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CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOP FOR SOUTHERN AND EASTERN AFRICA ON NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS AND MAINSTREAMING OF BIODIVERSITY

4-8 February, Rustenburg, South Africa

Item 3 of the Provisional Agenda

STATUS OF NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS

Note by the Executive Secretary

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Article 6 of the Convention on Biological Diversity¹ requires each Party to develop or adapt national strategies, plans or programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and to integrate, as far as possible and as appropriate, the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies.

2. In its decisions VI/26, on the Strategic Plan for the Convention, and VI/27 A, on implementation of the Convention, the Conference of the Parties of the Convention stressed that the development and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans constitute the cornerstone of national implementation of the Convention. This is reflected in goal 3 of the Strategic Plan, namely, that “national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the integration of biodiversity concerns into relevant sectors serve as an effective framework for the implementation of the objectives of the Convention”.

3. The Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention, at its first meeting, in September 2005, examined progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan and concluded that there

¹ Article 6 of the Convention in full states that:

“(a) 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 this Convention relevant to the Contracting Party concerned.

(b) Each Contracting Party shall, in accordance with its particular conditions and capabilities, integrate, as far as possible and as appropriate, the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies.”

is little progress towards goal 2 – and that this remains a major constraint on implementation – and that progress towards goal 3 is also poor. Noting this slow progress, the Conference of the Parties decided to conduct an in-depth review of the implementation of goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan. This note provides a summary of the results of that review, as considered by the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention, at its second meeting, in July 2007 (Section II).

4. This series of regional workshops on capacity building for NBSAPs is intended to contribute to the review process. Section III of the note provides information on the status and implementation of NBSAPs in Southern and Eastern Africa, as a basis for further work during the workshop (See section IV).

5. Since considering the issue of national biodiversity strategies and action plans at its second meeting, the Conference of the Parties has issued guidance on the preparation and implementation of such strategies and plans and endorsed third-party guidelines developed to assist countries to fulfil their obligations under Article 6 of the Convention. The second meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention, held in July 2007 prepared consolidated and updated guidance (see UNEP/CBD/NBSAP/CBW-SE-ASI/1/3).

II. IN-DEPTH REVIEW OF THE STATUS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NBSAPS: A GLOBAL OVERVIEW

6. As noted above, at its eighth meeting, the Conference of the Parties decided to consider at its ninth meeting the in-depth review of goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan (decision VIII/8). It requested the Working Group on Review of Implementation (WGRI) to prepare for the in-depth review by focusing in particular on:

- the status of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and their updating;
- the extent to which biodiversity concerns have been effectively mainstreamed in accordance with Article 6(b) of the Convention ;
- the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs);
- and the provision of financial resources, capacity-building, access to and transfer of technology and technology cooperation.

7. The relevant goals and objectives of the strategic plan are:

Goal 2: Parties have improved financial, human, scientific, technical, and technological capacity to implement the Convention.

Objective 2.1: All Parties have adequate capacity for implementation of priority actions in national biodiversity strategies and action plans

Objective 2.2: Developing country Parties, in particular the least developed and the small island developing States amongst them, and other Parties with economies in transition, have sufficient resources available to implement the three objectives of the Convention

Objective 2.5: Technical and scientific cooperation is making a significant contribution to building capacity

Goal 3: National biodiversity strategies and action plans and the integration of biodiversity concerns into relevant sectors serve as an effective framework for the implementation of the objectives of the Convention.

Objective 3.1: Every Party has effective national strategies, plans and programmes in place to provide a national framework for implementing the three objectives of the Convention

Objective 3.3: Biodiversity concerns are being integrated into relevant national sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies

Objective 3.4: The priorities in national biodiversity strategies and action plans are being actively implemented, as a means to achieve national implementation of the Convention, and as a significant contribution towards the global biodiversity agenda.

