



Convention on  
Biological Diversity

**Updating National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans  
in line with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020  
and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets**

**Training Package (Version 2.1)**

## **Module 1**

# **An Introduction to National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans**



**United Nations Decade on Biodiversity**

## About this series

This module forms part of a training package on the updating and revision of national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) in line with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The package is intended for national focal points of the Convention on Biological Diversity, those responsible for updating and implementing NBSAPs and other biodiversity planners, including those responsible for other biodiversity-related conventions. They are being used in the ongoing second series of regional and sub-regional capacity building workshops on revising and updating NBSAPs. Each module is available on the CBD Secretariat's website (<http://www.cbd.int/nbsap/training/>). The module and its contents may be freely used for non-commercial purposes, provided the source is acknowledged. The secretariat would appreciate receiving a copy of material prepared using these modules.

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## List of Acronyms

BPSP	Biodiversity Planning and Support Programme
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
COP	Conference of the Parties (to the CBD)
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FFI	Fauna and Flora International
GEF	Global Environment Facility
IUCN	World Conservation Union
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
UNU	United Nations University
WGRI	Working Group on Review of Implementation (of the CBD)
WRI	World Resources Institute
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

## About this module

The Convention on Biological Diversity is a framework for **national action** for the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources. It requires contracting Parties to ensure that actions to guarantee its objectives are undertaken at all levels and in all sectors, in a coordinated and crosscutting fashion.

There has been **substantial progress in national implementation of the Convention**. Nearly 90% of Parties have NBSAPs, or equivalent instruments, and are in the process of implementing them.

**Major challenges remain however:** the 2010 Biodiversity Target was not met in full, and there remains a need to enhance national capacity for implementation. COP has issued comprehensive guidance on NBSAPs, and the CBD Secretariat and partner organizations have organized regional and sub-regional training workshops. In October 2010, the Conference of the Parties adopted the **Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and has requested that parties review, update and revise their NBSAPs by 2014<sup>1</sup>**. COP has also requested a continuation of capacity development activities such as regional and/or sub-regional workshops on updating and revising NBSAPs, and the mainstreaming of biodiversity.

**This Module** introduces and provides the background for a package of training modules that provide practical guidance for preparing and/or updating NBSAPs and making best use of them once they have been prepared. **The Module begins** by explaining the components, design, target audience and mode of use of the training package. **The second section** gives a brief account of the recent developments around NBSAPs, including the results of the review of implementation of Goals 2 & 3 of the former Strategic Plan, and relevant COP guidance pertaining to NBSAPs. **The third and final section** introduces the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and explains what is expected of Parties with regard to NBSAPs in the period 2010-2020.

### 1. What is an NBSAP?

At the same time as the overall CBD framework was being negotiated, the idea of meeting the challenge of implementation by means of an integrated, multi-sectoral, participatory instrument for national biodiversity planning crystallized into the concept of the national biodiversity strategy and action plan (NBSAP). **Article 6 of the Convention** requires contracting Parties to develop an NBSAP (or an equivalent instrument), and to integrate conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into sectoral and cross-sectoral activities (Articles 6 and 10 of the Convention are transcribed and discussed briefly in Box 1). Article 6 is one of the only two unqualified (i.e. mandatory) commitments in the Convention. (The other is Article 26, the obligation to submit periodic national reports on implementation).

The NBSAP is a process by which countries can plan to address the threats to their biodiversity. As such they are the principal instruments for the implementation of the Convention both at the national and at the global level, and they are increasingly relevant to other biodiversity-related conventions and agreements which contribute to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Targets. **While the concept and understanding of an**

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<sup>1</sup> COP Decision X/2

**NBSAP continues to evolve, it remains relevant as shorthand for implementation of Article 6 of the Convention.** (Box 2 provides a sample of the different approaches used by Parties in presenting their NBSAPs).

Module 2 of this training package considers, in depth, how to prepare and update an NBSAP. However three important points should be stressed right from the beginning:

- **Although the NBSAP can take the form of a single biodiversity-planning document (and many countries have chosen this form), this does not necessarily have to be the case.** The NBSAP can also be conceived as comprising a basket of elements – for example: laws and administrative procedures; scientific research agendas; programmes and projects; communication, education and public awareness activities; forums for inter-ministerial and multi-stakeholder dialogue – which together provide the means to meet the three objectives of the Convention, thereby forming the basis for national implementation. Second generation, or revised NBSAPs have tended to be more in line with this broader definition; they resemble more a planning *process*, than a fixed document. Such a planning process is equally relevant to the other biodiversity-related conventions and agreements.
- The Convention requires countries **not just to prepare a national biodiversity strategy, but to ensure that this strategy contains elements that are incorporated into the planning and activities of all those sectors whose activities can have an impact (positive and negative) on biodiversity.** This is what is meant by ‘mainstreaming’ – all relevant sectors of government, the private sector and civil society working together to implement the strategy. It is difficult to conceive of effective action plans without such multi-stakeholder commitment to, and ‘ownership’ of, the NBSAP process. It is for this reason that the NBSAP should be seen as a multi-stakeholder process, with other stakeholders being brought into its development as early as possible.
- **The NBSAP should be a living process** by which increasing scientific information and knowledge, gained through the monitoring and evaluation of each phase of implementation, are fed back into a permanent review process. This should result in periodic updating and revision of the NBSAP.
- **The NBSAP can be used to facilitate more coherent and effective implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions.** Decision X/5 invites Parties and Governments, *inter alia*, to involve national focal points of all the biodiversity-related agreements, as appropriate, in the process of updating and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and related enabling activities. These biodiversity-related conventions include the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES); the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS); the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, Especially as Waterfowl Habitats (RAMSAR); the World Heritage Convention (WHC); and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA). All of these make significant contributions to the sustainable management and use of the world’s biodiversity. Activities to implement other conventions and agreements can be included in national biodiversity strategies as a means of achieving collaborative implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Targets.

