



## Quick guide to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets Pressures on vulnerable ecosystems reduced

**By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning**

Urgently reducing anthropogenic pressures on those ecosystems affected by climate change or ocean acidification will give them greater opportunities to adapt. Where multiple drivers are combining to weaken ecosystems, aggressive action to reduce those pressures most amenable to rapid intervention should be prioritized. Many of these drivers can be addressed more easily than climate change or ocean acidification.

### Explanation of the Target

This target touches on several different issues:

- **Climate change or ocean acidification** – In addition to climate change, rising atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations have resulted in ocean acidification. Because of ecological and policy inertias it will be difficult to take actions which will significantly reduce these pressures over the time span of the Strategic Plan.
- **Coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems** – The effects of climate change and ocean acidification have the potential to have a particularly negative effect on those ecosystems which are sensitive to temperature fluctuations and/or depend on the availability of carbonate minerals. For the marine environment this includes warm water and deep ocean coral reefs as well as shellfish beds which will be greatly impacted by the combined effects of climate change and ocean acidification. For the terrestrial environment those ecosystems already at the extreme of their ranges will be particularly vulnerable.
- **Multiple anthropogenic pressures** - In addition to climate change and ocean acidification there are a variety of other human pressures affecting ecosystems. These include such things as land-based pollution/sedimentation, unsustainable harvesting and other physical pressures which result in habitat loss. Given that some ecosystems, such as coral reefs, are expected to suffer serious declines in the future as a result of climate change and/or ocean acidification urgent action needs to be taken to reduce those pressures over which we have greater control or are in a position to meaningfully address now. Given this urgency a deadline of 2015 has been set for this target.

The emphasis of this target should be on taking urgent action to reduce those drivers affecting ecosystems particularly vulnerable to climate change or ocean acidification. The reduction of these stressors will help to make these ecosystems less vulnerable to the impacts of acidification and climate change over the short to medium-term. This will provide more time for climate change and ocean acidification to be addressed over a longer time-scale. Ultimately the aim of this target is to provide ecosystems with the greatest probability of maintaining their integrity and functioning despite the effects of climate change and/or ocean acidification.

### Implications for setting national targets

By addressing those anthropogenic pressures which are most amenable to rapid positive change, it may be possible to give vulnerable ecosystems time to cope with the pressures caused by climate change or ocean acidification. National targets set in response to this target may not directly address climate change or acidification but none the less help vulnerable ecosystems to cope with their impacts. This target has links to Aichi Biodiversity Targets 12 and 15. Further, actions to fulfill Aichi Biodiversity Targets 5, 6, 8 and 9 would likely contribute to the attainment of any national target set in support of this target.



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# Aichi Biodiversity Target 10

## Guiding questions for setting national targets

- **What ecosystems in the country are vulnerable to climate change or ocean acidification? What ecosystems are affected by both pressures?** What areas are particularly important for biodiversity, ecosystem services and human wellbeing?
- **What additional anthropogenic pressures are affecting those ecosystems vulnerable to climate change or ocean acidification?** What additional pressures are having the greatest impact? Which pressures are the most amenable to change? What steps or measures are in place to address these other pressures? How effective have these measures been? How could their effectiveness be improved? What additional measures are required?
- **What are the opportunities and constraints in addressing the additional anthropogenic pressures affecting ecosystems vulnerable to climate change or ocean acidification?** Consider potential ecological, economic, and social costs and benefits of addressing these pressures. How may these justify higher or lower figures for a national target then for the global target?
- **Who are the stakeholders that may be affected by efforts to reduce additional anthropogenic pressures?** How can they be involved and their needs addressed? What are the trade-offs to consider?
- **What additional resources (financial, human and technical) will be required to reach the national target that is set?** How can additional funds be raised? What are possible funding sources?

Note that, given the particular national circumstances, national targets may be more specific and more precise than the global target. Further national targets should be ambitious but realistic and be supportive of the Strategic Plan by moving beyond business as usual.

## Actions and milestones

Multiple programmes of work, including those on climate change and biodiversity, and marine and coastal biodiversity, are relevant to this target. Possible actions that could be taken to reach this target include activities such as reducing pollution, overexploitation and harvesting practices which have negative consequences on ecosystems. Similarly efforts to control or eradicate invasive alien species could also help to fulfill this target.

## Possible indicators

- Extinction risk trends of coral and reef fish
- Trends in climate change impacts on extinction risk
- Trends in climatic impacts on community composition
- Trends in climatic impacts on population trends
- Trends in coral reef condition
- Trends in extent, and rate of shifts of boundaries, of vulnerable ecosystems

## Resources

- Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines - [www.cbd.int/doc/publications/addis-gdl-en.pdf](http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/addis-gdl-en.pdf)
- CBD Technical Series No. 46 - [www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-46-en.pdf](http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-46-en.pdf)
- CBD Technical Series No. 43 - [www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-43-en.pdf](http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-43-en.pdf)
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