8. In line with decision VIII/8, the Executive Secretary synthesized and analysed information in NBSAPs, the 127 third national reports submitted by Parties by April 2007², and other information submitted by Parties in response to the invitation in decision VIII/8 to provide updates on the status of NBSAPs, obstacles to implementation, national reviews of implementation and the availability of resources. The Secretariat also consulted relevant academic studies and reports prepared by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and its implementing agencies. The latter includes evaluations of GEF support for enabling activities, National Capacity Self-Assessment reports and analyses of environment-related issues included in poverty reduction strategies and strategies for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

9. The following provides a summary of the main conclusions of the review, focusing on implementation of NBSAPs and the availability of financial resources³. It reproduces the conclusions of the second meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention (July 2007), with data updated to 24 December 2007:

- (a) From information provided to the Secretariat from Parties, 157 Parties (83% of the total) have finalized their NBSAPs or equivalent instruments. Nineteen Parties have informed the secretariat that they are preparing their NBSAP. Fourteen Parties have not prepared an NBSAP or initiated the process to do so, or have not informed the Secretariat that they have done so;
- (b) Thirteen Parties have revised NBSAPs, and fourteen more have revisions in progress. Revisions are designed to identify and meet new challenges and to respond to recent guidance from the Conference of the Parties. Some Parties are developing biodiversity strategies and/or action plans at the sub-national level;
- (c) Stakeholder consultations have been a major part of NBSAP preparation. However, the range of stakeholders involved is often not adequate to ensure effective ownership of NBSAPs or to ensure mainstreaming of biodiversity beyond the environment community;
- (d) While most NBSAPs include goals and targets few are quantitative and few respond directly to the 2010 biodiversity target or other targets established under the Convention. In part, this

² Third national reports had been received by 135 Parties by 24 December, 2007.

³ The full results of the Secretariat's analysis is provided in the following documents:

- Status of implementation of goals 2 and 3 of the strategic plan focusing on implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and availability of financial resources: an overview (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/2)
- Synthesis and analysis of obstacles to implementation of NBSAPs, lessons learned from the review, effectiveness of policy instruments and strategic priorities for action (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/2/Add.1)
- Updated synthesis of information contained in third national reports (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/INF/1)
- NBSAPs: a meta-analysis of earlier reviews (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/INF/9)
- Review of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, biodiversity mainstreaming and implementation of the Convention: a bibliography (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/INF/10)

- results from the fact that most NBSAPs pre-date the establishment of the targets by the Convention on Biological Diversity;
- (e) Similarly, reference to the ecosystem approach is absent from most NBSAPs, and most do not include reference to all of the relevant programmes of work and thematic issues under the Convention;
 - (f) Most NBSAPs include action plans. However, frequently these tend to be focused on projects rather than on the fundamental issues that need to be addressed to achieve the objectives of the Convention. Few specify domestic funding sources;
 - (g) Effective communication programmes are lacking from many NBSAPs;
 - (h) Most countries report efforts to mainstream biodiversity into sectoral and cross-sectoral policies, plans and programmes. This is probably more effective with some sectors (eg: forestry, tourism) than others. Mainstreaming of biodiversity into national development and poverty reduction strategies and broader planning processes appears to be generally weak;
 - (i) Most countries have identified priorities for implementation of their NBSAPs, but few of them have indicated in their national reports whether and to what extent they have been implemented. Some countries may have comprehensive reports on implementation but these are not systematically available to the Secretariat;
 - (j) Parties report that the most widespread constraints to implementation of the Convention are “lack of financial, human and technical resources” and “lack of economic incentive measures”. Articles 7, 12, 8(h) and 8(a-e) are reported to be the provisions most constrained by lack of resources;
 - (k) While nearly all countries indicate that they provide some financial support or incentives to national activities that are intended to achieve the objectives of the Convention, budget cuts are a serious problem in some countries. There are many examples of private contributions and resources generated from revenue measures, but the resources are generally small at national or international levels;
 - (l) Several countries have begun to introduce innovative financial mechanisms such as payments for ecosystem services, but, generally speaking, they have not yet borne fruit in generating sustainable financing. About one third of the reporting countries have adopted tax exemption status for biodiversity-related donations
 - (m) Most countries do not have a process to monitor financial support in their countries, and only one fifth of reporting countries have conducted a review of how their national budgets (including official development assistance) support of national biodiversity activities;
 - (n) According to data from the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) about US\$ 9 billion dollars of biodiversity-related donor assistance have been provided for the period 1998–2005. No clear long term trends in bilateral assistance can be discerned;
 - (o) While some positive outcomes are reported for specific activities, in general, technology transfer and cooperation under the Convention appears to have been very limited; and
 - (p) Important progress has been made with respect to the exchange of information and scientific and technical cooperation in general. However, the overall role of the clearing house mechanism in supporting such cooperation needs to be further elaborated. About one half of the Parties have developed a national clearing house mechanism.

