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GUIDANCE AND GUIDELINES ON NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS

Note by the Executive Secretary

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Article 6 of the Convention on Biological Diversity 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. As of May 2005, 108 Parties had completed their national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) and at least another 32 Parties had them in various stages of development (see UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/2).

2. In its decisions VI/26 and VI/27, 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. 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. However, existing guidance on the preparation and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans is scattered, incomplete in certain areas, and may not be fully reflected in the guidelines, all of which were developed prior to 1996. Given the central importance of national biodiversity strategies and action plans to the Convention’s Strategic Plan and its implementation, the note by the Executive Secretary on implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan and progress towards the 2010 target (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/2) invites the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention to consider the need for consolidating and updating the available guidance and guidelines on them.

* UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/1/1.

4. The present note reviews the development of, and existing guidance and guidelines on, national biodiversity strategies and action plans. Section II summarizes the biodiversity planning obligations for Parties to the Convention and relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties; section III reviews the principal guidelines available to countries for the development of national biodiversity strategies and action plans; and section IV highlights gaps in the guidance and guidelines currently available to Parties for the preparation and implementation of national strategies and action plans and proposes steps for updating this guidance.

II. EXISTING GUIDANCE OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES ON NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS

5. The need for national assessments of biological diversity was recognized early in the negotiations of the Convention on Biological Diversity—as outlined in annex I below—and subsequently incorporated into the text of the Convention itself, as Article 6. Under its medium-term programme of work, the Conference of the Parties decided to consider Article 6 for the first time at its second meeting, and has discussed national biodiversity strategies and action plans, to varying degrees, at each of its subsequent meetings.

6. The Conference of the Parties addressed national biodiversity strategies and action plans most comprehensively at its sixth meeting, urging Parties in decision VI/27 A, paragraph 2, to:

(a) Develop and adopt national biodiversity strategies and action plans, where they have not yet done so;

(b) Give priority to the integration of the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, as well as benefit-sharing, into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies, in accordance with Article 6 of the Convention;

(c) Identify priority actions in national biodiversity strategies and action plans and other relevant national strategies;

(d) Implement national biodiversity strategies and action plans; and to periodically revise them in the light of the experience of implementation;

(e) Establish national mechanisms or consultative processes, with particular regard, where appropriate, to the special needs of indigenous and local communities, for coordinating, implementing, monitoring, evaluating and periodically revising national biodiversity strategies and action plans;

(f) Identify constraints and impediments to implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and to reflect them in the national reports;

(g) Make their national biodiversity strategies and action plans, including periodic revisions, available through their national clearing-house mechanism and the Convention website.

7. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties encouraged Parties to develop regional, subregional or bioregional mechanisms and networks; and to support implementation of the Convention including, as appropriate, through the development of regional or subregional biodiversity strategies and action plans, the identification of common constraints and impediments to implementation; and promotion of joint measures for addressing these (decision VI/27, paragraph 3).

8. In addition, earlier guidance provided to Parties invited them to “set measurable targets to achieve biodiversity conservation and sustainable use objectives” (decision III/9, paragraph 5). At its seventh meeting, the Conference of the Parties reiterated this point, emphasizing that the goals and targets of the framework adopted in decision VII/30—established for enhanced evaluation of achievements and progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan and, in particular, its mission, to achieve a significant reduction in the current rate of biodiversity loss at global, regional and national levels—should be viewed as a flexible framework within which national and/or regional targets may be developed. Accordingly, the Conference of the Parties invited Parties and other Governments to develop national and/or regional

goals and targets, according to national priorities and capacities, and taking into account differences in diversity between countries, and, as appropriate, to incorporate them into relevant plans, programmes and initiatives, including national biodiversity strategies and action plans (decision VII/30, paragraphs 14 and 15).

9. Additional guidance on national biodiversity strategies and action plans has been provided by the Conference of the Parties in a large number of decisions relating to specific programmes of work of the Convention, and to several cross-cutting issues. These decisions are listed in the table on page 8 below.