### Box 1 Articles 6 and 10 of the Convention

#### Article 6: General Measures for Conservation and Sustainable:

Each Contracting Party shall, in accordance with its particular conditions and capabilities:

(a) Develop national strategies, plans or programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity or adapt for this purpose existing strategies, plans or programmes which shall reflect, inter alia, the measures set out in this Convention relevant to the Contracting Party concerned; and

(b) 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.

Article 6(a) acknowledges that some countries may already have developed national plans or programmes that address conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and that these can be adapted as necessary to provide the national biodiversity planning instrument needed to implement the Convention within the country. However, those countries that had existing plans or programmes when the Convention entered into force were mainly industrialized countries. Most developing countries and countries with economies in transition have responded to the obligation contained in Article 6 by starting a new biodiversity planning process.

The development of an NBSAP is not an end in itself, but the necessary first step to integrating the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into sectoral and cross-sectoral planning, and into national decision-making generally (Articles 6(b) and 10(a)). Such integration is often referred to as 'mainstreaming'. Article 10(a) of the convention complements Article 6(b) in calling for the mainstreaming of biodiversity into national decision-making.

#### Article 10: Sustainable Use of Components of Biological Diversity

Each Contracting Party shall, as far as possible and as appropriate:

(a) Integrate consideration of the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources into national decision-making. [...]

### Box 2 A Sample of NBSAPs from Around the World

Japan's third National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2007) sets out a "Centennial Plan", a forward-looking hundred-year vision for ecosystem restoration, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable use in the context of major demographic and climate change.

The four strategies of the NBSAP, to be followed in its five year implementation period are: the mainstreaming of biodiversity into the daily lives of individuals, rebuilding a sound relationship between people, local communities and nature, securing the linkages between forests, rivers, the sea and the countryside, and taking actions with a global perspective. A distinct feature of the Japanese approach is the importance devoted to protecting and reestablishing managed and productive "Satoyama" landscapes. The Strategy recognizes Japan's impact on the biodiversity of other countries through the import of food and timber and proposes actions to reduce this footprint. The Strategy also recognizes that by strengthening the cooperation with various conventions related to biodiversity, efforts for biodiversity conservation are made from a global perspective. For example, the ministries and the organizations concerned with CITES collaborate to prevent illegal trade, and cooperate with CITES to reduce illegal trade, including that which is done via the Internet.

Japan's current NBSAP is based on a review of the country's second NBSAP, which highlighted the fact that human induced factors continue to increase the rate of biodiversity loss in the country. In order to improve on previous experience, the current NBSAP sets a clear path toward implementation including as many targets and indicators as possible. It also makes the tasks of individual ministries in the implementation of the strategy as clear as possible. In order to help the public understand biodiversity, the concept is described in relation to human life. Finally, the NBSAP encourages the participation of local governments, private enterprises, NGOs, and the public in its activities.

**Sweden** does not have an NBSAP document. Instead, biodiversity policy has been mainstreamed into a system of overarching environmental objectives adopted by the Swedish parliament in 1999. Several of

these objectives focus specifically on biodiversity while the others address threats to biodiversity. Together, the objectives define an environmentally sustainable development in Sweden, to be attained by the year 2020 (2050 for the climate objective). In 2002 the Parliament decided on a first set of concrete and measurable interim targets. The 2010-target of the CBD is included as one of these, albeit in its stricter form, as adopted by the EU, of *halting* biodiversity loss rather than *significantly reduce* it.

A cornerstone of the Swedish strategy for biodiversity is mainstreaming. Objectives, targets and action plans have been produced and carried through within each sector involving government agencies as well as private actors in each sector (including industry). Nevertheless, in 2005 Parliament set an objective: “a rich diversity of plant and animal life”, in order to take into account those aspects of biological diversity that may not easily be dealt within sectoral approaches.

Swedish biodiversity policy has been evaluated and revised three times since the adoption of the first national biodiversity action plan. In 2008 the Government initiated a public inquiry in order to make the system of environmental quality objectives more efficient. One of the main tasks of the inquiry is to improve considerations of the international dimensions of environmental issues.

**St Lucia's** NBSAP views conservation as an integral part of development, and states that development could not be lasting without the ecosystems, the species and the genes with which the country has been endowed, and which it has the responsibility to manage. The aim of the NBSAP is to optimize the contribution of biological diversity to the sustainable economic, social and cultural development of St. Lucia. However it is stressed that the NBSAP must be part of a broader national initiative aimed at achieving environmental and economic sustainability, enhancing the quality of the lives of all St. Lucians, and preserving the nation's natural capital.

