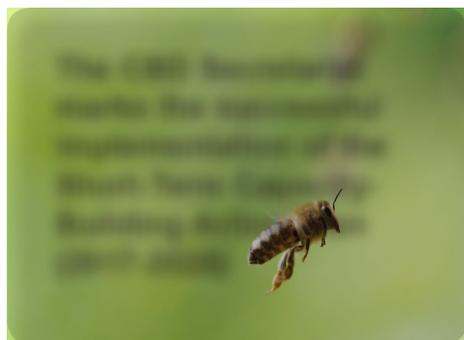


## Biodiversity Capacity Development Update



## The CBD Secretariat marks the successful implementation of the Short-Term Capacity-Building Action Plan (2017-2020)

The adoption of the Short-Term Action Plan (2017-2020) to Enhance and Support Capacity-Building for the Implementation of the Convention and its Protocols by the UN Biodiversity Conference in 2016 (COP Decision [XIII/23](#)) was an important milestone.

It re-affirmed the need for a focused, integrated and coherent approach to capacity-building and technical and scientific cooperation in supporting the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols.

Since January 2017, the CBD Secretariat, in collaboration with partners, facilitated the implementation of over 100 capacity-building activities outlined in the short-term action plan.

These activities were implemented with generous financial contributions from various governments including Belgium, Canada, Denmark, the European Union, Finland, France, Italy, Japan, Norway, Germany, Republic of Korea, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain, among others.

Overall, approximately 91% of the planned activities were successfully implemented and a number of concrete results were achieved, and multiple lessons learned.

Some of the lessons learned include the need to diversify the capacity delivery modalities (beyond training workshops) and the need to give due attention to building capacities at other levels (i.e. organizational and/or enabling environment).

It is also important to adopt a clear vision and a long-term programmatic approach to capacity development.

Furthermore, financial considerations must be considered at the planning stage of the capacity-building interventions.

It is also imperative to put in place mechanisms for follow-up support and monitoring and evaluation frameworks for the capacity development interventions.

Lastly, relevant stakeholders must be involved in the design and implementation of the interventions to leverage their expertise and resources and to avoid duplication of efforts.

The post-2020 period will require transformative actions that move beyond “business as usual” and a strategic approach to capacity development. In this regard, a [draft](#) long-term strategic framework for capacity development has been developed to support implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

Parties to the Convention and its Protocols will negotiate the long-term strategic framework at the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties to be held in Kunming, China.

More information on the preparation of the long-term strategic framework for capacity development as well as a [list](#) of capacity-building activities facilitated by the Secretariat are available on the [website](#).



## Capacity development efforts contribute to the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Targets 9, 11, 17, 19 & 20

The fifth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook ([GBO 5](#)), which provides an update on the progress made towards achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, noted that even though none of the 20 Aichi targets have been fully achieved, important progress was made and capacity-building support was instrumental.

Various cross-cutting capacity-building activities, supported by the CBD Secretariat, particularly contributed to the implementation of Aichi Biodiversity Targets 9, 11, 17, 19 and 20, which according to GBO 5 are some of the few targets that have been partially attained.

For example, the work on invasive alien species (IAS) and the development of management tools and guidance, produced concrete results, such as the Global Registry of Introduced and Invasive Species ([GRIIS](#)), which have contributed to identifying invasive species and managing pathways to prevent their introduction (as per Aichi Target 9).

Support was also provided to Parties of the CBD in different regions to strengthen cooperation and develop sustainable capacities to achieve Aichi Target 11 on protected areas. Regional implementation support networks and coordination mechanisms were established in Asia, the Pacific and Latin America to assist with implementation

of this target and to foster alignment and synergy among various partners in each region. Various sources of data on protected areas exist today, including the World Database on Protected Areas, which is accessible through the [Protected Planet Initiative](#), managed by UNEP-WCMC.

Furthermore, the Secretariat in collaboration with UNEP, UNDP and other partners, and with funding from various donors, including the Japan Biodiversity Fund, provided ongoing technical support for the revision and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) in line with Aichi Target 17.

Countries were supported in developing specific on-the-ground projects and activities to advance the implementation of their NBSAPs.