10. The most detailed guidance specific to a thematic programme of work or cross-cutting issue under the Convention concerns the incorporation of invasive alien species considerations into national biodiversity strategies and action plans. In paragraph 10 of decision VI/23*, the Conference of the Parties urged Parties and other Governments, in implementing the Guiding Principles for the implementation of Article 8(h) and when developing, revising and implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans to address the threats posed by invasive alien species, to:

- (a) Identify national needs and priorities;
- (b) Create mechanisms to coordinate national programmes;
- (c) Review, in the light of the Guiding Principles, relevant policies, legislation and institutions to identify gaps, inconsistencies and conflicts, and, as appropriate, adjust or develop policies, legislation and institutions;
- (d) Enhance cooperation between the various sectors, including the private sector that might provide pathways or vectors for the unintended transfer of invasive alien species..., and in particular, ensure communication between focal points of respective relevant international instruments;
- (e) Promote awareness of the threats to biological diversity and related ecosystem goods and services posed by invasive alien species and of the means to address such threats, among policy makers at all levels of government, and in the private sector; quarantine, customs and other border officials; and the general public;
- (f) Facilitate the involvement of all stakeholder groups, including in particular indigenous and local communities, and the private sector, as well as all levels of government, in national invasive alien species strategies and action plans, and in decisions related to the use of alien species that may be invasive;
- (g) Collaborate with trading partners and neighbouring countries, regionally, and with other countries, as appropriate, in order to address threats of invasive alien species to biological diversity in ecosystems that cross international boundaries, to migratory species, and to address matters of common interest;

11. In paragraph 11 of the same decision, the Conference of the Parties urged regional organizations and networks to work cooperatively to support the development and implementation of invasive alien species strategies and action plans.

12. The issue of cooperation in developing and implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans has been raised in several decisions. The conferences of the parties and subsidiary bodies of the Rio conventions have identified, as an element for cooperation, the promotion of complementarity among the national biodiversity strategies and action plans under the Convention on Biological Diversity, the national action programmes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD),

* One representative entered a formal objection leading to the adoption of this decision and underlined that he did not believe that the Conference of the Parties could legitimately adopt a motion or a text with a formal objection in place. A few representatives expressed reservations regarding the procedure leading to the adoption of this decision (see UNEP/CBD/COP/6/20, paras. 294-324).

and the national adaptation programmes of action for least developed countries of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). ^{1/}

13. In addition, the Conference of the Parties has adopted decisions to integrate issues of relevance to the biodiversity-related conventions into national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and to cooperate on their implementation. In paragraph 8 of decision III/21, for example, Parties were urged to “ensure that the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands, and of migratory species and their habitats, are fully incorporated into national strategies, programmes and plans”. In paragraph 10 of the same decision, the Conference of the Parties called on national focal points of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the competent authorities of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) to cooperate on the implementation of these conventions at the national level to avoid duplication of effort. In line with this decision, the Conference of the Parties, at its sixth meeting, invited the Executive Secretary to generate, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species and relevant organizations, guidance for the integration of migratory species into the national biodiversity strategies and action plans and ongoing and future programmes of work under the Convention on Biological Diversity (decision VI/20, paragraph 21).

III. EXISTING GUIDELINES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS

A. Development of guidelines

14. Several guidelines from various sources have been made available to countries for the preparation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans. These guidelines are listed and described in annex II below. The development of key guidelines is discussed below.

15. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) began providing assistance for, and guidance on, the preparation of biodiversity country studies in 1990. UNEP developed guidelines for country studies on biological diversity in 1991, which were revised in light of the experience of the first ten studies undertaken and reissued in 1993.

16. Following the initial country-study process, and the experience of other national biodiversity planning initiatives, the World Resources Institute, IUCN and UNEP developed the publication *National Biodiversity Planning: Guidelines Based on Early Experiences around the World*.

17. The WRI guidelines were recommended to Parties at the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties (decision II/7, paragraph 5), and have been widely used in the development of many national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

18. In 1998 the Global Environment Facility (GEF) approved a two-year biodiversity planning support programme (BPSP), administered by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UNEP and designed to strengthen the capacity of Parties to prepare and implement national biodiversity strategies and action plans. The justification for the programme stemmed from the fact that:

“While developing and implementing GEF supported Biodiversity Enabling Activities, parties have identified a number of difficulties whose resolution goes beyond the technical and managerial support provided by the GEF Implementing Agencies. These include: inadequacy of existing information, materials and guidelines; a scarcity of appropriate expertise and experience;

^{1/} Paragraphs. 5 (c) (i) and 6 of decision VII/2 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity; report of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification on the work of its first session (ICCD/CRIC(1)/10); decision 28/CP.7, annex, of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC/CP/2001/13/Add.3).

and difficulties in dealing with the complex and multi-sectoral nature of biodiversity planning.”. ^{2/}

19. The first national reports on the implementation of the Convention, which the Secretariat started receiving in early 1998, similarly highlighted the difficulties many countries were having in effectively implementing the multi-sectoral planning approach called for by the Convention and required under the ecosystem approach criteria.