An analysis of the issues and trends affecting St. Lucia's biological diversity reveals that they are the products of the patterns of development and management, which have prevailed throughout the country's modern history. The vision of St Lucia's biodiversity as, among other things, contributing optimally to the social, economic and cultural development of the country and to the physical, spiritual, and psychological well-being of all its people, requires the adoption of a new approach to development, based on the principles of equity, sustainability and social justice. A shift towards this new approach to development will require new management systems, at all levels.

**Germany's** NBSAP (2007) was developed through a highly participatory process with strong political support from parliament and government. It contains 330 concrete targets with deadlines for most of them, and about 430 measures, which call upon the various governmental and non-governmental actors to take action (including actions involving the other biodiversity-related conventions and agreements). The strategy also contains a set of indicators, which adopts the “DPSIR” approach (Driving forces, Pressure, State, Impact, Response). These are closely aligned with the EU and CBD frameworks. Reporting is mandatory in each legislative period.

The strategy pays equal attention to environmental, economic and social aspects in the spirit of the guiding principles of sustainability. It is embedded in the National Sustainability Strategy and is also linked to a number of relevant sector strategies.

The sustainability strategy also addresses important interactions between fields such as climate change, raw materials industry, land take and biodiversity and relevant interfaces of policy areas such as environmental, food, health and development policy.

The Strategy considers the opportunities provided by biodiversity for promoting innovation and employment such as organic farming, the marketing of regionally produced products and tourism. It highlights the correlation between biodiversity and the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals and the effects of German activities on biological diversity worldwide are considered. Responding to the findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment for Germany, the Strategy targets the indirect drivers behind pollution and nutrient loading, climate change and the degradation of natural habitats.

**Fiji** - More than 80% of Fiji's land and large parts of its marine areas are under communal village ownership; and conservation activities in this country are almost exclusively located in these areas. Accordingly, the NBSAP process and action plan have a strong emphasis on the direct participation and leadership of land- and resource rights- owners in all aspects of conservation planning and management. This diversion from a more conventional top-down approach is key to the success of biodiversity conservation in Fiji.

While the subsistence life styles of many land- and resource rights-owning communities respect biodiversity, there is increasing pressure to privatize land and resource ownership, and to use resources

unsustainably (or allow others to do so). In order to gain community support for conservation, to maintain traditional systems of resource ownership, and to allow local communities to play a leadership role in conservation, the following activities were included in Fiji's NBSAP:

- Increase village and community understanding and awareness of the importance and benefits of maintaining diversity, and enhance their technical and organizational abilities,
- Ensure that natural resource owning communities in particular, and the nation in general, receive fair benefits from the use of genetic material and products,
- Minimize the loss of aquatic resources of importance to local communities, and the loss and fragmentation of community-owned native forests,
- Encourage and assist traditional fishing rights communities to actively manage their inshore fishing rights and to establish or reinforce protected areas, through appropriate traditional conservation measures.

While Fiji was already an active member of the Locally Managed Marine Areas Network (LMMA) hosting and supporting numerous such areas prior to Fiji's signing of the Biodiversity Convention, the development and implementation of the NBSAP provides an important impetus to broaden and strengthen local establishment and management of locally managed conservation areas.

**Cambodia's** NBSAP, approved in 2002, was developed with a clear vision of "Equitable economic prosperity and improved quality of life through a sustainable use, protection and management of biological diversity". The Strategy provides a framework for action at all levels, aimed at enhancing the country's ability to ensure the productivity, diversity and integrity of their natural systems and, as a result, their ability as a nation to reduce poverty and improve the quality of life of all Cambodians.

Strategic priority actions of the NBSAP are: promoting awareness and capacity building of government staff and local communities; promoting the implementation of community-based natural resource management; and clarifying ministerial jurisdictions. The latter involves reducing overlap of responsibilities and promoting inter-ministerial coordination and collaboration in a broader perspective of sustainable development.

The NBSAP emphasizes the importance of intergovernmental cooperation to create the policy, management and research conditions necessary to advance sustainable management of natural resources. At least 22 government agencies, research institutions and provincial authorities take part in the implementation of the NBSAP. Approximately 30 non-government organizations and international organizations assist and also participate in the implementation. The implementation of Cambodia's NBSAP is adaptive, iterative and cyclical allowing for the NBSAP to be reviewed and expanded as conditions evolve.

**Costa Rica's** National Biodiversity Strategy was developed through a two-year participatory process including 31 national consultation workshops. Inputs were received from civil society, the economic sectors and all political parties. The Strategy defines clear roles for the Ministry of the Environment, the National Institute for Biodiversity (INBIO), which facilitates monitoring, and implementation, and separate bodies for the review and assessment of progress. The Strategy has been integrated into the tourism, forestry, agriculture and health sectors as well as cross-sectoral national planning processes including national development plans, the national climate change strategy, and the Nation's Strategy for the 21st century. The ecosystem approach is applied to territorial planning. Costa Rica is considered a leader in developing a comprehensive programme on payments for environmental services (PES). Over 450,000 hectares of forest receive payments through this programme. With an emphasis on the participation of local and indigenous communities, as well as a framework for engaging the private sector, the PES programme offers an avenue to link biodiversity conservation and national development.

