



Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.: General
22 August 2024

English only

Regional dialogue on national biodiversity strategies and action plans for South and East Asia

Tokyo, 23–26 January 2024

Report of the regional dialogue on national biodiversity strategies and action plans for South and East Asia

Introduction

1. By its decision [15/4](#), the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and noted that its implementation would be supported by decisions [15/5](#), [15/6](#), [15/7](#), [15/8](#), [15/9](#) and [15/13](#), which it affirmed to be of equal standing in relation to the Framework. The Conference of the Parties noted that the implementation of the Framework would be supported by relevant decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization, in particular the Implementation Plan for the Cartagena Protocol and the Capacity-building Action Plan for the Cartagena Protocol.¹

2. By its decision [15/6](#), the Conference of the Parties to the Convention adopted an enhanced multidimensional approach to planning, monitoring, reporting and review, with national biodiversity strategies and action plans, revised or updated in alignment with the Framework and its goals and targets, as the main vehicle for the implementation of the Framework. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties requested Parties to revise and update their national biodiversity strategies and action plans, aligned with the Framework and its goals and targets, and submit them by its sixteenth meeting. In decision [15/7](#), the Conference of the Parties encouraged Parties to develop, update and implement national biodiversity finance plans or similar instruments on the basis of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans. In decision [15/8](#), the Conference of the Parties urged Parties to integrate capacity-building and development components in their national biodiversity strategies and action plans, while updating them in line with the Framework, and/or develop dedicated biodiversity capacity-building and development action plans, and programmes, as appropriate.

3. In decision [15/6](#), the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to support the operationalization of the enhanced multidimensional approach to planning, monitoring, reporting and review, including by collaborating with relevant partners to provide necessary capacity-building and other support and supporting the Subsidiary Body on Implementation in the further development and piloting of a modus operandi of an open-ended forum for the voluntary country review of implementation. In decision [15/8](#), the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to support and advise Parties on ways to integrate capacity-building and development components into their national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

4. With 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

¹ Decisions [CP-10/3](#), annex, and [CP-10/4](#), annex, respectively.

Northern Ireland and the European Union, the Secretariat supported the overall organization of a series of regional or subregional dialogues in 2023 and 2024 aimed at facilitating the sharing of experiences and mutual learning related to the revision or updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans in alignment with the Framework, including by setting and aligning national targets with the Framework. The dialogues were organized at the regional or subregional level with the support of specific partners and donors identified for each dialogue.

5. With the support of the Ministry of the Environment of Japan and the United Nations University, the present regional dialogue for South and East Asia was held in Tokyo from 23 to 26 January 2024. A number of representatives of relevant United Nations and regional and subregional organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities and stakeholder groups were invited to attend. The dialogue provided participants with an opportunity to share experiences and lessons learned in the revision or updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, including good practices and ways and means for addressing challenges in that regard, and contributed to the further piloting of the open-ended forum for the voluntary country review of implementation, under the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, as requested in decision [15/6](#). The dialogue included breakout sessions on capacity-building and development and national biodiversity financing, which fed into the overall discussion. The discussions were aimed at addressing challenges that countries are facing and identifying possible opportunities and solutions that will enhance the overall development and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

Item 1

Opening of the meeting

6. The dialogue was opened at 10 a.m. on 23 January 2024. A video recorded address by the Acting Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, David Cooper, was presented at the opening. Takao Shiraishi, Director General of the Conservation Bureau, Ministry of the Environment of Japan, and Shinobu Yume Yamaguchi, Director, United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability, provided opening remarks.

7. Mr. Cooper opened the dialogue by welcoming all participants and setting the stage for the discussions. He highlighted the ambitious goals of shaping the world we want by 2050, including targets to protect 30 per cent of the planet by 2030 and mobilize \$30 billion annually, and stressed the urgent need to convert plans into actionable steps, revise national strategies and develop capacity and financing plans. He called for enhanced synergies with other Rio Conventions and multilateral environmental agreements and encouraged the sharing of best practices. Mr. Cooper emphasized the importance of setting and updating national targets and national biodiversity strategies and action plans before the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Colombia and urged the use of the online reporting tool, with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and partners committed to supporting all parties.

