



Convention on Biological Diversity

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REGIONAL WORKSHOP FOR ASIA AND HORN OF
AFRICA ON THE PREPARATION OF THE FOURTH
NATIONAL REPORT UNDER THE CONVENTION
ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Manama, Bahrain, 12-15 April 2010

REPORT OF THE WORKSHOP

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Regional Workshop for Asia and Horn of Africa on the Preparation of the Fourth National Report under the Convention on Biological Diversity was held from 12 to 15 April 2010 in Manama, Bahrain. It was organized with the generous support of the Government of Japan, the Regional Office for West Asia of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP-ROWA) as well as the support of the Public Commission for the Protection of Marine Resources, Environment and Wildlife of Bahrain.

2. The Workshop was organized in response to a request contained in paragraph 18 (e) of decision VIII/14 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, adopted at its eighth meeting, held in Curitiba, Brazil, from 20 to 31 March 2006. It is also the first of a series of workshops and other activities supported by Japan with a view to facilitating the submission of the fourth national reports by all Parties for consideration by the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan.

3. This workshop also aims to strengthen the capacities of countries for monitoring, reviewing and reporting on the implementation of the Convention, including progress towards the 2010 target and the goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan of the Convention.

4. The workshop was attended by government nominees from Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Maldives, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Somalia, United Arab Emirates and Uzbekistan. The Regional Office for West Asia of the United Nations Environment Programme sent resource persons to this workshop. Representatives from United Nations Development Programme Residential Office in Bahrain and United Nations Information Centre in Bahrain also attended the workshop.

5. The workshop proceeded in accordance with the following agenda:

1. Opening of the workshop and organizational matters.
2. Overview of the objectives and programme for the workshop/the process and status of preparing the fourth national reports.

3. Preparation of the chapters of the fourth national report:
 - (a) Chapter I: Assessing the status and trends of, and threats to biodiversity;
 - (b) Chapter II: Implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
 - (c) Chapter III: sectoral and cross-sectoral integration of biodiversity;
 - (d) Chapter IV and Appendix III: Assessing progress towards the 2010 biodiversity target and goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan as well as the target in the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation and the programme of work on protected areas.
4. Preparation of the executive summary.
5. Next steps: finalization of the fourth national report, and key events in 2010, including using the fourth national report as a communication tool for the International Year of Biodiversity in 2010.
6. Conclusions and recommendations from the workshop.
7. Closure of the workshop.

6. Consecutive Arabic translation was provided in presentations and plenary discussions. Arabic-speaking countries that participated in this workshop worked in small groups and individually on their draft reports or individual exercises with the support of resource persons who spoke Arabic.

7. The main body of this report provides a summary of the proceedings of the workshop. The conclusions from the workshop are contained in section II below. Presentations made at the workshop can be found on the Convention's website at <https://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=4NRCBW-AHA-01>.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE WORKSHOP AND ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

8. Dr. Adel Al Azayani, Director General for the Public Commission for Protection of the Marine Resources, Environment and Wildlife, welcomed all participants to Bahrain. He began by saying that this workshop was important while celebrating the International Year of Biodiversity and developing a roadmap and a mission for the future of biodiversity. He highlighted Bahrain's strong links with nature over history and its current ambitious strategy to address biodiversity challenges while the country was having its best period in history. He said that Bahrain had established 6 nature reserves, 2 marine protected areas and one centre for endangered species and economically important species. He stressed that achieving the 2010 target and implementation of the Convention were responsibilities of all Parties and all countries should contribute to reviewing progress in this regard. He concluded by saying that this workshop provided a very good opportunity for countries to exchange experiences in the implementation and strengthen their capacities in implementation including reporting.

9. Mr. David Cooper, Senior Programme Officer, Implementation and Technical Support/Outreach and Major Groups (ITS/OMG), from the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, delivered an opening statement on behalf of the Executive Secretary, Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif. He began by highlighting the importance of Bahrain as a land rich in history and its efforts in preserving nature over years. He stressed that the fourth national report, with a focus on assessing progress towards the 2010 target and the Strategic Plan, would be crucial to the successes of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the International Year of Biodiversity in 2010. He also highlighted the importance of the

fourth national reports to the development of the new Strategic Plan of the Convention and post-2010 biodiversity targets. He also stressed that national reporting would provide an opportunity for countries to review the implementation of their NBSAPs, in light of the challenges and threats faced. With this he encouraged countries to finalize and submit their fourth national reports as quickly as possible to help ensure the successes of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 10) and the International Year of Biodiversity. He called upon countries to use the IYB as a year of opportunity to promote political and public support for biodiversity, noting, among others, that the United Nations General Assembly will for the first time hold a special high-level summit on biodiversity in September this year.

