

CBD COP-12

NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES & ACTION PLANS (NBSAPs)

WWF Coordination on CBD, 22 August 2014

TWELFTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
6 - 17 October 2014 - Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea

Agenda Item 13: Review of progress in providing support in implementing the objectives of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and enhancement of capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation and other initiatives to assist implementation

WWF key messages

WWF welcomes the draft decision on agenda item 13 in Document UNEP/CBD/COP/12/1/Add.2 and urges COP-12 to consider WWF key recommendations in its final decision.

The building block for national implementation of the CBD Strategic Plan 2011-2020 is the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP). Parties should, by 2015, have updated their NBSAP and made clear progress on implementation against measurable national targets, reflecting the global Aichi Targets, using indicators. Indicators should clearly allow for monitoring and review of the implementation framework. NBSAPs should have funding and resource mobilisation strategies. NBSAPs should be adopted at the appropriate legal level and well positioned in national policy with clear pathways for mainstreaming and integration into broader national development strategies and budgets at different levels.

However, WWF draws attention to the fact that only 12 more updated NBSAPs have been submitted since May 2012, and that the total, as of July 2014, remains at 26. Many reports continue to lack evidence-based information on biodiversity change that is essential for monitoring delivery of Aichi targets. Even with an expected increase by the time of COP 12 in October, WWF is concerned that, despite positive commitments, the pace of revisions is too slow to achieve any significant level of implementation. At the current rate, there will be little time to consolidate measure and mobilise resources for concerted implementation. Business as usual will not achieve any of the Aichi Targets.

COP-12 should call for actions from all Parties, other Governments and stakeholders to accelerate the implementation of the Strategic Plan by providing and mobilising the required technical assistance, technology transfer, financial resources and capacity building to ensure effective development, implementation and monitoring of NBSAPs, especially in developing countries.

WWF calls on COP-12 to urge Parties to:

1. Adopt and approve the updated NBSAPs at the appropriate legal level and use as a national policy instrument for sectoral planning integration, implementation and budgets allocation, and thereby promote better integration and mainstreaming of NBSAPs in the broader development policy agenda;
2. Develop funding and resource mobilisation strategies in their NBSAPs for effective implementation and for the monitoring of relevant indicators;
3. Monitor, review and report on the implementation of NBSAPs using indicators
4. Efficiently use the available funding, in particular from GEF-6 and bilateral financial sources for developing countries, to accelerate the implementation of revised NBSAPs;
5. Share and provide proven solutions through technical assistance and funding support to, and between, developing countries, for the implementation of their updated NBSAPs;
6. Build regional collaborations to implement NBSAPs to create synergies among countries - these partnerships are essential for scaling up the implementation of NBSAPs and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 at regional level and for harmonizing monitoring systems for more cost effective collection and sharing of data.
7. Involve all stakeholders, *inter alia*, civil society, private sector and indigenous peoples and local communities in the NBSAP revision, updating, implementation and monitoring;
8. Improve the monitoring of Aichi targets by investing in data collection and analysis, harmonizing systems and indicators to allow more cost effective data collection and sharing, and using data for informed decision-making, policy development and adaptive management to improve NBSAP delivery.

WWF strongly calls on CBD to provide guidance and standards for NBSAPs, ensuring NBSAPs are closely aligned to the Strategic Plan and its Aichi Targets, compatible and are of high quality.

WWF calls on GEF Implementing Agencies, when supporting Parties to develop and update their NBSAPs, to ensure that relevant quality standards are met, and national targets directly contribute to the Aichi Targets implementation

WWF welcomes the draft decision on agenda item 13 as set out in Document UNEP/CBD/COP/12/1/Add.2 and calls on COP-12 to consider for inclusion the following proposed text changes in its final decisions.

New text proposed by WWF is in bold and underlined. Text that WWF recommends to delete is highlighted with ~~strike through~~.

Item 13. Review of progress in providing support in implementing the objectives of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and enhancement of capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation and other initiatives to assist implementation

The following is taken from recommendation 5/3 of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention (Review of progress in revising/updating and implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans and submission of fifth national reports).