20. Stakeholder consultations, workshops, a questionnaire, an analysis undertaken by the Convention Secretariat and regional preparatory meetings for the Conference of the Parties further identified a series of key problems related to the biodiversity planning process: existing information was limited, materials and guidelines on biodiversity and biodiversity planning were inadequate; there was a scarcity of appropriate expertise and experience; and methodologies for dealing with the new, complex and multi-sectoral nature of biodiversity planning were lacking. In particular, country stakeholders pointed to a general lack of awareness, knowledge and understanding of what biodiversity was and its importance, which, in turn, undermined the political support required for effective development and implementation of biodiversity strategies and action plans and made it difficult to integrate biodiversity issues into other sectoral planning and management activities. ^{3/}

21. Under the Biodiversity Planning Support Programme, specialized information on biodiversity planning and issues related to the Convention was compiled, translated as appropriate, and distributed to national planning teams. The programme aimed to develop guidelines and training modules, and facilitate dissemination of “best practice” experience developed during the course of the preparation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans. Thematic issues addressed by the programme included:

- (a) Mainstreaming biodiversity into sectoral and economic policy development and planning;
- (b) Developing financial strategies for the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- (c) Developing incentive measure for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use; and
- (d) Facilitating a harmonized and integrated approach for the implementation of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity with other biodiversity-related conventions.

22. Available guidelines for preparing national biodiversity strategies and action plans were posted on the website for the biodiversity planning support programme (<http://www.undp.org/bpsp/>), and are reflected in annex II below.

B. Overview of key guidelines

23. Together, the guidelines prepared by UNEP, in 1993, and WRI, in 1995, represent the best available resources on the steps countries should follow when developing their national biodiversity strategies and action plans. These two sets of guidelines have been the most widely used by Parties in preparing national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and have also informed the structure of subsequent guidelines, as mentioned in annex II below.

24. The UNEP guidelines for country studies identify a four-step process for the implementation of Article 6 of the Convention: (i) take stock; (ii) set priorities and prepare action plans; (iii) take action; and (iv) evaluate. The guidelines themselves relate only to the first step—the stocktaking exercise—and identify twenty guiding principles for country studies on biodiversity. The bulk of the guidelines consist of a technical annex comprising five sections (of which section B is the most detailed):

- (A) Socio-economic factors affecting biological diversity;

^{2/} See Biodiversity Planning Support Programme, Project Brief, 1998 at http://www.gefweb.org/wprogram/July98/undp/bsp_req.doc

^{3/} *ibid.* See also: Interim Assessment of Biodiversity Enabling Activities. Global Environment Facility, Evaluation Report 2-99, Washington DC

- (B) Biological data gathering;
- (C) Valuation and current expenditures;
- (D) Current capacity; and
- (E) Directory of data sources.

The country-study guidelines thus provide an extensive set of technical recommendations for the data gathering phase of developing a national biodiversity strategy and action plan.

25. The WRI *National Biodiversity Planning* guidelines are perhaps the most widely referred-to guidelines and, as mentioned above, have been explicitly recommended to Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity by the Conference of the Parties. The guidelines are based around a seven-step biodiversity-planning process:

- (a) Getting organized;
- (b) Assessment (country study);
- (c) Developing a strategy;
- (d) Developing a plan of action;
- (e) Implementation;
- (f) Monitoring and evaluation; and
- (g) Reporting.

26. Biodiversity planning is represented in the WRI guidelines as a cyclical and adaptive process, illustrated by showing the seven steps as a flow chart with feedback from the final stages into steps (b), (c) and (d). The guidelines examine seventeen early biodiversity-planning experiences and the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity for national biodiversity planning, and, in chapter 5, propose an “illustrative biodiversity-planning process”.

27. The WRI guidelines also endorse the rationale and principles of the UNEP country-study guidelines for the assessment or stocktaking phase of the national biodiversity strategy and action plan process, suggesting that Parties consult the latter guidelines for this step.