10. Dr. Habib El-Habr, Director of UNEP ROWA also welcomed participants. While highlighting 2010 as a milestone year of biodiversity, he noted that the 2010 target was missed and the continuing loss of biodiversity at an alarming rate. He cited key findings from the recently launched Environment Outlook of the Arab Region and challenges faced by the region. He pointed out that while using the IYB to promote efforts at various levels to address biodiversity issues, it was important to recognize strong links between biodiversity conservation and economic development. In this regard he cited initiatives by UNEP such as TEEB and REDD. He indicated that UNEP ROWA together with other partners would provide as much support as possible to the countries in the region to address biodiversity challenges, poverty reduction and achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Finally he emphasized that this workshop would be very important considering that the fourth national reports by all countries would provide important sources of information for reviewing progress towards the 2010 target and development of a new Strategy for the Convention on Biological Diversity. He also indicated that UNEP ROWA had enhanced its internal resources to support MEA Secretariats and countries in implementing these conventions.

11. After the opening speeches, participants introduced themselves, and indicated their particular roles in the preparation of their country's fourth national report.

ITEM 2. OVERVIEW OF THE OBJECTIVES AND PROGRAMME FOR THE WORKSHOP/PROCESS AND STATUS OF PREPARING THE FOURTH NATIONAL REPORT

12. At the outset, each participant was asked to write down their expectations for the workshop. The expectations included:

(a) To have a clear guidance on the process of the preparation of the fourth national report based on practical lessons from other countries;

(b) To learn detailed suggestions for preparing the fourth national report, particular information to be included in each individual chapter and how to undertake analysis of outcomes and impacts as suggested in the guidelines for the fourth national report;

(c) Exchange and benefit from the experiences and lessons from other countries in the preparation of the fourth national reports, including methods to analyse the status and trends of and threats to biodiversity, to review implementation of NBSAPs and mainstreaming and to assess progress towards the 2010 target and the Strategic Plan;

(d) To get feedbacks on the strengths and areas in need of improvement in the draft reports;

(e) To strengthen capacities in preparing national reports;

13. Mr. Lijie Cai, Programme Officer for national reports for the Secretariat introduced the overall suggestions for preparing the fourth national reports. He began by emphasizing that national reporting

may be the only unqualified obligation of Parties under the Convention, highlighting that without national reports the Conference of the Parties could not provide adequate policy guidance for national implementation, and in turn, national implementation would not be effective without policy guidance from the Conference of the Parties. While reading Article 26 of the Convention, he emphasized that national reports should cover not only measures for the implementation of the Convention but also an assessment of the effectiveness of these measures in meeting the objectives of the Convention. For the fourth national report in particular, countries were requested to focus on actions, outcomes, impacts, cases and challenges. While pointing out that the fourth national report should be presented primarily in narrative and using more graphics, he analyzed the structure of the report and emphasized that all chapters were closely interlinked and chapter IV on conclusion should draw upon key findings from all the chapters and appendices. For example, analysis of implementation of NBSAP could use data and information concerning the status and trends of biodiversity, particularly to what extent positive changes in status and trends benefit from implementation of NBSAP and mainstreaming. He highlighted that an executive summary of the report should be well written because it contains key messages for the decision makers and the general public. He also proposed that all stakeholders should be involved in the process of preparing the report, emphasizing that reporting should not be an end in itself, instead it should be used as a process for further planning and a communication tool. In conclusion, he outlined the assistance countries could get from the Secretariat and other partners for preparing the report, including tools and resources made available on the portal devoted to the preparation of the fourth national report (<http://www.cbd.int/nr4/>).

14. Iraq, Kuwait and Oman introduced their processes of the preparation of their draft fourth national reports. All of them stressed the importance of involving various stakeholders in the process. A few participants raised the question of the difficulty to reach out to and involve some stakeholders in particular some government departments with overlapping responsibilities and reluctant to provide relevant information and data as requested. The Secretariat responded that no matter how difficult this process could be, countries were encouraged to involve as many stakeholders as possible as this would provide an opportunity to promote collaboration among relevant departments and stakeholders though there were difficulties and competitions among departments for the time being. One participant raised the issue of credibility of information provided by non-governmental organizations as they may try to exaggerate some situations. Many participants responded that NGOs were playing an important role in the implementation of the Convention and they should be encouraged to provide inputs to national reports. One participant mentioned the difficulty of reaching national consensus on the report as different stakeholders assessed implementation from different perspectives and have different data and information. It was suggested that the difficulty should be addressed by frequent discussions and exchanges with relevant stakeholders which would help build consensus and promote concerted efforts. One participant asked whether there was a new deadline for submission of the report. The Secretariat responded that there was no such new deadline while emphasizing that the purpose of organizing this workshop was to facilitate the timely submission of the report before the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties so that this meeting can review progress towards the 2010 target based on information from all Parties.

