

BULGARIA

Information and comments for the Annex of the CBD Notification 2013-005

A. Regarding the technical (methodological) tools developed as part of CBD:

Applicability:

- Technical documents and tools- manuals, guidelines and methodologies are very necessary and useful to apply and unified approach in executing the policies in the area of biological diversity and achieving the Aichi targets
- The technical documents and tools available have been developed at high professional level and include broad information, analysis, practices and ideas in specific area, which allow them to be applied both for strategic planning and for determining the approaches and actions need to solve specific problems.

Proposals:

- When methodological tools are developed regional specificities should be taken into account in order to increase their utility and effectiveness at national level.
- When manuals and guidelines are developed more attention should be given to the role, responsibilities, contributions and specific participation of the interested parties for solving the problems and achieving a given biodiversity preservation goal, in particular those of the local communities and authorities and the business.

B. Adequacy of observation, and of data systems, for monitoring the BD attributes

Applicability:

When information about the components of the biodiversity in the official annual national reports on the state of environment is presented, a system of indicators developed by EEA and adopted by EU (SEBI) is applied. That approach allows application of unified methodologies, formalization of the data, getting objective picture of the state of biodiversity and comparability within EU.

Part of the indicators are still in the process of being developed, established and adapted to the national targets and specificities, which does not allow them to be fully useful.

Proposals:

- Development of methodological basis and exchange of information would be useful at present and in the near future.

C. Scientific and technical needs related to the implementation of the SP 2011-2020

Within the common EU policy for Conservation of Biodiversity Bulgaria participates in the establishment of the Natura 2000 European ecological network, which includes 34% of the country territory and protects species and habitats of European importance. Policies and funding mechanisms for the development of ecologically considered agriculture.

Being implemented a number of projects to protect and restore species and habitats and improve their condition. There is a cooperation with neighboring countries and a number of other European

countries in terms of wetlands, preventing and combating invasive species, conservation of large mammals, birds of prey, exchange of information etc..

Activities planned to 2020, with national and European funding under the European strategy for biodiversity conservation by 2020. Bulgarian research institutions and NGOs representatives are involved in European research and conservation programs - the 7th EU Framework Programme, LIFE + , and implement projects under bilateral and multilateral financial mechanisms.

Common comments for & A.6. n § 12

Current status:

- Bulgaria considers CBD guidelines and tools from Annex 1 like very informative and useful.
- A number of guidelines and manuals which have been produced as part of different projects and utilise data from governmental, NGO and scientific databases are currently available, for example:
 - ✓ Conspectus of the Bulgarian vascular Flora –description maps and floristic elements, IV revised and updated edition, BBF, Sofia, 2012
 - ✓ Important Plant Areas in Bulgaria – Pensoft, Sofia-Moscow, 2012
 - ✓ Guidelines for assessing favourable conservation status of NATURA 2000 species and habitats types in Bulgaria. (in Bulgarian), Final report from BBI/MATRAS project, 2009
 - ✓ Red book of Republic of Bulgaria (Animals, Plants and Habitats), vol. 1, 2 and 3 (in print)
- three formal Interdepartmental expert groups have been created at a national level which are responsible for the Aichi targets , too, and other environmental issues, such as:
 - ✓ Implementation of CBD;
 - ✓ The Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing
 - ✓ Biodiversity and Climate changes
 - ✓ The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety
- Bulgaria plans to include the scientific information available on Fungi (some species have protected status under the Biodiversity Act) in the updated Strategy and III-th Action Plan for conservation of the biological diversity.
- Endangered species protected under Bulgarian Act are subject to regular monitoring.
- Information campaigns are conducted and booklets are published on some CBD topics- mainly as part of projects financed by EU funds and to smaller extend by the national budget.
- Farmers that apply measures to protect NATURA 2000 sites receive financial support from EU funds.

Gaps:

- Methodologies and national standards in the area of assessment of natural resources and ecosystem services are still incomplete or missing.
- In order to coordinate better the interaction between science and policy decision making signing an Agreement between Ministry of Environment and water and Bulgarian Academy of Sciences is planned.
- No financial funding is currently available for translation and publishing guidelines and manuals for conservation of biological diversity in different topical issues of CBD.
- Current financial situation in Bulgaria limits the capacity building (human factors, technical and technological). - in this way there are limits for specialists and experts activities.
- Estimation and scientific database of the effects of technology (for example Wind power generators, maritime transport, electric power lines, etc.) in Bulgaria on biological diversity is still missing.