8. Mr. Shiraishi expressed sympathy for those affected by recent events in the Noto Peninsula. He underscored the significance of the dialogue and the interest of Japan in supporting the process and shared the fact that Japan had recently revised its national biodiversity strategy and action plan and continued to provide support to the Japan Biodiversity Fund. Mr. Shiraishi invited participants to special lunch events aimed at enabling the sharing of experiences and offered his gratitude to all involved, including at the Convention Secretariat and the United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability, for their dedication and hard work.

9. Ms. Yamaguchi reflected on the progress made since the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework had been adopted over a year before. She emphasized the critical need to update and implement national biodiversity strategies and action plans and praised the Secretariat of the International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative for its work in mobilizing over 300 partners to promote a landscape approach that benefited both people and nature. Ms. Yamaguchi highlighted the publication of practical guidance on integrating landscape approaches into national biodiversity strategies and action plans and thanked the Ministry of the Environment of Japan and the Convention Secretariat for their collaboration. She encouraged participants to engage actively in the dialogue and activities planned for the meeting.

Item 2

Introduction and overview of the objectives and programme of the dialogue

10. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity presented the objectives of the dialogue and the proposed organization of work. Participants were briefed on logistic arrangements and invited to briefly introduce themselves.

11. The Secretariat provided an introduction to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and associated decisions adopted at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol and the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol. In its decision [15/6](#), the Conference of the Parties adopted an enhanced planning, monitoring, reporting and review mechanism, with a view to strengthening the implementation of the Convention, building on the existing multidimensional review approaches. In the same decision, national biodiversity strategies and action plans were reaffirmed as the main instruments for the implementation of the Convention and the Framework at the national level.

Item 3

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

12. The discussion during this part of the dialogue was organized around five sessions under five different topics. The overall findings emerging from the discussion were discussed and agreed at the end. The different sessions are described in the present section of this report and the conclusions are presented under item 5 below.

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

13. The session on the whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach included presentations from countries and stakeholders, which were followed by group discussions. Some of the key messages from the presentations are summarized below. The session was moderated by the United Nations University and an introductory presentation was provided by the Convention Secretariat.

14. Bhutan has adopted a whole-of-society approach in its biodiversity strategy, ensuring that no one is left behind. The country established a technical working group for the national biodiversity strategy and action plan, including both government and non-government representatives, such as women's and children's groups, as well as organizations such as World Wide Fund for Nature, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other civil society groups. Stakeholder mapping was carried out using an interest-influence framework, identifying 17 high influence/low interest, 27 high interest/high influence and 7 low interest/low influence stakeholders. Bhutan reviewed its previous national biodiversity strategy and action plan, targets in the Framework and the seventh national report. The country has established a coordination mechanism that emphasizes commitment, ownership, inclusive decision-making and mainstreaming.

15. China recently released an updated version of its national biodiversity strategy and action plan, with a translation currently in progress. An interdepartmental leading group, headed by the Minister of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment and comprising 23 departments and 76 experts, was established for that update. The updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan includes goals for 2030, 2035 and 2050, with 27 priority actions and 75 projects. Public participation was encouraged from both enterprises and the general public. China promotes a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach through horizontal coordination, vertical working mechanisms and long-term planning, with the Government leading, enterprises acting and the public participating.

16. Bangladesh has been revising its national biodiversity strategy and action plan, which has entailed conducting a preliminary assessment of existing biodiversity goals and targets. Gaps were identified and focal points were designated from each ministry. Stakeholder mapping was undertaken to set national targets under the Framework, with alignment to Sustainable Development Goal indicators. Various acts, rules and policies were reviewed. Notable practices include the forest protected area co-management committee, village

conservation groups and the hilsa conservation programme, which has been beneficial not only for conservation but also for increasing production.

17. A representative of indigenous peoples and local communities presented the challenges faced in the national biodiversity strategy and action plan process, including lack of engagement and insufficient understanding of the Framework. There is a call for greater recognition and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in national biodiversity strategy and action plan revision and implementation. Indigenous peoples and local communities emphasize the importance of being represented at all levels for successful implementation and reporting.

18. The CBD Alliance highlighted several key areas for transformation for alignment with the Framework. They included an inclusive process, rights-based national implementation, enforceable commitments and cultural transformation to address consumerist culture. The Alliance emphasized that protection should not exclude people and that a rights-based approach, regulation of business and finance, and resource mobilization are crucial for achieving targets. Transformation in food and forestry, as well as maintaining the legacy of stewardship for future generations, was stressed.