15. Following the country presentations all participating countries provided an update on the status of their report preparations. The status of report preparation of all the participating countries is provided in annex IV.

ITEM 3. PREPARATION OF THE REPORT

A. *Chapter I: Assessing status and trends of, and major threats to biodiversity*

16. A representative of the Secretariat introduced suggestions for preparing this chapter. First, overall he suggested that this chapter should present a succinct overview of the status and trends of and major threats to biodiversity, analyse trends and changes in biodiversity by data over time series and the results of monitoring and indicators, and analyze key threats to biodiversity and the implications of these threats for biodiversity and human well-being. For threats, countries should analyse direct and indirect or underlying threats. He stressed that it would be important to analyze implications of biodiversity loss for social, economic development and human well-being, even though there might be some difficulties doing this. This was needed to not only help planning to address relevant threats but also convince other sectors and relevant decision-makers about the need to take their actions to address implications of changes in biodiversity status and trends. It was also suggested that graphics, charts and other tools be used to better illustrate the status and trends of biodiversity. He proposed key information to be included in the reports, as requested in the guidelines and a possible structure for chapter I. However it was emphasized that countries were flexible to present biodiversity status, trends and threats in a manner which was appropriate and relevant to their national circumstances. He concluded by providing key sources of information that countries may use in preparing chapter I.

17. Following the presentation, several participants asked questions relating to the preparation of chapter I. A few participants underlined the lack of proper data and information, particularly time series and baseline data, as well as lack of human and financial resources for the analysis of the status and trends of and major threats to biodiversity as major obstacles in preparing chapter I. In response, the Secretariat suggested that countries should use as many sources of information and data available, including those from relevant domestic departments and institutions, international organizations and NGOs, and countries should try to present as much analysis as possible based on data or information available. Even lacking baseline data and information, countries could make assessments of the trends and threats based on views or opinions of as many experts and professional working in this field. Some indicated that a lack of research and monitoring and that comparing different data and information sources presented considerable difficulties in analysing the status and trends of biodiversity. Further some participants pointed to a lack of indicators and/or to a lack of technical resources for the development and use of indicators, as issues which required the analysis of biodiversity conditions to be based on opinion rather than on objective data. In response, the Secretariat noted that the use of indicators was encouraged but not required. Other participants raised questions over the differences between national definitions of ecosystems or biomes and those defined in relevant thematic work programmes under the Convention on Biological Diversity. In response, it was suggested that countries could use national definitions and try to match them, where possible, with those defined in the thematic work programmes under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

18. Following the question-and-answer session, Iraq presented its draft of chapter I. One representative from the Iraqi delegation outlined the structure of this chapter. She informed that chapter I describes eco-regions, ecosystems, key biodiversity areas and key species in the country, while noting that various values and services provided by biodiversity had been recognized such as provision of materials for pharmaceutical industry, eco-tourism and agricultural production. She also analyzed threats to biodiversity, which include pollution, oil drilling, illegal hunting and forest fires. Finally she introduced a set of nationally developed indicators to measure the state and pressures of biodiversity and responses to address biodiversity issues.

19. Following the presentation by Iraq, participants worked in small groups to undertake a threat analysis exercise using the graphic used in the Millennium Ecosystem Assessments. This exercise involved the identification of key threats to particular ecosystems as well as ranking the severity of these

threats. After this exercise, a participant from Palestine presented its threat analysis results. The results of one participating country are contained in annex III. All the participants considered this exercise to be very helpful as it would provoke more in-depth thinking and analysis. Many indicated that they would work further on it and include the analysis results in chapter I or the executive summary of the final report.

