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REGIONAL WORKSHOP FOR SOUTH, SOUTH
EAST AND EAST ASIA ON CAPACITY
BUILDING FOR NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY
STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS AND
MAINSTREAMING OF BIODIVERSITY
Singapore City, Singapore, 4 -8 February 2008

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”.

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.”

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 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 East, South and Southeast Asia, 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;
- (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 need 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 SOUTH, EAST AND SOUTH-EAST ASIA

11. Of the 22 Parties invited to participate in this regional workshop, nineteen (86%) have completed national biodiversity strategies and action plans (See Table 1) – a completion rate somewhat above 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 India (various states), Japan and Thailand). These are available at: <http://www.cbd.int/meetings/wgri-02/poster-session.shtml>

12. Six parties in the region (27%) have revised their NBSAP – a significantly higher proportion than the global average – and two more indicate that revisions are in progress. Only three Parties have not completed their NBSAP and each of these have indicated that preparation is under way. One of these (Timor Leste) is a new Party, having acceded to the Convention only in 2007. One country in the region (Brunei Darussalam) is not yet a Party to the Convention.

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 Asian region only China 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-ASI/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-ASI/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 E/S/SE Asia

| Country | NBSAP (year of adoption) | National reports | | |
|--------------------------|--|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | | 1 st | 2 nd | 3 rd |
| Bangladesh | No (however 3rd NR submitted May 05 infers that the NBSAP has been finalized; SCBD inquiries have not been responded to) | No | Yes | Yes |
| Bhutan | Yes "BAP I" adopted in 1997; "BAP II" adopted in 2002 | Yes | No | Yes |
| Brunei Darussalam | N/A (* not a CBD Party) | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Cambodia | Yes (2002) | No | No | Yes |
| China | Yes (1994) *NBSAP currently being updated to include targets for 2010, 2015, 2020. Completion projected for 2008. | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| DPR Korea | Yes (1999) | Yes | No | Yes |
| India | Yes (Informed in Sept 07 that final draft of new NBSAP completed and would be submitted to Cabinet for approval) | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Indonesia | Yes (1st NBSAP in 1993; Revised NBSAP in 2003) | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Japan | Yes (1995); Revised in 2002 and 2007 | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Lao PDR | Yes (2004) | No | No | No |
| Malaysia | Yes (1998) | Yes | No | Yes |
| Maldives | Yes (completion in 2002, adoption details unclear) | Yes | No | No |
| Mongolia | Yes (1996) | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Myanmar | No (3 rd NR received in Sept 05 says NBSAP is under way) | No | No | Yes* |
| Nepal | Yes (2002) | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Pakistan | Yes (1999) | No | Yes | Yes |
| Philippines | Yes (1 st NBSAP in 1997; 2 nd iteration completed in 2002) | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Republic of Korea | Yes (1997) | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Singapore | Yes (Green Plan 2012 - 2006 Edition adopted in 2006) | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Sri Lanka | Yes (1998) However, SCBD unable to locate hard copy; another hard copy and e-copy have been requested however have not been received) | Yes | Yes | No |
| Thailand | Yes (1 st NBSAP in 1997; revised NBSAP in 2002) | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Timor-Leste | No (Informed on 15 Nov 07 that NBSAP is in development and scheduled for completion in 2008) | No | No | No |
| Vietnam | Yes (1995; 3rd NR received March 2006 states that draft of Biodiversity Action Plan to 2010 and vision toward 2015 has been completed) | Yes | Yes | Yes |

ANNEX I: MAJOR FEATURES OF NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS IN SOUTH, EAST AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

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.

Bangladesh

n/a (NBSAP under preparation)

Bhutan

The 2002 Biodiversity Action Plan is a follow-up of the original document released in 1998. It is organized into five chapters, with the first two representing an inventory of the biodiversity of Bhutan and the efforts undertaken to conserve and use it wisely. Chapters 3 and 4 present the actions needed to conserve and sustainably use the country's biodiversity and the last chapter presents options for actions that can be taken to realize additional benefits from Bhutan's rich biodiversity. The proposed actions of this last chapter are related to activities such as ecotourism, non-timber forest products, bioprospecting and carbon storage.