19. The Business for Nature Coalition discussed the role of businesses in implementing the Framework. The Coalition has engaged in advocacy and action across various countries including Chile, Colombia, Malaysia and South Africa. In Malaysia, the Malaysian Platform for Business and Biodiversity initiative, endorsed by the Ministry of Water, Land and Natural Resources in 2020, fosters collaboration between the Government and the private sector. The initiative includes baseline analysis, stakeholder analysis, creation of a business advisory group, workshop consultations and the development of a strategic business road map with 11 goals for the private sector, with integration of these efforts into the national biodiversity strategy and action plan.

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

20. The session on the integration of the provisions of the Protocols into national biodiversity strategies and action plans included country presentations, which were followed by group discussions. Some of the key messages emerging from the presentations are summarized below. The session was moderated by the Convention Secretariat and an introductory presentation was delivered by the Secretariat.

21. In 2016, Maldives undertook a revision of its national biodiversity strategy and action plan, integrating the Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols. That process involved technical committees and stakeholders to ensure the effective incorporation of these Protocols. The revision included analysing national policies and proposing actions to effect alignment with the Protocols. Key challenges faced included a lack of stakeholder awareness regarding the new concepts of biotechnology safety and risk, limited technical expertise even within the ministry and scarce institutional capacity for both Protocols. Maldives drafted and sent a bill on access and benefit-sharing and biosafety to the parliament, seeking its adoption and assistance in implementation. With a view to addressing these issues, various capacity-building and awareness training sessions were conducted to enhance knowledge about the Protocols. Moreover, a policy and institutional review of the national biodiversity strategy and action plan was initiated in the early part of 2023.

22. Nepal highlighted its focus on forest and species biodiversity, along with its approaches to biodiversity. The country has drafted a bill on access and benefit-sharing aimed at securing the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities and addressing benefit-sharing among the Government, provinces and indigenous peoples and local communities. Although the Cartagena Protocol was signed in 2001, it has yet to be ratified. The national biodiversity framework of Nepal was established in 2006 and the revision of the national biodiversity strategy and action plan incorporated lessons learned from integrating the Protocols. The revision process included creating technical and project steering committees and adopting an inclusive approach with a gender and indigenous peoples and local communities perspective.

23. Pakistan provided an overview of its biodiversity, including its diverse biomes and species richness. The biodiversity action plan was first introduced in 2000, involving government, non-governmental organizations and local communities. The national biodiversity strategy and action plan, approved in 2017 and covering the period up to 2030, integrates the Sustainable Development Goals and addresses benefit-

sharing while being linked to the Protocols. Provincial biodiversity strategies and action plans were developed through stakeholder consultations at national and local levels and the Nagoya Protocol is reflected in the national biodiversity strategy and action plan 2017–2030. An access and benefit-sharing act has been drafted, although institutional mechanisms are still in development, and the national biodiversity rules of Pakistan were revised in 2024. Current challenges include limited technical capacity, development of a national biosafety policy and long-term management of genetically modified organisms.

National target setting or revision

24. The session on national target setting or revision included country presentations, which were followed by group discussions. Some of the key messages emerging from the presentations are summarized below. The session was moderated by the Convention Secretariat, which delivered an introductory presentation.

25. The Republic of Korea is currently implementing its fourth national biodiversity strategy and action plan, which was set to run until 2023. The development of the fifth national biodiversity strategy and action plan began in December 2023, covering the period from 2024 to 2028. The new plan, which will consider revisions to address responses to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, will focus on utilizing key indicators and setting challenging quantitative targets. A significant gap identified was the lack of quantitative targets and national indicators for measuring progress. The national biodiversity strategy and action plan will be drafted by a working group consisting of government ministries, experts and civil society organizations and the Republic of Korea will hold an idea contest as part of the process. The fifth national biodiversity strategy and action plan will focus on spatial planning, ecosystem restoration, protected areas and several alignment targets.

26. Sri Lanka is in the process of developing its national biodiversity policy, which is expected to be completed in 2024. The national biodiversity experts committee is providing technical and advisory guidance. The process includes rapid screening of the current national biodiversity strategy and action plan, followed by a review and update of national targets, and the development of a monitoring action plan. Goals and targets are being refined, with support from guided experts, government and non-governmental actors.

