



## Convention on Biological Diversity

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### CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Fourteenth meeting  
Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, 17-29 November 2018  
Item 8 of the provisional agenda\*

#### **PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION AND THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR BIODIVERSITY 2011-2020 AND TOWARDS THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS**

*Note by the Executive Secretary*

#### **BACKGROUND**

1. In decision [X/2](#) the Conference of the Parties decided that, at its future meetings, it would review progress in the implementation of the [Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020](#) (para. 14), and 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 (para. 17(b)), to enable the Conference of the Parties to assess the contribution of such national and regional targets to the global targets.
2. Further, in decision X/2, paragraph 3, the Conference of the Parties urged Parties to review, and as appropriate, update and revise, their national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs), in line with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the guidance adopted in decision [IX/9](#), integrating their national targets developed in the framework of the Strategic Plan and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets into their NBSAPs. Subsequently, in decision [XII/2 A](#), paragraph 4, the Conference of the Parties urged those Parties that had not yet done so, to review and, as appropriate, update and revise their NBSAPs in line with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, to adopt indicators at the national level as soon as possible and, in any event, no later than October 2015, and to submit their fifth national reports.
3. In decision [XII/31](#), the Conference of the Parties reaffirmed that it should review progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 at each of its meetings to 2020, and that the development of further guidance for policy development and to support implementation should be based on this review as well as on information available in national reports and on other information that may become available, including through scientific assessments. Further, according to the list of issues contained in the annex to this decision, the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth meeting was to undertake, among other things, an interim review of progress towards the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and related means of implementation.
4. In decision [XIII/1](#), the Conference of the Parties took note of the analysis of progress towards the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and of the updated report on progress towards the implementation of the [Global](#)

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\* CBD/COP/14/1.

[Strategy for Plant Conservation](#). In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties encouraged Parties, in the process of updating their NBSAPs, to consider, as appropriate, the indicators for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals.

5. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties also encouraged Parties to review their NBSAPs periodically, as appropriate and, in accordance with national circumstances, priorities and capacities, to consider increasing the level of ambition and/or scope of the national or regional targets to a level that is commensurate with the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and to integrate the targets across different sectors, including in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>1</sup> and the Sustainable Development Goals, so as to make a greater contribution to collective global efforts to achieve the global targets.

6. The Conference of the Parties further encouraged Parties to systematically mainstream gender considerations in their NBSAPs, and in associated implementation and reporting mechanisms in line with the 2015–2020 Gender Plan of Action under the Convention.<sup>2</sup>

7. The present document provides an updated assessment of progress towards the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and towards the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in line with the above decisions. It is based on information contained in the revised and updated NBSAPs as well as the fifth national reports received by 21 September 2018. It is complemented by the following addenda:

(a) Update on progress in revising/updating and implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans, including national targets (CBD/COP/14/5/Add.1);

(b) Analysis of the contribution of targets established by Parties and progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (CBD/COP/14/5/Add.2).

8. In addition, a further updated analysis of information provided through the financial reporting framework is provided in CBD/COP/14.

9. These analyses complement an updated scientific assessment of progress towards selected Aichi Biodiversity Targets ([CBD/SBSTTA/22/5](#)) considered by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its twenty-second meeting under agenda item 6.

## I. REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION

10. The mid-term review of progress towards the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020<sup>3</sup> concluded that there had been encouraging progress towards meeting some elements of most Aichi Biodiversity Targets, but, in most cases, this progress would not be sufficient to achieve the Targets unless further urgent and effective action was taken to reduce the pressures on biodiversity and to prevent its continued decline. Additional information from updated and revised NBSAPs and from fifth national reports that were not available for consideration in the mid-term review reinforces this overall conclusion.

### A. National biodiversity strategies and action plans

11. NBSAPs are the principal instrument for implementing the Convention at the national level. Since 1993, 190 Parties have developed at least one NBSAP, while 6 Parties have yet to submit their first.

12. In decision X/2, the Conference of the Parties urged Parties to review, revise and update, as appropriate, their NBSAPs in line with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. Aichi Biodiversity Target 17, which had a deadline of 2015, calls on Parties to develop, adopt as a policy instrument, and commence implementing an effective, participatory and updated NBSAP. Parties also committed to

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<sup>1</sup> [General Assembly resolution 70/1](#), annex.

<sup>2</sup> Decision [XII/7](#).

<sup>3</sup> The midterm review of progress was supported by the fourth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* and led to the adoption of decision XII/1.

establishing national targets, using the Strategic Plan and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets as a flexible framework.