10. In their third national report, Parties were asked to indicate the relative importance of various obstacles ⁴ to implementation of the provisions of the Convention and the thematic programmes of work, by ranking them as “high-level”, “medium-level”, or “low-level” challenges. Taking all reporting Parties together, the following ten challenges were ranked as “high” or “medium-level” by more than 70% of Parties for the implementation of Article 6:

- Lack of financial, human, technical resources (84%);
- Lack of economic incentive measures (82%);
- Loss of biodiversity and the corresponding goods and services it provides not properly understood and documented (76%);
- Lack of public education and awareness at all levels (75%)
- Lack of effective partnerships (74%);
- Lack of horizontal cooperation among stakeholders (73%);
- Unsustainable production and consumption patterns (72%);
- Lack of mainstreaming and integration of biodiversity issues into other sectors (71%);
- Inadequate capacity to act, caused by institutional weakness (70%);
- Lack of knowledge and practice of ecosystem-based approaches to management (70%).

III. THE STATUS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NBSAPS IN SOUTHERN AND EASTERN AFRICA

11. Of the 20 Parties invited to participate in this regional workshop, sixteen (80%) have completed national biodiversity strategies and action plans (See Table 1) – a completion rate similar to the global average. Annex I provides a digest of the NBSAPS as featured in the Country Profiles on the Convention’s website. Some Parties have prepared posters on aspects of their NBSAPs (As of 24 December, these include Madagascar, Namibia, and South Africa). These are available at: <http://www.cbd.int/meetings/wgri-02/poster-session.shtml>

12. The Secretariat has not received any information from Parties in the region regarding plans for the development of revised NBSAPs.

13. As part of the global analysis, summarized in section II above, Parties were invited to submit information on the status of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, their implementation and updating, and the extent to which biodiversity concerns have been effectively mainstreamed in accordance with Article 6(b) of the Convention on Biological Diversity. From the Southern and Eastern Africa region only Rwanda and Zimbabwe provided information, which was included in the compilation prepared by the Secretariat for the second meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention (UNEP/CBD/WGRI/2/INF/7).

14. To complement and extend the global analysis, the Secretariat requested each participant to the Workshop, nominated by CBD National Focal Points, to provide further information on their country’s NBSAP (See UNEP/CBD/NBSAP/CBW-SE-AFR/1/Add.1, Annex III). As of December 24th, no country had provided such information to the Secretariat.

⁴ See UNEP/CBD/WGRI/2/2/Add.1 These obstacles correspond generally, but not exactly, to the list appended to the Strategic Plan (decision VI/26).

IV. ACTIVITIES TO BE UNDERTAKEN DURING THE WORKSHOP

15. As noted in the annotated agenda UNEP/CBD/NBSAP/CBW-SE-AFR/1/Add.1, participants will be invited to discuss national experiences and lessons learned in the development and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, focusing on:

- (a) Status of NBSAPs or similar strategies and programmes;
- (b) Major Features of NBSAPs;
- (c) Priority actions identified for implementing NBSAPs;
- (d) Mechanisms identified for implementing NBSAPs;
- (e) Obstacles encountered in the implementation of NBSAPs; and,
- (f) Reviews undertaken of the implementation of NBSAPs and assessment of the effectiveness of the strategy;

