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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
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Item 13 of the provisional agenda*

UPDATE ON PROGRESS IN REVISING/UPDATING AND IMPLEMENTING NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS, INCLUDING NATIONAL TARGETS, AND FIFTH NATIONAL REPORT SUBMISSIONS

*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 current decade by all countries and stakeholders. Parties have committed to develop or revise and update, as appropriate, their national biodiversity strategies and actions plans (NBSAPs) in line with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. They have also committed to establishing national targets, using the Strategic Plan and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets as a flexible framework.

2. In paragraph 17 (b) of 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 for Biodiversity 2011-2020, 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. Furthermore, in decision X/9, the Conference of the Parties adopted the multi-year programme of work for the Conference of the Parties for the period 2011-2020. In paragraph (b) of the said decision, it is stated that the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties could address, *inter alia*, a review of the updated NBSAPs and a mid-term review of implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including the programmes of work and progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and specific elements of the programmes of work, as well as contributions to the achievement of relevant 2015 targets of the Millennium Development Goals based, *inter alia*, on the fifth national reports, and the fourth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*. In decision XI/2, the Conference of the Parties urged Parties and other Governments that have not yet done so to review and, as appropriate, update and revise, their NBSAPs in line with the Strategic Plan for

* UNEP/CBD/COP/12/1/Rev.1.

** Updated from document UNEP/CBD/WGRI/5/2.

Biodiversity 2011-2020, including national plans related to biodiversity, and to report thereon to the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting.

3. This note has been prepared by the Executive Secretary for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting. It is updated from document UNEP/CBD/WGRI/5/2 to reflect further national-level activities that have taken place since the earlier note was prepared, and/or that are currently underway, according to information provided by countries. Progress in the development or revision/updating of NBSAPs is summarized in Section II of this document. A summary of progress in setting national targets, including in relation to achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, is provided in Section III. In this regard, Parties are strongly encouraged to provide updated information on progress towards the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Targets through the recently-launched online reporting system developed by the Secretariat.¹ Section IV presents the status of the submission of the fifth national reports that were due on 31 March 2014.

4. In addition to the above, the fourth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* (GBO-4) and its supporting documents, to be launched at the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, will also provide a review of progress towards the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, including an analysis/synthesis of relevant national, regional and other actions, including targets.

5. Under this agenda item, the twelfth meeting is invited to consider Recommendation 5/3 on the review of progress in revising/updating and implementing NBSAPs and submission of fifth national reports, adopted by the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention, at its fifth meeting.²

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

6. 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, revise and update, as appropriate, their NBSAPs in line with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. 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.

7. Since 1993, 180 Parties have developed NBSAPs while 14 Parties have yet to submit their first NBSAP. In other words, the majority (93%) of Parties have been through the process of formalizing their approach to meeting the three objectives of the Convention at least once. Of the 180 Parties that have prepared NBSAPs, 50 have revised them at least once.

8. It is important to recognize that many of the NBSAPs finalized prior to the adoption of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 contain elements which are nonetheless in line with the Plan and form the basis of the progress reported in the fifth national reports. Further information on national targets

¹ see: <https://www.infra.cbd.int/national-reports>

² UNEP/CBD/COP/12/4, annex.

established prior to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 was made available as an information document.³

9. Since the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the majority of Parties have initiated further revisions of their NBSAPs in response to decision X/2. Of the 145 GEF eligible countries, 137 (94%) have accessed funds set-aside in GEF-5 for Biodiversity Enabling Activities (49 through UNDP and GEF Implementing Agency, 80 through UNEP, one through FAO, one through IADB⁴, and six via Direct Access). Most of these revision projects have completion dates set before October 2014. The total investment in these revision projects is US\$ 30,263,908 of GEF grant and US\$ 51,998,355 in total co-financing (cash and in-kind). Eight (6%) of GEF-eligible countries have not yet utilized the GEF-5 BD-EA funding window, two of whom have chosen to revise their NBSAP with their own or other funds.