**Botswana's** NBSAP, was developed during 2002-2004, and was revised in 2007. The goal of the NBSAP is to contribute to the long-term health of Botswana's ecosystems and related species, and to encourage sustainable and wise use of resources through the provision of a framework of specific activities designed to improve the way biodiversity is perceived, utilized and conserved. The Strategy builds on and complements the National Conservation Strategy, and forms part of the Government's effort to achieve Vision 2016: Botswana's long term development plan.

The NBSAP promotes several laws, policies and plans relating to various sectors including, tourism, sanitation, and community resource management. It has facilitated institutional and legislative improvements, including the use of environmental impact assessment, and the implementation of various projects to conserve and use biodiversity more sustainably, including an annual wildlife census and the

establishment of an environmental information system. Importantly, the NBSAP has also allowed for the identification of several challenges and constraints, such as limited technical resources and the need for more integration between ministries. Examples of implementation activities facilitated by the NBSAP are several programmes in the Okavango Delta, including a cross-sectoral conservation and sustainable use plan for the Delta and the “Biokavango Project”, which will contribute to the day-to-day management of the wetland.

**Canada's** NBSAP promotes the consideration of the objectives of the CBD in the context of other international agreements, in particular the Ramsar Convention. The Fourth National Report to the CBD provides information about selected activities undertaken in fulfilment of Ramsar, CITES and the World Heritage Convention, indicating a degree of integration.

**Morocco's** NBSAP consists of three thematic strategies and action plans – corresponding to the three major ecosystem types in the country: lands, marine environments and wetlands- brought together by the common tools that can be used to implement and monitor their implementation, and by their contribution to meeting the objectives of the Convention in Morocco.

The objectives of the NBSAP, set for each of the three ecosystem types, were set in a series of thematic workshops in which all the concerned public departments, the private sector and economic actors, and NGOs participated. For each objective and its suggested actions, the NBSAP provides a justification, the temporality and urgency of the action, an institution responsible, possible partners, and possible sources of funding.

The main elements of the strategy include the protection of national biological resources, the conciliation of socio-economic realities with ecological needs, the development of measures to increase awareness of biodiversity and develop the regulatory and institutional frameworks for the implementation of the NBSAP and of the objectives of the Convention, and the will to contribute to the protection of international heritage through the conservation of national, and sometimes unique, biodiversity.

*Source: Country NBSAPs and 4<sup>th</sup> National Reports*

## 2. Lessons Learned in the Implementation of the Convention

In addition to being the key instruments for national implementation of the Convention, the development, implementation, review and reporting on NBSAPs plays a key role in the broader CBD planning cycle, and thus in implementation, and assessment of implementation at the global level. National reports on implementation feed into global reviews of implementation of the Convention, and, eventually into COP decision-making and guidance.

NBSAPs may include activities resulting from biodiversity-related conventions and other agreements, thereby contributing towards the collaborative implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Targets.

### National Experience with NBSAPs

At its ninth meeting, the Conference of the Parties conducted a review of goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan in order to gain an overall picture of the status of NBSAPs and the extent to which countries have been able to mainstream biodiversity issues into national planning and productive sectors, and to identify the obstacles they are encountering. This review was updated for the third meeting of WGRI in May 2010 with information from fourth national reports and from participants of the various sub-regional capacity development workshops on NBSAPs and the

mainstreaming of biodiversity<sup>2</sup>. The review found that as of May 2010, **170 Parties (88% of the total) have finalized their NBSAPs or equivalent instruments. At least 48 Parties have revised NBSAPs, or are in the process of doing so.**

**Recently developed and updated NBSAPs tend to be more strategic than the first generation of NBSAPs.** While initially NBSAPs included lists of activities and of (largely unfunded) project proposals, more recent ones emphasize the key policy and institutional changes required for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. In addition, some newer NBSAPs contain goals and targets. However, those with quantitative targets, or targets that are closely linked to the 2010 biodiversity target, are still a minority.

**There has also been progress in emphasizing biodiversity mainstreaming.** Some NBSAPs reflect broader national development and environment objectives and a number of recently developed or updated NBSAPs are closely linked with national planning processes such as five-year plans, the framework for achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and development plans. Many countries report the integration of biodiversity into the tourism, forestry and agricultural sectors and into climate change adaptation and mitigation. The integration of biodiversity into other sectors is less common.

With regard to the main obstacles to the implementation of the Convention, Parties have listed: limited financial, technical and human resources and capacities, limited information, low political will, lack of coordination between ministries, poverty, low awareness level of biodiversity issues and limited incentives for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.

Review of goal 2 of the Strategic Plan (Parties have improved financial, human, scientific, technical, and technological capacity to implement the Convention) revealed that, while Parties report important improvements in capacity, most (87%) continue to report that **limited capacity, including financial, human and technical issues, continues to be a major obstacle to the implementation** of one or more of the three goals of the Convention. Both developed and developing countries have indicated that limited capacity is an issue. Overall it seems that, while there have been some important programmes for capacity development and institutional strengthening, progress towards goal 2 of the Strategic Plan remains generally poor. **There remains a major need to increase support for capacity development and knowledge management**, especially for the least developed countries, other small and medium-sized low-income countries, and small island developing states.