Table 1: Status of NBSAPS and national reports in Southern and Eastern Africa

Country	NBSAP (year of adoption)	National reports		
		1 st	2 nd	3 rd
Angola	2007-2012 NBSAP (2006)	No	Yes	Yes
Botswana	No (however 3rd NR received May 05 states that NBSAP had just been completed)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Burundi	Yes (Interim NBSAP dated July 2000 available on CHM site; final version requested; adoption confirmed in 3 rd NR however date of adoption unclear)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Eritrea	Yes (2000)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ethiopia	Yes (completion 2005, not yet adopted)	No	Yes	Yes
Kenya	Yes (completion in 1999, date of adoption unclear)	Yes	No	Yes
Lesotho	No (however 3rd NR received Oct 05 states that NBSAP has been completed and adopted)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Madagascar	Yes (adoption in 2002 presumed)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Malawi	Yes (completion in 2006 however NBSAP files received by SCBD were damaged, clean copies requested; adoption date unclear; WGRI-2 delegate confirmed that revision scheduled to begin in 2008)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mauritius	2006-2015 NBSAP (completion in 2006?; adoption unclear)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mozambique	No (adopted in 2003 however final version not available in UN language; English 1997 draft posted on website)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Namibia	Yes (3rd NR received July 05 states that NBSAP "in its present form" has not yet been adopted by government)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rwanda	Yes (completion in 2003, adoption date unclear; NBSAP revision forecasted for 2009; Assessment of NBSAP implementation received Feb 07)	Yes	No	No
Seychelles	Yes (completion in 1998; adoption date unclear)	Yes	Yes	Yes
South Africa	Yes (2005)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Swaziland	Yes (2001 draft posted, final not received; 3rd NR received July 06 confirms that NBSAP still not adopted)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Tanzania	No (2nd NR received April 04 states that NBSAP was completed however not yet adopted. Adoption still unclear in 3rd NR received in May 06)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Uganda	Yes (completion in 2002; adoption date unclear)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Zambia	Yes (1999)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Zimbabwe	Yes (2002) * Info on NBSAP implementation received March 07.	Yes	Yes	Yes

ANNEX II: MAJOR FEATURES OF NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS IN SOUTH, EAST AND SOUTHERN AND EASTERN AFRICA

This annex provides brief outlines of the major features of national biodiversity strategies and action plans as provided on the Convention's website at <http://www.cbd.int/countries/>. Those entries with a tick mark (✓) have been finalized and approved by Parties on the basis of a draft prepared by the Secretariat. For the remaining countries, the profiles have been prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of information provided in the NBSAP and national reports, but have not been reviewed by the Party concerned.

Angola

The overall objective of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan is to incorporate measures for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and fair and equitable sharing of biological resources into development policies and programmes for the benefit of all Angolans. The Strategy and Action Plan are interconnected through eight strategic areas that were defined through a process of public consultation that involved representatives of government institutions, local and traditional authorities, environmental protection institutions, the education sector, the private sector and the press. These areas include: research and information dissemination, education for sustainable development, biodiversity management in protected areas, sustainable use of biodiversity components, the role of communities in biodiversity management, institutional strengthening, legislation and its implementation, as well as management, coordination and monitoring. Specific objectives and actions have been defined for each of these strategic areas. Each action is given a completion timeframe, ranging from 2007 to 2012. However, due to the challenges that Angola is facing at the economic and social development level, the Strategy considers a wider vision; i.e. it envisages a period of at least 10 to 15 years for implementation. This will require periodic review and constant monitoring of actions.

Botswana

n/a

Burundi✓

The national vision is to ensure that the population is rightly informed of the value of biodiversity and the threats it faces, as well as involved and engaged in its conservation and sustainable use for the well-being of present and future generations. The strategy is based on the eight following axes: conservation of biodiversity; sustainable use of its components; fair sharing of responsibilities and benefits; biotechnologies; public education and awareness raising; training and research; impact assessments and reduction of negative impacts; and cooperation and exchange of information. In addition, 13 main objectives, 27 specific objectives and 96 actions have been identified. The NBSAP also contains 16 detailed projects intended to implement the strategy and action plan.

Eritrea

The overall goal of the Eritrean NBSAP is as follows: "The overall biodiversity of Eritrea restored, conserved and managed so that it provides environmental services and natural resources that contribute to sustainable and socially-fair national economic development." Three core areas were identified, namely terrestrial biodiversity, marine biodiversity and agricultural biodiversity, each with a major objective. The strategic elements of the NBSAP form the linkage between the major objective for each core area and the activities that will be undertaken in order to fulfill the objectives. For convenience and clarity, the strategic elements have been reduced to 10 themes which are: integrated management; sustainable use of natural resources; alien invasive species; pollution management; in situ conservation

(protected areas); ex situ conservation; taxonomic knowledge; information acquisition and storage; public awareness and education; and legal and institutional structure (capacity building). Examples of some implementation activities include: establishment of new plantations and the reforestation of existing forest areas; survey of distribution and spread of selected alien invasive species and their economic/social benefits; monitoring of critical pollutants which impact on marine and coastal system and increase honey and wax production by establishing queen bee rearing centers and expansion of bee colonies.