10. Twenty-nine Parties (Australia,⁵ Belarus, Belgium, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Colombia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Dominica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Estonia, European Union, Finland, France, Guatemala, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Malta, Myanmar, Nepal, Serbia, Spain, Suriname, Switzerland, Timor-Leste, Tuvalu, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Venezuela) have submitted NBSAPs to the Secretariat since the adoption of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. Of these 29 NBSAPs, 22 are revised versions, while the remaining seven are the first NBSAPs developed by the Party.

11. The current status of NBSAP preparation and revision, as reported informally to the Secretariat, is as follows:

Status of NBSAP (n=194)	NBSAP submitted	NBSAP completed, awaiting approval	NBSAP completion expected prior to COP-12	NBSAP to be submitted between October and December 2014	NBSAP in progress with completion date unknown	NBSAP update not started	No information available
	29	14	39	19	45	20	28

Table 1: The current status of NBSAP preparation and revision (as of 5 September 2014)

12. Consolidated guidance on the development, updating and implementation of NBSAPs was adopted by decision IX/8. In addition, decision X/2 called for updated NBSAPs to be adopted as a policy document. An analysis of recently updated NBSAPs according to this guidance is provided in Chapter 17 of the technical supporting document for GBO-4.

III. PROGRESS IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL TARGETS IN RELATION TO ACHIEVING THE AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS

13. 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

³ UNEP/CBD/WGRI/3/INF/7.

⁴ Inter-American Development Bank.

⁵ Australia submitted a revised NBSAP that was developed in light of the preliminary framework of the Strategic Plan but considers it to be in line with the final Strategy as adopted at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

targets and to report progress to the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Very few Parties were able to do so by that time.

14. The Secretariat has been compiling a database of all “targets”⁶ presented in NBSAPs submitted since the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as well as those national targets received separately from and in advance of a revised NBSAP (e.g. Brazil). As of 5 September 2014, the database contains 802 separate “targets”, and the number of targets will increase significantly as more Parties submit revised NBSAPs. Wherever national targets have been mapped to the global targets by the Party concerned, this is represented in the database. To date, only eight countries have done so (Belgium, Brazil, Cameroon, France, Iraq, Japan, Switzerland, Uganda).

15. From the current database, it can be seen that the range of what could be considered to be “targets” contained in “post-COP-10” NBSAPs is highly variable. A number of Parties have adopted “Aichi-like” targets, or sets of targets that clearly have been derived from the global Aichi Biodiversity Targets, making mapping of national and global targets relatively simple. Other Parties have adopted “targets” that have emerged from a national prioritization process that, while well-suited to national circumstances, are more difficult to map to the respective Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

16. The increasing number of Parties that are establishing targets in their revised NBSAPs is an encouraging sign of commitment towards the overall goals of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. Nonetheless, it is clear that monitoring and reporting on progress towards national targets will be facilitated when these targets are SMART,⁷ linked to credible indicators supported by adequate data; with adequate resources (human, institutional and financial) made available for both implementation and monitoring and reporting.

17. The recently-launched online reporting tool⁸ provides a mechanism through which Parties can provide updated information on their national targets, and progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

18. A synthesis of progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, based on information derived from fourth national reports, existing revised NBSAPs and the fifth national reports that were provided by, or soon after, the deadline for submission, as well as information provided through the Biodiversity Indicator Partnership, has been made as part of the mid-term assessment component of the fourth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*.⁹

IV. STATUS OF THE SUBMISSION OF THE FIFTH NATIONAL REPORTS

19. In decision X/10, the Conference of the Parties requested Parties to submit their fifth national report by 31 March 2014. The fifth national reports are an important source of information for a mid-term review of progress towards the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets which will be undertaken by the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting. The fifth national reports have also contributed to the development of the fourth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*. Furthermore, the fifth national report guidelines request Parties to report on contributions to the relevant 2015 Targets of the Millennium Development Goals.

