

Assessing Progress towards the 2010 Target - The Fourth National Report of the CBD CBD Secretariat

CBD

1. What are National Reports?

National reports are official documents by which Parties report to the COP on the measures they have taken to implement the Convention and their effectiveness in achieving the objectives of the Convention. (Article 26)

National reporting is the only unqualified obligation under the Convention to be fulfilled by Parties.

2. Why do Parties need to prepare and submit national reports?

National Reports are essential for the proper functioning of the Convention.

- a) A very important source of information for assessing implementation of the Convention and the decision-making processes under the Convention.
- b) An important source of information for preparing key publications under the Convention such as the GBO.
- c) The Fourth National Report is a key document for assessing progress towards the 2010 Target.

2. Why do Parties need to prepare and submit national reports? (continued)

National reporting is also important for the national implementation of the Convention in terms of:

- Reviewing national implementation and identifying gaps, challenges and priorities
- Planning for further implementation
- Mobilizing public participation in and support for implementation

3. When is the Fourth National Report due?

- Parties shall submit the Fourth National Report by 30 March 2009 (a mandatory deadline).
- Parties are invited to advise the Secretariat in advance of difficulties in submitting the report by the deadline.

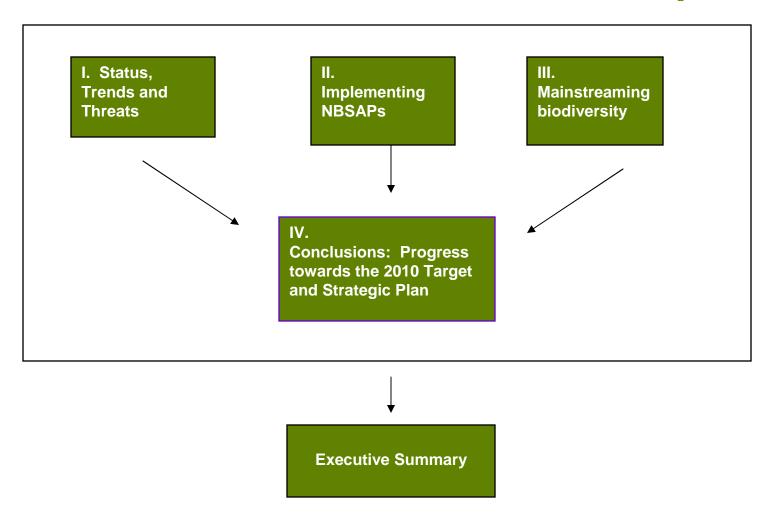
4. Format of the Fourth National Report

- Narrative
- Graphics, figures, tables, boxes and pictures encouraged

Structure of the Fourth National Report

- a) Executive Summary
- b) Chapter I: Status, Trends and Threats
- c) Chapter II: Implementation of NBSAPs
- d) Chapter III: Biodiversity Mainstreaming
- e) Chapter IV: Conclusions: Progress towards the 2010 Target and Strategic Plan
- f) Appendices: Implementation of the PoW on Protected Areas, GSPC and Use of Indicators
- g) Supplementary materials Parties may wish to annex to the report

Structure of the Fourth National Report



The Fourth National Report should focus on:

- a) Outcomes and impacts of actions or measures taken
- b) Success stories and case studies, if any
- Major obstacles or challenges encountered in implementation
- d) Actions that need to be taken to enhance implementation

- Chapter I: an analysis or synthesis of the status and trends of, and major threats to, various components of biodiversity in the country (a succinct overview)
- