

Actions that have been taken to implement the Convention and Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including legislative action

For the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan was developed for the period 2012-2020. The NBSAP included 31 National targets linked to 12 Aichi Biodiversity Targets contribute to the implementation of the strategic plan 2011-2020.

National targets

- 17% of terrestrial area for in-situ conservation in legal protection by 2020 effectively managed and financially sustainable.
2. Reducing biodiversity loss and showing recovery by 2020.
3. By 2020, Protected Areas Trust Fund established, have adequate resources, and fully functioning.
4. By 2015, at least three (3) mined-out sites have been duly restored and managed.
5. The Germplasm Facility (Gene Bank) is formalised by end of 2015 in accordance with FAO Germplasm Standards and 1st Report published in 2016.
6. By 2020 REDD+ framework established and functioning
7. By 2016, a National Conflict Resolution Strategy for REDD+ developed and functional.
8. By 2020, biodiversity concerns are integrated into hinterland ecotourism development plans and strategies.
9. By 2016, a GEF supported project designed to mainstream biodiversity into mining
10. Guidelines for responsible recreational fishing and practices in ornamental fish collection and handling published and at least 2 awareness and training programmes conducted per year.
11. The achievement of the intended impact of the full implementation of the communication strategy for the implementation of the NBSAP.
12. By 2020, Coastal Wetlands, Savannahs, Mountain Highlands and Rainforests eco-systems featuring in the Zoological Park to highly encourage visitors and enhance informal education through interactive and engaging experiences.
13. Fifth national report submitted in 2014.
14. By 2014, revised NBSAP completed.
15. By 2015, indicators developed, adopted and being used.
16. By 2015, MEAs Committee established.
17. By 2015, a status report on the implementation of MEAs.
18. By 2015 finalise the ABS regulations
19. By 2016, research interface developed with University of Guyana, Conservation International, and WWF.
20. By 2020 all timber for export to the EU will be verified legal and granted a FLEGT license.
21. By 2020, all developers and operators will secure environmental authorisation.
22. By 2020, develop standards for air and water quality.
23. By 2020, EU-FLEGT VPA in place.
24. By 2020, MRV system in place and functioning fully.
25. By 2020, monitoring reports for large projects submitted to the EPA.
26. Clearing House Mechanism fully functional.
27. By 2020, a biodiversity information system established.
28. By 2020, an updated and fully functional National Biodiversity Research Information System (NBRIS).
29. Resource mobilisation plan prepared in 2014.
30. By 2015, all of the initial GEF SGP allocation programmed.
31. By 2016, at least 2 biodiversity related projects designed and submitted for GEF Council approval

These national targets were further placed into nine (9) strategic objectives with corresponding priority actions.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE (NBSAP)	NATIONAL TARGET	RELATED TO AICHI TARGET
SO1	1,2,3,4,5	11,14,15
SO2	6,7,8,9,10	7
SO3	11,12	1
SO4	13,14,15,16,17,18	9,16,17
SO5	19	1,19
SO6	20,21,22	2
SO7	15,23,24,25	4,5
SO8	26,27,28	19
SO9	29,30,31	19,20

Table a. Illustrating NBSAPs Strategic Objectives relationship to ABTs

Measures taken to achieve national targets

SO 1: Improve the status of biodiversity by conserving ecosystems, species and genetic diversity and by restoring biodiversity and ecosystem services in degraded areas

Targets 1 & 2

Int'l obligations - Guyana committed to UNFCCC via NDCs to designate 2 million hectares to achieve the 17% protected areas coverage by 2020.

Legislative - The Protected Areas Act was passed in 2011, establishing the Protected Areas Commission (PAC) and the National Protected Areas System. (NPAS)

Policy - A Sea Defence and Integrated Coastal Zone Management was drafted in 2017 for effective management of the coastal zone reflecting the multi-sectoral function.

Target 3

Legislative - The Protected Areas Trust Fund (PATF) was established under the Protected Areas Act to provide cofinancing for the management of the NPAS.

Target 4

Policy - Draft National Land Use Policy was revised to include sustainable land management.

Target 5

Policy - A national strategy for Agriculture, 2013-2020 was developed which highlighted the importance of agriculture to the economy.

SO 2: Promote the conservation, sustainable use and value of biodiversity into key productive sectors used for growth, expansion and diversification of the economy

Targets 6 & 7

Policy - Green State Development Strategy (GSDS) developed, building on the foundation from the Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS), the GSDS is a developmental document to transfer Guyana into a 'green state.' A National Forest Plan was also developed for the forestry sector along with a draft National Conflict Resolution Strategy (NCRS) for REDD+.

Target 8

Policy - A National Tourism Policy and Action Plan, 2018-2025 was developed to contribute growth of the GDP by supporting sustainable tourism development.

Target 9

Project Initiative - A GEF medium sized project was aimed at enhancing biodiversity via uptake of environmental regulations in gold mining sector was submitted to GEF.

Target 10

Policy - A national strategy for agriculture, 2013-2020 was developed, which aimed at sustainable agriculture including the promotion recreational fishing as part of a viable tourism industry.

SO 3: Expand and improve awareness, appreciation and communication on biodiversity and ecosystems

Target 11

Programme - A Communication Strategy was developed, but implementation was unorganised and intended impact fragmented.