B. Chapter II: implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans

20. A representative of the Secretariat introduced the guidelines for preparing chapter II. He began by saying that no matter what was the status national biodiversity strategy and action plan countries should report on implementation of other similar strategies, tools and relevant projects if any. While presenting overall suggestions, he emphasized that this chapter should provide more analysis than description, focusing more on the outcomes and impacts of the actions taken to implement NBSAP. In doing so, countries could use successful cases or stories to illustrate the outcomes and impacts of implementation while a system was not in place in many countries to monitor implementation of NBSAPs and similar strategies. He underlined the need to analyse key challenges encountered in the implementation of NBSAP. He also underlined the need to analyse the effectiveness of the strategy, particularly in light of the changes in biodiversity conditions and the major threats to biodiversity identified in chapter I. He proposed key information to be included as requested in the guidelines, including financing implementation of NBSAP, and a possible structure for this chapter while emphasizing that countries were flexible to present their reviews and analyses. Finally he cited a few important sources of information that countries may wish to use when preparing this chapter, in particular findings from regional and subregional workshops on NBSAPs held during 2008 and 2009 as well as reporting systems adopted by the United Kingdom and Canada on implementation of national and local biodiversity strategies.

21. In the question-and-answer session that followed, one participant raised the question as to how to assess the effectiveness in case such a strategy did not exist. It was suggested that such assessment be needed because countries could assess relevant strategies and make a case for developing a national biodiversity strategy and action plan considering that relevant sectoral strategies may not address relevant biodiversity issues adequately or address threats to biodiversity in the country. One participant raised the question on how to select cases to illustrate significant impacts or outcomes, though overall implementation of NBSAPs was not satisfactory. Cases could be selected from individual projects implemented or being implemented, though overall NBSAP was not systematically implemented for various reasons.

22. Following the question-and-answer session, a representative from Oman introduced how a draft chapter II was prepared. She said that the chapter started with an overview of key objectives of NBSAP and then moved on to review of NBSAP implementation while noting that a comprehensive review was difficult due to lack of systematic monitoring and indicators. She presented a number of projects for implementing NBSAPs, some of which had generated positive impacts on biodiversity, such as replantation of mangrove trees. She also analyzed key challenges encountered in implementation of NBSAP, including lack of adequate legislative and institutional frameworks, limited participation of local communities and lack of financial and human resources. Finally, she pointed out that the current strategy could be improved by including financing and coordination mechanisms, enhancing integration, strengthening capacity-building and developing performance indicators and a monitoring system.

23. Participants worked in groups on an exercise by using a table to identify one goal, or an objective or a target from NBSAP and relevant activities to implement it as well as key outcomes achieved. In doing so, participants were encouraged to use indicators for review if any.

C. Chapter III: sectoral and cross-sectoral integration of biodiversity

24. The Secretariat introduced recommendations for the preparation of chapter III. He emphasized that this chapter should go beyond a list of sectoral or cross-sectoral strategies and plans and countries should focus on mechanisms established and outcomes achieved through mainstreaming, particularly focusing on those sectors where biodiversity has been genuinely integrated. He suggested that this chapter should also report on the application of main instruments to mainstream biodiversity such as the ecosystem approach, environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment. He suggested that countries should also report on economic evaluation of biodiversity and ecosystem services, which was a very effective tool to integrate biodiversity into relevant sectors, and relevant incentives developed based on evaluation. Countries were also requested to report on the implementation of relevant conventions particularly activities related to biodiversity and how synergies in the implementation of these MEAs were being reinforced at various levels. Where applicable, countries could report on how biodiversity was considered and addressed in international and regional cooperation, including South-South cooperation and transboundary cooperation. For analysis of the outcomes, countries were encouraged to provide cases or examples where mainstreaming had generated visible impacts or specific outcomes.

25. In the question-and-answer session, a number of countries underlined the difficulties faced in reporting on mainstreaming, particularly when reporting on outcomes and impacts. These difficulties included a lack of monitoring, inadequate understanding and applications of key tools such as the ecosystem approach, and a lack of inter-sectoral and/or cross-sectoral coordination.

26. Kuwait introduced its draft chapter III. She began by saying that many departments, institutions and organizations in Kuwait are involved in management of natural resources and biodiversity conservation in the country. Then she introduced main responsibilities of a few key departments, institutions and organizations. Among them, Kuwait Environment Protection Authority was established in accordance with Laws 21/1995 and 16/1996 and mandated to coordinate biodiversity conservation among other responsibilities. She also informed that Kuwait had established National Biodiversity Committee to coordinate the implementation of NBSAP and some other bodies such as IUCN National Committee and National Committee on Protected Areas. She also introduced local initiatives and Kuwait's involvement in regional and international cooperation related to biodiversity.