### **Status of Implementation of the Convention**

The third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook, draws on a range of information sources, including Parties' fourth National Reports, biodiversity indicators, scientific literature, and a study on future biodiversity scenarios to assess progress toward the 2010 Biodiversity Target. The main conclusion is that the 2010 Biodiversity Target has not been met at the global level. Although there has been a **notable increase in responses** to the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services, these responses have **not been able to reverse the negative trends in the global status of biodiversity**. This is because action to implement the Convention has not been taken on a sufficient scale to address the pressures on biodiversity and there has been insufficient integration of biodiversity issues into broader policies, strategies and programmes, and as a

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<sup>2</sup> The full report of the review of implementation of goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan can be downloaded from the CBD website at: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop/cop-09/official/cop-09-14-rev1-en.pdf>

consequence the **underlying drivers of biodiversity loss have not been addressed significantly**.

Most **future scenarios project continuing high levels of extinctions and loss of habitats** throughout this century, with associated decline of some ecosystem services important to human well-being. There are risks of large-scale negative impacts on human-well-being if certain thresholds or “tipping points” are crossed. At the same time, **there are greater opportunities than previously recognized to address the biodiversity crisis** while contributing to other social objectives. Even though it will be extremely challenging to prevent further human-induced biodiversity loss for the near-term future, well-targeted policies focusing on critical areas, species and ecosystem services can help to avoid the most dangerous impacts on people and societies<sup>3</sup>.

### 3. COP Guidance on NBSAPs

The Conference of the Parties considered Article 6 of the Convention for the first time at its second meeting in 1995<sup>4</sup>, and since then has issued additional guidance on the development and implementation of NBSAPs in a large number of decisions relating to specific programmes of work, and on crosscutting issues. Recent COP decisions on NBSAPs aim to provide further guidance so that NBSAPs, or their equivalent instruments, may become as effective as possible in the implementation of the Convention. Box 3 summarizes key NBSAP guidance provided by COP 9.

#### Box 3 Recent COP Guidance on NBSAPs- Decision IX/8 paragraph 85

8. COP "... *urges* Parties in developing, implementing and revising their national and, where appropriate, regional, biodiversity strategies and action plans, and equivalent instruments, in implementing the three objectives of the Convention, to:

*Meeting the three objectives of the Convention:*

- (a) Ensure that **NBSAPs are action-driven, practical and prioritized**, and provide an effective and up-to-date national framework for the implementation of the Convention;
- (b) Ensure that NBSAPs take into account the **principles in the Rio Declaration** on Environment and Development
- (c) Emphasize the **integration of the three objectives of the Convention into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans**, programmes and policies;
- (d) Promote the **mainstreaming of gender considerations**;
- (e) Promote synergies between activities to implement the Convention and **poverty eradication**;
- (f) Identify **priority actions at national or regional level, including strategic actions** to achieve the three objectives of the Convention;
- (g) Develop a **resource mobilization plans** in support of priority activities;

*Components of biodiversity strategies and action plans*

- (h) Take into account the **ecosystem approach**;
- (i) Highlight the **contribution of biodiversity and ecosystem services**, to poverty eradication, national development and human well being, as well as the economic, social, cultural, and other values of

<sup>3</sup> The full text of GBO3 can be downloaded from this website: <http://gbo3.cbd.int/>

<sup>4</sup> Decision II/7

<sup>5</sup> This is an abbreviated version of the Decision. The full text can be accessed at: <http://www.cbd.int/nbsap/guidance.shtml>

biodiversity

(j) Identify the **main threats to biodiversity**, including direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity change, and **include actions for addressing the identified threats**;

(k) As appropriate, **establish national, or where applicable, sub-national, targets**, to support the implementation of NBSAPs,;

*Support processes*

(l) Include and implement **national capacity-development plans** for the implementation of NBSAPs, making use of the outcomes of national capacity self-assessments;

(m) Engage **indigenous and local communities, and all relevant sectors and stakeholders**

(n) Respect, preserve and maintain **traditional knowledge**, innovations and practices;

(o) Establish or strengthen **national institutional arrangements** for the promotion, coordination and monitoring of the implementation of the NBSAPs,

(p) Develop and implement a **communication strategy** for the national biodiversity strategy and action plan;

(q) Address **existing planning processes in order to mainstream biodiversity** concerns in other national strategies, including, in particular, poverty eradication strategies, national strategies for the Millennium Development Goals, sustainable development strategies, and strategies to adapt to climate change and combat desertification, as well as sectoral strategies, and ensure that NBSAPs are implemented in coordination with these other strategies;

(r) Make use of or develop, as appropriate, **regional, sub-regional or sub-national networks** to support implementation of the Convention;

(s) Promote and support **local action for the implementation of NBSAPs**;

*Monitoring and review*

(t) Establish national mechanisms including **indicators**, as appropriate, and promote regional cooperation to **monitor implementation** of NBSAPs and progress towards national targets

(u) **Review NBSAPs** to identify successes, constraints and impediments to implementation, and identify ways and means of addressing such constraints and impediments, including revision of the strategies where necessary;

(v) Make available through the **Convention's clearing-house mechanism NBSAPs**, including periodic revisions, and where applicable, reports on implementation, case studies of good practice, and lessons learned;"

#### 4. The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and COP Guidance on NBSAPs

At its tenth meeting (2010), COP adopted the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The purpose of the revised Strategic Plan is to promote effective implementation of the Convention through a strategic approach comprising **a shared vision, a mission and strategic goals and targets** that will inspire broad based action by all Parties and stakeholders. It will provide a framework for the establishment of national and regional targets and for enhancing the coherence in the implementation of the provisions of the Convention and the decisions of the COP.