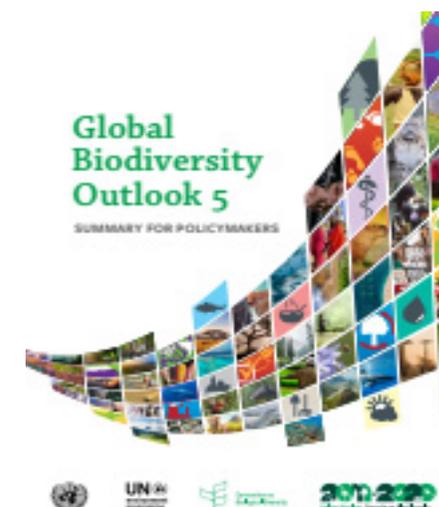
Lastly, with regards to Aichi Targets 19 and 20, the Secretariat also provided technical support to facilitate and foster the exchange of scientific knowledge and technological developments relevant to biodiversity through the clearing-house mechanism.

It also supported countries to use the [financial reporting framework](#) to assess and report on the availability of financial resources for achieving targets and progress in mobilizing international financial flows.

In collaboration with partners, such as the UNDP-BIOFIN, Parties were supported to develop national resource mobilization plans. An analysis of the available information shows that more capacity development support is needed to scale-up efforts for reporting on resources being mobilized for biodiversity.

More information on the status of implementation of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets is available on the [website](#).

### Aichi Biodiversity Targets



## The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and its Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress reach important milestones in 2020

The year 2020 marked the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety as well as the 10th anniversary of the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress, which was adopted on 15 October 2010 as an additional agreement to the Protocol. To date, 173 countries, including the European Union, have become Parties to the Cartagena Protocol, while 48 Parties to the Protocol have ratified the Supplementary Protocol.

The two instruments contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity by ensuring an adequate level of protection in the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms (LMOs) resulting from modern biotechnology. The development of capacities for the effective implementation of these instruments has been instrumental to reaching these important milestones.

In line with the the short-term capacity-building action plan (2017-2020) and further to Article 22 of the Protocol, the CBD Secretariat has facilitated capacity-building support on various issues. These include risk assessment, detection and identification of LMOs, public awareness, education and participation regarding LMOs, integrated implementation and mainstreaming biosafety, as well as the use of the Biosafety Clearing-house (BCH).

Several capacity-building materials and tools have been developed, with support from various donors, including a [training manual](#) on risk assessment, an interactive toolkit on mainstreaming biosafety as well as e-learning modules on the Supplementary Protocol, mainstreaming biosafety, public access to biosafety information and public participation in decision making processes regarding LMOs, among others.

The Secretariat also implemented, with the support from the Japan Biodiversity Fund, a project to strengthen capacities for mainstreaming biosafety and the integrated implementation of the Protocol, the Supplementary Protocol and the Convention at the national level.

As part of the project, small grants and technical assistance were provided to 10 countries (Cambodia, Cameroon, Cuba, Ghana, Mongolia, Nigeria, Peru, Togo, Venezuela and Vietnam) to test practical actions and approaches to foster integrated implementation of the three instruments.

Each participating country organized national workshops and seminars, and made use of [online materials](#), resulting in the development of national mainstreaming strategies. Additionally, countries developed policy recommendations for the integration of biosafety concerns in their

national biodiversity strategies and action plans, which contributed to Aichi Biodiversity Target 17.

Moreover, the Secretariat continued to enhance the capacity of countries to effectively participate in the BCH and facilitate the exchange of views and information on key elements, procedures and practices of public education and public awareness regarding LMOs. An educational [video](#) was also developed highlighting the importance of setting up systems for biosafety education.

Furthermore, the Secretariat embarked on the development of a draft implementation plan for the Cartagena Protocol and a capacity-building action plan for the period 2021-2030, which are expected to be adopted at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to be held in Kunming, China.

More information on the anniversary celebrations and the implementation of the Protocols is available on the [website](#).

## Ten years since its adoption, the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing reflects on its implementation

To commemorate the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization, the CBD Secretariat and the UNDP-GEF Global Access and Benefit-sharing Project, in collaboration with the Governments of Japan and Jordan and other partners, organized a virtual “Global Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Conference 2020” between 29 October and 25 November 2020.

