of national and global targets and, therefore, should be reflected in the national report where relevant and appropriate, including the voluntary commitments made in the context of the Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature and People.

*Structure and format of the seventh and eighth national reports<sup>5</sup> and use of the reports*

7. The seventh and eighth national reports contain five sections:

Section I Executive summary of the report;

Section II Brief overview of the process of preparation of the report;

Section III Status of the updated or revised national biodiversity strategy and action plan (NBSAP) in the light of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;<sup>6</sup>

Section IV Assessment of progress towards the 2050 goals;

Section V Assessment of progress towards the 2030 action targets;

Annex Responses to requests related to the seventh national report contained in respective decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting.<sup>7</sup>

8. To facilitate the preparation of the seventh and eighth national reports, each section of the report will use a standardized template that contains specific questions with a choice of possible answers or specific requests for substantive information. There is also space to provide narrative information to further substantiate the answers given. In addition, Parties are encouraged to provide links to relevant websites and documents where additional information may be found, reducing the need to include this information directly in the national report.

9. A resource manual will be prepared to provide further guidance and explanation on the use of the template and containing links to potential sources of information for the preparation of the seventh and eighth national reports. Other supporting materials and tools will be developed or enhanced as needed to support the preparation of the reports.

10. The information contained in the seventh and eighth national reports could be used to inform, among other things, the following:

(a) A mid-term and final review of the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework by the Conference of the Parties;

(b) Global stocktaking by the Conference of the Parties, [in 2025 and 2030];<sup>8</sup>

(c) Any country-by-country reviews to be undertaken by Parties under the auspices of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation as well as voluntary peer review of NBSAP revision and implementation;<sup>9</sup>

(d) The voluntary national review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals and associated targets;<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> The structure of the eighth national report may be adjusted on the basis of information needs for the final review of the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

<sup>6</sup> This section may not be needed for the eighth national report.

<sup>7</sup> List of the information to be included in the seventh national report and the list to be updated for the eighth national report according to relevant decisions at future meetings of the Conference of the Parties.

<sup>8</sup> This is subject to a decision to be adopted at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

<sup>9</sup> This is subject to a decision to be adopted at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

<sup>10</sup> General Assembly resolution 70/1.

(e) The review of the implementation of the strategic plans of related conventions and processes;

(f) Related global and regional assessments, including those to be undertaken by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).

*Use of headline indicators for monitoring and reporting*

11. To enable global aggregation and analysis of progress, the use of headline indicators, agreed in the monitoring framework of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework,<sup>2</sup> is proposed as a component to be included in national reports. National report templates could be pre-populated with available national data and disaggregated from global data sets or national data that is publicly available. Parties would then have the option to use the available data, to propose an alternative data set or to report “no data”/“not relevant”. Countries are also encouraged to use component and complementary indicators as contained in the monitoring framework of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework as well as relevant national indicators, as appropriate.

*Enhancing synergies in reporting under the biodiversity-related conventions and the Rio conventions and in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals*

12. As indicated above, Parties are encouraged to involve the national focal points of the biodiversity-related conventions and the Rio conventions, as well as the national focal points for the Sustainable Development Goals, when preparing the seventh and eighth national reports. Parties are also encouraged to use the Data and Reporting Tool for Multilateral Environmental Agreements (DaRT) developed by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). DaRT is the first tool developed to support Parties in making effective use of synergies in the field of knowledge and information management for national reporting under the biodiversity-related conventions and was endorsed by the InforMEA Initiative (<https://dart.informea.org>). Parties are also encouraged to take action in this regard, as indicated in decision 15/--.<sup>11</sup>

*Submission of the report*

13. To facilitate the preparation and submission of the seventh and eighth national reports, an online reporting tool will be developed for use by Parties, building on the online reporting tool for the sixth national reports and other relevant tools, such as DaRT. The online reporting tool will be accessible on the clearing-house mechanism<sup>12</sup> of the Convention and will allow multiple nationally authorized users to draft elements of the national report and submit them for review and internal approval before formal submission by a national publishing authority. The tool will allow Parties to submit parts of the national report as they are finalized or submit the entire report once all of the sections are completed. The tool will also allow Parties to accept data on relevant headline indicators that are pre-filled from relevant regional/global data sets. For those Parties with limited Internet access or which prefer to submit their national reports in document form, an offline version of the reporting templates will be made available. If the national report is submitted in document form, it should be accompanied by an official letter or an email message from the national focal point for the Convention or a senior government official responsible for the implementation of the Convention. Parties not using the online reporting tool may send their seventh and eighth national reports to the Secretariat’s main email address ([secretariat@cbd.int](mailto:secretariat@cbd.int)).

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<sup>11</sup> Decision to be adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting.

<sup>12</sup> <https://chm.cbd.int>

**DRAFT TEMPLATE FOR THE SEVENTH AND EIGHTH NATIONAL REPORTS**

**Section I. Executive summary of the seventh and eighth national reports**

Please provide an executive summary of the report by highlighting the key findings. This may serve as communication material as well as a basis for updating a country profile to be made available on the CBD clearing-house mechanism. This section can be prepared after all the sections below have been completed.

