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Item 3.1 of the provisional agenda*

**REVIEW OF PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR
BIODIVERSITY 2011-2020, INCLUDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL TARGETS
AND THE UPDATING OF NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS**

*Note by the Executive Secretary***

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 is an ambitious plan developed with the purpose of inspiring broad-based action in support of biodiversity over the next decade by all countries and stakeholders. As part of the Strategic Plan, Parties have committed themselves to establishing their own national targets using the Strategic Plan and its Aichi Targets, as a flexible framework. They have also committed to develop, update or revise, as appropriate, their national biodiversity strategies and actions plans (NBSAPs) in line with the Strategic Plan.

2. In its decision X/2, the Conference of the Parties 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, to enable the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention at its fourth meeting and the Conference of Parties at its eleventh and subsequent meetings to assess the contribution of such national and regional targets towards the global targets. In line with this decision, the Executive Secretary prepared a note (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/4/2) for the consideration of the fourth meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation drawing on, among other things, the NBSAPs developed by Parties, information gathered through the regional and sub-regional capacity-building workshops for implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including the updating of NBSAPs and establishment of national targets (UNEP/CBD/COP/11/INF/12), the outcomes of the Global Workshop on National Experiences in Implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/4/INF/14), fourth national reports, etc. The present note is updated from UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/4/2 to reflect further national-level activities contained in the NBSAPs submitted since the original version of the note was prepared, as well as responses received from countries in regard to notifications 2012-046 and 2012-095 from the Executive Secretary.

* UNEP/CBD/COP/11/1.

** Updated from UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/4/2

3. Section II of this document contains an assessment of progress in the development and updating of NBSAPs, while Section III presents information on national target-setting and Section IV provides information on progress towards some of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

II. PROGRESS IN DEVELOPING AND UPDATING NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS

4. Article 6 of the Convention on Biological Diversity states that each Contracting Party shall, in accordance with its particular conditions and capabilities, develop 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 the Convention relevant to the Contracting Party concerned. Further, in decision X/2, the Conference of the Parties urged Parties to review, update and revise, as appropriate, their NBSAPs in line with the Strategic Plan. In addition, Aichi Biodiversity Target 17 calls for Parties to develop, adopt as a policy instrument, and commence implementing an effective, participatory and updated NBSAP by 2015. Further guidance on developing, implementing and revising national and, where appropriate, regional, biodiversity strategies and action plans, and equivalent instruments is provided in decision IX/8.

5. To date, 175 Parties have developed NBSAPs while 10 Parties are currently in the process of developing their first NBSAP. In other words, an overwhelming majority (91%) of Parties have been through the process of formalizing their approach to protecting biodiversity. Of the 175 countries that have prepared NBSAPs, 40 have revised them since they were first adopted and 13 have them under revision. Thirteen Parties (Belarus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Dominican Republic, European Union, France, Ireland, Italy, Serbia, Spain, Switzerland, Timor-Leste, United Kingdom, Venezuela) have developed or revised their NBSAPs since the adoption of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, while one Party (Australia) adopted a revised NBSAP that was developed in light of the preliminary framework of the Strategic Plan. The following assessment considers the above fourteen NBSAPs according to the issues identified in decision IX/8 by the Conference of the Parties as being important to their development:

(a) *Meeting the three objectives of the Convention:*

- (i) Recently-developed NBSAPs generally address conservation and sustainable use in a balanced manner. However access and benefit-sharing is addressed to a lesser extent which is likely attributable to the fact that the Nagoya Protocol is not yet in force. An exception in this regard is Timor-Leste's recently-developed NBSAP which contains a strategy outline for ratifying and implementing the Protocol;
- (ii) All of the recently-developed NBSAPs examined identify threats to biodiversity. Most refer to the five main global threats (habitat loss, climate change, invasive alien species, overexploitation and pollution). In addition, a few Parties identify threats specific to their national biodiversity as well as threats resulting from the activities of specific economic sectors;
- (iii) Most recently-developed NBSAPs highlight that biodiversity is important for human well-being with this importance being noted in several of their vision and mission statements. Further, several of the reports also refer to biodiversity as being the "natural capital" on which societal and economic well-being depends. A strategic objective of the new Swiss Biodiversity Strategy (2012), to be achieved by 2020, pertains to the identification and quantification of ecosystem services and the integration of these values into the Gross Domestic Product as an indicator of well-being. Switzerland intends to develop an accompanying

action plan by 2014. Most of the NBSAPs also note the intrinsic values of biodiversity. Only a few of the recently-developed NBSAPs explicitly refer to the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development;

