

**Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity – review report POLAND,
submitted on a voluntary basis to the trial phase of an Open-ended Forum on review of
implementation, to be held during SBI-3 meeting**

Introduction

Poland submitted its 6th National Report (6NR) for the CBD on 14 February 2019. The 6NR report was published and is available on the CHM. The current review report (RR) is based on this 6NR and presents achievements and challenges in the implementation of the CBD in our country, focusing on activities under national targets of Polish NBSAP. According to the CBD notification 2020-002 dated 6 January 2020 and annexed guidance, RR should describe actions that have been taken to implement the CBD and Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, outcomes of these actions and progress made, technical and financial resources, needs for adjustments of the current NBSAP and unresolved challenges in implementation. Length and content of RR is adjusted to the 15-minutes presentation to be held at the Forum on 27 August 2020.

Polish NBSAP (third edition) was drafted by a group of experts in the Ministry of the Environment, consulted at national level with other sectors and interested actors and stakeholders, and then adopted by the Council of Ministers on 6 November 2015. NBSAP transforms into national level obligations coming from the global Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the EU Biodiversity Strategy. It contains one overarching goal, seven objectives and several dozen of targets with rationale, actors responsible for implementation and relevant indicators.

Undertaken actions and outcomes

Objective A: Improvement of the knowledge level and increase in activity of the society with regard to protection of biological diversity

Actions were undertaken on 10 targets, including:

- development of a nature inventory database (distribution of habitats and species, and the state of their preservation) and methodology of data collection;
- extension and update of the Central Register of Forms of Nature Protection;
- development of additional subsystems of nature monitoring;
- trainings for public administration and enforcement authorities on legal regulations on biodiversity;
- development of volunteering for biodiversity protection;
- development of local partnerships focused on biodiversity protection;
- implementation of educational programmes and campaigns for the society.

Objective B: Improvement of nature protection system

Actions were undertaken on 11 targets, including:

- enlargement of existing national parks;
- enlargement of nature reserves network, taking into account their ecological representativeness;
- improving performance of biodiversity protection in landscape parks and protected landscape areas;
- development of management plans for protected areas;
- incorporation of management plan indications into sectoral and local law;
- establishment and implementation of protection activities monitoring system;

- review of methodologies concerning state of nature habitats and species under the State Monitoring of the Environment;
- ensuring full and up-to-date nature inventory in the country;
- increase of effectiveness of measures absorption by nature protection bodies under existing biodiversity funds.

Objective C: Preservation and restoration of natural habitats and population of endangered species

Actions were undertaken on 4 targets, including:

- development and implementation of national protection programmes for key protected species;
- determination of distribution of national breeding birds species;
- organization of rescue centers for protected, alien and dangerous animal species;
- development and implementation of protection and restoration projects on degraded habitats, particularly wetlands, in protected areas.

Objective D: Maintenance and reconstruction of functions of ecosystems which provide services for human

Actions were undertaken on 4 targets, including:

- identification and assessment of the state of ecosystem functions/services in the country;
- inclusion of green infrastructure into spatial planning at the local level;
- update of ecological corridors along with the identification of principles of their management;
- elimination of barriers on species migration routes.

Objective E: Increasing integration of economy sectors with the biodiversity protection objectives

Actions were undertaken on 17 targets, including:

- promotion of rational breeding of domestic species of farm animals, increasing of breeders interest in them and raising public awareness on the importance of those species;
- collection and storage of farm animals biological material in the National Bank for Biological Materials;
- protection of rare domestic tree species and increase in volume of dead wood in forest ecosystems;
- increase water retention in forest ecosystems;
- protection of forest birds populations;
- formation and maintenance of forest stands of diverse age and structure;
- implementation of regulation on reduction of discards in fishery;
- development and implementation of data recording procedures on by-catch of protected species;
- identification of fishing techniques and tools fostering biodiversity protection and their application by fishermen;
- conservation of endangered species habitats by maintenance or recovery of extensive fisheries management on fishponds;
- development and implementation of guidelines (good practice principles) on biodiversity protection in designing, construction and operation of hydrotechnical investments;
- implementation of instruments to maintain natural habitats of endangered migrating fish species;
- development and promotion of principles for sustainable tourism development in areas of high biodiversity values;
- integration of tourist activities for nature protection.

Objective F: Reducing threats resulting from climate change and pressure from invasive species

Actions were undertaken on 3 targets, including:

- development and implementation of appropriate organizational and financial solutions which allows implementation of the EU regulation on invasive alien species;
- implementation of alien species eradication programmes;
- establishment of supervision and monitoring system of invasive alien species.

Objective G: Increasing Polish participation on the international forum in the field of biodiversity protection

Actions were undertaken on 6 targets, including:

- maintaining and supplementing Poland's membership in international biodiversity agreements and organizations;
- identification of needs and possible undertaking international cooperation on protection and management of protected species populations and habitats in transboundary and biogeographical regions;
- implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and the EU regulation on ABS (511/2014);
- supporting research and biodiversity protection activities outside Polish borders;
- implementation and enforcement of exotic timber trade regulations and CITES regulations.

Technical and financial resources

Poland established a system of nature conservation bodies, including ministry responsible for environment, General Directorate for Environmental Protection and 16 regional directorates in each voivodship, 16 voivods (regional governments), 16 marshalls (regional self-governments), 23 directors of national parks, 380 district starostes (subregional self-governments) and about 2500 mayors (cities and communities self-governments). Bodies, mentioned above, are responsible for different aspects of nature protection arising from the Nature Protection Act and relevant EU regulations. Technical and scientific advice comes from The State Council for Nature Protection, 16 regional councils for nature protection, scientific councils in national and landscape parks. Technical and scientific support for biodiversity issues comes also from a broad set of research institutes, universities and non-governmental organizations. Biodiversity monitoring is conducted by Chief Inspectorate of Environmental Protection.

Poland established a comprehensive system for checks of users of genetic resources from countries which regulate access to those resources. Checks, accordingly to the yearly plan adopted by the minister responsible for the environment, are run by Chief Inspectorate of Environmental Protection and 16 regional inspectorates. Every year several dozen of checks are carried out.

Implementation of NBSAP was financed from many national and international sources. Main national sources include central, regional and local budgets as well as National Found for Environmental Protection and Water Management and its 16 regional branches in each voivodship. Poland, as a member of the EU, receives financial resources from the EU financial programmes, European Economic Area and Norway Grants, and Swiss Funds. Total amount of money spent on biodiversity in years 2015-2017 is 4037 mln PLN (on average per year: 1346 mln PLN = about 354 mln USD).

Any need for adjustments of the current NBSAP

The current NBSAP was being developed in years 2014-2015. Due to dynamic economic, social and environmental changes in the world, and growing pressure on biodiversity, there is a need to revise biodiversity policy and update it accordingly to current priorities. Next edition of our NBSAP will be based on the provisions of the Global Biodiversity Framework (to be adopted at COP15) and the new EU Biodiversity Strategy, taking into account Polish conditions and circumstances.

Unresolved challenges in implementation

There are several targets in current NBSAP, which probably will not be reached by the end of 2020. Among them there are targets regarding improvements in organization of nature protection system (e.g. scientific support for decision-makers, improvement of enforcement), development of instruments for better management of species and ecosystems (e.g. guidelines on protected species causing damage to the economy, guidelines on inclusion of green infrastructure into spatial planning, guidelines for renaturalization of small watercourses, improvement of game inventory methods). Main reason is insufficient amount of human and financial resources, but also a fact that NBSAP was not properly promoted within the whole society, and cooperation in its implementation between stakeholders was not good enough.