Brunei Darussalam

n/a (Non-Party)

Cambodia

The vision identified in Cambodia's NBSAP is "equitable economic prosperity and improved quality of life through sustainable use, protection and management of biological resources". The Strategy provides a framework for action at all levels to enhance Cambodia's ability to ensure the productivity, diversity and integrity of natural systems and, as a result, the ability as a nation to reduce poverty and improve the quality of life of all Cambodians. The main strategic goals include: (a) maintaining biological diversity and productivity of ecological systems by protecting the various species of living organisms in their natural and manmade environments, especially forests, aquatic ecosystems, wetlands and agricultural land; (b) managing human activities and utilizing biological resources in a way that preserves for the long term the basic natural resources, which are necessary for human livelihood and development; (c) ensuring that the benefits coming from the sustainable use of biological resources contribute to poverty reduction and improve quality of life for all Cambodians. Priority actions adopted by the government can be grouped in three broad categories: (a) promoting awareness and capacity building of government staff and local communities for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of biological resources; (b) promoting the implementation of community-based natural resource management; and (c) clarifying ministerial jurisdictions, reducing responsibility overlap and promoting interministerial coordination and collaboration in a sustainable development perspective.

China✓

The overall objective of China's NBSAP is to undertake effective measures expeditiously to avoid further damage to the natural environment and resources in China and mitigate or reverse this serious situation. Specifically, the action plan has identified seven major objectives, including: strengthening the

fundamental studies of biodiversity; improving networks of protected areas; protecting wild species with biodiversity importance; protecting the genetic resources of crops and domesticated animals; in-situ conservation outside protected areas; establishing national networks of biodiversity monitoring and information; and coordinating between biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. Twenty-six priority activities and eighteen priority programmes have been identified, including: assessment of status of biodiversity and its economic values; assessment of representativeness and effectiveness of protected areas and identifying needs for establishing new protected areas; identifying priority wild animals for protection based on their biodiversity importance and level of their risks to endangerment; mainstreaming biodiversity into national economic development plan; promoting eco-farming; establishing standardized monitoring techniques; and setting up model areas for well-coordinated biodiversity protection and sustainable development. China has also developed sectoral plans for conservation and sustainable use of agricultural, forest, marine and coastal and wetland biodiversity.

Dem. Rep. of Korea✓

Based on assessments of the country's biodiversity status and existing legal and policy frameworks to address biodiversity-related issues, DPR Korea's NBSAP proposed a set of goals and objectives for future actions in achieving the objectives of the Convention. The document also includes proposed priority projects and activities, including those to address conservation, sustainable use, benefit-sharing, protected areas, research, information networks and biosafety.

India✓

The main goals identified in India's National Policy and Macrolevel Action Strategy on Biodiversity (1999) include: i) Conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity including regeneration and rehabilitation of threatened species. ii) Securing participation of State Governments, communities, people, NGOs, industry and other stakeholders. iii) Realizing consumptive and non-consumptive values of biodiversity through research and development iv) Ensuring benefits to India as country of origin of biological resources and to local communities and people as conservers of biodiversity, creators and holders of indigenous knowledge systems, innovations and practices. v) Ensuring consideration of biodiversity concerns in other sectoral policies and programmes. Numerous and wide ranging policies, programmes and projects were initiated which directly or indirectly serve to protect, conserve and sustainably use the country's biological resources. In the National Policy and Macrolevel Action Strategy on Biodiversity (1999), India identifies the current conservation efforts and some significant gaps in these efforts. Various action points are then enumerated including the formulation of policies for protection of wetlands and sacred groves, and the undertaking of surveys on a priority basis of islands, the Himalayan region, and marine and coastal areas. A large-scale participatory exercise has been completed for providing inputs towards preparation of a National Biodiversity Action Plan.

Indonesia✓

The Indonesian NBSAP's major objectives are: to slow the loss of primary forests, wetlands, coral reefs and other terrestrial and marine habitats of importance for biodiversity; to expand the data and information available on the nation's biodiversity and make it available to policy makers and the public; and to foster the utilization of biological resources in ways that are sustainable and less harmful than current practices. Increased participation by the public, particularly local communities dependant on areas of high biodiversity, is a major objective of the Action Plan. The first priority for maintaining biodiversity is in situ conservation, both within the protected areas network and in oceans, coastal zones, forests and multiple use and agricultural landscapes outside protected areas. Objectives and priority actions have been developed for each of the 4 main components of the action plan and include such activities as: update and implement existing management plans for selected conservation areas; ensure that management plans specify manpower, resource and training needs for each park; develop and

promote methods for economic evaluation of the goods and services provided by tropical wetlands; extend the clean river programme from the present 25 rivers to include other major river systems; survey the extent and status of mangrove habitats; and monitor and evaluate on-going captive breeding and reintroduction schemes for rare Indonesian animals such as rhinos, birds of paradise, parrots and the Bali starling.