D. Chapter IV and appendix III: assessing progress towards the 2010 target and goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan as well as targets contained in the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation and the programme of work on protected areas

27. A representative of the Secretariat presented suggestions for preparing chapter IV. He began by emphasizing that this chapter was the most important and the most difficult part of the report. He suggested that countries drew upon all the important findings from the first three chapters and try to analyse how the actions taken at national level have contributed to the progress towards each individual target in the 2010 target framework and the Strategic Plan. Countries were encouraged to use a set of indicators adopted for measuring progress towards the 2010 target, including nationally developed indicators. It was suggested that countries begin by an overall assessment of whether and to what extent any targets had been achieved and then highlight actions taken to achieve these targets, including outcomes and results achieved as well as challenges encountered. Successful cases and stories could be used to illustrate outcomes and progress. To present analysis more clearly, it was suggested that countries could use a table as that used by the United Kingdom in its chapter IV where national targets, actions, contributions to global targets and overall progress assessments (using interesting marks) were provided. Finally he underlined the need for countries to undertake overall assessment of the implementation of the

Convention by highlighting those areas where the greatest success had been achieved and where progress was lacking. It was also suggested that future priorities to address these gaps could be identified.

28. The Secretariat also introduced criteria for selecting cases to illustrate progress towards the 2010 target. He emphasized that countries should provide information on how reduction of biodiversity loss has been achieved and will be maintained, with baseline data provided where available. He also showed chapter IV prepared by the United Kingdom as well as some cases selected from some fourth national reports received so far.

29. In the question-and-answer sessions a number of participants underlined the importance of using indicators to measure progress, while also pointing to various difficulties in doing so. A few participants noted the need to establish proper linkages between national actions taken and achieving each individual target, which provides a good basis for further analysis of progress made and selection of proper cases.

30. Participants worked in groups to identify signs and cases of progress towards the 2010 target.

ITEM 4. PREPARATION OF THE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

31. A representative of the Secretariat introduced how to write an executive summary and began by noting that the executive summary was one of the most important parts of the report as it allowed the reader to mentally prepare for the information that will follow and it was often the most read section of the report. Key information to be included in the executive summary, such as main messages, important facts, necessary background information and major conclusions from the report, was noted. It was stressed that the executive summary should not be an introduction or outline of the report but rather a concise synthesis of the information contained in each chapter of the report. Suggestions on how to prepare the executive summary, such as the use of bullet points and the use of key statements, were provided.

32. Following questions and answers, participants were asked to work individually on points that may go to the executive summary. A proposed outline of the executive summary is contained in annex II.

33. Following the presentations and discussions of suggestions for preparing each chapter, participating countries had individual discussions with resource persons to improve their draft reports or an outline for the report prepared during the workshop.

ITEM 5. NEXT STEPS: FINALIZATION OF THE FOURTH NATIONAL REPORT, AND WAYS FORWARD LEADING TO 2010, INCLUDING USING THE FOURTH NATIONAL REPORT AS A COMMUNICATION TOOL FOR THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF BIODIVERSITY IN 2010

34. Each participating country presented their plans to finalize their fourth national reports. The schedules provided by participating countries are summarized in annex IV.

35. A representative of the Secretariat presented the key events in 2010 and in so doing he shared thoughts about possible outcomes from the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 2010, including an updated Strategic Plan of the Convention, future biodiversity targets and an international regime on access and benefit-sharing. He also shared an analysis of the state of and pressures on biodiversity and responses that may go to the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook. Finally he highlighted the key messages for the International Year of Biodiversity and encouraged countries to use the fourth national reports as a communication tool to this end.

ITEM 6. CONCLUSIONS OR RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE WORKSHOP

36. Participants in the workshop reviewed and agreed on the conclusions from this workshop. The conclusions are contained in section II below.

ITEM 7. CLOSURE OF THE WORKSHOP

37. The workshop was closed around 4 p.m. on 15 April, with closing remarks by Bahrain, the Secretariat and UNEP ROWA. All participants indicated that they had benefited from this workshop and what they had learned from this workshop would be very helpful to finalizing their report.

II. CONCLUSIONS OF THE WORKSHOP

A. General comments on process

38. The process for preparing the national report may differ from one country to another however the most essential point is to ensure the report is owned by the countries. National reports are important for making biodiversity a national issue and the national reports should be seen as belonging to the country and not as a just a report to the Secretariat to meet international obligations. The process should be used as that for further planning and raising public awareness and support. This is particularly important for celebration of the International Year of Biodiversity.