IV. GAPS IN EXISTING GUIDANCE AND GUIDELINES, AND PROPOSED WAYS FORWARD

28. While decision VI/27 provides useful general guidance on national biodiversity strategies and action plans, there are a number of shortcomings in the total body of guidance developed:

(a) Guidance relating to the substantive scope of national biodiversity strategies and action plans is scattered among a large number of individual decisions, particularly among those dealing with the thematic programmes of work;

(b) A number of the tools developed under the Convention (including, for example, the principles and guidance on the ecosystem approach and the guidelines on environmental assessments) are likely not used to their full potential in developing and implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;

(c) Parties have been encouraged to ensure complementarity between national biodiversity strategies and action plans and corresponding plans and strategies under other conventions (including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention to Combat Desertification) and to include elements relevant to the other biodiversity-related conventions in national biodiversity strategies and action plans, but little specific guidance has been made available regarding this issue;

(d) The guidelines recommended for use in 1995 have not been updated and therefore do not reflect the growing body of guidance of the Conference of Parties including that on the thematic programmes of work. Moreover, the biodiversity planning support programme, previously operated by UNDP, is no longer operational.

29. Accordingly, there may be a need for existing guidance and guidelines on national biodiversity strategies and action plans to be consolidated and updated. In doing so, however, care would need to be taken to avoid introducing new and additional obligations for Parties in the lead up to 2010.

30. Possible steps to take in the process of reviewing and updating guidance and guidelines on national biodiversity strategies and action plans are proposed as follows:

(a) Consolidation of existing guidance from the Conference of the Parties, including:

- (i) General approaches (e.g., decision VI/27);
- (ii) Integration of targets;
- (iii) Approaches specific to the programmes of work and cross-cutting issues;
- (iv) Incorporation of tools developed under the Convention;;

(b) Integration with:

- (i) Other national strategies (e.g., Poverty Reduction Strategies, the Millennium Development Goals as these are integrated into national development strategies, etc.);
- (ii) Activities under other conventions (e.g., the biodiversity-related conventions, the Rio conventions);
- (iii) Sectors outside environment (e.g., agriculture, fisheries, forestry, etc.);

(c) Gap analysis to identify where new guidance may be required for national biodiversity strategies and action plans to adequately further implementation of the Convention and the cross-sectoral integration of biodiversity issues;

(d) Development of updated guidelines for the preparation and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans that reflect the consolidated and updated guidance and take into account the challenges related to the biodiversity planning process as identified through earlier assessments and experience.

Table. Decisions providing guidance on national biodiversity strategies and action plans in relation to the thematic programmes of work and cross-cutting issues of the Convention

Programme of work/ Cross-cutting issue	Decision	Guidance
Articles 6 and 8	III/9 (para. 2)	<i>Urges</i> Parties to include in their national plans, strategies or legislation measures for a) <i>in situ</i> and <i>ex situ</i> conservation, b) integration of biodiversity objectives in relevant sectoral policies to achieve conservation and sustainable use, and c) equitable sharing of benefits from the use of genetic resources
Agricultural biodiversity	III/11 (para. 15)	<i>Encourages</i> Parties to develop national strategies, programmes and plans which identify key components of biodiversity in agricultural production systems, encourage the adoption of repairing practices, and integrate with other plans, programmes and projects relating to the conservation and sustainable use of other terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems
Cooperation	III/21 (para. 8)	<i>Urges</i> the Parties to ensure that the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands, and of migratory species and their habitats, are fully incorporated into national strategies, programmes and plans'
Marine and coastal biodiversity	IV/5, annex (para. 10) (retired)	Parties should, in accordance with Article 6 of the Convention, develop national strategies, plans and programmes in order to promote the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity
Public education and awareness	IV/10 B (para. 1(a))	<i>Urges</i> Parties to place special emphasis on the requirements of Article 13 of the Convention in the development of their national strategies and action plans
Ecosystem approach	V/6, annex, section C (para. 12)	<i>From the operational guidance for application of the ecosystem approach:</i> As the primary framework of action to be taken under the Convention, the ecosystem approach should be fully taken into account in developing and reviewing national biodiversity strategies and action plans.
Education and public awareness	V/17 (para. 6)	<i>Invites</i> Parties, Governments, organizations and institutions to support capacity-building for education and communication in biological diversity as part of their national biodiversity strategies and action plans, taking into account the global initiative
Dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity	V/23, annex I (para. 2(f))	<i>From the programme of work:</i> Support the development of national strategies and programmes, and to promote the integration of biological diversity concerns in sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies, in furtherance of Article 6 of the Convention, in seeking harmonization and avoiding duplication when undertaking activities relevant to other related conventions...
Access and benefit-sharing	V/26 (para. 3)	<i>Urges</i> Parties to ensure that national biodiversity strategies as well as legislative, administrative or policy measures on access and benefit-sharing contribute to conservation and sustainable-use objectives
Dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity	VI/4 (para. 2)	<i>Requests</i> the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the secretariats of relevant conventions, to prepare a proposal for the development of a mechanism to coordinate activities in these areas, and for linking and ensuring integration of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans under the Convention on Biological Diversity and the national action programmes under the Convention to Combat Desertification