<b>Summary of progress towards the 2050 goals and 2030 action targets (suggested word count: 300-500 words)</b>	
<b>Changes observed in the status and trends of biodiversity as a result of actions taken or progress made (suggested word count: 300-500 words)</b>	
<b>Ambition gaps, key challenges encountered in implementation and steps to be taken to enhance ambition and actions (suggested word count: 100-300 words)</b>	

**Section II. Brief overview of the process of preparation of the report**

<p><b>Please briefly describe the process undertaken for the preparation of this report (responses may include the following, suggested word count: 100-300 words):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Coordination mechanisms employed (if applicable);</li> <li>○ Consultations undertaken at various levels for preparing this report;             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Focal points for related conventions, Sustainable Development Goals and relevant agreements/processes;</li> <li>○ Indigenous peoples and local communities engaged and involved;</li> <li>○ Women’s groups engaged and involved;</li> <li>○ Subnational and local governments engaged and involved;</li> <li>○ Economic and other sectors engaged and involved;</li> <li>○ Other partners and stakeholders engaged and involved;</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Plan for using the report for communication and outreach activities as well as national planning process.</li> </ul>

**Section III. Status of the updated or revised NBSAP in the light of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (This section is for the seventh national report only)**

<p><b>Has your country updated or revised its NBSAP or biodiversity action plan in the light of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework?</b></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Has submitted national ambition or targets</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b></p>
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	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>In process (please indicate the anticipated date of completion)</b>
<b>Has your country's updated or revised NBSAP or biodiversity action plan been adopted as a policy or legal instrument?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>In process</b>
<b>If you answered "yes" above, please indicate the type of policy instrument your country's updated NBSAP or biodiversity action plan has been adopted as.</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted through legislation or otherwise by parliament  <input type="checkbox"/> Adopted by Council of Ministers, Office of the President/Prime Minister or equivalent whole-of-government body. <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Adopted by ministry of environment or other sectoral ministry</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b> ..... (please specify)  <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Integrated into the poverty reduction strategy, sustainable development strategy, national development plan, and other related strategies or plans</b>

**Section IV. Assessment of progress towards the 2050 goals of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework**

Please provide below an assessment of progress towards the achievement of the 2050 goals of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, using relevant headline indicators (suggested word limit: 300-500 words).

<b>2050 Goals</b>	<b>Value of headline indicators<sup>13</sup></b>	<b>Please provide the source of data related to the headline indicator(s).</b>
<b>Goal A</b>	(each indicator will be listed once agreed)	
<b>Goal B</b>		
<b>Goal C</b>		
<b>Goal D</b>		

<sup>13</sup> This will be pre-filled or pre-populated if any such data are available from relevant regional/global data sets; however, the data can be replaced by national data sets if these are available for a particular headline indicator.

**Section V. Progress towards the 2030 action targets**

Please use the following template to report on progress in the implementation of national ambitions/targets and the extent to which the implementation of these national targets has contributed or is contributing to the achievement of each action target for 2030 included in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. If needed, templates can be replicated for all national targets developed in line with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. It should be noted that assessment of national progress and contributions could draw on information related to implementation of the Convention, NBSAPs or similar strategies and plans, as well as actions taken by relevant sectors and stakeholders and indigenous peoples and local communities to implement their voluntary commitments.

<b>National target(s) related to 2030 Action Target 1</b>	
<b>Text of national target</b>	<b>(pre-filled from submission of national targets)</b>
<b>Please briefly describe main actions your country has taken or is taking to implement this national ambition/target (suggested word count: (100-300 words):</b>	
<b>For each of the actions described above, if your country has performed an analysis of their effectiveness or impacts, please indicate which action is effective, which is partially effective and which is not effective (suggested word count: 100-300 words).</b>	
<b>For actions assessed as “not effective” or “effective” please briefly describe how success was achieved and key challenges encountered, using examples and outcomes (suggested word count: 100-200 words).</b>	
<b>Please describe how the implementation of this national target has contributed to or is contributing to achieving the associated global target (suggested word count: 100-300 words).</b>	
<b>Please provide the value of the headline indicator(s) related to the associated global target.<sup>14</sup></b>	<b>(Each headline indicator will be listed here once agreed)</b>
<b>Please provide the source of data related to the headline indicator(s).</b>	
<b>Based on the value of the headline indicator(s) provided above, please indicate the current level of national progress that</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> On track to achieve target

<sup>14</sup> This will be pre-filled or pre-populated if any such data are available from relevant regional/global data sets; however, the data can be replaced by national data sets if these are available for a particular headline indicator.



<p><b>has been made towards the associated global target:</b></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Progress towards target but at an insufficient rate</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No significant change</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Moving away from target</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Unknown</p>
<p><b>If your country has used other indicators or tools to assess progress, indicated above, please provide details here.</b></p>	

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