(b) ***Components of national biodiversity strategies and action plans:***

- (i) A few of the recently-developed NBSAPs (Australia, Dominican Republic, Ireland, Timor-Leste) confirm the use of the Ecosystem Approach in NBSAP planning processes, while the NBSAP of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea calls for the immediate development of model plans for the sustainable management of forests, coasts and agro-forestry through the use of the Ecosystem Approach.
- (ii) Most of the recently-developed NBSAPs are action-oriented with actions being linked to national targets and/or other strategic elements of national plans. Similarly, some Parties have identified clear priorities for implementation in their NBSAPs. In other cases, a small number of actions or objectives have been identified, suggesting that a prioritization process has been undertaken even if explicit priorities are not identified. In a few cases, there appears to be little prioritization as the plans contain a long list of actions to be taken with little indication as to what actions are particularly important to implement;
- (iii) Many of the recently-developed NBSAPs contain similar elements to the Strategic Plan, such as vision and mission statements, as well as objectives and targets. However, few NBSAPs are explicitly linked to specific elements of the Strategic Plan;
- (iv) Most recently-developed NBSAPs either contain clearly identified targets or contain elements which could serve as targets even if they were not identified as such. Some Parties have also mapped their targets to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and several of the national targets which have been developed are relevant to multiple Aichi Biodiversity Targets. However, only a few Parties have targets which are measurable and time-bound. Further information on national target-setting is contained in Sections III and IV below.

(c) ***Support mechanisms:***

- (i) Most of the recently-developed NBSAPs address the issue of mainstreaming generally by noting the need to involve organizations, stakeholders and different levels of government in biodiversity issues. However, few of the NBSAPs provide concrete information on how this mainstreaming will be accomplished. The 'UK Biodiversity Framework' has recently been developed by the 'Four Countries Group' (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales) to enable cohesive implementation across the United Kingdom over the decade, with priority being given to activities for implementing the Aichi Targets and the EU Biodiversity Strategy. A delivery plan for the framework is currently in development. In Switzerland, a new system of financial equalization and division of tasks between the federal government and the cantons was created in 2008 whereby, together, these two levels of government agree on programmes, define the targets each intends to achieve and identify federal subsidies available for funding activities. The cantons are free to organize actions as they see fit, while the municipalities are responsible for the actual implementation of the actions as defined by the canton. While some of the NBSAPs do contain provisions related to the integration of biodiversity issues into other sectors, this issue is not

addressed in great detail. An example of business sector engagement is provided by the Dominican Republic where companies, such as Bon Agroindustrial and Fundación Propa-Gas, are engaged in numerous biodiversity conservation activities through their association with RENAEP, the national non-profit network promoting the integration of the business sector in sustainable natural resource management processes;

- (ii) There is relatively little information on funding strategies for implementing NBSAPs. However, several Parties note that resources will be required and have identified possible sources of funding from within their own government. Further, while most Parties note that effective communication will be important to the implementation of their NBSAPs, Timor-Leste is the only Party to have developed a specific CEPA strategy and action plan for implementing their NBSAP;
- (iii) Australia has established a target related to the participation of indigenous peoples and has incorporated this issue into one of their strategy's priorities of action. Notably, women comprised 49% of all participants involved in developing the NBSAP of the Dominican Republic which provides for the participation of women in its set of core implementation principles. In addition, in accordance with the framework for Aichi Target 14, the Dominican Republic has set a national target to increase, by 2016, the participation of local communities and women in management activities (including the receipt of benefits arising from such activities) related to increasing the extent of protected ecosystems connectivity. However, most other NBSAPs developed to be in line with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 do not refer to the involvement of indigenous peoples and local communities or to traditional knowledge. Similarly, very few refer explicitly to gender;

(d) **Monitoring and review:** Most Parties have made provisions for assessing progress in the implementation of their national biodiversity strategies and action plans. A priority target contained in Timor-Leste's NBSAP is to establish, by 2015, a national biodiversity monitoring and reporting system using the Clearing-house Mechanism as an operational tool. One Party noted plans for developing a monitoring committee for its strategy and action plan as well as a national biodiversity observatory. Other Parties indicated that periodic monitoring will be carried out by existing organizations. Several Parties have identified indicators or indicator processes which could assist with monitoring progress in the implementation of the NBSAPs. The new Swiss Biodiversity Strategy highlights the use of "Biodiversity Monitoring Switzerland (BDM)" programme for long-term monitoring, based on 33 indicators representing important, measurable biodiversity segments.

6. Overall, recently-developed national biodiversity strategies and action plans have been developed in line with guidance provided in decision IX/8. However, there have been relatively few specific, measurable, ambitious, realistic and time-bound ("SMART") targets established to date and the treatment of the Ecosystem Approach has been limited.