The **vision** of this Strategic Plan is a world of “**Living in harmony with nature**” where

**By 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people.**

The **mission** is to ensure a coherent implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and achievement of its three objectives by promoting

Effective and urgent action to halt the loss of biodiversity in order to ensure that by 2020 ecosystems are resilient and continue to provide essential services, thereby securing the planet's variety of life, and contributing to human well-being, and poverty eradication. To ensure this, pressures on biodiversity are reduced, ecosystems are restored, biological resources are sustainably used and benefits arising out of utilization of genetic resources are shared in a fair and equitable manner; adequate financial resources are provided, capacities are enhanced, biodiversity issues and values mainstreamed, appropriate policies are effectively implemented, and decision-making is based on sound science and the precautionary approach.

The Strategic Plan is organized into **five strategic goals under which are 20 headline targets** for 2020. The goals and targets comprise both: (i) aspirations for achievement at the global level; and (ii) a flexible framework for the establishment of national targets.

The five **Strategic Goals** are:

- A. Address the **underlying causes** of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society
- B. Reduce the **direct pressures** on biodiversity and promote sustainable use
- C. Improve the **status of biodiversity** by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity
- D. Enhance the **benefits** to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services
- E. **Enhance implementation** through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building

With regard to the **targets** of the Strategic (which are discussed at more length in Module 4) specifically relating to NBSAPs is **target 17**:

**By 2015, each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing, an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan.**

In its decision X/2 adopting the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, COP10 has urged Parties to<sup>6</sup>:

- **Review**, and as appropriate **update and revise, their NBSAPs**, in line with the Strategic Plan and the guidance adopted in decision IX/9, including by integrating their national targets into their NBSAPs, adopted as a policy instrument, and report thereon to the COP 11 or 12 (2012 or 2014);
- **Use the revised and updated NBSAPs as effective instruments for the integration of biodiversity** targets into national development and poverty reduction policies and strategies, national accounting, as appropriate, economic sectors and spatial planning processes, by Government and the private sector at all levels;
- **Develop national and regional targets**, using the Strategic Plan and its Aichi Targets, as a flexible framework, in accordance with national priorities and capacities, taking into account both the global targets and the status and trends of biological diversity in the country, and the resources provided through the strategy for resource mobilization, with a

<sup>6</sup> Decision X/2-3c,d,b,e, f.

view to contributing to collective global efforts to reach the global targets, and to report thereon to COP 11 (2012).

- **Monitor and review the implementation of their NBSAPs** in accordance with the Strategic Plan and their national targets making use of the set of indicators developed for the Strategic Plan and to report to the COP through their fifth and sixth national reports and any other means to be decided by the COP;
- **Support the updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans** as effective instruments to promote the implementation of the Strategic Plan and mainstreaming of biodiversity at the national level, taking into account synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions in a manner consistent with their respective mandates

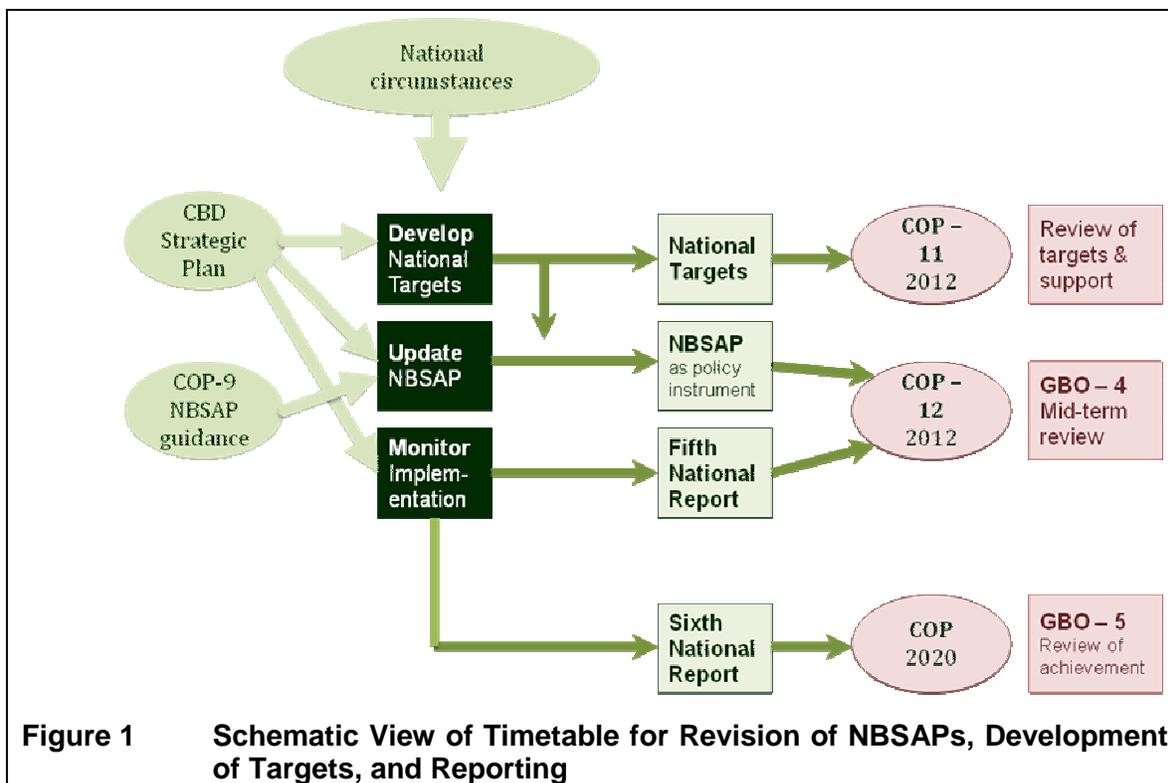
In its Decision X/5 on implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan, CoP10 invites Parties and Governments to involve national focal points of all the biodiversity-related agreements, as appropriate, in the process of updating and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and related enabling activities.