39. It is important to involve as many stakeholders as possible including non-governmental organizations in the process. The difficulty of getting relevant data and information from relevant government departments and institutions should be addressed through increased communications, meetings, consensus building and better coordination.

40. Countries should prepare and finalize the reports as early as possible for consideration by the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to enable it to adopt a new Strategic Plan of the Convention based on reviewing of progress towards the 2010 target.

41. Sharing of data and information within the countries and at regional and global level should be encouraged to ensure that countries could include relevant information in national reports.

42. The format for the fourth national report provides flexibilities for countries to report on any action taken and results achieved at any level.

B. General comments on content

43. There is need to focus the national reports on outcomes and impacts – direct relationship to improvement of ecology and livelihoods. There is a need to provide successful stories or cases to illustrate the outcomes and impacts, which are particularly important in the absence of assessment of overall progress.

44. Countries are encouraged to provide more analysis than description. Countries are also encouraged to use more graphics, pictures and tables to highlight key findings from each chapter or appendix.

45. Indicators can reflect qualitative assessments, in the absence of quantitative data, and their use in all chapters or appendices are encouraged.

C. Suggestions for improving individual chapters (based on group and individual exercises)

Chapter I

46. Countries are encouraged to use graphics and figures for analysis of trends and threats, such as graphic used for threat analysis in the Millennium Ecosystems Assessment. It helps the reader get an overview of threats affecting biodiversity and in designing responses. It can draw upon both data and qualitative information (expert opinion) and can be adapted to country-specific circumstances. The analysis can begin by describing underlying causes (link to threats) and implication of human well being (link from each “cell” in the graphic) (see a sample contained in annex V below).

47. This chapter should analyze both direct and indirect threats and implications of changes in biodiversity for human well-being, social and economic development. This helps with assessment of the effectiveness of NBSAPs or other similar strategies and plans in chapter II.

48. Countries are encouraged to use the opinion of as many experts as possible for assessment of status and trends particularly where historical data are inadequate and systematic monitoring is lacking.

Chapter II

49. No matter what status of NBSAP, countries should report on all relevant implementation activities, both of NBSAPs and of other similar strategies, plans, programmes and projects.

50. Use of matrix is recommended for highlighting actions taken to implement the national biodiversity and action plan and progress realized, highlighting key activities and outcomes (see the voluntary guidelines for reviewing NBSAPs contained in annex to decision XIII/8).

51. This chapter should include both (a) assessment of implementation of the NBSAP, and (b) assessment of effectiveness of the NBSAP – i.e. do the actions address the threats identified in Chapter I. It is realized that national strategies not worth much unless they address the threats to biodiversity. Some countries noted that their NBSAPs are overambitious and need to be revised in light of reviews.

Chapter III

52. This chapter should go beyond listing all relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral strategies, plans and programmes. Instead focus should be put on the mechanisms established and the outcomes achieved to make mainstreaming happen. It is important to provide cases or successful stories to demonstrate how mainstreaming has positive impacts on biodiversity. It is also important to consider all the relevant sectors and ministries.

53. Limited understanding of relevant tools for mainstreaming such as the ecosystem approach has restrained countries in providing adequate information and analysis in this chapter. It is suggested that more tools should be developed to help countries for application of the ecosystem approach, undertaking biodiversity-inclusive EIA and SEA as well as evaluation of the economic and other values of biodiversity and ecosystem services, which are main tools for biodiversity mainstreaming.

Chapter IV

54. It is very important to link findings from the first three chapters with assessment of progress towards the 2010 target, by analysing to what extent national actions described or analysed in the first three chapters have contributed to achieving various goals and targets contained the 2010 target framework. Use of matrix as used in chapter IV of the United Kingdom and other reports is encouraged. Countries are encouraged to assess levels of progress of individual goals and targets though overall the 2010 target is not achieved.

Executive Summary

55. The Executive Summary should be concise and appealing to the decision-makers and the general public. It should contain key findings and messages from the whole report, presented in a way convincing to the decision makers and the general public. It should be a miniature synthesis of the report with information from sections of the report. It should not serve as an outline or introduction to the report. See proposed points contained in annex VI.

Appendices

56. For appendices, particularly appendix III on the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation and the programme of work on protected areas, countries need to report on relevant information not covered in the four main chapters, using a similar approach employed for chapters II and IV (focusing on targets established, actions taken to achieve these targets and outcomes accomplished). For targets included in GSPC and POWPA, countries should focus on those of national relevance and importance.