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Government of Japan and other donors for their most generous contribution to support developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, small island developing States and countries with economies in transition, in developing the capacity to review and, as appropriate, update and revise their national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and to prepare their fifth national reports;

2. *Expresses its gratitude* to international organizations and convention secretariats, especially the Global Environment Facility and its Implementing Agencies, for their efforts in facilitating developing countries, in particular, the least developed countries, small island developing States and countries with economies in transition, to review and, as appropriate, update and revise their national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and to prepare their fifth national reports;

3. *Recalls* decisions X/2, X/10 and XI/2 and XI/3, and commends those Parties and other Governments that have reviewed and, as appropriate, updated and revised their national biodiversity strategies and action plans in line with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, adopted relevant indicators, and submitted their fifth national reports;

4. *Urges* those Parties that have not yet done so, to review and, as appropriate, update and revise their national biodiversity strategies and action plans in line with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, **to adopt and approve NBSAPs as a high level policy instrument at the appropriate legal level for sectoral planning integration, implementation and budget allocation**, and to adopt indicators at the national level as soon as possible and, in any event, no later than October 2015, and to submit their fifth national reports;

5. *Calls upon* all Parties to continue and to accelerate where necessary the **full** implementation of their national biodiversity strategies and action plans in order to contribute towards the mission, goals and targets of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020; **especially** to

a) Efficiently use the available funding, in particular from GEF-6 and bilateral financial sources for developing countries, to accelerate the implementation of revised NBSAPs

b) Build regional collaborations to implement NBSAPs to create synergies among countries - these partnerships are essential for scaling up the implementation of NBSAPs and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 at regional level and for harmonizing monitoring systems for more cost effective collection and sharing of data.

c) Involve all stakeholders, inter alia, civil society, private sector and indigenous peoples and local communities in the NBSAP revision, updating, implementation and monitoring;

d) Improve the monitoring of Aichi targets by investing in data collection and analysis, harmonizing systems and indicators to allow more cost effective data collection and sharing, and using data for informed decision-making, policy development and adaptive management to improve NBSAP delivery.

The following is taken from recommendation 5/11 of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention (Review of progress in providing support in implementing the objectives of the Convention and its Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020).

The Conference of the Parties,

Recognizing the importance of a coherent and mutually supportive approach regarding capacity-building, exchange of information, technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer under the Convention and its Protocols,

Welcomes the funding provided by the Government of Japan, as well as Canada, China, Denmark, the European Union, France, Germany, the Republic of Korea, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay and the Global Environment Facility;

A. Provision of support for revising and updating national biodiversity strategies and action plans and capacity-building

Recognizing the good progress made in the provision of support for revising and updating national biodiversity strategies and action plans,

Also recognizing that capacity and financial gaps remain at the national level, especially in developing countries,

Welcoming the efforts of the Executive Secretary to further facilitate and promote, in cooperation with the secretariats of other biodiversity-related conventions and the implementing agencies of the Global Environment Facility, capacity-building support to Parties for the effective implementation of the Convention and its Protocols,

Mindful of the need for continued capacity-building support to Parties to further enhance the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets,

1. *Invites* Parties, other Governments, indigenous and local communities, relevant organizations and the business sector, as appropriate, to share information on their capacity-building initiatives, including emerging best practices and lessons learned, and opportunities, as provided in Section B, paragraph 3 (a);

2. *Encourages* developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States among them, and Parties with economies in transition, as well as indigenous and local communities, to make available information regarding their capacity-building needs and priorities identified through, inter alia, national and subnational capacity self-assessments, and to incorporate them in their national strategies and action plans with respect to the implementation of the Convention as provided in Section B, paragraph 2;

3. *Encourages* donors and Parties to provide **increased** funding in this context;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) Recalling paragraph 10 of decision XI/2, to continue promoting and facilitating, in collaboration and cooperation with relevant organizations and processes, activities to strengthen the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and to further progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets at the national, subregional and regional levels;

(b) To undertake an evaluation of the effectiveness of capacity-building activities that the Secretariat has supported and facilitated, and a review of related partnership arrangements for delivery, and a gap analysis in capacity-building activities supporting implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020;

(c) To promote the use of available mechanisms, including the clearing-house mechanism, to further enhance capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer to support the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets;

(d) To ensure that information on capacity-building and technical and scientific cooperation needs, opportunities and activities is shared effectively across and accessed through all platforms under the Convention;

(e) To facilitate matching between needs, opportunities and activities, for capacity-building, inter alia, by organizing special matching side events during relevant regional and international meetings;

(f) To report on progress made and results achieved to the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention at its sixth meeting, or its successor body,¹ for its consideration prior to the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

B. Technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer

1. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with partners, taking into account and avoiding duplication with other efforts, such as those of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, and subject to the availability of resources, to enhance technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer under the Convention, with a view to supporting the effective implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets, as well as revised and updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans, by, inter alia:

(a) Facilitating the communication of technical and scientific needs and priorities of Parties, utilizing the clearing-house mechanism and other appropriate means;

(b) Further enhancing the availability and accessibility of information with respect to best practices and expertise for technical and scientific cooperation to make it more readily and effectively available through the clearing-house mechanism and other appropriate means;

(c) Facilitating the linking of the needs of Parties with support for technical and scientific cooperation by relevant global, regional and national organizations and initiatives;

(d) In the context of paragraph 1 (c) above and building on existing structures, promoting thematic, cross-cutting and regional pilot programmes for technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer;

(e) Reporting on progress to the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention at its sixth meeting, or to the subsidiary body on implementation that may be established in accordance with paragraph 7 of recommendation 5/2;

2. *Encourages* developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States among them, and Parties with economies in transition, as well as indigenous and local communities, **to make available information regarding their technical and scientific needs and priorities and needs for technology transfer, in particular through the clearing-house mechanism;**

3. *Encourages* Parties, other Governments, relevant organizations, stakeholders and other entities, taking into account and avoiding duplication with other efforts, to participate in and contribute to technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer under the Convention, and in particular:

(a) To share, including through the clearing-house mechanism, as appropriate, information on good practices and the provision of expertise for technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer;

(b) To provide technical and scientific support and associated capacity-building, using the information made available pursuant to paragraph 1 (a) above;

(c) To promote collaborative partnerships for technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer on a thematic, cross-cutting and/or regional basis;

¹ This is subject to a decision by the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting on the establishment of a subsidiary body on implementation, as recommended by the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention at its fifth meeting (see paragraph 7 of the draft decision contained in recommendation 5/2).

(d) To promote the use of performance standards and quality indicators to help measure and continuously improve the effectiveness and impacts of technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer

(e) To share and provide proven solutions through technical assistance and funding support to, and between, developing countries, for the implementation of their updated NBSAPs

4. *Invites* donor agencies, and Parties in a position to do so, to provide the necessary financial and human resources to enable the further enhancement of technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer among Parties;

C. Clearing-house mechanism

Recalling decision IX/30, in which it encouraged Parties to take the necessary steps to establish strong and sustainable national clearing-house mechanisms, and invited Parties, other Governments, relevant agencies and other donors to provide resources to enable developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, and countries with economies in transition, to take those steps;

Also recalling decision X/15, in which it encouraged Parties to continue to take the necessary steps to establish, strengthen and ensure the sustainability of national clearing-house mechanisms;

Further recalling the work programme for the clearing-house mechanism in support of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020² and its recommended activities;

Taking note of the progress report on the clearing-house mechanism;³

Noting the low number of Parties having an active national clearing-house mechanism;

Emphasizing the importance of providing effective information services that contribute to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and to the national biodiversity strategies and action plans;

Also emphasizing the importance of the national clearing-house mechanisms for the implementation of the Convention;

1. *Invites* Parties and other users to submit information through the central clearing-house mechanism and to provide user feedback whenever possible;

2. *Strongly encourages* Parties to accelerate the establishment and development of their national clearing-house mechanisms where they have not done so;

3. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility, Parties and other donors to continue to provide financial support for sharing information and knowledge through the clearing-house mechanism, including for content preparation and translation;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to continue developing the information services of the central clearing-house mechanism, taking into account user feedback as well as recommendations from the informal advisory committee to the clearing-house mechanism;


5. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to develop a web strategy to ensure that all information common or relevant to the clearing-house mechanism, the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House and the Biosafety Clearing-House, as well as other platforms developed under the Convention, such as the NBSAP Forum, the website for ecologically and biologically significant marine areas⁴ and any future similar developments, can be accessed centrally to avoid duplication of efforts, and to provide this strategy to the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of

² UNEP/CBD/COP/11/31.

³ UNEP/CBD/WGRI/5/3/Add.2.

⁴ <http://www.cbd.int/ebsa/>.

Implementation of the Convention, for its consideration at its sixth meeting, or to its successor body,⁵ in preparation for the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

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⁵ This is subject to a decision by the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting on the establishment of a subsidiary body on implementation, as recommended by the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention at its fifth meeting (see paragraph 7 of the draft decision contained in recommendation 5/2).