Japan✓

The main goals of the New Biodiversity Strategy of Japan are to prevent species extinction and to promote conservation and restoration of nature throughout the country. These goals include mountains, cities and ocean areas, and plan to devote 50 to 100 years to building up a verdant national land area in which all citizens can enjoy daily interaction with a wide variety of thriving life forms. Some actions taken include the analysis of the present socioeconomic and biological conditions of the existing administrative systems for conservation. Some regulations exist in regard to the objectives of the Convention, such as: the Natural Parks Law, the Wildlife Protection and Proper Hunting Law, the Law for the conservation of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, and the Invasive Alien Species Act (2nd NBSAP, 2002). The establishment process of the renewed version of the present Biodiversity Strategy of Japan is now under way, and the completion of “the 3rd Biodiversity Strategy of Japan” is expected within 2007.

Lao People's Democratic Republic✓

The goal of the NBSAP is to maintain biodiversity for poverty alleviation. As such, the main objectives are: to identify important biological diversity components and improve the knowledge base; manage biodiversity on a regional basis, using natural boundaries to facilitate the integration of conservation and utilization-oriented management; plan and implement a biodiversity specific human resource management program; increase public awareness of and encourage participation in sustainable management of biodiversity; adjust and harmonize national legislation and regulations; secure the NBSAP implementation; and promote international cooperation. Some of the issues addressed include the diversity and productivity of cultivated areas, the richness of forests, the state and abundance of water resources, and the improvement of human settlements. These seven main objectives represent seven implementation programmes, for which several objectives and related actions have been defined.

Malaysia✓

The document contains 15 strategies and 87 actions. Its objective is to ensure that biodiversity in Malaysia will be conserved and utilized in a sustainable manner. Its vision is to transform Malaysia into a centre of excellence for conservation, research and sustainable use of tropical biodiversity by the year 2020. In addition to the NPB, Malaysia has also developed a number of sectoral policies and laws governing biodiversity, such as the National Forestry Policy, National Environment Policy, 3rd National Agriculture Policy, National Wetlands Policy, Forestry Act 1984, Wildlife Protection Act 1972, National Park Act 1980 and Fishery Act 1985. At a sectoral level, agencies have also identified priority areas, including developing policy for protection of plant genetic resources, inventorying poorly-known groups of biological organisms such as lower plants and insect diversity, increasing the number of Virgin Jungle Reserves and implementing the National Policy for Integrated Coastal Zones Management. Malaysia made a commitment to maintain at least 50% of its forest cover and trees in perpetuity at the Rio Summit in 1992.

Maldives

The three goals of the NBSAP are: conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity; capacity building for biodiversity conservation through a strong governance framework and improved knowledge and

understanding; and community participation, ownership and support for biodiversity conservation. The major objectives and actions identified relate to: integration of biodiversity conservation into development processes; policies for sustainable use; in-situ and ex-situ conservation; management of threatening processes; economic incentives; knowledge and understanding; awareness raising; strengthened legal and institutional framework; development of human resources; capacity building; community participation; and implementation.

Mongolia

The overall objective of the Biodiversity Conservation Action Plan is to set in place measures to protect biodiversity and to restore damaged areas. Specific objectives were developed which include: to establish complete protected area system representative of all ecosystems; to establish effective population control measures to limit human impact on the nation's biodiversity; to implement an effective environmental impact assessment program; to establish a research program that improves knowledge of biodiversity and relevant threats; to establish a nationwide information and monitoring system for biodiversity conservation; to establish national education and training programs for biodiversity conservation; to control pollution; to control hunting and fishing; to prevent pasture deterioration through overgrazing; to establish effective land-use planning control and transportation policy; to develop strong regulations to protect biodiversity from mining; to support tourism while developing sensible regulations to protect biodiversity; to ensure sustainable agricultural and forestry practices; to identify and restore damaged lands; and to improve ex situ management for species conservation and conservation of genetic resources. Along with these specific objectives several direct actions to be taken were delineated.

Myanmar

n/a (NBSAP under preparation)

Nepal

The Nepal Biodiversity Strategy (NBS) provides an operational planning framework for the conservation of biodiversity, the maintenance of ecological processes and systems and the equitable sharing of benefits. Based on an analysis of the status of Nepal's ecosystems, major threats, and existing mechanisms, policies and programmes, the NBS proposes strategies, including sectoral and cross-sectoral, and mechanisms at various levels to achieve the objectives of the Convention. These strategies include: landscape planning, local participation, institutional strengthening, cross-sectoral coordination of the implementation of policies, in-situ and ex situ conservation, endorsing of traditional knowledge, participation of women in biodiversity conservation, development of an ecologically sensitive tourism and increased biodiversity awareness. The NBS also contains strategies related to protected areas and some sectoral strategies related to the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural, forest, mountain, rangeland and wetland biodiversity. The mechanisms proposed in the NBS include institutional arrangements (The National Biodiversity Coordinating Committee, Thematic Subcommittees, National Biodiversity Unit and National Biodiversity Coordinator), public participation (including research and educational institutions and NGOs) and the financial mechanism and monitoring system. Priority activities identified include ethno-botanical study, bio-prospecting of unutilized and under-utilized plant resources, documentation of forest and agricultural biodiversity, development of biotechnology for Germplasm conservation and utilization, community forest management, promotion of eco-tourism for biodiversity conservation, implementing wetland policy, undertaking studies on high altitudinal biodiversity and conserving biodiversity through watershed management.