Ethiopia

n/a

Kenya

Kenya has established numerous goals, as well as general and specific objectives that relate to these issues, among others: environmental policies and legislations; involvement of communities; documentation of national biological resources; sustainable management and conservation of biodiversity; fair and equitable sharing of benefits; technical and scientific cooperation; biodiversity assessment; dissemination of information; institutional and community capacity building; and integration of biodiversity concerns into development planning.

Lesotho

n/a

Madagascar

In this document, the country details its intention to, among others, combat poverty, focus on traditional as well as modern knowledge, involve various stakeholders, contribute to local, regional and national development and also take into consideration international trade. The NBSAP focuses on three main themes: (1) conservation of biodiversity (ecosystems conservation; wild genetic resources conservation; and agrobiodiversity conservation); (2) sustainable valuation of biodiversity (improve knowledge regarding economic, ecological, and sociocultural values of biodiversity; improve the situation of under-valued and under-used biodiversity products; development of ecotourism); and (3) reduction of the pressures on biodiversity resources (improvement of behavior towards biodiversity; enforcement of legislation; development of alternatives to destruction of timber and natural resources, development of biosecurity). The NBSAP also discusses the need for more protected areas, capacity building, access and benefit sharing, improved monitoring, development of partnerships, sustainable financing mechanism, and regional, local, and community planning.

Malawi

The strategy identified four main goals: (1) conservation of protected areas, mountains and species and restoration of degraded and vulnerable ecosystems, habitats and species; (2) enhancement and improvement of the biodiversity knowledge base and the strengthening of human and infrastructure capacity; (3) enhancement of agricultural production through protection and management of biodiversity and support for initiatives that encourage fair and equitable sharing of benefits; (4) and the enhancement of community understanding and appreciation of biodiversity and support of community action. Other major aspects of the strategy and action plan include public participation and awareness, sectoral policies, sustainable use of genetic resources, financing mechanisms, partnerships between various stakeholders, and good governance.

Mauritius✓

The strategy document was finalised through a series of local, thematic and national workshops in November 2005 and covers the period 2006-2015. It contains separate sections for Mauritius and Rodrigues and is divided into three thematic areas: Forest and Terrestrial Biodiversity; Freshwater, Coastal and Marine Biodiversity; and Agricultural Biodiversity, Biotechnology & Biosafety. Five strategic objectives are addressed: Establishment of a Representative and Viable Protected Area Network (PAN); Management of Key Components of Biodiversity; Enabling of Sustainable Use of Biodiversity; Maintenance of Ecosystem Services; and Management of Biotechnology and its Products.

The process was at all times incorporative and stakeholder-driven. The Strategy document outlines an agreed structure and process for coordination and implementation, and emphasizes building and maintaining stakeholder participation in implementation processes. The document proposes a strategic and modified logical framework and incorporates consideration of such ongoing initiatives as the National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA) and Biosafety Framework. Provision is also made for the rapid utilisation of the enabling activities add-on facility, and the elaboration of priority projects from the strategic framework to meet the formats and requirements of specific donor agencies.

Mozambique✓

The NBSAP focuses on seven major areas: conservation of biodiversity; sustainable use of biological resources; impact assessment; scientific knowledge and capacity; public awareness and education; international relations; and implementation. More specific activities relate to, among others: habitat protection; ex-situ and in-situ conservation; agriculture; forestry; fisheries; tourism; local communities and traditional knowledge; sectoral and cross-sectoral integration; and alien species.

Namibia

The goal of this strategic plan is to protect ecosystems, biological diversity and ecological processes, through conservation and sustainable use, thereby supporting the livelihoods, self-reliance and quality of life of the Namibian peoples. The NBSAP comprises fifteen fundamental principles concerning issues such as: conservation and sustainable use; biodiversity valuation; sound ecosystem management; in-situ conservation and integrated management; sound environmental and developmental planning; traditional knowledge and fair sharing of benefits; objective decision-making; responsibilities of government and general population; effective and innovative partnerships; role of women; international cooperation; representative network of protected areas; and wise resource management in arid landscapes. In addition, the action plan includes ten specific plans related to: biodiversity conservation priorities; sustainable use of natural resources; monitoring, predicting and coping with environmental change and threats; sustainable land, wetland, coastal and marine ecosystem management; integrated planning for biodiversity conservation and sustainable development; Namibia's role in the world community; capacity building for biodiversity management in support of sustainable development; and implementation of the NBSAP.

