



Quick guide to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets NBSAPs adopted as policy instrument

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.

National biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) are the key instrument for translating the Convention and decisions of the Conference of the Parties into national action. For this reason it will be essential that Parties have developed, adopted and commenced implementing as a policy instrument an updated NBSAP which is in line with the goals and targets set out in the Strategic Plan by 2015.

Explanation of the Target

National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans are the principal instruments for implementing the Convention at the national level. In order to fulfill the Strategic Plan by 2020 NBSAPs must be in place by 2015 at the latest as they are the main national mechanism through which the Strategic Plan will be implemented. Further the target for 2015 implies that, not only are NBSAPs developed through a participatory approach, but that they are used as effective tools for mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society. Specifically, this Target requires Parties to:

- **Develop or update** their NBSAP – Article 6 of the Convention requires countries to prepare a national biodiversity strategy (or equivalent instrument) which reflects how a country intends to fulfill the objectives of the Convention in light of specific national circumstances, and a related action plan which outlines the sequence of steps to be taken to meet these objectives. Most Parties have developed an NBSAP, however with the adoption of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, many will need to be revised and or updated in order to reflect its outcomes. Those Parties which have yet to develop an NBSAP should do so as a matter of urgency. The process of developing or updating an NBSAP should be participatory, involving all relevant stakeholders. A revised NBSAP should not be a static planning document but a dynamic process that allows individual Parties to identify their needs, priorities and opportunities for biodiversity in light of their broader national goals. Where appropriate, regional and sub-national strategies should be developed.
- **Adopt** their NBSAP as a **policy instrument** – Once Parties have developed their NBSAP it should be adopted or otherwise incorporated into government policy so that it can be actively implemented. This is to ensure that it is mainstreamed into the planning and activities of all those sectors whose activities can have an impact (positive and negative) on biodiversity.

Implications for setting national targets

The requirement to integrate consideration of the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources into national decision-making, and mainstream issues across all sectors of the national economy and policy-making framework, are the complex challenges at the heart of the Convention. COP has adopted consolidated guidance for the development, updating and revision of NBSAPs (Decision IX/8). In line with this decision, NBSAPs should catalyze a number of strategic actions in countries including: Integration of biodiversity in broader national strategies (see target 2); Communication, Education and Public Awareness; ensuring availability of information and knowledge for action, including through national CHM nodes; ensuring availability of appropriate tools for implementation; providing capacity building and facilitating access to financial resources; and ensuring monitoring, reporting and review, including identification and use of indicators as appropriate.

Guiding questions for setting national targets

- **Does the country currently have an NBSAP?** If not, what are the obstacles to developing one? If so when was it last revised? How effective has it been? How could its effectiveness be improved? What were the major obstacles to its implementation?
- **What are the opportunities and constraints in developing or updating an NBSAP?** Consider potential ecological, economic, and social costs and benefits. How may these influence the process to be followed?



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- **Who are the stakeholders that need to be consulted in the development, updating and implementation of the NBSAP?**

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

Detailed training models on NBSAPS have been prepared to facilitate the development and revision process (www.cbd.int/nbsap/training/). Further there is an ongoing series of Regional and Sub-Regional Capacity-building Workshops for implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 through National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (www.cbd.int/nbsap/workshops2.shtml) to assist Parties in fulfilling their requirements.

In order to help finance the development and revision of NBSAPs, as part of the fifth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (GEF-5), which runs from mid-2010 until mid 2014, 145 countries are eligible to receive funding to integrate their obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity into national planning processes through enabling activities. These funds are additional to the resources provided through the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR) mechanism.

As all programmes of work, cross-cutting issues and initiatives developed under the Convention provide guidance on how the three objectives of the Convention can be implemented, they are all relevant to this target. The planning process would of necessity involve dialogue with, and full and effective participation of, all sectors of society, including indigenous and local communities, and at all levels of government. Participatory stakeholder involvement throughout the design, planning and implementation of an NBSAP is essential to ensure that the plans will be effective.

Possible indicators

- Trends in implementation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, including development, comprehensiveness, adoption and implementation

Resources

- COP Guidance - www.cbd.int/nbsap/guidance.shtml
- CBD Capacity Building Modules - www.cbd.int/nbsap/training/
- Quick Guides for the Aichi Biodiversity Targets - www.cbd.int/nbsap/training/quick-guides/
- NBSAP Guidelines - www.cbd.int/nbsap/guidance-tools/guidelines.shtml
- Biodiversity Planning: an assessment of national biodiversity strategies and action plans - www.ias.unu.edu/resource_centre/UNU-IAS_Biodiversity_Planning_NBSAPs_Assessment_final_web_Oct_2010.pdf