The conference brought together the ABS community to reflect on the progress achieved in the last decade and to discuss ABS-related issues in the context of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

To date, 128 countries have become Parties to the Nagoya Protocol, and capacity development initiatives played a significant role in facilitating the ratification processes.

The Secretariat in collaboration with partners and with financial support from donors, such as the European Union and the Japan Biodiversity Fund, has provided capacity-building and technical support to enable Parties to operationalize the Nagoya Protocol.

In the context of the short-term action plan (2017-2020), a capacity development programme, implemented by the International Development Law Organization (IDLO), produced a training package on establishing legal measures to implement the Protocol, as well as e-learning materials on the process of developing, implementing and revising ABS regulatory frameworks.

A global network of legal experts on ABS was also established to facilitate peer-to-peer learning, knowledge sharing and networking on ABS-related issues. A [video](#) on monitoring the utilization of genetic resources was also developed in collaboration with the ABS Capacity Development Initiative to raise awareness on ABS issues.

Furthermore, the Secretariat continued to maintain a help desk (reachable at [absch@cbd.int](mailto:absch@cbd.int)) to provide Parties with on-demand support on how to use the ABS clearing-house platform, as well as explain their obligations for information-sharing under the Protocol.

As the post-2020 period begins, it is important to continue reflecting on “the ABS we all need”, taking into consideration the lessons learned from the first 10 years of implementation of the Nagoya Protocol, as well as lessons from different ABS

right holders, including indigenous peoples and local communities (as per Aichi Target 18), from developing and developed countries.

More information on the [Global ABS Conference](#) and the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol is available on the [website](#).



**ESTABLISHING  
MEASURES TO  
IMPLEMENT  
THE NAGOYA  
PROTOCOL**

## The Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative (FERI) strengthens capacities to restore forests and other ecosystems

The CBD Secretariat, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Society for Ecological Restoration (SER), has been providing capacity-building support to Parties on the restoration of forests and other ecosystems to support the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Targets 5, 14 and 15.

Regional capacity-building workshops organized in 2016, 2017, 2019 and 2020, as part of the Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative ([FERI](#)) with financial assistance from the Government of the Republic of Korea, have helped embed biodiversity considerations in restoration activities across landscapes, through integrated and collaborative planning, implementation and reporting, and to develop national ecosystem restoration plans.

Approximately 100 participants from nearly 70 countries attended the workshops and made use of a training package prepared by the Secretariat, consisting of [country dossiers](#) summarizing national targets and commitments with regards to ecosystem loss and restoration, as well as the short-term action plan on ecosystem restoration ([STAPER](#)) and other resources.

Direct financial and technical support through FERI have also supported Parties to develop

and operationalize national targets and plans for ecosystem conservation and restoration within the framework of Aichi Targets 5, 14 and 15.

Since 2017, the Secretariat has supported 12 ecosystem restoration projects to test various innovative restoration techniques and compile and disseminate lessons learned that can be used in similar restoration contexts. Through this support, FERI provides countries with best practices that contribute towards reducing ecosystem degradation as well as enhancing forest ecosystem restoration and conservation.

In June 2021, the United Nations [Decade](#) on Ecosystems Restoration will be officially launched as a call to action worldwide for the protection and restoration of ecosystems. In March 2019, the General Assembly proclaimed 2021 to 2030 the decade on ecosystem restoration with the aim of scaling up efforts to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems and to raise awareness of the importance of successful ecosystem restoration.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and FAO, in collaboration with other MEA Secretariats and relevant actors, will be leading a broad-based global movement to build political momentum and to stress that healthy ecosystems contribute to offsetting climate change and

reversing biodiversity loss. In this context, they are carrying-out a capacity needs assessment [survey](#) to take stock on what is needed to achieve the goals of the Decade.

As the post-2020 era begins and the CBD Conference of the Parties moves towards adopting a global biodiversity framework, the call to action for nature and people is more critical than ever before.

More information on forest ecosystems restoration is available on the CBD [website](#).



## Stepping up efforts for the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity

Since 2010, the CBD Secretariat through the Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) has played a key role in providing guidance, building partnerships and enhancing the capacities of countries to conserve and sustainably use marine and coastal biodiversity.

In the context of the short-term capacity-building action plan (2017-2020), seven SOI regional, sub-regional and national capacity-building workshops and training-of-trainers workshops were organized with financial support from the Governments of Japan, the Republic of Korea, Sweden and the European Union, among others.

