



Convention on Biological Diversity

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Regional dialogue on national biodiversity strategies and action plans for countries in Latin America

Lima, 25–28 June 2024

Report of the regional dialogue on national biodiversity strategies and action plans for countries in Latin America

Introduction

1. The regional dialogue on national biodiversity strategies and action plans for countries in Latin America was held in Lima, from 25 to 28 June 2024, with the support of the Ministry of Environment of Peru and the national office of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). It was the eighth in a series of regional or subregional dialogues on national biodiversity strategies and action plans organized by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in collaboration with relevant partners further to decision 15/6 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and related decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety at its tenth meeting and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention at its fourth meeting. The dialogue was made possible through generous funding from the Government of Japan, provided through the Japan Biodiversity Fund, and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Government of Denmark and the European Union.
2. The dialogue was attended by representatives of the following countries: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).
3. The dialogue provided an opportunity for participating countries to share experiences and lessons learned in the revision or updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, including the setting or revision of national targets, in alignment with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework; address challenges that they had encountered; and identify possible opportunities and solutions for enhancing the development and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans. The dialogue included two breakout sessions, one on developing capacity-building action plans and the other on the development of national biodiversity finance plans.

Item 1

Opening of the meeting

4. The dialogue was opened on 25 June by the Acting Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, David Cooper, through a recorded video speech. The Minister of Environment

of Peru, Juan Carlos Castro Vargas, and the Deputy Resident Representative of UNDP, Peru, Carla Zacapa, delivered welcoming remarks.

Item 2

Introduction and overview of the objectives and programme of the dialogue

5. A representative of the Secretariat introduced the objectives and programme of the dialogue, which aimed towards: (a) providing countries with an opportunity to exchange experiences and lessons learned in revising or updating national biodiversity strategies and action plans; (b) addressing common challenges faced by countries and identifying possible solutions and opportunities; and (c) contributing to the continued piloting of an open-ended forum for voluntary country-by-country reviews of implementation under the Subsidiary Body on Implementation. She presented the organization of work and the format for the dialogue, which comprised a mix of introductory presentations, presentations by countries and organizations and facilitated plenary and group discussions.

6. To contextualize the dialogue, a representative of the Secretariat introduced the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including its goals and targets, as well as other major outcomes of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Item 3

Experiences and lessons learned in revising or updating national biodiversity strategies and action plans, including national targets

7. Country representatives shared national experiences and lessons learned in revising or updating national biodiversity strategies and action plans, including in revising or setting national targets in alignment with the goals and targets of the Framework. The presentations¹ and discussions were centred on the following five topics:

- (a) The whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach;
- (b) Integration of the provisions of the Protocols into national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- (c) National target revision or setting;
- (d) Development of a national monitoring plan;
- (e) Other challenges or issues encountered in the updating or revision of national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

8. On the first topic, concerning the whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, representatives of Chile, Colombia, Peru and Nicaragua delivered presentations, while representatives of organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth shared their perspectives.

9. On integrating the provisions of the Protocols into national biodiversity strategies and action plans, presentations were given by representatives of Argentina, Honduras and Mexico .

10. National target setting was discussed through presentations given by representatives of Guatemala, Mexico and Uruguay.

11. With regard to the development of national monitoring plans, a Co-Chair of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework provided an overview of decision 15/5 of the Conference of the Parties on the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the work carried out by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators. In her presentation, she highlighted the importance of

¹All the presentations are available at www.cbd.int/meetings/NBSAP-OM-2024-04.

considering the results of the work of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group in the revision of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the negotiation processes of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Through their presentations, representatives of Brazil and Costa Rica shared information on their countries' experiences in developing a national monitoring plan.

12. Consideration of the topic concerning other challenges or issues encountered in the updating or revision of national biodiversity strategies and action plans featured presentations by representatives of Ecuador, Panama and Paraguay. Moreover, participants in the dialogue heard presentations delivered by representatives of organizations such as Business for Nature, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the High Ambition Coalition and the NBSAP Accelerator Partnership.