Rwanda✓

The strategy focuses on five major aims: improved conservation of protected areas and wetlands; sustainable use of biodiversity in natural ecosystems and agro-ecosystems; rational use of biotechnology; development and strengthening of policy, institutional, legal and human resources frameworks; and equitable sharing of benefits derived from the use of biological resources. The Action Plan consists of urgent and priority actions which are attainable in a period of five years.

Seychelles

The main focus of the NBSAP was a description of the gaps and constraints currently hindering the country's efforts in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, including gaps in capacity, partnerships, co-ordination, and management of species and ecosystems. NBSAP also defined the vision, principles, goals and policy objectives for biodiversity conservation. There are 11 major goals in the NBSAP, including supporting general measures for conservation and sustainable use; strengthening identification and monitoring of biodiversity; increasing in situ conservation; promoting ex situ conservation; introducing ways and means for sustainable use of biodiversity; introducing incentive measures for conservation; improving appropriate biodiversity related research and training; augmenting public education and awareness of all facets of biodiversity; minimizing adverse effects on biodiversity; ensuring access to and judicious control of genetic resources; and evaluating and using appropriate technology. A number of actions, in the form of 38 projects, have been developed to implement many policies and to bridge gaps. Some of these actions include: implementation of Turtle Management Plans; establishment and support of an environmental NGO center; establishment of key biodiversity indicators; and consolidation of biodiversity legislation.

South Africa

The NBSAP developed, with wide stakeholder consultation, in 2003 – 2005, builds on existing policy and legislation, and many plans and programmes are being implemented. However, much existing policy and legislation is fairly new, and many aspects must still be implemented. A scientifically-based systematic biodiversity assessment for the country, the NSBA, was carried out in 2004. This assessment set quantitative targets for conservation of biodiversity in terrestrial, river, estuarine and marine ecosystems. These biodiversity targets, based on best available science, need to inform the setting of realistic and measurable targets for the 5-year action plan developed during the NBSAP process. The NBSAP identified nine priority geographic areas, as well as priorities for freshwater, estuarine and marine ecosystems. Within these areas, priority actions include limiting loss and degradation of natural habitat by integrating biodiversity considerations into municipal spatial plans and extending conservation and biodiversity management onto privately and communally owned land. A national mining and biodiversity dialogue has been established between conservation organisations and the Chamber of Mines, which represents large mining houses. It aims to improve biodiversity practices within the industry and to prevent loss of natural habitat in critical sites.

Swaziland

The main goals and objectives of the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan are as follows: to reinforce awareness of the importance of policy reform concerning biodiversity and conservation; to identify activities to be undertaken by a proposed Global Environment Facility biodiversity conservation project; to draw upon traditional knowledge about environment management and alternatives to resource-based livelihoods; to integrate this knowledge with relevant international conventions and undertakings; to stimulate and maintain conservation both in situ and ex situ and to determine the current status of biodiversity. The main themes for the identified priority issues and activities are: alien invasive species, fragmentation of ecosystems, biodiversity conservation options for communal management, natural resource accounting, legislative development, lack of control of the medicinal plant trade, in situ conservation of genetic resources and capacity building.

United Republic of Tanzania

Tanzania has identified several priority actions such as: implementation of policy and regulatory frameworks; enhancing regional and international cooperation; planning and coordination; education and information; research and development; ecosystems and species conservation and sustainable utilization; biodiversity monitoring and evaluation; and capacity building (personnel, facilities, and financial capacities).

Uganda✓

The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) was prepared in 2002 and is now in Cabinet for consideration and approval. It is a useful policy guide for addressing Uganda's concerns in biodiversity conservation and the utilization of its components as well as for implementation of the requirements of the CBD. The goal of the NBSAP is to enhance biodiversity conservation, management, sustainable utilization and fair sharing of the benefits arising from such utilization at all levels. The strategic objectives of the NBSAP are to:

1. Develop and strengthen co-ordination, measures and frameworks for biodiversity management; 2. Facilitate research, information management and information exchange on biodiversity; 3. Reduce and manage negative impacts on biodiversity; 4. Promote the sustainable use and equitable sharing of costs and benefits of biodiversity; 5. Enhance awareness on biodiversity issues among the various stakeholders.