27. Mongolia encompasses diverse ecosystems including boreal forests, steppes and desert. The country has a long-term policy extending to 2050 and is working to align its strategies with the new Framework. However, the effectiveness of implementation has been limited owing to insufficient sectoral and cross-sectoral engagement. The steppe ecosystem in particular has received less protection compared with other areas. Despite these challenges, Mongolia has successfully managed public-private partnerships in protected area management, leading to an increase in the horse population. Current issues include grassland degradation from livestock grazing and climate change. The country's next steps involve revising national targets and the national biodiversity strategy and action plan NBSAP, conducting joint dialogues and performing comprehensive analyses.

Development of a national monitoring plan

28. The session on development of a national monitoring plan was moderated by the United Nations University and included an introductory presentation provided by UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre and a regional presentation followed by plenary discussions.

29. UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre gave a presentation concerning decision 15/5 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, on the monitoring framework for the Framework. Laid out in annex I to that decision are various types of indicators: headline indicators, which are mandatory; global-level (binary) indicators; component indicators, which are optional; and complementary indicators, which are also optional. In the presentation, the importance of defining the scope of a national monitoring system was explained.

30. The South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme highlighted the challenges and needs associated with developing a monitoring plan for the South Asia region, which comprises eight densely populated countries. Effective monitoring requires accurate, reliable and up-to-date data, including national and regional reports, national biodiversity strategies and action plans and clearing-house mechanisms. There is a notable shortage of data in national reporting which hampers the creation of a robust monitoring programme.

Furthermore, regional aggregation of data is limited and there are significant gaps at the ecosystem and habitat levels. Challenges related to data usability, quality, collection capacity and management further complicate the situation.

Challenges and opportunities for the overall revision or updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans

31. At the session on the topic of challenges and opportunities for the overall revision or updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, countries and stakeholders gave presentations. The session was moderated by the Convention Secretariat and included an interactive discussion.

32. Japan had recently published its sixth national biodiversity strategy and action plan, marking the fifth revision since the inception of the plan. Each revision was adapted to the context of its time, with the latest update incorporating insights from *Global Biodiversity Outlook 5*,² the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the G7 summit held in Japan, despite the fact that the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention occurred after these developments. *Japan Biodiversity Outlook 3*,³ published in 2021, provided an assessment of trends in biodiversity and ecosystem services and progress on the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, which informed the revision of the national biodiversity strategy and action plan. The Cabinet adopted the latest national biodiversity strategy and action plan, with contributions from all ministries, scientific communities, non-governmental organizations, local governments and public comments. The national biodiversity strategy and action plan includes State-oriented and action-oriented targets aligned with five basic strategies. Support is provided for the preparation by local governments of local biodiversity strategies and action plans. A “30 by 30” road map is included, with indicators and related measures, to be reviewed and assessed every two years.

33. The CBD Women’s Caucus emphasized the recognition of gender issues in the Framework, particularly in target 23. Challenges such as limited access to funds and engagement in steering committees persist, however. The Gender Plan of Action adopted by the Conference of the Parties provides guidance. The Women’s Caucus, which is familiar with the decision-making process under the Convention, advocates for including gender considerations in national plans and recommends appointing gender focal points. Recommendations include integrating Protocol provisions into national biodiversity strategies and action plans and planning for biodiversity financing in alignment with the Gender Plan of Action.

34. Youth represented by the Global Youth Biodiversity Network highlighted their role as the official youth representation under the Convention. The Network has chapters in several South Asian countries and focuses on building youth capacity in the Convention process and advocating for youth priorities. They have reviewed national biodiversity strategies and action plans for youth inclusion, although the results are inconclusive. Challenges include communication barriers, resource constraints and changes in focal points. Youth, advocating for clear communication channels, suggested that Network country offices could better facilitate youth input into national biodiversity strategies and action plans. They requested support for youth participation, recommending that countries, given limited finances, support two or three youth representatives per country.

Item 4

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

35. At its fifteenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopted decision [15/7](#) on resource mobilization and decision [15/8](#) on capacity-building and development and technical and scientific cooperation. Those decisions are of equal standing in relation to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and outline the need for capacity development action plans and biodiversity finance plans to accompany national biodiversity strategies and action plans. An overview presentation was delivered on how the two decisions were related to such strategies and plans. The remaining discussions conducted in breakout sessions focused

² Montreal, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, 2020.