Programme of work/ Cross-cutting issue	Decision	Guidance
Global Strategy for Plant Conservation	VI/9 (para. 4)	<i>Invites</i> Parties and Governments to develop national and/or regional targets, and, as appropriate, to incorporate them into relevant plans, programmes and initiatives, including national biodiversity strategies and action plans
Cooperation	VI/20 (para. 21)	<i>Invites</i> the Executive Secretary to generate, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species and relevant organizations, guidance for the integration of migratory species into the national biodiversity strategies and action plans and ongoing and future programmes of work under the Convention on Biological Diversity
Forest biodiversity	VI/22 (para. 10)	<i>Urges</i> Parties and other Governments to incorporate relevant objectives and related activities of the programme of work into their national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national forest programmes and promote compatibility and complementarity between these plans/programmes and other related initiatives
Invasive alien species	VI/23 (para. 10)	<i>Urges</i> Parties and other Governments, in implementing the Guiding Principles, and when developing, revising and implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans to address the threats posed by invasive alien species, to... [<i>suggestions not reproduced here</i>]
Dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity	VII/2 (para. 5 (c))	<i>Requests</i> the Executive Secretary ... to integrate activities related to national biodiversity strategies and action plans with national action programmes for the Convention to Combat Desertification, national adaptation programmes of action under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Ramsar wetland policies and other relevant programmes, including national strategies for sustainable development and poverty reduction
Marine and coastal biodiversity	VII/5 (para. 44)	<i>Urges</i> Parties and other Governments to adopt the use of relevant methods and techniques for avoiding the adverse effects of mariculture on marine and coastal biological diversity, and incorporate them into their national biodiversity strategies and action plans
Monitoring and indicators	VII/8 (para. 8)	<i>Urges</i> all Parties that have not done so to develop a set of biodiversity indicators as part of their national strategies and action plans, taking into account, as appropriate, the targets of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation and the target to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction in the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level, as well as the guidance, lessons learned and list of indicators provided in UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/10
Biological diversity and tourism	VII/14 (para. 10)	<i>Invites</i> all Governments to integrate these Guidelines in the development or review of their strategies and plans for tourism development, national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and other related sectoral strategies, at appropriate levels in consultation with interested stakeholders including tourism operators and all members of the tourism sector
Global strategy for plant conservation	VII/10 (para. 6(a))	<i>Encourages</i> Parties ... to promote and facilitate implementation and monitoring of the Strategy at national level, including the identification of national targets and their integration in national biodiversity strategies and action plans and sectoral and cross-sectoral plans programmes and activities
Mountain biodiversity	VII/27 (para. 3)	<i>Invites</i> Parties to identify priority actions among the actions recommended in the programme of work depending on the particular national or local conditions and <i>urges</i> Parties to incorporate them into their national biodiversity strategies and action plans, as well as national programmes and activities on the implementation of regional mountain conventions and initiatives, and implement them taking into account the ecosystem approach

Annex I

**CHRONOLOGY OF CONSIDERATION OF NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES,
FROM 1990 TO 1993, PRIOR TO THE FIRST MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE
PARTIES**