57. Countries could add in appendices any information reflecting national implementation of the Convention but not covered in the four main chapters.

Annex I

ORGANIZATION OF WORK
MONDAY, 12 APRIL 2010

9 a.m. – 10 a.m.	1.	Opening of the workshop <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening statements (Bahrain CBD NFP, SCBD, UNEP ROWA) • Self-introduction of participants
10 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.	2.	Overview of the objectives and programme for the workshop <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction (SCBD) • Plenary discussion (Expectations from the workshop)
10.30 a.m. – 11 a.m.		<i>Coffee break</i>
11 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.	3.	Process of and tools available for preparing the fourth national report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The guidelines and the tools for the preparation of the fourth national report (SCBD and resource persons) • Status and process of preparing the fourth national report (Iraq, Kuwait and Oman)
	4.	Preparation of the report
	4(a)	Chapter I of the report: Assessing the status and trends of, and major threats to biodiversity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to chapter I by SCBD or resource person • Country presentations of draft chapter I (Iraq), followed by Q & A • Group exercises on threat analysis, using the MA framework
12.30 p.m. – 2 p.m.		<i>Lunch break</i>
2 p.m. – 4 p.m.	4	Preparation of the report (<i>continued</i>)
	4(b)	Chapter II of the report: Implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggestions on the preparation of chapter II by SCBD or resource person • Country presentations of draft chapter II (Oman) • Questions and answers and discussion in plenary • Group exercises on reviewing implementation of NBSAPs
4. p.m. – 4.30 p.m.		<i>Tea break</i>
4.30 p.m. - 6 p.m.	4(c)	Chapter III of the report: Mainstreaming <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to draft chapter III by SCBD or resource person

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country presentations of draft chapter III (Kuwait) • Questions and answers and discussion in plenary
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TUESDAY, 13 APRIL 2010

9 a.m. - 9.15 a.m.	2	Overview of the objectives and programme for the workshop (continued) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief recap of day one and overview of plans for day two
9.15 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.	4(d)	Chapter IV, appendix III of the report: Assessing progress towards the 2010 biodiversity target and goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan as well as targets in the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation and the programme of work on protected areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction by SCBD or resource persons • Questions and answers and discussion in plenary
10.30 a.m. – 11 a.m.		<i>Coffee break</i>
11 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.	4(d)	Chapter IV, appendix III of the report: Assessing progress towards the 2010 biodiversity target and goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan as well as targets in GSPC and the programme of work on protected areas (continued) Group exercises to identify cases and signs of progress towards the 2010 target, using the framework contained in decision VIII/15
12.30 a.m. – 2 p.m.		<i>Lunch break</i>
2 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.	5	Preparation of the executive summary of the report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction by SCBD or resource persons • Question-and- answer session and discussion in plenary Work in small groups or individually to improve or write the executive summary
3.30 p.m. – 4 p.m.		<i>Tea break</i>
4 p.m. – 6 p.m.	4.	Preparation of the report Time for all the country representatives to work further on draft chapters I, II, III, IV and appendix III with support of the Secretariat and resource persons
8:00 pm- 10:00 pm		Reception hosted by SCBD/UNEP ROWA/Bahrain NFP

WEDNESDAY, 14 APRIL 2010

9 a.m. - 9.15 a.m.	2.	Overview of the objectives and programme for the workshop (continued) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief recap of day two and overview of plans for day three
9.15 a.m. –	4.	Preparation of the report (continued)

10.30 a.m.		Time for all the country representatives to work further on draft chapters I, II, III, IV and appendix III with support of the Secretariat and resource persons
10.30 a.m. – 11 a.m.		<i>Coffee break</i>
11 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.	4.	Preparation of the report (<i>continued</i>) Time for all the country representatives to work further on draft chapters I, II, III, IV and appendix III with support of the Secretariat and resource persons
12.30 a.m. – 2 p.m.		<i>Lunch break</i>
2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	4.	Preparation of the report (<i>continued</i>) Time for all the country representatives to work further on draft chapters I, II, III, IV and appendix III with support of the Secretariat and resource persons
3:30 p.m.- 4 p.m.		<i>Coffee break</i>
4 p.m. –5:30 pm.	5.	Preparation of the executive summary Time for all the country representatives to work further on the executive summary with the support of the Secretariat and resource persons

THURSDAY, 15 APRIL

8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m		A field trip to a nature reserve selected by the host
12.30 a.m. – 2 p.m.		<i>Lunch break</i>
2 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.	6.	Next steps: finalization of the fourth national report and key events in 2010 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Countries to present their plans and steps for finalization of the fourth national report for timely submission by middle of May 2010 • Introduction by SCBD about the strategy for IYB and key events in 2010 • Countries to share their plans for celebrating IYB in 2010 including using the fourth national report as a communication tool.
	7.	Closure of the workshop <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussions about recommendations from the workshop • Closing remarks

Annex II

PROPOSED OUTLINE OF THE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

You may wish to prepare roughly one short paragraph per bullet point.