Pakistan✓

The major aims of the NBSAP are: to create a policy framework that fosters the sustainable use of biological resources; to strengthen and promote National Biodiversity Conservation Programmes and develop international and regional cooperation; to create conditions and incentives for biodiversity conservation at the local community level; to strengthen and apply more broadly the tools and technologies for conserving biodiversity; and to strengthen human knowledge, will and capacity to conserve biodiversity. The specific objectives and actions to be implemented are organized in the document according to the principal articles of the Convention.

Philippines

The NBSAP focuses on 6 strategies: (1) expanding and improving knowledge on the characteristics, uses, and values of biological diversity; (2) enhancing and integrating existing and planned biodiversity conservation efforts with emphasis on in-situ activities; (3) formulating an integrated policy and legislative framework for the conservation, sustainable use and equitable sharing of the benefits of biological diversity; (4) strengthening capacities for integrating and institutionalizing biodiversity conservation and management; (5) mobilizing and integrating information, education and communication (IEC) system for biodiversity conservation; and (6) advocating stronger international cooperation on biodiversity conservation and management.

Republic of Korea✓

Korea's National Biodiversity Strategy (NBS) contains strategies for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and capacity building. The strategy for biodiversity conservation includes monitoring and identification of biodiversity components; in-situ and ex-situ conservation; control of threatening activities; and ecosystem rehabilitation. The strategy for sustainable use covers a number of sectors such as agriculture, fisheries, forestry, genetic resources and tourism. The strategy for capacity building includes: improvement of management capacities, incentive measures, research and education, exchange of information, and international cooperation.

Singapore✓

Singapore has adopted a multi-prong approach to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010. The Singapore Green Plan 2012 currently serves the role of a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. The Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) Master Plan 2003 guides land use. There are 17 Nature Areas and 4 Nature Reserves captured under the Special and Detailed Control Plans of the URA Master Plan 2003 and the Singapore Green Plan 2012. Nation-wide, a ration of 8 hectares of parkland per 10,000-capita populations has been adopted. Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are also being integrated into education, industrial planning and development, transport, use of genetic resources and other focal areas.

Sri Lanka

The Sri Lanka Biodiversity Conservation Action Plan was adopted in 1998. The Biodiversity Conservation Action Plan has identified four broad areas of ecosystem diversity, namely forests, wetlands, coastal and marine systems, and agricultural systems. Under each ecosystem, main issues have been identified followed by objectives. The recommended actions and the implementing institutions are also defined. At the regional level (Provincial Council Level) Regional Biodiversity Action Plans have been developed. The Sectoral Biodiversity (i.e. biodiversity of domestic animals) Conservation Framework for Action is under preparation. The Biodiversity Secretariat in the Ministry of Forestry and Environment coordinates and initiates actions on cross-sectoral activities (avoid duplication of work),

promotes and facilitates the implementation and monitoring of projects and programs under the BCAP. The Secretariat appoints National Steering Committees (NSC) and various task forces to discuss various biodiversity related issues and also to make recommendations. National Expert Committee was also formed to provide advice to governments on sustainable use of biodiversity.

Thailand✓

This document contains 7 strategies and 14 expected outputs. These strategies include: enhancing biodiversity awareness and knowledge; institutional capacity building; strengthening capacities; increasing efficiency in conservation and sustainable use; controlling, regulating and reducing threats to biodiversity; providing incentives and encouraging public participation; and promoting international cooperation. Expected outputs include: at least 30% of the total forest areas conserved; at least 35% of the total wetland area restored and conserved; monitoring and inventorying biodiversity in some protected areas; surveying distribution of invasive species; and establishing national network of biodiversity conservation and capacity building for local communities. In addition, biodiversity has been included in Thailand's National Economic and Social Development. Thailand has been drafting the third NBSAPs for (year) 2008-2013.

Timor-Leste

n/a (NBSAP under preparation)

Vietnam✓

The long-term objective is to protect the rich and unique biodiversity resources within the sustainable development framework of Vietnam. The immediate objectives include: protection of the country's endemic ecosystems; endangered species; and promoting sustainable use of biodiversity. The action plan covers actions in seven areas: policies and legal issues, establishment and management of protected areas, awareness building, capacity building and staff training, scientific research, socio-economic issues and international cooperation. A considerable number of activities have been identified under each of these areas. The action plan also lists some priority projects for implementation. The Action plan is now in the process of revision.