During these workshops, approximately 240 participants from 68 countries were trained in, inter alia, the application of cross-sectoral planning and integrated area-based management tools, including marine spatial planning.

Participants also shared experiences on the implementation of integrated marine and coastal area management, and the incorporation of traditional knowledge in the application of area-based management tools as well as the criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs).

The second meeting of the [SOI Global Dialogue](#) was also organized in April 2018 with regional

seas organizations and regional fisheries bodies on enhancing cross sectoral collaboration and accelerating progress toward the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the sustainable development goals.

In general, SOI has contributed to long-term capacity development towards achieving the targets on marine and coastal areas. This has been done, inter alia, through training sessions, regional expert workshops and the sharing of relevant scientific and technical information.

While considerable progress has been made towards achieving these targets, particularly regarding the establishment or expansion of marine protected areas (Target 11), one third of marine fish stocks are overfished (Target 6), fisheries and aquaculture are still negatively impacting marine habitats through bycatch, and more than 60 percent of the world's coral reefs face immediate direct threats (Target 10).

As the world transitions into the post-2020 era, it is crucial to keep in mind that healthy oceans are inextricably linked to nearly all aspects of life (i.e. food, health, freshwater, etc.) and that more capacity-building and awareness raising efforts are needed for the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity.

More information on marine and coastal biodiversity is available on the [website](#).



## FERI fosters SMARTer ecosystem restoration strategies and actions

From 2015 to 2020, the Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative (FERI), implemented by the CBD Secretariat with the financial support of the Government of the Republic of Korea, conducted a series of capacity-building workshops at the regional and sub-regional levels with the view to making the implementation of restoration-related Aichi biodiversity targets “SMARTer” (specific, measurable, accepted, realistic and time-bound) and to showcase resources and partners available to support improving them.

An analysis of countries that participated in the FERI workshops, which was conducted by the Secretariat in the last quarter of 2020, showed the key elements of SMART targets for ecosystem restoration. The elements were broken down into a set of criteria and analyzed against national information on restoration targets, reported in the fifth and sixth national reports to the CBD.

Preliminary results showed that 68 out of 71 developing country Parties reviewed in Asia, Latin America and Africa had updated their restoration target or introduced a new target. They also showed a clear improvement across all criteria considered in the national reports.

A subset is presented in Figure 1, which shows percentages of countries that met each element of the criteria in their national reports (red-blue

scale) and the increase in presence of a given criteria between the two reporting rounds (yellow-green scale).

Figure 1. Proportion of countries whose restoration targets meet the ‘SMART’ criteria (n = 62 countries)

SPECIFIC	Type of ecosystems to be restored	5th NR	22%	+31%
		6th NR	52%	
MEASURABLE	Area to be restored	5th NR	12%	+23%
		6th NR	35%	
ACCEPTED	Wide stakeholder support for the target	5th NR	5%	+20%
		6th NR	25%	
REALISTIC	Total area of degraded ecosystems has been assessed	5th NR	8%	+12%
		6th NR	20%	
TIME-BOUND	Target year for completion of the target	5th NR	62%	+25%
		6th NR	86%	

The above results demonstrated a marked improvement in the “SMART-ness” of the restoration-related targets between the 5th and 6th [national reports](#). Only a handful of countries still lack a clear restoration target, which is often due to the lack of reporting or missing information in reports rather than a lack of relevance of restoration in the national context.

In general, restoration-related targets have become more specific, but they often still lack a clear description of how progress will be measured. To address this gap, readily available

national-scale information is needed on the extent of degraded ecosystems and the estimated costs and benefits of ecosystem restoration.

Improvements in “SMART-ness” of the targets point to the enhanced capacity of developing country Parties with regards to ecosystem restoration. This is an encouraging and timely sign as the world enters the UN Decade for Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030).

Over the next five years (2021-2025), the Secretariat through FERI will continue its efforts to build the capacity of developing country Parties on ecosystem restoration, working closely with global and regional partners, and facilitating access to online tools, such as the WePlan - Forests decision support [platform](#), which provides a range of advanced restoration planning and spatial modelling solutions to support countries in their revision and/or implementation of national and sub-national restoration targets.

More information on FERI and the status of implementation of the restoration-related Aichi Targets is available on the [website](#).



