



Convention on Biological Diversity

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Review of implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including means of implementation

Analysis of national biodiversity strategies and action plans revised and updated aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. National biodiversity strategies and action plans are the principal instrument for the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity at the national level. Article 6 of the Convention establishes that: “Each Contracting Party shall, in accordance with its particular conditions and capabilities...[d]evelop national strategies, plans or programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity or adapt for this purpose existing strategies, plans or programmes which shall reflect, inter alia, the measures set out in th[e] Convention relevant to the Contracting Party concerned”.

2. In its decision [15/6](#), the Conference of the Parties to the Convention requested Parties to revise or update their national biodiversity strategies and action plans, aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and its goals and targets, including those related to means of implementation, and to submit them by the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. In the same decision, it requested Parties not in a position to do so by that time to communicate national targets, as a stand-alone submission, by the sixteenth meeting, in advance of the full submission of the national biodiversity strategy and action plan.

3. A list of the Parties that submitted national biodiversity strategies and action plans is available in document CBD/SBI/5/2/Rev.1. The present note provides an analysis of the 19 revised or updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans submitted by Parties¹ as at 10 September 2024, in one of the official languages of the United Nations or with a summary provided in one of the official languages. An analysis and summary of national targets submitted is available in document CBD/SBI/5/2/Add.2/Rev.1.

* CBD/SBI/5/1.

¹ Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Canada, China, Cuba, European Union, France, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico, Republic of Korea, Slovenia, Spain and Suriname.

II. Background

4. Since the entry into force of the Convention in 1993, 193 Parties to the Convention have prepared at least one national biodiversity strategy and action plan. Of those prepared and submitted before the adoption of the Framework, 71 covered a period up to 2030, 1 covered a period up to 2035 and 16 covered a period up to 2050. Although those national biodiversity strategies and action plans remain temporally valid, it is expected that they will be revised or updated to be aligned with the Framework and its goals and targets, as requested by the Conference of the Parties in its decision 15/6.

5. An analysis of national biodiversity strategies and action plans submitted during the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 was included as part of the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*, published in 2020. A further analysis was prepared by the Secretariat for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting.² The analysis highlighted some of the salient features of the post-2020 national biodiversity strategies and action plans by assessing them against the guidance for their preparation contained in decision IX/8. While the national biodiversity strategies and action plans developed during the decade 2011–2020 included more successes in terms of achieving whole-of-government approaches, as compared with the decade 2001–2010, there remained gaps in several areas, notably: adoption of national biodiversity strategies and action plans as a national policy through legislation; costing the actions of the plan and developing a clear finance plan; stakeholder engagement; building capacity; and mainstreaming in other sectors of government. Moreover, national targets in many national biodiversity strategies and action plans were not aligned with the Aichi Biodiversity Targets of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020.

6. An important challenge noted by Parties during the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets concerned the delays in initiating Global Environment Facility enabling activity projects which provide support for developing national biodiversity strategies and action plans. This led, in many cases, to the long time lag between the adoption of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and the development of aligned national biodiversity strategies and action plans. While Parties had a five-year period for preparing and submitting their national biodiversity strategy and action plan, only 69 Parties had submitted their national biodiversity strategy and action plan by the deadline of December 2015. By 17 October 2022, an additional 108 countries had submitted an updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan, bringing the total to 177, but many of those national biodiversity strategies and action plans were submitted very close to the end of the decade of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020.

III. Progress in updating national biodiversity strategies and action plans in alignment with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

7. Since the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, 19 Parties have submitted, in an official language of the United Nations, a revised or updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan pursuant to the request in decision 15/6. During the dialogues on national biodiversity strategies and action plans held between August 2023 and September 2024,³ most Parties indicated that they were in the process of preparing their revised or updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan but had prioritized the development and submission of national targets.

8. Of the 19 national biodiversity strategies and action plans considered in the analysis, 1 was from an African State, 6 from Asia-Pacific States, 3 from an Eastern European State, 3 from Latin American and Caribbean States and 6 from Western European and other States. The Secretariat received one regional strategy aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.⁴

² CBD/COP/15/9/Add.1.

³ For further information on these dialogues, see document CBD/SBI/5/2/Add.3.

⁴ African Union Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.

The analysis considered the extent to which Parties reflected the guidance contained in decisions IX/8 and 15/6 in the development, revision or update of their national biodiversity strategy and action plan. That guidance related, inter alia, to (a) process and legal status; (b) components of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans; and (c) mainstreaming.

A. Process and legal status of revised/updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans

9. Most of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans were developed with some level of stakeholder engagement or with the expectation of involvement of stakeholders in implementation. In more than half of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans analysed, it is stated that the Party undertook an assessment of its previous national biodiversity strategy and action plan as part of its process to revise or update it. Moreover, more than half of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans analysed have been adopted as policy instruments. It is expected that at least some of the other Parties will adopt their national biodiversity strategy and action plan as a policy instrument at a later date, given that countries may not have had sufficient time to undertake the necessary legal process for formal adoption before they submitted their national biodiversity strategy and action plan to the Secretariat.

B. Components of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans

10. Of the revised or updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans analysed, most of them contain either targets or actions pertaining to communication, education and public awareness. Most of them also contain references to means of implementation, including finance and capacity development. However, less than half of them include a resource mobilization strategy or mention the intention to develop one at a later date. More than half of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans reviewed mention an intention to address gender issues across the development of the national biodiversity strategy and action plan.

C. Mainstreaming

11. Most of the revised or updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans contain a plan to mainstream biodiversity into relevant sectors. More than half of the revised or updated strategies and plans mention linkage with subnational-level plans. More than half address the valuation of biodiversity and ecosystem services, while the intention to develop payment for ecosystem service programmes is mentioned occasionally. Just under half of the revised or updated strategies and plans mention a link with national development plans; most, however, are linked with sustainable development plans. A link with a poverty eradication strategy or similar instrument is mentioned only occasionally.

D. Targets, actions, monitoring

12. In the national biodiversity strategies and action plans submitted, more than half contain actions related to the implementation of national targets and most contain targets or actions to implement the Protocols, other multilateral environmental agreements and/or the Sustainable Development Goals. While most of them contain a monitoring and evaluation plan, less than half provide details related to how specific indicators will be used for monitoring and, in particular, very few provide information on the link with the headline indicators adopted in decision 15/5 of the Conference of the Parties.