Figure 1 provides a schematic view of the timetable set in this decision.

The new Strategic Plan calls for support for countries in developing targets and updating/revising their national strategies so that they can become effective agents for mainstreaming biodiversity. Support will be required for capacity building, more effective exchange of information, expertise and experience, and adequate financial resources. There will also be a need for supporting institutions at the global level for monitoring and assessment.

Several actors support countries with the preparation of NBSAPs: the Conference of the Parties, the CBD Secretariat, the Global Environment Facility and potentially a series of other actors – international and national – who have expertise, mandates or resources that enable them to contribute.

The next and final section of this Module explains and introduces the NBSAP Training Package, which was one of the products of BPSP and, in its revised form and content, a key component of the capacity building activities planned as support mechanisms for the period beyond 2010.



## 5. Contents of an NBSAP

As emphasized throughout this module, each country will need to develop an NBSAP or equivalent instrument that meets its particular needs and circumstances. Nonetheless, there are a number of elements that may be common to most countries and, in this spirit, a checklist of elements for an NBSAP is provided in Box 4. While based primarily on the COP guidance in decisions IX/8 and X/2, this outline is provided for guidance only and not intended to be prescriptive.

### Box 4. Indicative Outline of an NBSAP

#### I. INTRODUCTION

*The introduction should present a concise account of the necessary background, set the scene for the updated NBSAP and provide the rationale for the strategy and actions contained in the NBSAP. Where necessary, the NBSAP may be complemented by in-depth studies annexed to it.*

**1. Values of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the country and their contribution to human well-being** - Importance of biodiversity for the country. Highlight contribution to human well-being, socioeconomic development, including poverty reduction. Include analysis of economic and other values.

**2. Analysis of the causes and consequences of biodiversity loss** - Main threats to biodiversity (and ecosystems) and their underlying causes. Impacts of threats on biodiversity and ecosystems and socioeconomic implications of the impacts. Describe the impacts of declining biodiversity and ecosystems on human well-being, livelihoods, poverty reduction, etc. Link the threats (direct drivers) with the underlying causes (indirect drivers) and relate these to the relevant economic sectors.

**3. National constitutional, legal and institutional framework** - Overview of the biodiversity policy and planning framework and relevant broader policy and planning processes (national development plans; poverty reduction strategies; climate change adaptation plans, etc.). Include an outline of any relevant constitutional, legal and institutional elements.

**4. Lessons learned from the earlier NBSAP(s) and the process of developing the updated NBSAP** – A brief account of progress in implementing earlier NBSAPs (where relevant). Summary results of any evaluation of the effectiveness of earlier NBSAPs. What challenges and gaps need to be addressed and main priority areas for the revised NBSAP. Might also develop future scenarios for biodiversity. Might also include brief reflections on the process of developing the previous NBSAP and how it may have influenced its effectiveness. Briefly outline the process of updating the NBSAP, including stakeholder consultations.

## **II. NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY: PRINCIPLES, PRIORITIES AND TARGETS**

*The main “high-level” elements of the Strategy that provide the framework for the NBSAP as a whole.*

**5. Long-term vision** - Outline the long-term vision for the state of biodiversity in the country. This should be an inspirational statement that reflects the importance of biodiversity for people and is broadly shared across the country. This may be for 2050 (as is the case for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020) or may be aligned with other long-term national development plans.

**6. Principles governing the strategy** - Core values and beliefs underlying the NBSAP.

**7. Main goals or priority areas** - The most pressing issues that are addressed by the NBSAP. Among these should be goals to ensure the mainstreaming of biodiversity (i.e. integration of biodiversity into broader national policies, strategies and plans).

