



Living in harmony with nature

National Reports

How is biodiversity doing in your country? What is your country doing for biodiversity? How effective are these actions in protecting and sustaining our biodiversity? Your country's national report may provide answers to all these questions.

Countries have much to gain by writing national reports. These documents show the current status of biodiversity and implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity at the national level, and they identify what else needs to be done. National reports are available to the public. Anyone can access them on the Convention website, on the National Clearing House Mechanism for Biodiversity, or on relevant national government websites. You can also help report on biodiversity by getting involved in the process through public consultations.

National reports are an important communication tool for increasing public awareness, conveying the urgency of the situation, and for taking action and mobilizing support from all sectors of society. They're also very useful to intergovernmental agencies, NGOs and scientists while designing and implementing strategies and programmes to assist governments addressing biodiversity issues.

The fifth national reports provide countries an opportunity to undertake a mid-term review of progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and in achieving relevant goals and targets of the Millennium Development Goals. So the information from the fifth national report is essential to the successes of the Strategic Plan and the Convention as a mid-term review and decisions to be made on that basis will boost their implementation. As a communication tool, the fifth national report is also crucial for the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity.

Fast Facts

- ▶ National reports show the status of biodiversity and actions taken in a given country, and give recommendations for further actions to prevent biodiversity loss
- ▶ National reports are public and accessible to all
- ▶ You can get involved in the national reporting process through public consultations
- ▶ National reports enhance biodiversity planning and actions
- ▶ National reports facilitate international cooperation
- ▶ Countries are encouraged to use reports as a communication tool
- ▶ 150 countries produced their first national report, which covered their country's biodiversity studies and national biodiversity planning
- ▶ 130 and 145 countries sent their second and third national reports respectively, responding to questions on the implementation of the CBD
- ▶ To date (as of 24 February 2011), the Secretariat of the CBD has received 172 fourth national reports. In the fourth national report, countries provide an assessment of implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and progress towards the 2010 Biodiversity Target and the implementation of the Strategic Plan of the CBD (2002–2010)

Learn More

1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th National Reports ▶ www.cbd.int/reports

Article 26 of the Convention on Biological Diversity

▶ www.cbd.int/convention/articles.shtml?a=cbd-26

Working Group on Review of Implementation

▶ www.cbd.int/recommendation/wgri/?id=11478

COP Decisions II/17, IV/14, V/19, VI/25, VII/25, VIII/14, X/10

▶ www.cbd.int/decisions/cop

The 2010 Biodiversity Target ▶ www.cbd.int/2010-target

The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 ▶ www.cbd.int/sp

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