⁶ For the full set, please see <https://www.cbd.int/nbsap/targets/default.shtml>. Note that the definition and use of the term « target » is quite varied among Parties. In the database, all « achievable » measures in a NBSAP have been included as « targets », even if the NBSAP itself uses a different term such as « objective », « action » «work area », etc.

⁷ Specific Measureable, Ambitious/Attainable, Realistic/Relevant, Timebound.

⁸ <https://www.infra.cbd.int/national-reports>

⁹ (UNEP/CBD/COP/12/9).

20. To date, 104 fifth national reports have been submitted to the Secretariat. In addition, 33 countries have sent advanced draft reports. The rate of submission has surpassed that of the four previous rounds of national reporting though only 31 countries submitted their reports by the 31 March 2014 deadline (see Figure 1 below). A list of the fifth national reports and draft reports received is contained in the annex to this document. An updated list will be issued before and at the end of the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

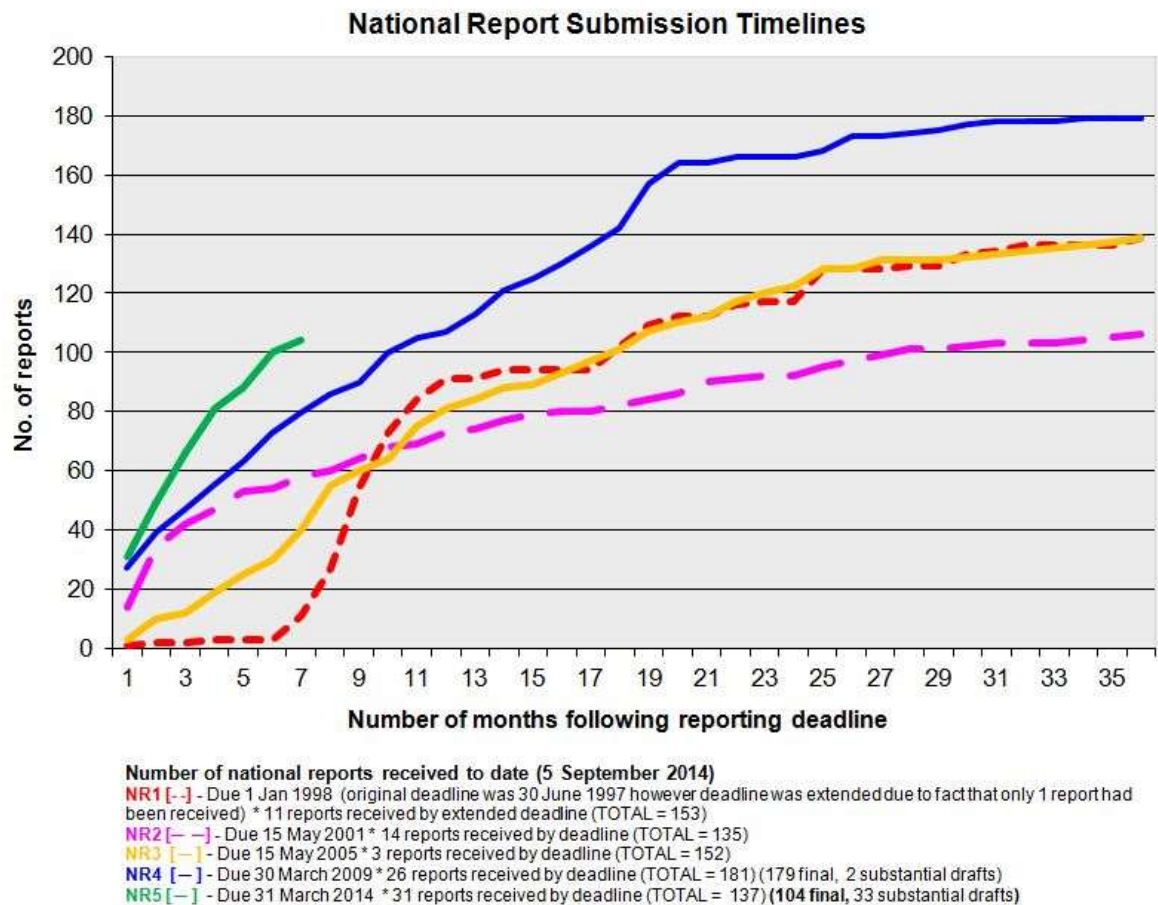


Figure 1. Trend of Submission of all national reports

21. As of 5 September 2014, 54% of the Parties have submitted their final fifth national reports. On a regional basis 63% of the Parties from Africa, 50% of the Parties from Asia and the Pacific, 70% of the Parties from Central and Eastern Europe, 24% of the Parties from Latin America and the Caribbean, and 62% of the Parties from Western Europe and Others, have submitted their fifth national reports (see Figure 2 below).

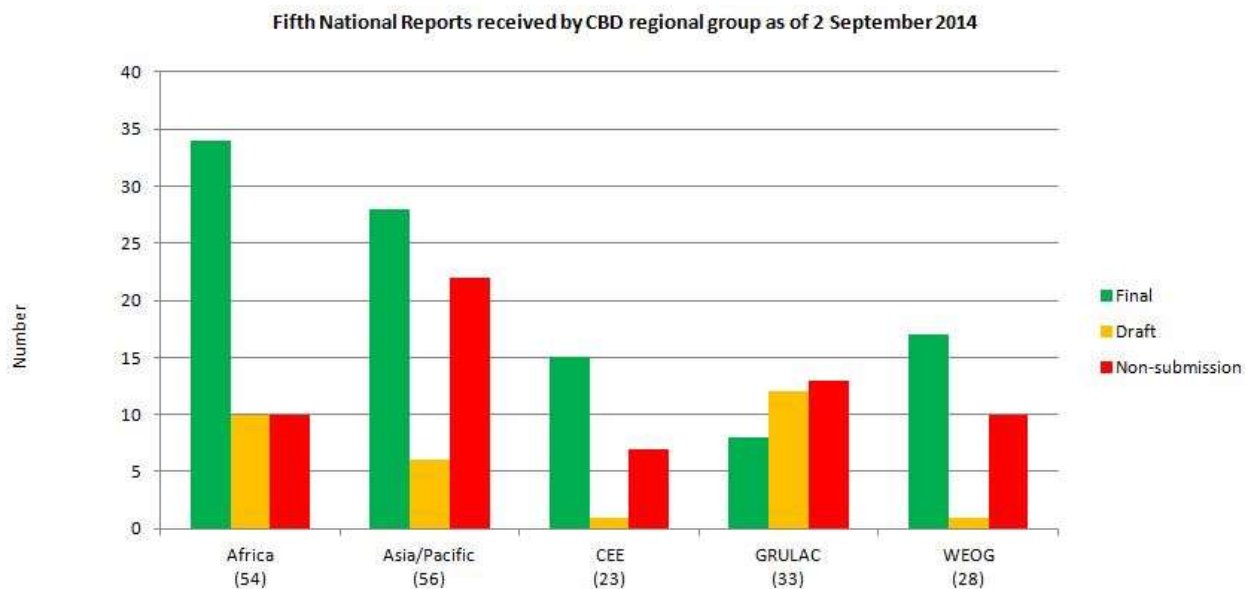


Figure 2. Status of the submission of the fifth national reports including drafts by regional groups

22. As requested in paragraph 6 of recommendation XVII/1 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, the Secretariat prepared an information document (UNEP/CBD/WGRI/5/INF/20) that contained a detailed description of methodologies used in self-assessments of progress towards implementation of the Convention, and presented it to the fifth meeting of the Working Group on the Review of Implementation.