Target 12

Policy - Protected Areas Commission's Strategic Plan 2016-2020 outlines improvements in carrying out mandate of the commission. Such included an initiative to revitalise the zoological parks.

SO 4: Improve national implementation, monitoring and reporting for Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and other bilateral commitments

Targets 13, 14 & 15

Project - A PCA was signed between Guyana and UNEP for the preparation of 5NR and NBSAP.

Targets 16 & 17

Project - A project was developed which focused on management of data and information, institutionalising capacities to meet the Multi-lateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) obligations and updating of key technological needs. One outcome from the project was the development of the Terms of Reference for an MEA Committee and the identification of the members.

SO 5: Create stronger and wider national, regional and international partnerships that contribute to achieving the goal and objectives of the Plan

Target 18

Project - A GEF supported project aimed at advancing the Nagoya Protocol in the Caribbean region was formulated and Guyana was able to finalise its ABS legislation.

Target 19

Target abandoned. See Target 27.

SO 6: Consolidate/harmonise policy, legal, regulatory, and administrative frameworks that support the sustainable use, protection and management of biological resources

Target 20

Programme - The EU FLEGT under REDD+ was initiated with the VPA signed in 2018. No further developments since.

Target 21

Legislative - Environmental Authorisation regulations were made under the EP Act for improved environmental management.

Target 22

Programme - Legislation were in place since 2002, but no standards for effective implementation.

SO 7: Improve substantially biodiversity monitoring at the national level and within key productive sectors

Target 23

Programme - VPA was initialled, not signed. No further development.

Target 24

Bilateral Agreement - Guyana and Norway signed an agreement worth up to 250 million in performance based payments for sustainable forest management.

Legislative - In 2018, forest regulations were gazetted detailing the modalities for the MRVS.

Target 25

Legislative - regulations were in place to facilitate.

SO 8: Strengthen the knowledge base and capacity for conservation, management and sustainable use of biodiversity

Target 26

Int'l obligation - The CHM was partially developed. However, remains unpopulated.

Target 27

Project - A EU funded programme, BID provided support for Guyana to develop an biodiversity information system to be integrated into GBIF network and national databases.

Target 28

Project - NBRIS benefitted from the Advancing Nagoya Protocol project by updating GUI.

SO 9: Secure adequate resources from national, regional and international sources for the implementation of the Plan

Target 29

Policy - Resource mobilisation plan was developed along with NBSAP.

Target 30

Programme - A country programme strategy for GEF was developed in 2015.

Target 31

Initiative - More than five (5) projects were submitted to GEF for approval.

Outcomes of these actions and progress made

Strategic Objective	National Targets	Progress	Outcomes
1	1	Insufficient rate	8.7% of area under PA status
	2	Unknown	Mangroves have been restored but evidence not assessed.
	3	On track	PAT and PATF established and functional
	4	On track	Five (5) areas have been restored
	5	No change	None
2	6	On track	Guyana received payments from Norway
	7	On track	Nat'l Conflict Resolution Strategy drafted
	8	On track	Approval of National Tourism Policy and Action Plan
	9	On track	GEF Council approval of project
	10	Insufficient rate	Draft legislation for and guidelines for Arapaima
3	11	Insufficient rate	Draft strategy in NBSAP
	12	No change	Petting Zoo established
4	13	On track	NBSAP and 5NR submitted to UNCBD
	14		
	15	No change	None
	16	On track	MEAs Committee TORs prepared
	17	On track	Project to assess Rio Conventions implementation framework
	18	Insufficient rate	Draft ABS regulations
	20	Insufficient rate	Initialled VPA

6	21	On track	90% of developers have received authorisations
	22	No change	None
7	23	On track	Initialled VPA
	24	On track	Independent deforestation assessments
	25	On track	All required reports submitted to the EPA
8	26	On track	CHM platform established
	27	On track	Biodiversity information system was established
	28	On track	NBRIS GUI was updated
9	29	On track	RMP was developed and included in NBSAP
	30	Insufficient rate	Low rate of funds disbursement
	31	On track	Five projects. Were submitted to GEF Council

Technical and financial resources provided or received from multiple sources for implementation

Financial resources made available for the implementation of the plan were primarily from donor agencies, like Global Environment Facility (GEF), Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) and IDB. Technical resources came from multiple implementing agencies such as UNEP, UNDP, IUCN, and the CBD. Throughout the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, both technical and financial resources were made available to parties, parties were subjected to make decisions as it relates to prioritising areas at the expense of others. This, consequentially led to an uneven implementation of the plan outside of local enabling variables or lack thereof.

Any need for adjustments of the current NBSAP (implementation mechanisms in place, targets and action plan, etc.)

The NBSAP in its current form is lacking the depth needed for effective implementation of the Strategic Plan. The formulation of the national targets were inconsistent with recognised methodologies, no more this was evident than with the absence of corresponding indicators which lacked 'SMARTness.' The ineptitude of the NBSAP was magnified further since it did not include an effective framework for monitoring and reporting of its implementation. As such, in the revision of the NBSAP, the targets and mechanisms will need to be amended as necessary for both the national context and the post 2020 biodiversity framework.

Unresolved challenges in implementation

The challenges encountered with implementation of the strategic plan remain mostly unresolved as limited funded and lack of local technical capacity continues to plague its implementation. Awareness, both at a political and public level still poses a challenge as the uptake has been slothful.