7. A series of regional and subregional capacity-building workshops for implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 has been organized by the Secretariat to assist countries in establishing national targets in the framework of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and in revising and updating NBSAPs, supported by the Government of Japan (through the Japan Biodiversity Fund) and other donors. This series of workshops is ongoing throughout 2012, and as at 1 July 2012 follow-up workshops are confirmed for the following regions: Pacific, North Africa and the Middle East, Caribbean, Central and Eastern Europe/ Central Asia. The content of the following paragraphs is based on information gathered

from the first 17 workshops¹ held in this series from March 2011 to March 2012, as well as from updated information on progress towards activities received from Parties in relation to notifications 2012-046 and 2012-095. These analyses make it clear that, while only a few countries have completed the process of revising their NBSAP since the adoption of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, most countries are taking action in this regard.

8. Of the 165² Parties that participated in the first 17 workshops, almost one quarter (22 per cent) indicated that they had revisions of their NBSAPs under way. Further, about 65 per cent of participants indicated that they were at various stages of planning for their revisions, such as in the process of developing terms of reference, assessing their previous plans and/or identifying stakeholders. The remaining Parties had either completed their revision (almost 4 per cent), were not planning on revising their NBSAP (3 per cent) or did not provide any information on this issue during the workshops (7 per cent).

(a) *Africa.* Almost all Parties have indicated that they plan to update their national biodiversity strategies in line with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and to adopt targets based on the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. To date, South Africa is the only country in the region to have established national targets in line with the Aichi Targets, while having also incorporated the outcomes in their existing NBSAP in these targets. South Africa also intends to complete a revised and updated NBSAP by 2014. In June 2012, Uganda held a capacity-building workshop on the review and updating of their NBSAP which identified preliminary national targets within the framework of certain Aichi Targets as well as established a roadmap to guide the overall NBSAP process. While several African Parties have initiated action to start the updating process, many have yet to start. Similarly, there has been relatively little action to mainstream biodiversity considerations into national development and planning processes. However, many Parties note that the development or revision of national poverty reduction strategies and similar frameworks offers an opportunity to mainstream biodiversity issues across government and sectors;

(b) *Asia:*

(i) Almost all Parties indicated their intent to revise their national biodiversity strategies and action plans. Most Parties indicated that they had already initiated the revision process or had otherwise developed a plan to do so. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Timor-Leste³ are the only countries in the region to have submitted completed NBSAPs since the adoption of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. However, Myanmar recently advised that its first NBSAP was adopted through a Cabinet decision in 2012 and contains 9 strategic objectives and 9 specific action plans to be implemented by 2030 through the promotion of a holistic (multi-sectoral) mainstreaming approach. Myanmar highlights the need for the establishment of a steering committee and institutional mechanisms to enable effective NBSAP implementation. India recently advised the Secretariat of its intention to complete the exercise of setting national targets, in line with the Aichi Targets, by the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties. In addition, Japan expects to receive Cabinet approval

¹ Fifteen workshops were held in 2011, covering 14 regions (Southern Africa, Europe, North Africa and the Middle East, East, South and Southeast Asia, West Africa, Central Africa, East Africa, South America, Pacific, Caribbean, Central Asia, Meso-America, and Central and Eastern Europe). Although not a part of the official 2011 calendar of workshops, the Secretariat also took the opportunity to organize a workshop for 14 Pan-European countries in Geneva, in June 2011, back-to-back with the Council Meeting for PEBLDS members. The first follow-up workshop in the series was held in December 2011 for East, South and Southeast Asia. Two workshops have been held to date in 2012, including a workshop for the Mediterranean region in January 2012, and the second follow-up workshop in February 2012 for countries of Sub-Saharan Africa, bringing the total count of workshops held so far in this series to seventeen.

² This figure has been corrected from that indicated in UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/4/2.

³ This is the first NBSAP prepared by Timor-Leste.

for its fourth NBSAP revision, containing relevant targets and indicators, by the end of September 2012. Several Parties noted that they intended to form advisory groups or similar consultative bodies to facilitate the process;

- (ii) With regard to national target-setting, about half of those Parties providing information indicated that they intended to develop targets but at a later stage, such as once their NBSAPs have been developed. The remaining Parties indicated that they have ongoing work related to target-setting or are in the process of reviewing their existing targets;
- (iii) Most Parties indicated that the integration of their NBSAPs would need to wait until other development and sectoral planning processes are reviewed. A few Parties indicated that the integration was already under way while a few were considering how this integration could best be accomplished. A process for updating the NBSAP was initiated in Thailand in May 2011 and was to be sanctioned by Cabinet in July 2012. It is also Thailand's intention to integrate the Aichi Targets into its 11th National Economic and Social Development Plan.