13. Since the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the majority of Parties have initiated revisions of their NBSAPs in response to decision X/2. A total of 69 Parties met the 2015 deadline, and 92 others submitted their NBSAPs by 21 September 2018, making a total of 161 (see annex II for the list of Parties). This represents over 80 per cent of the Parties to the Convention.

14. The update on progress in revising/updating and implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans (CBD/COP/14/5/Add.1) summarizes progress in revising and implementing NBSAPs and national targets and analyses the contents of the post-Nagoya NBSAPs submitted by 21 September 2018. This analysis is based on criteria from decision [IX/8](#) which provides detailed guidance on the process, contents and components of NBSAPs and subsequent guidance. It indicates that many of the revised NBSAPs show substantial improvement over previous NBSAPs as reflected in the global assessment undertaken in 2010,<sup>4</sup> in terms of their legal status, their building on assessments of their predecessor documents, the engagement of other government ministries and other criteria.

15. The NBSAP analysis also includes a section on Parties' adoption of the revised NBSAPs as policy instruments as committed in Aichi Biodiversity Target 17. It concludes that 52 revised NBSAPs have been adopted as "whole-of-government" instruments and another 6 NBSAPs have been adopted as instruments applying to the environmental sector. While 17 other countries stated their intent to have their NBSAP adopted as a policy instrument, the majority (86 Parties, equivalent to 53 per cent) do not provide sufficient evidence to know if they have been adopted as a policy instrument.

16. The analysis also shows that few of the revised NBSAPs contain resource mobilization strategies (24 Parties), communication and public awareness strategies (35 Parties), or capacity development strategies (19 Parties) as the NBSAP guidance suggests. Further, only a few NBSAPs demonstrate that biodiversity is being mainstreamed significantly into cross-sectoral plans and policies, poverty eradication policies, or even into sustainable development plans. Revised NBSAPs bear little evidence of the use of valuation studies to encourage mainstreaming in countries.

17. These findings contrast significantly with the aspirations communicated in the revised NBSAPs. Many Parties have either set targets or otherwise stated an intent to implement actions on resource mobilization, valuation, establishment of the national clearing-house mechanism, communication and public awareness, capacity development, and development of subnational biodiversity plans, among other topics.

18. The majority of NBSAPs developed or revised since the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties contain targets related to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, though, for some Aichi Targets, such as Targets 3, 6, 10, 14, 17 and 18, there were many NBSAPs (over 30 per cent) without associated national targets or commitments. Aichi Biodiversity Targets 1, 9, 16, 19 and 20 are the Aichi Targets with the greatest number of broadly similar national targets or commitments. However, even in these cases, the number of NBSAPs with targets having a similar scope and level of ambition as the Aichi Targets rarely surpassed 20 per cent. Overall, the majority of national targets and/or commitments contained in the NBSAPs were lower than the Aichi Targets or did not address all of the elements of the Aichi Target. Generally, the national targets that have been set to date are more general than the Aichi Targets. As more NBSAPs are received, this overall picture may change.

19. Many countries have established targets or made commitments within the framework of other international processes, beyond the Convention on Biological Diversity, and many of these targets and commitments may be relevant to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. For example, as part of the intended nationally determined contributions to the Paris Agreement,<sup>5</sup> many countries have included targets for reducing deforestation or promoting ecosystem restoration, related to Aichi Biodiversity Targets 5 and 15,

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<sup>4</sup> [Prip, C.; Gross, T.; Johnston, S.; Vierros, M. \(2010\). \*Biodiversity Planning: An Assessment of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans\*. United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies, Yokohama, Japan.](#)

<sup>5</sup> United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Conference of the Parties, twenty-first session, [decision 1/CP.21](#).

respectively. However, such targets are not always reflected in the updated NBSAPs. There is an opportunity, therefore, for Parties, when establishing or reviewing their national targets under the Convention, to take into account relevant targets under other processes.

20. In decision X/2, the Conference of the Parties urged Parties to develop national and regional targets with a view to contributing to collective global efforts to reach the global Aichi Biodiversity Targets. If the NBSAPs which are yet to be finalized follow a pattern similar to those already developed, it is unlikely that the aggregation of the additional national commitments will correspond to the scale and level of ambition set out in the global Aichi Targets. Further information on the progress made in developing, revising and updating NBSAPs is contained in documents CBD/COP/14/5/Add.1 and Add.2.

