



Living in harmony with nature

National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)

The Convention on Biological Diversity calls for each Party to develop a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) to guarantee that the objectives of the Convention are fulfilled in each country (Article 6). The national biodiversity strategy reflects the country's vision for biodiversity and the broad policy and institutional measures that the country will take to fulfil the objectives of the Convention, while the action plan comprises the concrete actions to be taken to achieve the strategy. The strategy should include ambitious but realistic and measurable national targets developed in the framework of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and its twenty Aichi Targets adopted at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The strategy and action plan are developed by each Party in accordance with national priorities, circumstances and capabilities.

It is essential that all sectors whose activities impact on biodiversity, and those societal groups who depend on biodiversity, be brought into the NBSAP process early. This engenders a broad ownership of the NBSAP whereby all stakeholders in biodiversity are engaged in its development and implementation. It also enables 'mainstreaming' which means the integration of biodiversity considerations into relevant legislation, plans, programmes and policy, such as National Development Plans; National Strategies for Sustainable Development; Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers; Strategies to achieve the Millennium Development Goals; National Programmes to Combat Desertification; National Climate Change Adaptation or Mitigation Strategies; and relevant private-sector policies.

While the NBSAP can take the form of a single biodiversity planning document, it can also be conceived as comprising a 'basket' of elements on, 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. The NBSAP should be a living process by which increasing information and knowledge, gained through the monitoring and evaluation of each phase of implementation, feed an ongoing review and improvement.



Convention on
Biological Diversity

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Fast Facts

- ▶ National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans are the key instruments for the implementation of the Convention
- ▶ To date, 176 Parties have developed NBSAPs. Since COP 10, 16 Parties have revised their NBSAPs
- ▶ Aichi Target 17 aims that 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
- ▶ A growing number of countries are preparing Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans at the sub-national and local levels
- ▶ COP-10 decided that the fifth national reports are due by 31 March 2014, and that the reports should focus on implementation of the 2011–2020 Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets

Learn More

Find out what your country is doing to implement the Convention by accessing your country's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and National Reports through the pop-down menu at ▶ www.cbd.int/countries

National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans ▶ www.cbd.int/nbsap

National Reports ▶ www.cbd.int/reports

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