13. Presentations were followed by question-and-answer sessions and facilitated plenary and group discussions, which are summarized in the key conclusions set out in the annex to the present report.

Item 4

Breakout sessions on capacity-building and development and national biodiversity financing

14. Breakout sessions were held on national biodiversity financing, in response to decision 15/7 of the Conference of the Parties on resource mobilization, and capacity-building and development, in response to decision 15/8 of the Conference of the Parties on capacity-building and development and technical and scientific cooperation. Those decisions are of equal standing in the context of the Framework and included invitations to Parties to develop biodiversity finance plans and capacity-building and development action plans to accompany national biodiversity strategies and action plans. Each breakout session comprised introductory presentations, facilitated group discussions and group exercises on the assessment of capacity and financing needs and the development of national capacity development plans and national biodiversity finance plans.

(a) Breakout session on national biodiversity financing

15. A representative of the Secretariat shared the main outcomes of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties regarding resource mobilization (decision 15/7) and the financial mechanism (decision 15/15).

16. The representative of the UNDP Biodiversity Finance Initiative team facilitated the breakout session. Four subsessions were held under the topic of national biodiversity financing on the following themes: (a) overview of relevant international financial mechanisms and policy frameworks; (b) biodiversity expenditure reviews and costing of actions in national biodiversity strategies and action plans; (c) developing a national biodiversity finance plan; and (d) financing opportunities and solutions for national biodiversity strategies and action plans. The subsessions featured video presentations, video chats with experts in the region, a panel discussion including country representatives of Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico and Peru, sharing of examples by countries and on-site facilitation of group discussions.

(b) Breakout session on capacity-building and development

17. A representative of the Secretariat provided an overview of related outcomes of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, specifically Target 20 of the Framework and decision 15/8, which included the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development (annex I). In the presentation, key concepts and guidance related to designing capacity-building and development programmes in support of the Framework were introduced.

18. Following the initial presentation, participants worked in groups and carried out exercises relevant for the development of a national capacity-building plan. In the exercises, participants selected key global biodiversity targets for which they undertook an assessment of existing capacities at the enabling environment, organizational and individual levels. They identified capacity

development gaps, needs and priorities relevant for implementation of the selected targets. During the second exercise, participants carried out mapping and analysis for the same targets to identify key stakeholders, including their interests, roles and responsibilities in supporting a capacity development action plan.

19. In the final exercise, participants filled in a matrix designed to enable identification of priority areas and actions that could be used in developing a national capacity-building and development plan and were invited to share the outcomes in plenary.

Item 5

Conclusions of the dialogue

20. Participants discussed and provided key conclusions resulting from the dialogue (see annex below) and country representatives were invited to share their plans for their next steps. Some representatives indicated that their countries would aim towards completing the revision or updating process for national biodiversity strategies and action plans and submitting national targets and the revised or updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan before the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, while others noted the challenges ahead and possible delays in submission.

Item 6

Closure of the meeting

21. Following the closing remarks of the Vice-Minister of Strategic Development of Natural Resources of the Ministry of Environment of Peru, Raquel Hilianova Soto Torres, and a representative of the Convention Secretariat, the dialogue was closed at 2 p.m. on 28 June 2024.

Annex

Key conclusions from the dialogue

National biodiversity strategy and action plan revision processes

- Most of the countries in the region have already initiated the review process and some are well advanced in the process and are working to present their national targets or revised national biodiversity strategy and action plan before the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity
- Some countries shared their experiences in developing diagnostic and gap identification methodologies for systematizing the national biodiversity strategy and action plan revision process
- Most countries have conducted or are conducting extensive consultations at different levels and with different groups and sectors
- Countries use different cross-sectoral consultation mechanisms within the government, often led by the ministry of the environment
- It is common to establish regional or local consultation mechanisms in regions and municipalities within the country and with indigenous peoples and local communities and other stakeholders such as the private sector, productive sectors, academia, civil society and women's and youth groups
- Most countries expressed their concern regarding the short time available to countries for implementing these plans, which could impact the assessment of progress towards achieving the goals and targets of the Framework and future editions of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*

Whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach

- Participants recognized:
 - That the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework has raised the relevance of biodiversity and its political profile and that countries are making a greater effort than that made for the Aichi Biodiversity Targets to ensure that the process is truly participatory and involves a greater number of stakeholders and extensive consultations with various sectors and different regions
 - The importance of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, including budget markers for political commitments, and some countries shared their view of the usefulness of including the ministry in charge of planning or finance in the process in order to ensure budget allocation
 - The advantages of having the presidency or the ministry in charge of planning lead the review process, as it often has greater capacity than the ministry of the environment to coordinate different ministries and mobilize political will
 - That there are a large number of goals of relevance to indigenous peoples and local communities and the importance of ensuring culturally relevant participation and reaching compromises and consensus
 - That several countries are actively integrating youth and women's groups for the first time
- The following difficulties or limitations were identified:
 - The whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach is laborious, costly and time-consuming with respect to achieving an effective review of national biodiversity strategies and action plans before the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Stakeholders take a long time to respond to needs and in parallel there is a great deal of pressure to approve instruments in order to comply with commitments
 - There is a lack of space for discussion of the most contentious issues where consensus has not been reached
 - While climate and biodiversity issues are relevant for all countries, not all of them have started to work within the framework of this vision

- Integration of some sectors and actors, as well as how to secure their commitments and maintain their interest over time, constitutes a challenge
- There is a need to sensitize and train stakeholders with respect to institutional coordination mechanisms as a first step
- There is a need to strengthen communication and institutionalize coordination processes and mechanisms
- As it is difficult to establish who is responsible for goals that are very much cross-cutting in nature, support is needed at the highest level of government
- The following opportunities were identified:
 - The establishment of financial plans is recognized as an opportunity and as marking a difference from the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020
 - In countries where the process is not institutionalized, inter-agency mechanisms that were previously used or are in operation in other processes (for example, climate change-related processes) can be utilized
 - The whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach and mechanisms for early participation and involvement in the national biodiversity strategy and action plan review mark a difference from the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and the Aichi Targets and can exert a positive impact on the subsequent implementation of the national biodiversity strategy and action plan
 - Creating linkages with national development plans and mapping biodiversity commitments in different legal instruments and analysing their level of implementation and current gaps can facilitate planning coherence and strengthen implementation

Integration of the provisions of the Protocols into national biodiversity strategies and action plans

- Countries recognized the progress made with respect to the Aichi Targets in terms of better integration of the Protocols into national biodiversity strategies and action plans through a specific biosafety target (Target 17) and an access and benefit-sharing goal and target (Goal C and Target 13)
- In most countries, there are specialized committees or institutions or projects whose work is focused on access and benefit-sharing/biosafety issues. Those institutions either lead the work on Targets 13 and 17 or are consulted in the process
- Including biosafety and access and benefit-sharing within consultation processes and participation mechanisms can help raise awareness on these two key aspects of the Convention among different sectors and stakeholders
- Countries recognized that the implementation of Goal C and Target 13 will contribute to the mobilization of resources for biodiversity and for realizing the potential of the benefit-sharing mechanism derived from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources which may be finalized at the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
- Capacity-building is essential for raising awareness and implementation of legislative, administrative or policy measures on access and benefit-sharing/biosafety among institutions and sectors, as there is a prevailing lack of knowledge in that regard

Establishment or revision of national targets

- Countries shared experiences on processes and methodologies for working on national targets, for example, provision of drafts in advance or methodologies that use artificial intelligence, online surveys and other methods to create the first working drafts
- Participants recognized the importance of developing methodologies combining top-down and bottom-up approaches in a way that generates commitments from different sectors/stakeholders
- The following challenges were recognized:
 - Political changes in government and in that regard how to ensure continuity of existing work and commitments, although it was recognized that the more socialized the process, the easier it is to ensure continuity