(c) ***Latin America and the Caribbean:***

- (i) Almost all countries have started revising their NBSAPs. This is often being done with stakeholder participation or other public consultations. Some Parties have also formed advisory boards to assist with the process. Some Parties are evaluating their existing NBSAPs before deciding on their next course of action, while a few others are in the process of actively revising them. Since the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, two countries from the region (Dominican Republic,⁴ Venezuela) have completed NBSAPs.
- (ii) Most Parties have also started to consider the process of national target-setting. In some cases, this is being done in conjunction with the processes for revising the national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and frequently with stakeholder participation. Some Parties have also begun prioritizing the Aichi Biodiversity Targets they wish to address;
- (iii) With regard to the integration of NBSAPs into other national planning processes, about half of the Parties participating in the workshops have begun to consider how this could be accomplished. The other Parties note that this integration will be challenging as the timing for other national planning and budgetary processes do not align with the period of the NBSAP. However, many Parties note that the revision of other national planning processes offer opportunities to incorporate the NBSAPs within them. Mexico has begun identifying priority Aichi Targets and prepared a summary document for guiding the overall process, which it is considering sharing with the newly-elected administration so that activities can commence in regard to incorporating biodiversity in the sectoral programmes of the country's new National Development Plan and other plans.

(d) ***Europe:***

- (i) Most Parties have indicated that they would revise their NBSAPs or have already started the revision process. A few Parties indicated that they did not intend to revise their NBSAP as it was already in line with the Strategic Plan for

⁴ This is the first NBSAP prepared by the Dominican Republic.

Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Since the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, seven Parties (Belarus, European Union, France, Ireland, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom) have finished their revisions, while Italy and Serbia have prepared their first NBSAPs. It should be noted that the content of these NBSAPs varies widely in terms of compliance with the recommendations of decision X/2. Estonia's 'Nature Conservation Development Plan until 2020' has been sent to Parliament for consideration, with adoption expected shortly. The plan includes national targets and is aligned with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, the programme of work on protected areas under the Convention and the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 and will serve as Estonia's NBSAP over the decade. Finland has also prepared a new Biodiversity Strategy (2012-2020), taking into account the Strategic Plan and Aichi Targets, and anticipates adoption by Parliament by September 2012. Indicators have also been established for the strategy. Greece has prepared a draft of its first NBSAP, in the light of decision X/2, containing a set of initial targets and prioritized actions for the establishment of a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation system, with NBSAP adoption anticipated by the end of 2012 through a Ministerial Council Act;

- (ii) Most Parties are considering how to best develop targets. Some Parties are also examining their existing targets or undertaking analyses of them. One Party indicated that it did not intend to develop any new targets. Norway has recently established a set of results-oriented and ecosystem-based targets and indicators for prioritized policy areas and has incorporated results-oriented Aichi Targets in the targets. Norway intends to finalize a new National Biodiversity Action Plan by 2015. Sweden has also recently developed 2020 environmental quality objectives, focused on measuring the country's environmental impact at the global level through the implementation of goals on ecosystem recovery, ecosystem services, resource efficiency, natural resource management, etc. The Strategic Plan was taken into account in the finalization of these objectives that will perform the function of national biodiversity targets and milestones to 2020, with follow-up criteria also having been agreed by the Government.
- (iii) With regard to mainstreaming biodiversity into planning processes, most Parties indicated that this was already being done, to varying degrees, under existing legislation;

(e) **North Africa and the Middle East.** Most Parties have indicated their intent to revise their NBSAPs with several Parties noting that the process of revision would begin in 2012 or later. Similarly, most Parties have indicated their intent to set national targets in line with their national priorities;