³ Tokyo, Ministry of the Environment, 2021.

on (a) capacity-building and development; and (b) biodiversity financing planning. Participants were invited to join the groups, with one country representative in each group.

36. Each breakout session encompassed presentations and group discussions or exercises and led to specific findings which countries could take home. A summary of those findings is found in the conclusions derived from the dialogue, as contained in the annex to the present report.

Item 5

Conclusions of the dialogue

37. Participants discussed and prepared a summary of findings arising from the dialogue, based on the discussions held in both the plenary and the breakout sessions. As noted directly above, the conclusions are provided in the annex below.

Item 6

Closure of the meeting

38. The meeting closed at 5 p.m. on 26 January 2024, with closing remarks offered by representatives of the Ministry of the Environment of Japan, the United Nations University and the Convention Secretariat.

Annex

Key conclusions from the dialogue

The dialogue provided an excellent opportunity for countries in the region to exchange experiences and lessons learned in revising or updating national biodiversity strategies and action plans in alignment with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The following were identified as key observations and action points for consideration by countries and stakeholders in the region:

1. Overarching opportunities

(a) **Boost regional and global experience sharing and meeting with other experts:** While the national context and situations are different in each country and the process for developing the national biodiversity strategy and action plan, the national targets, the use of indicators, submission on the online reporting tool and the mechanisms for implementing the national biodiversity strategy and action plan are specific to the national context, sharing experiences, including from the present dialogue, will provide countries and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation with useful information to be taken into account. There is also value to be drawn from providing an opportunity for experts to meet other experts in the region;

(b) **Improve national, regional and global communication:** A lack of awareness of the importance of biodiversity issues among Governments, the private sector and the public remains one of the challenges in the region. Improving awareness among different stakeholder groups and the public should therefore be a key focus at national, regional and global levels in order to bring the recognition of biodiversity issues to the same level of recognition as that attained by issues of climate change. This will include developing communication strategies and focusing on grass-roots awareness;

(c) **Ensure a broad national ownership of the national biodiversity strategy and action plan :** To be successful, the national biodiversity strategy and action plan process should involve key stakeholders across all levels of Government, including subnational governments, indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant stakeholders. It is essential that the national biodiversity strategy and action plan constitute a national strategy with buy-in and engagement from all stakeholders. It should not be a document developed by a single ministry or implementing entity.

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

(a) **Target engagement with central ministries as well as line ministries.** Improving engagement with the ministry of planning and the Sustainable Development Goal process provides an opportunity to engage across government and improve financial allocation for biodiversity;

(b) **Identify and engage stakeholders that are essential but do not engage stakeholders just because it is nice to do so.** A stakeholder analysis and mapping can help entities leading the development of the national biodiversity strategy and action plan make determinations regarding, and **invest** time in securing, the engagement of key stakeholders;

(c) **Leverage climate change and food nexus processes.** There is an opportunity to raise the profile of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, increase financing and broaden the engagement of stakeholders through linking the national biodiversity strategy and action plan process with the nationally determined contributions and other climate change planning processes (for example, national adaptation planning) and the policy and planning processes related to the food nexus, including agriculture, fisheries and forestry;

(d) **Identify ways to engage with indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth.** There should be a clear plan or strategy for ensuring effective representation and engagement of different groups, in particular indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, right from the start and throughout the national biodiversity strategy and action plan process, taking into account existing guidance related to Article 8 (j) of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Gender Plan of Action;

(e) **It is never too late to promote a whole-of-government, whole-of-society approach.** While some countries may already be moving towards the end of the national biodiversity strategy and action plan

development or revision process, different stakeholders should still be consulted and engaged in the implementation process;

(f) **Improved coordination to foster national consensus, political will and synergetic implementation.** Some of the Global Biodiversity Framework targets may be understood and interpreted differently by different stakeholders. It is important for different stakeholders to work closely together and reach a common understanding and agreement on the necessary national action.