## The Japan Biodiversity Fund enhances capacity-building support for the effective implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols

Since its creation in 2010, the Japan Biodiversity Fund (JBF) has contributed significantly to supporting the development of capacities of developing countries to, inter alia, revise and update their national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) in accordance with Aichi Biodiversity Target [17](#).

Over USD 59 million dollars, complemented by funds provided by other donors including the Global Environment Facility, have allowed the CBD Secretariat to provide support to Parties to effectively implement the Convention and its two Protocols, and to strengthen cooperation with partner organizations.

The JBF initially supported Parties in their efforts to revise their NBSAPs in response to the COP10 outcomes. For this purpose, a total of 15 regional and sub-regional capacity-building workshops were organized during the period 2011–2012. More than 650 individuals from over 160 Parties participated in the workshops.

The JBF also funded more than 40% of the activities included in the short-term capacity-building action plan (2017-2020). This support contributed to the development of multiple capacity-building materials, including e-learning modules, toolkits and guidelines, and the organization of numerous regional training

workshops on diverse issues pertaining to the Convention and its Protocols, including access and benefit-sharing, biosafety, communication, education and public awareness, gender, invasive alien species, marine and coastal areas, plant conservation, protected areas, sustainable oceans, taxonomy, traditional knowledge and youth, among others.

Technical support was also provided to national focal points and key partners in Ecuador, Sri Lanka, Botswana, Ethiopia and Malawi to implement pilot projects that address common challenges and weaknesses identified in the implementation of NBSAPs (including the lack of biodiversity mainstreaming, the limited use of spatial data and information, socio-economic data and the lack of SMART indicators). These projects implemented tangible on-the-ground activities with concrete and measurable outputs that helped countries to advance the implementation of their NBSAPs.

For example, Ecuador developed a monitoring plan for its NBSAP and identified nationally available data to track progress. The project in Sri Lanka assisted with the identification and integration of conservation priorities into national economic development plans, whereas the one in Botswana, Ethiopia and Malawi tested a methodology for mapping, assessing and prioritizing biodiversity issues.

In addition, through the Community Development and Knowledge Management for the Satoyama Initiative Programme ([COMDEKS](#)) and the [RELIEF Kit](#) project, the JBF supported local communities, through collective planning and learning-by-doing, for the sustainable development of landscapes and seascapes management. It also provided support for developing the capacity of policymakers, practitioners and other relevant stakeholders to operationalize and scale-up ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction and ecosystem-based adaptation.

The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) was another platform through which the JBF supported Parties to develop their capacity.

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## The Japan Biodiversity Fund enhances capacity-building support (continued)

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A JBF-funded project, which was completed in June 2020 by the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), helped to develop the capacity of IPBES authors and experts to integrate indigenous and local knowledge to the assessment process. It also facilitated the use of scenario analysis and modelling in the IPBES Asia-Pacific regional assessment and other global assessments, including assessments on biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Furthermore, the JBF supported a capacity-building project for the implementation of national assessments in partnership with UNEP-WCMC.

To date, 192 Parties to the CBD have developed at least one NBSAP and capacity-building and technical support provided by the JBF and other donors has been instrumental in these efforts.

As the Conference of the Parties to the Convention moves towards adopting a post-2020 global biodiversity framework, the donor community will need to continue assisting developing country Parties to implement their NBSAPs and work towards achieving the 2050 vision of “Living in Harmony with Nature”.

More information on the implementation of the CBD is available on the [website](#) .



## Resources and Opportunities

Invitation to complete the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration [online survey](#) “Taking Stock of Global Capacity for Ecosystems Restoration” before 15 April 2021.

Access the Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming [Action Agenda](#) to make a pledge for nature and people.



## Upcoming Events

Due to the on-going COVID-19 pandemic, physical meetings have been postponed until further notice. Please visit the [calendar of events](#) for regular updates. The following meetings are being held online:

Informal session in preparation for SBI 3, 8-12 and 14 March 2021

### About BioCAP

BioCAP: Biodiversity Capacity Development Update was developed by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to provide periodic updates on the main outcomes of capacity development and technical and scientific cooperation activities facilitated and supported by the Secretariat in collaboration with partners. Previous issues of BioCAP are available on the [website](#).

