



Convention on Biological Diversity

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AD HOC OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

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Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

REVIEW OF PROGRESS IN REVISING/UPDATING AND IMPLEMENTING NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS, AND FIFTH NATIONAL REPORT SUBMISSIONS

*Note by the Executive Secretary***

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 is an ambitious plan developed with the purpose of inspiring broad-based action in support of biodiversity over the current decade by all countries and stakeholders. Parties have committed to develop or revise and update, as appropriate, their national biodiversity strategies and actions plans (NBSAPs) in line with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. They have also committed to establishing national targets, using the Strategic Plan and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets as a flexible framework.

2. In paragraph 17 (b) of its decision X/2, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to prepare an analysis/synthesis of national, regional and other actions, including targets, as appropriate, established in accordance with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, to enable the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention, at its fourth meeting, and the Conference of Parties at its eleventh and subsequent meetings to assess the contribution of such national and regional targets towards the global targets. Furthermore, in decision X/9, the Conference of the Parties adopted the multi-year programme of work for the Conference of the Parties for the period 2011-2020. In paragraph (b) of the said decision, it is stated that the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties could address, *inter alia*, a review of the updated NBSAPs and a mid-term review of implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including the programmes of work and progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and specific elements of the programmes of work, as well as contributions to the achievement of relevant 2015 targets of the Millennium Development Goals based, *inter alia*, on the fifth national reports, and the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook. In decision XI/2, the Conference of the Parties urged Parties and other Governments that have not yet done so to review and, as appropriate, update and revise, their NBSAPs in line with the Strategic Plan for

* UNEP/CBD/WGRI/5/1.

** Updated from UNEP/CBD/COP/11/12.

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

3. The Executive Secretary has prepared this note for the consideration of the Working Group drawing on, among other things, the national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) submitted by Parties, information gathered through the regional and subregional and global capacity-building workshops for implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including the updating of NBSAPs and establishment of national targets. The present note is largely updated from document UNEP/CBD/COP/11/12, to reflect further national-level activities contained in the NBSAPs submitted since the earlier note was prepared, as well as updated information obtained from participants to the follow-up regional and subregional NBSAP capacity-building workshops, and the Global Workshop on Reviewing Progress and Building Capacity for the NBSAP Revision Process held Nairobi, Kenya in November 2013.

4. A further update, together with any recommendations adopted by Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group under this item, will be provided to the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting for consideration under agenda items 12, on review of the updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and item 17, on capacity-building, enhancement of technical and scientific cooperation and other initiatives to assist implementation, respectively. Further, the GBO-4, and its supporting documents, will provide a review of progress towards the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, including an analysis/synthesis of relevant national, regional and other actions, including targets. In addition, the online reporting tool (<https://www.infra.cbd.int/national-reports>) provides a mechanism by which Parties can provide updated information on progress towards the Aichi Targets.

5. Progress in the development or revision and updating of NBSAPs is summarized in section II of this document. A summary of progress in setting national targets, including in relation to achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, is provided in section III. Lastly, section IV focuses on progress towards submission of the fifth national reports that were due on 31 March 2014. A review of progress in the provision of support to Parties for capacity development, within the context of implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets, is provided in document UNEP/CBD/WGRI/5/3.

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

6. Article 6 of the Convention on Biological Diversity states that each Contracting Party “shall, in accordance with its particular conditions and capabilities, develop national strategies, plans or programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity or adapt for this purpose existing strategies, plans or programmes which shall reflect, *inter alia*, the measures set out in the Convention relevant to the Contracting Party concerned”. Further, in decision X/2, the Conference of the Parties urged Parties to review, update and revise, as appropriate, their NBSAPs in line with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. In addition, Aichi Biodiversity Target 17 calls for Parties to develop, adopt as a policy instrument, and commence implementing an effective, participatory and updated NBSAP by 2015.

7. Since 1993, 179 Parties have developed NBSAPs while 15 Parties have yet to submit their first NBSAP. In other words, the majority (92%) of Parties have been through the process of formalizing their approach to meeting the three objectives of the Convention at least once. Of the 179 Parties that have prepared NBSAPs, 45 have revised them at least once.

8. It is important to recognize that many of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans finalized prior to the adoption of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 contain elements which are nonetheless in line with the Plan and form the basis of the progress reported in the fifth national reports. Further information on national targets established prior to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 is available as an information document (UNEP/CBD/WGRI/3/INF/7).