**8. National Targets (SMART)** - National biodiversity targets in line with the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. These should be strategic, specific, measurable, ambitious but realistic targets that are time-bound (usually for 2020). They may be grouped under the main goals or priority areas.

## **III. NATIONAL ACTION PLAN**

*The details of the Strategy and the Action Plan.*

**9. National actions to achieve the strategy, with milestones** -- The actions needed to achieve the targets. These should consist largely of strategic actions, such as institutional, legislative, economic or other policy and institutional actions that will provide the enabling conditions and incentives necessary to achieve the goals or priority areas and targets of the NBSAP. More specific actions would be indicative, acknowledging that approaches will need to be adapted in the light of implementation experience. The Plan should determine who does what, where, when and how.

**10. Application of the NBSAP to sub-national entities** -- How the NBSAP will be implemented at state/provincial levels (particularly important for federal countries, or quasi-federal countries which devolve territorial management to these entities) and at local or municipal levels (including cities). The national strategy and action plan might be complemented by LBSAPs developed separately.

**11. Sectoral action and mainstreaming into development, poverty reduction and climate change plans** -- Actions and steps that will be taken to integrate biodiversity into broader national policies, strategies and plans (such as national development plans, poverty reduction strategies, climate change adaptation plans, etc.) and into sectoral policies, strategies and plans, across government, the private sector and civil society.

## **IV. IMPLEMENTATION PLANS**

**12. Plan for capacity development for NBSAP implementation, including a technology needs assessment** -- The human and technical needs to implement the NBSAP and how they may be mobilized.

**13. Communication and outreach strategy for the NBSAP** -- How the NBSAP will be promoted in the country among decision-makers and the public at large. (This is distinct from the CEPA activities of the NBSAP which would be included in the sub-sections on national and subnational actions.)

**14. Plan for resource mobilization for NBSAP implementation** -- The financial resources needed to implement the NBSAP and how they will be mobilized through all sources, including the domestic budget, external assistance (where relevant) and innovative financial mechanisms.

## **V. INSTITUTIONAL, MONITORING AND REPORTING**

**15. National Coordination Structures** -- What are the national structures, institutions, partnerships (e.g. national committees, inter-ministerial committees; and secretariat or unit to support these) that will guide, coordinate and clarify the roles and responsibilities of various institutional actors and ensure implementation of the NBSAP? Where relevant, establish coordination mechanisms with local authorities in the development and implementation of LBSAPs, and/or with regional partners in the case of regional strategies.

**16. Clearing-House Mechanism** – Includes the development and/or enhancement of the national CHM and how it is being used to support the development and implementation of the NBSAP; development of a national (and where relevant regional) institutional network for biodiversity.

**17. Monitoring and Evaluation** – How the implementation of the NBSAP will be monitored and evaluated, including provisions for reporting and the identification of indicators to track progress towards national targets.

## 6. This Training Package

The NBSAP training package aims to assist countries in developing, updating and making the best possible use of their NBSAPs, and to help parties to understand and assume ownership and leadership in their processes of biodiversity planning, mainstreaming, target setting, reporting, communication, and stakeholder involvement. The training package was initially developed in 2007 as part of a coordinated effort to build the capacity of countries to develop, implement and update NBSAPs. Since then, the Modules have been revised and updated based on recent developments and COP decisions, and Parties' experiences, gleaned from their NBSAPs and fourth national reports, and from regional and sub-regional capacity building workshops. It is hoped that the modules, and the accompanying capacity development workshops, will enable Parties to continue to take crucial steps toward national implementation of the Convention.

The training modules in the package are designed for use in different types of training processes; however their **main audience is expected to be National Focal Points of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)** and authorities from other biodiversity-related conventions and agreements, other national staff, biodiversity managers and national stakeholders responsible for implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Targets. Each module contains references to relevant COP guidance/decisions, ideas and advice on how to conduct a part of the biodiversity planning process, experiences of Parties on the subject, activities and/or questions for reflection, and references to other sources of guidance relevant to each module. While each module is designed to stand alone, all the modules are intricately linked and there are numerous cross-references among them.

The modules in the training package include:

1. An Introduction to National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans
2. How to Prepare or Update a NBSAP
3. Mainstreaming biodiversity into sectoral and cross-sectoral strategies, plans and programmes
4. Setting national biodiversity targets, making use of the CBD framework for the 2010 biodiversity target
5. Ensuring stakeholder engagement in the development, implementation and updating of NBSAPs
6. Getting political support for the NBSAP and financing its implementation
7. Communication strategies for NBSAPs

## Conclusion

COP has placed high priority on helping countries to make NBSAPs as useful and practical as possible. This training package has been designed with this intention. Although the Modules contained in the package identify activities that countries could undertake in their planning processes, **this guidance is not intended to constitute a model** that each country should follow mechanically. Each country must undertake a process that makes sense, and works, within their context. This may mean translating the content and recommendations in these modules into activities that are feasible and appropriate to their specific national context. Those using these modules will need to be proactive and to think creatively, but realistically, about how to make

sure that the NBSAP becomes a powerful national instrument, accepted and adopted by government and all stakeholders as the basis for achieving the objectives of the Convention.