The NBSAP has put in place both general and sectoral strategies that are being implemented to achieve the objectives stated above. The sectoral strategies cover the following: wetlands, forests, wildlife, open water resources, soil biodiversity, biotechnology and biosafety, domestic animal diversity and plant genetic resources. The NBSAP has proposed the following strategies to address some of the key threats/issues affecting biodiversity conservation and management in Uganda:

- a) Develop and strengthen co-ordination, measures and frameworks for biodiversity management. The Biodiversity Conservation Coordination Initiative (BCCI) has been developed and is being implemented.
- b) Facilitate research, information management and information exchange on biodiversity issues. This is ongoing within universities and research institutions.
- c) Reduce and manage the negative impacts of various activities on biodiversity. It is now mandatory for EIA to be carried out for proposed activities likely to have adverse impacts on biodiversity.
- d) Promote the sustainable use and fair sharing of costs and benefits of biodiversity. Regulations on ABS have been put in place and implementation is ongoing. Preparation of the ABS Guidelines is in advanced stages and expected to be completed by the end of May 2007 or early June 2007.
- e) Enhance awareness of biodiversity issues among the various stakeholders. Universities have training programmes that cover biodiversity issues. Primary school curriculum has been revised to include environment education. Plans are under way to incorporate environment education in secondary education as well. An Awareness Manual for Biodiversity Conservation in Uganda is under preparation and expected to be completed by the end of May or early June 2007.

Zambia✓

Six strategic goals with objectives, strategies and actions have been derived based on the synthesis and analysis of the results of the biodiversity assessment. The goals are as follows: ensure the conservation of a full range of Zambia's natural ecosystems through a network of protected areas of viable size; conservation of the genetic diversity of Zambia's crops and livestock; improve the legal and institutional framework and human resources to implement the strategies for conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use and equitable sharing of benefits from biodiversity; sustainable use and management of biological resources; develop an appropriate legal and institutional framework and the needed human resources to

minimize the risks of GMOs; and ensure the equitable sharing of benefits from the use of Zambia's biological resources.

Zimbabwe✓

Zimbabwe produced its NBSAP in 1998 and identified several key unmet needs to be addressed in terms of biodiversity conservation and management. These are:

1) the absence of comprehensive and elaborate biodiversity inventory and monitoring programmes; 2) Inadequate incentives for some local communities to undertake biodiversity conservation and sustainable use initiatives in both protected and non-protected areas; 3) Inadequate environmental awareness, education and training; 4) Limited appreciation of the importance of biodiversity to national economy and to local communities and policy makers; 5) Inadequate, conflicting and poorly enforced pieces of legislation that tend to adversely affect biodiversity conservation and sustainable use; 6)

A limited financial base and institutional capacity to facilitate the formulation, implementation and monitoring of biodiversity projects at the local level; 7) Inadequate affordable alternatives to reduce the reliance on natural resources at the local level; 8) Inappropriate research and extension approached in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. Zimbabwe's biodiversity strategy and action plan aims at addressing the priority unmet needs listed above. Several specific strategies along with broad actions were formulated to achieve this goal.

The revision of the NBSAP is long overdue. There is need to revise the NBSAP in line with emerging issues and to determine whether it remains adequate for reducing rates of biodiversity loss, promoting sustainable use, and contributing to the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources. This will facilitate the implementation of the Strategic Plan and CBD programmes of work as well as follow-up on progress towards the 2010 Biodiversity Target and relevant Millennium Development Goals. The NBSAP should ensure that biodiversity concerns are being integrated into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies in the country.

The revision could include:

(i) status and trends in biodiversity, current and projected major threats to biodiversity, obstacles to sustainable use and to the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, and the experience of the previous and existing strategies; and (ii) a gap analysis taking into account all relevant activities including those being undertaken within the framework of other conventions, and by organizations and initiatives that contribute to the objectives of the convention. The gap analysis would also help to identify opportunities for collaboration, as well as areas where additional activities would add the most value.

The NBSAP does not explicitly look at the issues of taxonomy, access and benefit sharing, degradation, international waters and risks posed by organisms modified by biotechnology in detail. Proposals to address these issues are required.