## B. National reports

21. In adopting the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020,<sup>6</sup> the Conference of the Parties noted the need to keep its implementation under review. The national reports are a main source of information for doing this. In decision X/10, the Conference of the Parties requested Parties to submit their fifth national report by 31 March 2014. By 21 September 2018, 191 fifth national reports had been received (that is, all the Parties except the Bahamas, Gabon, Iceland, Lesotho and Libya, or 97 per cent of Parties).<sup>7</sup>

22. Information contained in these reports on the status, trends and pressures related to biodiversity as well as information on the different actions that countries have reported taking or will be taking in the near future was used to determine overall progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. The assessment of the information in the national reports indicates that the majority of Parties have made progress towards the Aichi Targets but at a rate that is insufficient to allow the targets to be met by the deadline unless additional actions are taken.

23. Across all Aichi Biodiversity Targets, between one third and two thirds of the national reports contain information suggesting that progress towards a given target is being made but at an insufficient rate. Further, across all Aichi Biodiversity Targets, between 7 and 43 per cent of national reports contain information suggesting that either no significant change has occurred or that the country is moving away from a given target. The number of assessments classified as being on track to reach an Aichi Biodiversity Target, or on track to exceed it, ranges between 3 and 29 per cent depending on the target. Overall, the assessment of information in the national reports indicates that between 63 and 86 per cent of Parties are not on track to attain a given Aichi Biodiversity Target. This assessment is consistent with that presented in the fourth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*, which, based on an assessment of 64 fifth national reports, concluded that between 2 per cent and 42 per cent of Parties were on track to attain or exceed a given Aichi Biodiversity Target. Further information on the progress made reaching the Aichi Biodiversity Targets as presented in the national reports is contained in document CBD/COP/14/5/Add.2.

## II. CONCLUSION

24. While the information from the assessment of NBSAPs relates to commitments and the information from the national reports relates to actions and outcomes, the two sources of information provide a consistent picture. Efforts have been made to translate the Aichi Biodiversity Targets into national commitments, and national actions have been taken to reach the Aichi Targets. However, these commitments and efforts will need to be significantly scaled up if the Aichi Targets are to be met and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 more generally is to be successfully implemented.

25. The information from this assessment is broadly consistent with the information presented in the fourth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*, which concluded that, while progress is being made towards the achievement of all targets, progress is not currently sufficient to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and that additional action is required to keep the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 on course.

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<sup>6</sup> Decision X/2.

<sup>7</sup> See annex I for the list of Parties.

*Annex I*

**LIST OF FIFTH NATIONAL REPORTS RECEIVED BY THE SECRETARIAT OF THE  
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY BY 21 SEPTEMBER 2018**

- |     |                                  |     |                                       |
|-----|----------------------------------|-----|---------------------------------------|
| 1.  | Afghanistan                      | 39. | Cook Islands                          |
| 2.  | Albania                          | 40. | Costa Rica                            |
| 3.  | Algeria                          | 41. | Côte d'Ivoire                         |
| 4.  | Andorra                          | 42. | Croatia                               |
| 5.  | Angola                           | 43. | Cuba                                  |
| 6.  | Antigua and Barbuda              | 44. | Cyprus                                |
| 7.  | Argentina                        | 45. | Czechia                               |
| 8.  | Armenia                          | 46. | Democratic People's Republic of Korea |
| 9.  | Australia                        | 47. | Democratic Republic of the Congo      |
| 10. | Austria                          | 48. | Denmark                               |
| 11. | Azerbaijan                       | 49. | Djibouti                              |
| 12. | Bahrain                          | 50. | Dominica                              |
| 13. | Bangladesh                       | 51. | Dominican Republic                    |
| 14. | Barbados                         | 52. | Ecuador                               |
| 15. | Belarus                          | 53. | Egypt                                 |
| 16. | Belgium                          | 54. | El Salvador                           |
| 17. | Belize                           | 55. | Equatorial Guinea                     |
| 18. | Benin                            | 56. | Eritrea                               |
| 19. | Bhutan                           | 57. | Eswatini                              |
| 20. | Bolivia (Plurinational State of) | 58. | Estonia                               |
| 21. | Bosnia and Herzegovina           | 59. | Ethiopia                              |
| 22. | Botswana                         | 60. | European Union                        |
| 23. | Brazil                           | 61. | Fiji                                  |
| 24. | Brunei Darussalam                | 62. | Finland                               |
| 25. | Bulgaria                         | 63. | France                                |
| 26. | Burkina Faso                     | 64. | Gambia                                |
| 27. | Burundi                          | 65. | Georgia                               |
| 28. | Cabo Verde                       | 66. | Germany                               |
| 29. | Cambodia                         | 67. | Ghana                                 |
| 30. | Cameroon                         | 68. | Greece                                |
| 31. | Canada                           | 69. | Grenada                               |
| 32. | Central African Republic         | 70. | Guatemala                             |
| 33. | Chad                             | 71. | Guinea                                |
| 34. | Chile                            | 72. | Guinea-Bissau                         |
| 35. | China                            | 73. | Guyana                                |
| 36. | Colombia                         | 74. | Haiti                                 |
| 37. | Comoros                          | 75. | Honduras                              |
| 38. | Congo                            | 76. | Hungary                               |