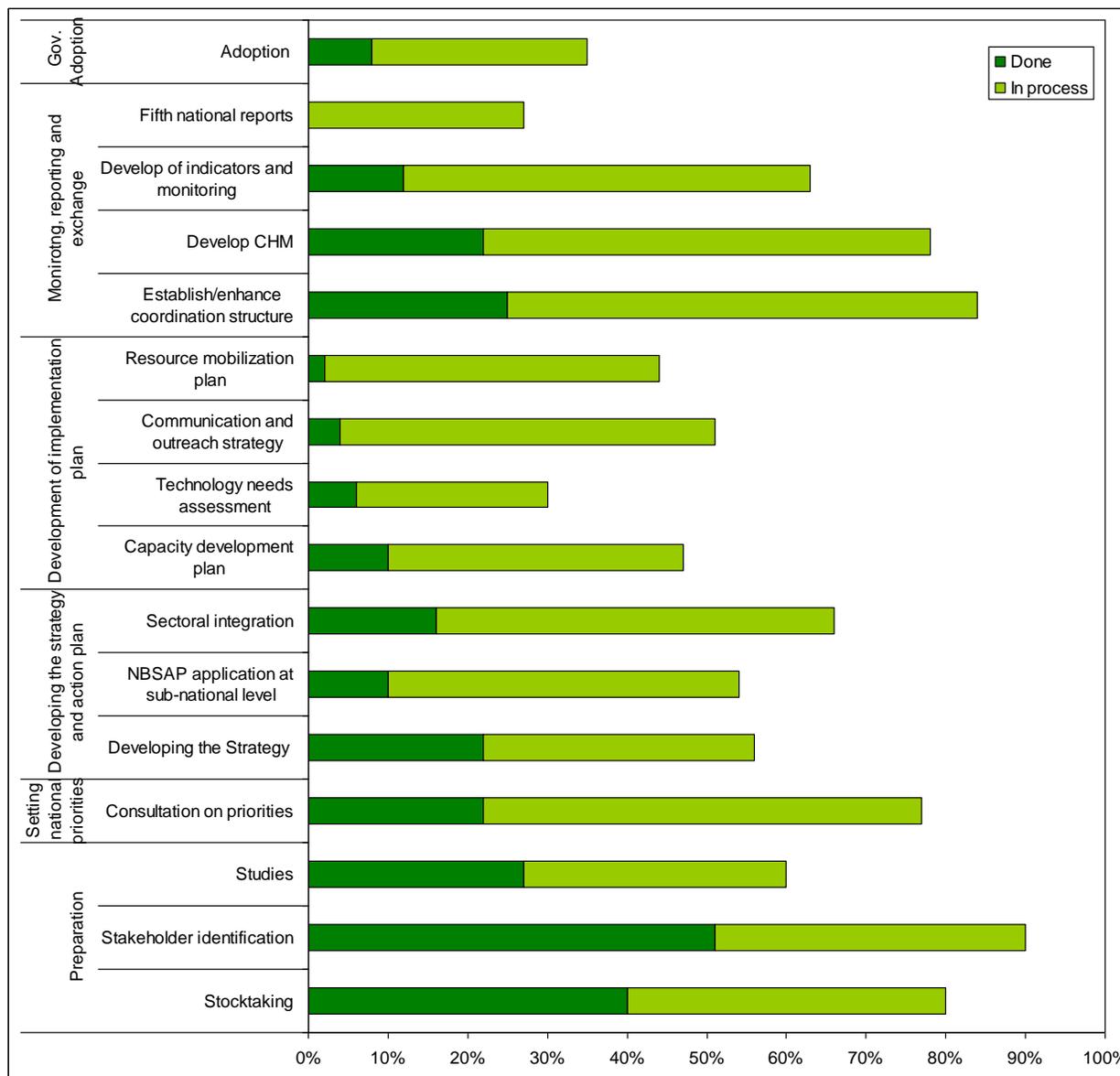
(f) **Pacific.** Most Parties have indicated their intent to revise their NBSAPs and a few Parties have started reviewing their existing strategies and action plans for this purpose. Australia is the only Party in the region to have developed a revised strategy and action plan, which will be reviewed in 2015. Several Parties have also indicated their intent to consider the issue of national targets as they revise their NBSAPs.

9. The report of the Global Workshop on National Experiences in Implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, held in Brasilia from 12 to 14 March 2012 (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/4/INF/14), provides further information which can be used to assess progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan. During the course of the workshop, Parties were invited to report on the progress they had made in relation to different parts of the NBSAP process. In total, 51 Parties provided information and the results are illustrated in the figure below. The results from this workshop indicate that most Parties have either completed or initiated work on the first stages of the process of updating and revising the NBSAPs

(preparation, setting national priorities and targets, developing the strategy and action plan) while relatively few parties have completed or initiated work on the later stages of the process (development of implementation plans, institutional monitoring, reporting and exchange, adoption by the Government).

10. There has also been progress in accessing funds for the revision of national biodiversity strategies and actions plans. Historically, during the first four replenishment periods of the Global Environment Facility, a total of around US\$ 60 million has been provided to support preparation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, clearing-house mechanism activities and national reports in some 150 countries. As part of the fifth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (GEF-5), which runs from mid-2010 until mid-2014, 149 countries are eligible to receive funding to integrate their obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity into national planning processes through enabling activities. These funds are additional to the resources provided through the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR) mechanism. To date, around 120 countries are in the process of accessing funds. As of 23 March 2012, 82 of the 145 GEF-eligible countries have had their proposals approved, totalling \$18.9 million. One GEF-eligible country has decided not to use GEF resources for the revision process. Thus 57 per cent of GEF-eligible countries have received financial support to revise their NBSAPs. As at 21 June 2012, 33 Parties are currently working with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and 76 Parties are working with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as GEF Implementing Agencies for this purpose. A further six Parties are accessing funds directly from the GEF secretariat. Following approval, Parties have to develop and endorse operational project documents with the GEF Agency before funds can be released and significant time-lag is observed before national agencies receive the funds. In January 2012, the GEF secretariat contacted GEF Operational Focal Points of the remaining countries that had not yet contacted the GEF secretariat, UNDP or UNEP regarding the revision of their NBSAPs and continues to follow up to ensure proposals are submitted.