9. Since the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the majority of Parties have initiated further revisions of their NBSAPs in response to decision X/2. Of the 145 GEF eligible countries, 136 (94%) have accessed funds set-aside in GEF-5 for Biodiversity Enabling Activities (49 through UNDP and GEF Implementing Agency, 80 through UNEP, one through FAO, and six via Direct Access). Most of these revision projects have completion dates set before October 2014. The total investment in these revision projects is US\$ 31,447,338 of GEF grant and US\$ 26,171,680 in total co-financing (cash and in-kind). Nine (6%) of GEF-eligible countries have not yet utilized the GEF-5 BD-EA funding window, two of whom have chosen to revise their NBSAP with their own or other funds, meaning that GEF has funded 96% of the potential pool of GEF eligible countries.

10. Twenty-five Parties (Australia,¹ Belarus, Belgium, Cameroon, Colombia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Dominica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, European Union, Finland, France, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Malta, Myanmar, Serbia, Spain, Suriname, Switzerland, Timor-Leste, Tuvalu, United Kingdom and Venezuela) have submitted their NBSAPs to the Secretariat since the adoption of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.

11. Of the remaining Parties undertaking revisions, the current status as reported informally to the Secretariat is as follows:

Status of NBSAP revision (n=194)	NBSAP submitted	NBSAP completed awaiting approval	NBSAP completion expected prior to COP-12	NBSAP in progress with completion date unknown	NBSAP update started recently	NBSAP update not started	No information available
	25	14	47	51	6	17	34

Table 2 The current status of NBSAP revision (as of 1 April 2014)

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

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

13. In decision X/2, the Conference of the Parties urged Parties and other Governments to develop national and regional targets, using the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets as a flexible framework, in accordance with national priorities and capacities and the status and trends of biological diversity in the country, and the resources provided through the strategy for resource mobilization, while also bearing in mind national contributions to the achievement

¹ Australia submitted a revised NBSAP that was developed in light of the preliminary framework of the Strategic Plan but considers it to be in line with the final Strategy as adopted at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

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

14. The Secretariat has been compiling a database of all “targets”² presented in NBSAPs submitted since the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as well as those national targets received separately from and in advance of a revised NBSAP (e.g. Brazil). As of 4 April 2014, the database contains 522 separate “targets”, and the number of targets will increase significantly as more Parties submit revised NBSAPs. Some, but not all Parties have mapped their national targets to the global Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Wherever national targets have been mapped to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets by the Party concerned (to date, only Belgium, Cameroon, Brazil, France, Japan, Switzerland), this is represented in the database.

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

16. The increasing number of Parties that are establishing targets in their revised NBSAPs is an encouraging sign of commitment towards the overall goals of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. Nonetheless, it is clear that monitoring and reporting on progress towards national targets will be facilitated when these targets are SMART,³ linked to credible indicators supported by adequate data; with adequate resources (human, institutional and financial) made available for both implementation and monitoring and reporting.

17. The online reporting tool (<https://www.infra.cbd.int/national-reports>) provides a mechanism by which Parties can provide updated information on their national targets, and progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

18. A synthesis of progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, based on information derived from fourth national reports, existing revised NBSAPs and the fifth national reports that were provided by, or soon after, the deadline for submission, as well as information provided through the Biodiversity Indicator Partnership, has been made as part of the mid-term assessment component of the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/18/2, UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/8/INF/2).

IV. PROGRESS TOWARDS SUBMISSION OF THE FIFTH NATIONAL REPORTS

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

² For the full set, please see <https://www.cbd.int/nbsap/targets/default.shtml>. Note that the definition and use of the term « target » is quite varied among Parties. In the database, all « achievable » measures in a NBSAP have been included as « targets », even if the NBSAP itself uses a different term such as « objective », « action » «work area », etc.

³ Specific Measureable, Ambitious/Attainable, Realistic/Relevant, Timebound.

20. To date, 54 fifth national reports have been submitted to the Convention. In addition, 30 countries have sent advanced draft reports. A list of the fifth national reports and draft reports received is contained in the annex to this document. An updated list will be issued before the fifth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of the Implementation.

21. As requested in paragraph 14, decision X/10, the Secretariat has organized a total of eight regional workshops from January 2013 to January 2014 to support the preparation of the fifth national reports, particularly by least developed countries and small island developing States. These workshops were made possible with the financial support of the Japan Biodiversity Fund and the Republic of Korea as well as technical support from the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency and in-kind support from all the host countries of these workshops (Kenya, Cameroon, the Republic of Korea, Fiji, St. Lucia, Bolivia, Qatar and Belarus). These workshops were also supported by relevant partners, in particular the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), the United Nations Development Programme, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Birdlife International as well as the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, South Asia Environmental Cooperation Programme, the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme and the Secretariat of the Caribbean Community. These workshops include:

(a) First Regional Workshop for African Least Developed Countries (mainly Anglophone) on the preparation of the fifth national report and regional scenario analysis, from 28 January to 1 February, 2013, in Nairobi, Kenya;