77. India
78. Indonesia
79. Iran (Islamic Republic of)
80. Iraq
81. Ireland
82. Israel
83. Italy
84. Jamaica
85. Japan
86. Jordan
87. Kazakhstan
88. Kenya
89. Kiribati
90. Kuwait
91. Kyrgyzstan
92. Lao People's Democratic Republic
93. Latvia
94. Lebanon
95. Liberia
96. Liechtenstein
97. Lithuania
98. Luxembourg
99. Madagascar
100. Malawi
101. Malaysia
102. Maldives
103. Mali
104. Malta
105. Marshall Islands
106. Mauritania
107. Mauritius
108. Mexico
109. Micronesia (Federated States of)
110. Monaco
111. Mongolia
112. Montenegro
113. Morocco
114. Mozambique
115. Myanmar
116. Namibia
117. Nauru
118. Nepal
119. Netherlands
120. New Zealand
121. Nicaragua
122. Niger
123. Nigeria
124. Niue
125. Norway
126. Oman
127. Pakistan
128. Palau
129. Panama
130. Papua New Guinea
131. Paraguay
132. Peru
133. Philippines
134. Poland
135. Portugal
136. Qatar
137. Republic of Korea
138. Republic of Moldova
139. Romania
140. Russian Federation
141. Rwanda
142. Saint Kitts and Nevis
143. Saint Lucia
144. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
145. Samoa
146. San Marino
147. Sao Tome and Principe
148. Saudi Arabia
149. Senegal
150. Serbia
151. Seychelles
152. Sierra Leone
153. Singapore
154. Slovakia
155. Slovenia
156. Solomon Islands
157. Somalia
158. South Africa
159. South Sudan
160. Spain
161. Sri Lanka
162. State of Palestine

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|------|---|------|--|
| 163. | Sudan                                     | 178. | Tuvalu   |
| 164. | Suriname                                  | 179. | Uganda   |
| 165. | Sweden                                    | 180. | Ukraine  |
| 166. | Switzerland                               | 181. | United Arab Emirates                                 |
| 167. | Syrian Arab Republic                      | 182. | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland |
| 168. | Tajikistan                                | 183. | United Republic of Tanzania                          |
| 169. | Thailand                                  | 184. | Uruguay  |
| 170. | The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia | 185. | Uzbekistan   |
| 171. | Timor-Leste                               | 186. | Vanuatu  |
| 172. | Togo                                      | 187. | Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)                   |
| 173. | Tonga                                     | 188. | Viet Nam   |
| 174. | Trinidad and Tobago                       | 189. | Yemen  |
| 175. | Tunisia                                   | 190. | Zambia   |
| 176. | Turkey                                    | 191. | Zimbabwe   |
| 177. | Turkmenistan                              |      |  |

*Annex II*

**LIST OF NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS RECEIVED BY  
THE SECRETARIAT OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY BETWEEN  
OCTOBER 2010 AND 21 SEPTEMBER 2018**