Date	Body/ Meeting	Outcome
Feb. 1990	Ad Hoc Open Ended Working Group of Legal and Technical Experts on Biological Diversity	Recommended the preparation of country-specific studies on "the costs, benefits and unmet needs for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity"
Jan. 1992	Expert Advisory Team for Country Studies (UNEP)	First tranche of country studies completed
May 1992	Conference for the Adoption of the Agreed Text of the Convention on Biological Diversity	Identified as a priority task for the Intergovernmental Committee on the Convention on Biological Diversity: "Assistance to Governments, upon request, in further work in the preparation of country studies in recognition of their importance in the development of their national biodiversity strategy and action plans"
June 1992	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development	Importance of national biodiversity planning, and in particular of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, stressed in Chapter 15 of Agenda 21 (15.5 and 15.6)
Oct. 1993	First session of the Intergovernmental Committee on the Convention on Biological Diversity	Recommended that "all Parties should conduct country studies, and prepare national biodiversity strategies [...] and that the Interim Secretariat should prepare a report on the progress of country studies and the preparation of national biodiversity strategies" (Report available as UNEP/CBD/COP/1/3)

Annex II

AVAILABLE GUIDELINES FOR THE PREPARATION OF NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS

UNEP 1993 and WRI 1995 Guidelines

- United Nations Environment Programme Guidelines for Country Studies on Biological Diversity, Nairobi, 1 October 1993 (UNEP/Bio.Div./Guidelines/CS/Rev.2)
- Miller, K R and Lanou, S M. National Biodiversity Planning: Guidelines Based on Early Experiences around the World. World Resources Institute/UNEP/IUCN, Washington, DC, 1995

These guidelines emphasize the preparation process for national biodiversity strategies and action plans, as described in the main text.

UNDP/GEF Guidelines

- Juan Javier Garcia Fernandez. Guide for the Preparation of Action Plans within the framework of the Biodiversity Convention, UNDP/GEF 1998 (available in English and Spanish)
- Roy T. Hagen A. Guide for Countries Preparing National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, UNDP/GEF 1999 (available in English);

Using the steps proposed in the WRI guidelines (1995), these two sets of UNDP guidelines deal with stocktaking and assessment, strategy development (UNDP 1999), and the preparation of action plans (UNDP 1998). Both sets of guidelines are designed as hands-on resources for national biodiversity units and include extensive practical advice on the allocation and management of human resources, recommendations on stakeholder participation, model job descriptions and terms of reference.

The first set of UNDP guidelines (1998) provides guidance on the required versus optional studies that need to be conducted as part of the stocktaking and assessment phase along with model outlines and terms of reference for key studies. The second set of UNDP guidelines (1999) is concerned with the action plan stage, taking over where the first set of guidelines left off. It adopts the same sequence of steps in the WRI guidelines (1995) and similarly gives much practical advice on matters such as participation, the organization and management of workshops and coordination at the national and sub-national levels.

Fauna and Flora International Guidelines

- Fauna & Flora International. National Biodiversity Strategy and Action: Planning BSAP Preparation: Materials Compiled for the BSAP preparation process, Cambridge UK, n/d (available in English);

This document comprises a substantial and extremely useful compilation of materials from other sources, definition of terms and an overview of the different stages of the biodiversity planning process. It too accepts the planning schema contained in the WRI guidelines (1995). Following an extensive summary of planning support material (the objectives of biodiversity planning, the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity and examples from other country studies), the bulk of the compilation is a set of model workshop workbooks – for planning meeting, presentation skills, national report, action planning and draft biodiversity strategy and action plan review workshops. The recommendations draw upon FFI's involvement with the Kyrgyzstan national biodiversity strategy and action plan process.

The Prescott et al. guidelines

- Jacques Prescott, Benoît Gauthier and Jonas Nagahuedi Mbongu Sodi. Guide to Developing a Biodiversity Strategy from a Sustainable Development Perspective Institut de l'énergie et de l'environnement de la Francophonie (IEPF), Ministère de l'Environnement du Québec, UNDP and UNEP, Montreal, September 2000 (available in English, French and Spanish);

These guidelines are aimed at developing a methodological approach to the implementation of Article 6(b) of the Convention. The authors have developed a 'sustainable development and biodiversity planning matrix' and give examples of its application to fifteen themes, ranging from energy resources to spiritual and religious values. The matrix consists of the fifteen activity themes

along the vertical axis and five clusters of decision processes along the horizontal axis. These guidelines also base the biodiversity planning process on the WRI (1995) model, including reproducing the flow chart.

WWF/SPREP

- NBSAP Preparation Checklist - Pacific Island Countries, WWF/SPREP, Apia, Samoa n/d (available in English).

This checklist provides a list of issues or problems experienced by at least one Pacific island country.