(Points taken from chapter I)

- Importance of biodiversity for the country. Highlight contribution to human well-being, socio-economic development. Also highlight one or two examples of exceptional biodiversity and ecosystems in the country.
- Main threats to biodiversity (and ecosystems). Identify threats that are specific to the country, therefore they may be more precise than the general list in the Millennium Assessment.
- Impacts of threats on biodiversity and ecosystems. Graphic from MA relating threats to impacts (colours) and trends in impacts (arrows) for various ecosystems or components of biodiversity.
- Socio-economic implications of the impacts. Describe the impacts of declining biodiversity and ecosystems on human well-being, livelihoods, poverty reduction etc. Consider all relevant and significant ecosystem goods and services.
- Underlying causes of the threats. Link the threats (direct drivers) outlined above with the underlying causes (indirect drivers) and relate these to the relevant economic sectors.

(Points taken from chapter II)

- Progress in implementing the NBSAP. Provide an overall assessment of progress in implementing the NBSAP. (e.g. proportion of strategic objectives or activities implemented). Give two or three examples of successful actions implemented. Also identify obstacles to implementation, reasons behind them and how they may be overcome.
- Effectiveness of the NBSAP. Briefly assess the effectiveness – i.e. do the actions address the threats identified in chapter I?

(Points taken from chapter III)

- Integration of biodiversity into broader national policies. Describe how biodiversity is reflected in Poverty Reduction Strategies and other key cross-cutting policy instruments. Give one or two examples of progress on the ground if available.
- Integration of biodiversity into economic sectors. Which sectors (and ministries) integrate biodiversity well and which do not?
- Use of planning mechanisms; strategic environmental assessment.
- Additional steps: What additional efforts are needed to mainstream biodiversity?

(Points taken from chapter IV)

- Progress towards the 2010 target. Focus on outcomes. You may wish to summarize progress towards the goals and objectives in the CBD framework according to the seven focal areas (for example one bullet point or short paragraph per focal area). Provide an overall assessment of how progress in your country contributes to the overall 2010 Biodiversity target.
- Overall progress in the implementation of the Convention, including areas where progress is lacking.

(Final paragraphs, from chapter I, if information available)

- Plausible future scenarios of biodiversity and its implications for human well-being. For example: (i) what might happen under “business and usual” in terms of future underlying causes,

threats, impacts on biodiversity and implications for human well being; and (ii) what may happen with investment in biodiversity and ecosystems.

Annex III

THREAT ANALYSIS RESULT PRESENTED BY MALDIVES

		Threat / Menaces						
		Habitat Change	Climate Change	Over-exploitation	Pollution	Human Population	Pests/Pesticides	Diseases
Ecosystems / Biodiversity Component	Marine biodiversity	↗	↑	↑	→	↗	→	→
	Mangroves and swamps	↗	↗	↗	↑	↑	→	→
	Coastal ecosystems	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	→	→
	Terrestrial ecosystems	↑	→	↑	↗	↑	↑	↗
	Birds	↗	→	→	→	→	→	→

Annex IV

STATUS OF REPORT AND PLAN TO FINALIZE AND SUBMIT THE FOURTH NATIONAL REPORT (DATES OR MONTHS IN THE TABLE ARE THOSE OF 2010)

<i>Countries</i>	<i>Draft report ready</i>	<i>Finalize report</i>	<i>Submit final report for domestic approval</i>	<i>Submit final report to SCBD</i>
BAHRAIN	May	June	July	August
IRAQ	yes	May	June	July
KUWAIT	yes	July	End of July	First week of August
LIBYA	15 August	20 August	23 August	30 August
MALDIVES	End of May	Mid June	Late June	Mid July
OMAN	Yes	May		May 15
QATAR	End of May	Mid-June	July	August
SAUDI ARABIA	ready	End of June	July	July
SEYCHELLES	Third week of May	End of May	Mid June	Early July (first week)
SOMALIA	August 15	August 30	1 September	20 September
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	End of May			August
UZBEKISTAN	no	May	June	July