Figure. Progress made in relation to different parts of the NBSAP process, as reported by a total of 51 Parties attending the Global Workshop on National Experiences in Implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (Brasilia, 12-14 March 2012)



III. NATIONAL TARGET-SETTING

11. In decision X/2, the Conference of the Parties urged Parties and other Governments to develop national and regional targets, using the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets as a flexible framework, in accordance with national priorities and capacities and the status and trends of biological diversity in the country, and the resources provided through the strategy for resource mobilization while also bearing in mind national contributions to the achievement of the global targets. Setting national targets is important as it can inspire programmes for change, provide a focus for concerted action, allow for progress to be measured, establish accountability, and communicate the status and trends of biodiversity.

12. Based on the information gathered during the course of the regional and subregional capacity-building workshops, of the 165 Parties that participated in the workshops, about 52 per cent indicated that they intended to set targets and about 42 per cent of Parties did not provide information on this issue. Only about 4 per cent of Parties indicated that they did not intend to set any targets.

13. Of the Parties which have revised their national biodiversity strategies and action plans to be in line with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, several include elements that constitute “SMART” targets.⁵ For example:

(a) The United Kingdom has set an outcome of: “By the end of 2016 in excess of 25% of English waters will be contained in a well-managed marine protected area network that helps deliver ecological coherence by conserving representative marine habitats”;

(b) Ireland has established a target of: “Fish stock levels maintained or restored to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield, where possible no later than 2015”;

(c) The European Union has established a target of: “By 2020, ecosystems and their services are maintained and enhanced by establishing green infrastructure and restoring at least 15% of degraded ecosystems”;

(d) Australia has developed a target of: “By 2015, achieve a 25% increase in the number of Australians and public and private organizations who participate in biodiversity conservation activities”;

(e) Belarus has noted that an expected result of its strategy is: “To restore at least 15 per cent of degraded or transformed ecosystems”.

(f) Timor-Leste has established a priority target of: “By 2015, a national biodiversity monitoring and reporting system has been established using the clearing-house mechanism as an operational tool”; and

(g) The Dominican Republic has established the target of: “By 2016, the rate of loss of natural habitats is reduced by 25%, and degradation and fragmentation are reduced”.

14. Many of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans finalized prior to the adoption of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 contain targets and other elements which are nonetheless in line with it. These existing targets should not be forgotten as they can be starting points for additional national targets and/or be repositioned in light of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Examples of targets which have already been developed include:

(a) Central African Republic - By 2015, extend the protected areas network to 15 per cent of the national territory, in accordance with the National Environmental Action Plan and the National Strategy for Biodiversity Conservation;

(b) Costa Rica - By 2014, Costa Rica has identified and mapped: (i) the impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services that are potentially derived from adaptation measures and proposed or adopted mitigation measures to combat climate change and extreme weather events; and (ii) the necessary management measures for protected areas;

(c) Federated States of Micronesia - By 2020, at least 20 per cent of the nation’s coral reefs are protected as “no-take” reserves;

(d) Germany - By 2020 the natural carbon-dioxide storage capacity of terrestrial habitats has been increased by 10%; and

⁵ For further information will be provided in an information note on progress towards achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

(e) Grenada - The Government made a public pronouncement to effectively protect 25 per cent of its terrestrial and near shore coastal areas by 2020.

15. Further information on established national targets is available in the information note on national biodiversity for 2010 and beyond 2010, prepared for the third meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/3/INF/7).

IV. PROGRESS TOWARDS THE AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS

16. Progress towards the fulfilment of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets can be assessed in terms of commitments made by Parties as well as by the amount of progress which has been made in reaching the targets. A preliminary analysis of progress suggests that relatively little has changed since the Aichi Biodiversity Targets were adopted.⁶ While a number of Parties have made commitments in relation to the targets, there has been insufficient time to assess progress on the ground. With this in mind, the following sections provide a preliminary update on progress towards those targets where there have been significant changes or actions taken since the targets were adopted.

Target 2: By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.