- |     |                                       |     |                                  |
|-----|---------------------------------------|-----|----------------------------------|
| 1.  | Afghanistan                           | 43. | Dominica                         |
| 2.  | Albania                               | 44. | Dominican Republic               |
| 3.  | Algeria                               | 45. | Ecuador                          |
| 4.  | Andorra                               | 46. | Egypt                            |
| 5.  | Antigua and Barbuda                   | 47. | El Salvador                      |
| 6.  | Argentina                             | 48. | Equatorial Guinea                |
| 7.  | Armenia                               | 49. | Eritrea                          |
| 8.  | Australia                             | 50. | Eswatini                         |
| 9.  | Austria                               | 51. | Estonia                          |
| 10. | Azerbaijan                            | 52. | Ethiopia                         |
| 11. | Bahrain                               | 53. | European Union                   |
| 12. | Bangladesh                            | 54. | Finland                          |
| 13. | Belarus                               | 55. | France                           |
| 14. | Belgium                               | 56. | Gambia                           |
| 15. | Belize                                | 57. | Georgia                          |
| 16. | Benin                                 | 58. | Germany                          |
| 17. | Bhutan                                | 59. | Ghana                            |
| 18. | Bosnia and Herzegovina                | 60. | Greece                           |
| 19. | Botswana                              | 61. | Grenada                          |
| 20. | Brazil                                | 62. | Guatemala                        |
| 21. | Brunei Darussalam                     | 63. | Guinea                           |
| 22. | Burkina Faso                          | 64. | Guinea-Bissau                    |
| 23. | Burundi                               | 65. | Guyana                           |
| 24. | Cabo Verde                            | 66. | Honduras                         |
| 25. | Cambodia                              | 67. | Hungary                          |
| 26. | Cameroon                              | 68. | India                            |
| 27. | Canada                                | 69. | Indonesia                        |
| 28. | Chad                                  | 70. | Iran (Islamic Republic of)       |
| 29. | Chile                                 | 71. | Iraq                             |
| 30. | China                                 | 72. | Ireland                          |
| 31. | Colombia                              | 73. | Italy                            |
| 32. | Comoros                               | 74. | Jamaica                          |
| 33. | Congo                                 | 75. | Japan                            |
| 34. | Costa Rica                            | 76. | Jordan                           |
| 35. | Côte d'Ivoire                         | 77. | Kiribati                         |
| 36. | Croatia                               | 78. | Kyrgyzstan                       |
| 37. | Cuba                                  | 79. | Lao People's Democratic Republic |
| 38. | Czechia                               | 80. | Latvia                           |
| 39. | Democratic People's Republic of Korea | 81. | Lebanon                          |
| 40. | Democratic Republic of the Congo      | 82. | Liberia                          |
| 41. | Denmark                               | 83. | Liechtenstein                    |
| 42. | Djibouti                              | 84. | Lithuania                        |



- |      |                       |      |  |
|------|-----------------------|------|--|
| 85.  | Luxembourg            | 124. | Samoa  |
| 86.  | Madagascar            | 125. | Saint Vincent and the Grenadines                     |
| 87.  | Malawi                | 126. | San Marino   |
| 88.  | Malaysia              | 127. | Sao Tome and Principe                                |
| 89.  | Maldives              | 128. | Senegal  |
| 90.  | Mali                  | 129. | Serbia   |
| 91.  | Malta                 | 130. | Seychelles   |
| 92.  | Mauritania            | 131. | Sierra Leone   |
| 93.  | Mauritius             | 132. | Slovakia   |
| 94.  | Mexico                | 133. | Solomon Islands                                      |
| 95.  | Mongolia              | 134. | Somalia  |
| 96.  | Montenegro            | 135. | South Africa   |
| 97.  | Morocco               | 136. | Spain  |
| 98.  | Mozambique            | 137. | Sri Lanka  |
| 99.  | Myanmar               | 138. | Sudan  |
| 100. | Namibia               | 139. | Suriname   |
| 101. | Nauru                 | 140. | Sweden   |
| 102. | Nepal                 | 141. | Switzerland  |
| 103. | Netherlands           | 142. | Tajikistan   |
| 104. | New Zealand           | 143. | Thailand   |
| 105. | Nicaragua             | 144. | Timor-Leste  |
| 106. | Niger                 | 145. | Togo   |
| 107. | Nigeria               | 146. | Trinidad and Tobago                                  |
| 108. | Niue                  | 147. | Tunisia  |
| 109. | Norway                | 148. | Turkmenistan   |
| 110. | Pakistan              | 149. | Tuvalu   |
| 111. | Palau                 | 150. | Uganda   |
| 112. | Paraguay              | 151. | Ukraine  |
| 113. | Peru                  | 152. | United Arab Emirates                                 |
| 114. | Philippines           | 153. | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland |
| 115. | Poland                | 154. | United Republic of Tanzania                          |
| 116. | Portugal              | 155. | Uruguay  |
| 117. | Qatar                 | 156. | Vanuatu  |
| 118. | Republic of Korea     | 157. | Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)                   |
| 119. | Republic of Moldova   | 158. | Viet Nam   |
| 120. | Romania               | 159. | Yemen  |
| 121. | Russian Federation    | 160. | Zambia   |
| 122. | Rwanda                | 161. | Zimbabwe   |
| 123. | Saint Kitts and Nevis |      |  |
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