3. **Integration of the Protocols and relevant multilateral environmental agreements into national biodiversity strategies and action plans**

(a) **Improve coordination and integration of the Protocols in the national biodiversity strategy and action plan process.** Improved integration will improve implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Convention and its Protocols. Some of the countries in the region have included biosafety and access and benefit-sharing issues in the national biodiversity strategy and action plan process which has improved coordination and synergies; however, this needs to be strengthened across all countries, including through institutionalization of coordination among the focal points of various processes, regular coordination meetings at different levels and the synergetic implementation of various Global Biodiversity Framework targets that are related to access and benefit-sharing and biosafety, including through dedicated plans of action on these issues;

(b) **Make a long-term investment in building human resources and technological capacity at the national and regional levels.** There is a lack of technical capacity related to access and benefit-sharing, biosafety and biotechnology issues. There is a need for prioritizing and allocating more resources for implementation of the Protocols and dedicated capacity-building efforts on these issues. Regional organizations should be invited to help develop relevant capacities, facilitate research and development and technology transfer across countries in the region and develop technical expertise on digital sequence information on genetic resources;

(c) **Leverage the national biodiversity strategy and action plan as a means of increasing financing.** The Protocols often lack financing opportunities for implementation. Bringing the Protocols into the national biodiversity strategy and action plan process may provide a means of ensuring that cost estimates are included in an overarching biodiversity finance plan.

4. **National target revision or setting and monitoring**

(a) **Support provided to countries for national biodiversity strategy and action plan target setting and development should be aligned with national needs and priorities and made available in a timely fashion.** Many countries in the region are receiving support from the Global Environment Facility for national target setting and national biodiversity strategy and action plan development through the early action support project. The funding from this project has been slow to materialize in many countries and there have been issues with the money being held by UNDP and not flowing to the Government or not involving the Government in the decision-making relating to the project;

(b) **Many stakeholders should be involved in setting and implementing national targets.** The new Framework includes targets related to the role of businesses and financial institutions, indigenous peoples and local communities and women and youth. It also includes targets, for example, Targets 7 and 10, that may require full or partial implementation from sectors. These groups should be involved in setting and implementing national targets in the context of national biodiversity strategy and action plan target setting;

(c) **Investment and capacity support for national monitoring is needed.** Many countries are at an initial stage in developing a monitoring plan for the national biodiversity strategy and action plan. Achieving a cost-effective, policy-relevant monitoring system will require improving data systems and capacity. This challenge should take advantage of new data streams, including from citizen science, traditional knowledge, remote sensing and other existing monitoring efforts by national research institutions and partners;

(d) **Regional and subregional organizations and knowledge-sharing at the regional level could be strengthened to support national biodiversity strategy and action plan development, implementation and monitoring.** Many of the targets in the newly adopted Framework include topics that were not found in the previous Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Moreover, the adoption of a monitoring framework is a new facet of the Framework. There is a need for capacity-building to improve capacity for these topics. Regional organizations and knowledge-sharing could play a role in building scientific and technical capacities for new topics and monitoring.

5. Capacity-building and development (national capacity needs assessment and development of a national plan for capacity development)

(a) **Use the guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties.** In order to improve the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of their capacity-building and development initiatives and programmes, countries in the region are encouraged to use the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development and other guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties;

(b) **Prepare capacity assessments and capacity development action plans.** Countries are encouraged to identify and prioritize capacity development needs for the implementation of various national biodiversity strategy and action plan goals and targets in partnership with indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant stakeholders and develop, as appropriate, national capacity development action plans to address the identified priority needs;

(c) **Identify and engage relevant stakeholders in the capacity development processes.** In order to develop and deliver effective and sustainable capacity development to support the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, including for the sustainable use of biodiversity, Governments need to identify and involve relevant stakeholders in the capacity development processes, including the capacity assessment, implementation and monitoring and evaluation processes.

6. National biodiversity financing (assessment of financial needs and development of a national biodiversity financing plan)

Financing national biodiversity strategies and action plans is essential for success. The national biodiversity strategy and action plan cannot be achieved without costing of actions and identifying funding for each action. In order to improve financing, in the development of national biodiversity finance plans, the following considerations should be taken into account:

(a) **Finance plans need to involve coordination between the ministries of the environment and finance;**

(b) **Use should be made of existing tools** such as the Biodiversity Finance Initiative and **different** associated guidance,;

(c) **There are many finance solutions and opportunities for innovation**, but there is also a need to make those solutions practical;

(d) **There will remain a need for international funding** and there is a need for better regional and global coordination to improve financing;

(e) **The private sector should be involved.**