(b) Second Regional Workshop for African Least Developed Countries (mainly Francophone) on the preparation of the fifth national report and regional scenario analysis, from 15 to 19 April, 2013, Yaounde, Cameroon;

(c) Regional Workshop for South, East and Southeast Asia on the preparation of the fifth national report and regional scenario analysis, from 20 to 24 May, 2013, Incheon City, Republic of Korea;

(d) Regional Workshop for the Pacific Countries on the preparation of the fifth national report, from 22 to 26 July, 2013, Nadi, Fiji;

(f) Regional Workshop for the Caribbean Countries on the preparation of the fifth national report, from 16 to 20 September, 2013, Gros Islet, St. Lucia;

(g) Regional Workshop for Latin American Countries on the preparation of the fifth national report, from 2 to 6 December 2013, Cochabamba, Bolivia;

(h) Regional Workshop for Middle East and North Africa on the preparation of the fifth national report, from 14 to 17 December, 2013, Doha, Qatar;

(i) Regional Workshop for Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia on the preparation of the fifth national report, from 20 to 24 January 2014, Minsk, Belarus.

22. As requested by paragraph 15, decision X/10, the Secretariat also developed a resource manual for the fifth national report and made it available on the website of the Convention in all the six languages of the United Nations. In addition, a training module on national reporting has been updated, with focus on the fifth national report. A portal for the fifth national report was also established to provide various resource materials to assist with the preparation of the fifth national report.

23. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, in paragraph 6 (d) of its recommendation XVII/1, requested the Executive Secretary to include in his analysis of the fourth and fifth national reports an analysis of methodologies used in self-assessments of progress towards implementation of the Convention reported in those and other reports and to report to the fifth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation and the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties as appropriate.

24. In their reports Parties used a range of approaches and methodologies, both quantitative and qualitative, or combinations thereof, ranging from sets of indicators to expert assessments. However, only few countries reported on results obtained through a monitoring and reporting system on the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans. A more detailed description of the approaches used in self-assessments of progress towards implementation of the Convention is contained in an information document.⁴

IV. SUGGESTED RECOMMENDATION

The Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention may wish to recommend that the Conference of Parties, at its twelfth meeting, adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Government of Japan and other donors for their most generous contribution to support developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, and countries with economies in transition, to develop capacity to review and, as appropriate, update and revise, their national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and to prepare their fifth national reports;

2. *Expresses its gratitude* to international organizations and convention secretariats, and especially to the Global Environment Facility and its Implementing Agencies, for their efforts in facilitating developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, and countries with economies in transition, to review and, as appropriate, update and revise, their national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and to prepare their fifth national reports;

3. *Recalling* decisions X/2, X/10 and XI/2, *commends* those Parties and other Governments that have reviewed and, as appropriate, updated and revised their national biodiversity strategies and action plans in line with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and that have submitted their fifth national reports;

4. *Calls upon* those Parties and *invites* those other Governments that have not yet done so, to review and, as appropriate, update and revise, their national biodiversity strategies and action plans in line with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, especially with its Aichi Target 17, and to submit their fifth national reports.

⁴ UNEP/CBD/WGRI/5/INF/20.

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

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

Final reports:

1. South Africa
2. Niger
3. Belgium
4. Japan
5. Dominica
6. Sudan
7. Myanmar
8. Côte d'Ivoire
9. Somalia
10. Niue
11. Nepal
12. Mongolia
13. Poland
14. Colombia
15. Uganda
16. Nauru
17. China
18. Palau
19. Malaysia
20. Solomon Islands
21. Pakistan
22. Senegal
23. Nigeria
24. Cameroon
25. Denmark
26. Canada
27. Burundi
28. Rwanda
29. Spain
30. Ecuador
31. Cuba
32. Namibia
33. Germany
34. Republic of Moldova
35. Montenegro

36. India
37. Republic of Congo
38. Belarus
39. Iraq
40. Kuwait
41. Sweden
42. Netherlands
43. Qatar
44. New Zealand
45. Italy
46. Madagascar
47. Tajikistan
48. Azerbaijan
49. Switzerland
50. Costa Rica
51. Liberia
52. United Kingdom
53. Finland
54. Hungary

Advanced drafts:

1. Benin
2. Mauritania
3. Mali
4. Saint Lucia
5. Cambodia
6. Maldives
7. Malawi
8. Gambia
9. Panama
10. Ethiopia
11. Saint Kitts and Nevis
12. Tonga
13. Vietnam
14. United Republic of Tanzania
15. Bosnia and Herzegovina
16. Burkina Faso
17. Honduras
18. Fiji
19. Samoa

20. Peru
21. United Arab Emirates
22. Yemen
23. Norway
24. Comoros
25. Croatia
26. Morocco
27. Brazil
28. Sao Tome and Principe
29. Dominican Republic
30. Seychelles