- Ensuring the effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in the process

Development of a national monitoring plan

- Some countries have carried out preliminary work on the availability of information, development of methodologies and identification of capacity needs for the indicators adopted at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
- The importance was highlighted of considering headline and other indicators in the development phase for national targets
- Countries recognized that there is a need to strengthen capacity in monitoring and information systems and strengthen national data systems so as to avoid a reliance on global data for monitoring
- Participants identified the dispersion of environmental information held in different institutions and processes as a major challenge
- The following opportunities were identified:
 - The establishment of institutional coordination mechanisms for monitoring and follow-up and the creation of spaces for dialogue with statistical offices, scientific institutions and institutions in charge of reporting to other processes (for example, Sustainable Development Goal-related reporting) which could increase the availability of information and promote synergies
 - The use of proxies for indicators, citizen science initiatives and involvement of indigenous peoples and local communities in data management and monitoring which could be a means of responding to the need to generate information
 - The development of interoperability mechanisms between information systems, unifying national operating systems and connecting them to global platforms for monitoring commitments which could help improve the availability of information
 - The possibility of working as a region on monitoring and analysis and strengthening regional initiatives, such as the regional statistical observatory under the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean or the regional or subregional centres for supporting scientific and technical cooperation under the Convention on Biological Diversity

Biodiversity financing planning

- Countries expressed their appreciation for the support provided by the Biodiversity Finance Initiative in the application of the methodology and implementation of financial solutions and emphasized the importance of continuing to consolidate it
- Countries exchanged experiences, challenges and lessons learned in resource mobilization for biodiversity and recognized the importance of:
 - Mobilizing resources from all sources, as fiscal sources are not sufficient and it is necessary to explore other innovative sources
 - Identification of sectoral public funds that incorporate environmental criteria and inter-institutional coordination
 - Raising awareness among political actors about the importance and benefits of investing in nature
 - Mapping experiences of inventories of perverse and positive subsidies for biodiversity
 - Direct access of indigenous peoples and local communities to funds, as established under the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund, and the importance of at least a direct percentage reaching the territories of indigenous peoples
- The following opportunities were identified:
 - The countries of the region have a wealth of experiences and having forums and means for sharing the different financial solutions among countries is fundamental to advancing in that area of work
 - Improving the articulation and integration of the work of the Biodiversity Finance Initiative with other cooperating agencies can help national counterparts guide the financing plan along its path
 - Advances in and opportunities for resource mobilization are recognized through the incorporation of the private sector, development banks and the financial system

Development and capacity-building

- Countries recognized that, while there are many capacities in place in the region at all three levels (enabling environment, organizational and individual), diagnostics are needed to identify the gaps and specific needs on which capacity development/strengthening efforts should be focused
 - The importance was recognized of detailed stakeholder mapping, including analysing key stakeholders, their level of influence and level of interest and specific identification of strategies to achieve commitments
 - The exercises developed during the sessions were useful for the purpose of reflecting on the development of the capacities needed to implement the Global Biodiversity Framework
 - The usefulness was recognized of having a capacity development/strengthening plan for national biodiversity strategies and action plans that can be used not only to prioritize and focus on strategic actions but also to mobilize resources. The following opportunities were identified:
 - Countries can take advantage of the consultations that they are engaging in within the context of the national biodiversity strategy and action plan revision to determine capacity-building and capacity development needs
 - The development of capacity-building plans can provide a good reason for involving other stakeholders, such as universities, research centres and non-governmental organizations, that can play an important role in the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans
 - The long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development (decision 15/8, annex), the Capacity-building Action Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (decision CP-10/4, annex) and the draft capacity-building and development action plan for the Nagoya Protocol (recommendation 4/7 of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation) can be used as references for the development of national plans.
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