17. Currently, there is no estimate of the number of countries that have integrated the values of biodiversity into development and poverty reduction strategies or into national accounting. Recent national biodiversity strategies and action plans make reference to specific activities and to specific economic sectors where biodiversity mainstreaming needs to occur. However, relatively little information is available **on the progress made in integrating biodiversity and ecosystems into day-to-day decision-making and planning processes, including the integration into pertinent decision-making support tools, and reporting systems such as national accounting.** There are a number of ongoing initiatives which are contributing to this target. For example, the study on The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) has helped to draw attention to the need for integrating biodiversity consideration into development and poverty-reduction strategies and national accounting systems. As a result, a number of countries have initiated national-level TEEB type assessments, including Brazil, the Republic of Korea, India, Norway and the European Union, while the United Kingdom has completed a national environment assessment which assessed the economic and societal benefits provided by the country's natural environment. Further, as part of its twelfth development plan (2011-2015), China has made biodiversity and ecological conservation one of its priorities. At the global level, the Wealth Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services (WAVES) partnership led by the World Bank is promoting sustainable development through application of comprehensive wealth accounting and the integration of green accounting into conventional development planning analysis. Further information on progress towards this target as well as Targets 3 and 4 is available in the note by the Executive Secretary on incentive measures prepared for the sixteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/15).

Target 3: By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio economic conditions.

18. Progress on addressing harmful incentives is mixed. Some Parties have committed to analysing public policies with a view to identifying perverse incentives as well as options for their elimination,

⁶ Information on each of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets can be found in UNEP/CBD/COP/10/27/Add1.

phasing out, or reform and others have already undertaken such analyses, either comprehensively or for certain sectors. However, reported success in actually eliminating, phasing out or reforming harmful incentives is limited. There appears to be notably more progress in promoting positive incentive measures, with a broad range of incentive programmes already implemented in various sectors, including payments for ecosystem services; tax exemptions or tax deductibility schemes; support in commercialization and market development, including certification, and subsidized insurance for specific economic activities, for instance organic farming; and biodiversity banks.

Target 4: By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.

19. Bringing the use of natural resources within safe ecological limits is an integral part of the Vision of the Strategic Plan. While sustainable use does not account for a large share of total products and production areas, there has been some progress for some components of biodiversity such as forests and some fisheries. Currently, many individuals, businesses and countries are making efforts to ensure that their resource consumption and production are as sustainable as possible. Activities include the provision of guidance and professional advice on how to improve resource efficiency, support for life-cycle analysis, testing consumer products, advancing fair trade, and the development of guidance and manuals for green procurement.

Target 5: By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.

20. Habitat loss, including degradation and fragmentation, is the most important cause of biodiversity loss globally. Natural habitats in most parts of the world continue to decline in extent and integrity, although there has been significant progress to reduce this trend in some regions and habitats. There are a number of ongoing initiatives that could be further built upon to help reach this target, including the signing, by ministers of 68 Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity during the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, of the WWF call to stop net deforestation by 2020, and REDD+ mechanisms. Brazil provides an example of a target which will contribute to this target. In line with its 2010 target, Brazil reduced Amazon deforestation by more than 74 per cent between 2003-2004 and 2008-2009. Under the Brazilian national climate change plan, the country set a further target of reducing Amazon deforestation by 30 per cent every four years, compared to the previous period, until 2017; this was subsequently extended to 2020, when the rate is projected to fall to 80 per cent below the 1996-2005 average. The ultimate goal is to reach zero illegal deforestation in the medium and long terms.

Target 11: By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.

21. Well governed and effectively managed protected areas are a proven method for safeguarding both habitats and populations of species and for delivering important ecosystem services. Currently, some 13 per cent of the world's terrestrial area is protected. Regionally, according to 2011 data from the World Database on Protected Areas, 20.4 per cent of Latin America, more than 15 per cent of Eastern and Western Asia, 11.8 per cent of Sub-Saharan Africa, 4.9 per cent of Oceania and 4 per cent of Northern Africa are protected. As of 2011, 42 countries have set aside more than 17 per cent of their territories under protected areas and about 65 countries have 5-15 per cent of their territories under protection. Furthermore, 33 per cent of terrestrial ecoregions (273 out of 823) have more than 17 per cent of their area designated as protected areas. Similarly, five out of the 14 terrestrial biomes (tundra, flooded grasslands and savannas, tropical and sub-tropical moist broadleaf forests, mangroves and montane grasslands and shrublands) have more than 17 per cent of their area under protection.

22. With regard to the marine environment, some 4 per cent of areas under national jurisdiction are protected. Further, while 7.2 per cent of world's territorial waters are protected, only 3.5% of exclusive economic zones are protected and very little of the open oceans (areas beyond national jurisdiction) are protected. As of 2011, thirty countries had more than 10 per cent of their territorial waters under protection. A further 26 countries had between 3 and 10 per cent of their territorial waters protected.