23. The fifth meeting of the Working Group on the Review of Implementation, in paragraph 1 (e) of recommendation 5/2, requested the Executive Secretary to complete the ongoing development of the online reporting tool of the clearing-house mechanism in order to make it fully operational as a component of the official website of the Convention. The pilot phase of this online reporting system has been completed and made available at <https://chm.cbd.int>. A notification has been sent requesting all Parties to nominate or confirm a Focal Point for National Reports (NR-FP) and national authorized user(s) (NAUs) of the system in preparation for the full operationalization of the system. This system is expected to be fully operational after the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, following its possible decision (as recommended in WGRI recommendation 5/2) to invite Parties to use this system on a voluntary basis to provide information concerning progress towards the Aichi Targets and related national targets, to enable each meeting of the Conference of the Parties through to 2020 to review progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Targets.

*Annex***LIST OF PARTIES THAT HAVE SUBMITTED FIFTH NATIONAL REPORTS**

(as of 5 September 2014) (in order of receipt)

Final reports:

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| 1. South Africa | 48. Azerbaijan |
| 2. Niger | 49. Switzerland |
| 3. Belgium | 50. Costa Rica |
| 4. Japan | 51. Liberia |
| 5. Dominica | 52. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland |
| 6. Sudan | 53. Finland |
| 7. Myanmar | 54. Hungary |
| 8. Côte d'Ivoire | 55. United Republic of Tanzania |
| 9. Somalia | 56. Tonga |
| 10. Niue | 57. Australia |
| 11. Nepal | 58. Republic of Korea |
| 12. Mongolia | 59. Kazakhstan |
| 13. Poland | 60. Estonia |
| 14. Colombia | 61. Sao Tome and Principe |
| 15. Uganda | 62. Chad |
| 16. Nauru | 63. Benin |
| 17. China | 64. United Arab Emirates |
| 18. Palau | 65. Morocco |
| 19. Malaysia | 66. Bosnia and Herzegovina |
| 20. Solomon Islands | 67. Albania |
| 21. Pakistan | 68. Equatorial Guinea |
| 22. Senegal | 69. Ethiopia |
| 23. Nigeria | 70. Democratic Republic of the Congo |
| 24. Cameroon | 71. Mali |
| 25. Denmark | 72. Gambia |
| 26. Canada | 73. Mauritania |
| 27. Burundi | 74. Honduras |
| 28. Rwanda | 75. Czech Republic |
| 29. Spain | 76. Croatia |
| 30. Ecuador | 77. Bulgaria |
| 31. Cuba | 78. Comoros |
| 32. Namibia | 79. Uruguay |
| 33. Germany | 80. Saudi Arabia |
| 34. Republic of Moldova | 81. European Union |
| 35. Montenegro | 82. Norway |
| 36. India | 83. France |
| 37. Republic of Congo | 84. Guinea-Bissau |
| 38. Belarus | 85. Russian Federation |
| 39. Iraq | 86. Fiji |
| 40. Kuwait | 87. Malawi |
| 41. Sweden | 88. Togo |
| 42. Netherlands | 89. Cyprus |
| 43. Qatar | 90. Burkina Faso |
| 44. New Zealand | 91. Vanuatu |
| 45. Italy | 92. Nicaragua |
| 46. Madagascar | 93. Sri Lanka |
| 47. Tajikistan | 94. Latvia |

- | | | | |
|------|------------|------|---------------|
| 95. | Serbia | 101. | Austria |
| 96. | Eritrea | 102. | Philippines |
| 97. | Cambodia | 103. | Liechtenstein |
| 98. | Vietnam | 104. | Armenia |
| 99. | Tunisia | | |
| 100. | Seychelles | | |

Advanced drafts:

1. Saint Lucia
2. Maldives
3. Panama
4. Saint Kitts and Nevis
5. Samoa
6. Peru
7. Yemen
8. Brazil
9. Dominican Republic
10. Djibouti
11. Mexico
12. Botswana
13. Kyrgyzstan
14. Guatemala
15. Grenada
16. Egypt
17. Ireland
18. Guinea
19. Kenya
20. Swaziland
21. Jordan
22. Angola
23. Oman
24. Georgia
25. El Salvador
26. Zimbabwe
27. Antigua and Barbuda
28. Algeria
29. Guyana
30. Mozambique
31. Bangladesh

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