23. Current protected area networks have gaps. These gaps include many sites of high biodiversity value such as Alliance for Zero Extinction sites and Important Bird Areas. Particular emphasis is needed to protect critical ecosystems. Under-represented ecosystems typically include coastal areas, oases, cave systems, karsts, grasslands, rivers and river canyons, marshes, tropical coral reefs, sea-grass beds, deepwater cold coral reefs, seamounts, tropical forests, peat lands, freshwater ecosystems and coastal wetlands.

24. More than 40 countries have completed a comprehensive ecological gap analysis as requested under the Convention's programme of work on protected areas and are in the process of implementing the results, including by establishing new protected areas and/or extending existing protected areas. In about 20 countries, attempts are under way to undertake comprehensive gap analyses. In some developed countries (Australia, Finland, Canada, and Germany) and in some developing countries (Brazil, Bhutan, Costa Rica), the protected area network is near comprehensive and ecologically representative, covering major biomes (forests, pastures, deserts, grasslands, mountains, and wetlands) and includes public, private and community protected areas.

25. Management effectiveness also remains an important issue. A 2010 global assessment of protected area management effectiveness found that 13 per cent of assessed protected areas had management that was "clearly inadequate" and 62 per cent had management that was basic.

26. Given the current progress in protected areas, it is likely that the target of at least 17 per cent of terrestrial areas protected will be achieved by 2020. However reaching the other elements of this target will require an increased focus on representivity and management effectiveness and major efforts to expand marine protected areas. Further information on progress towards this target is contained in the information note on review of progress on the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/4/INF/5).

Target 15: By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.

27. Deforestation, wetland drainage and other types of habitat change and degradation lead to the emission of carbon dioxide, methane and other greenhouse gases. However, in many countries, degraded landscapes represent immense opportunity for both biodiversity restoration and carbon sequestration. One initiative which will make significant progress towards the attainment of this target is the Bonn Challenge. The Challenge is a global effort to restore 150 million hectares of degraded and deforested lands by 2020. Further, a number of Parties have established ecosystem restoration targets of around 15% per cent, and a number of Parties, such as Costa Rica, are already undertaking restoration activities which will contribute to this target.

Target 16: By 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.

28. The third objective of the Convention provides for "the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources". At its tenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization. The entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol will provide greater legal certainty and transparency for both providers and users of genetic resources. Given that this Protocol is an international regime, the initial target is for its ratification

and entry into force by 2015. The Nagoya Protocol will enter in force 90 days after the fiftieth instrument of ratification is received. To date, there have been 92 signatories to the Protocol and five Parties have ratified it.

Target 17: By 2015, each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan.

29. NBSAPs are the key instrument for translating the Convention and decisions of the Conference of the Parties into national action. For this reason, it will be essential that Parties have developed, adopted and commenced implementing as a policy instrument an updated NBSAP which is in line with the goals and targets set out in this Strategic Plan by 2015. While 175 Parties have developed NBSAPs, only 13 (Belarus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Dominican Republic, European Union, France, Ireland, Italy, Serbia, Spain, Switzerland, Timor-Leste, United Kingdom, Venezuela) have revised them following the adoption Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, with 1 Party (Australia) having completed its revision in light of the preliminary framework of the Strategic Plan. However, it is clear from the Regional and Sub-Regional Capacity-building Workshops for implementing the Strategic Plan that most countries have started the process of revising their NBSAPs.

Target 20: By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.

30. Most countries indicate in their fourth national reports that limited capacity, both financial and human, is a major obstacle to the implementation of the Convention. The capacity which currently exists in countries needs to be safeguarded and increased from current levels, in line with the process laid out in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, in order to enable countries to meet the challenges of implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. The Conference of the Parties adopted a resource mobilization strategy during the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to assist Parties in enhancing international financial flows and domestic funding for biological diversity (decision IX/11). During the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, Parties also decided to adopt targets for resource mobilization at its eleventh meeting, provided that robust baselines have been identified and endorsed and that an effective reporting framework has been adopted (decision X/3). In the same decision, a set of indicators for monitoring the implementation of the strategy for resource mobilization was agreed as were the steps in a process to be carried out prior to the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, making use of these indicators. In line with this, the Executive Secretary prepared methodological guidance on the indicators and a preliminary reporting framework for use by Parties and invited Parties to submit relevant information by 1 July 2012. In addition, informal workshops and consultative processes were held to promote awareness, capacity and mutual understanding among Parties and stakeholders on the challenges of scaling up finance for biodiversity and on the development of country-specific resource mobilization strategies as part of the process of updating NBSAPs.
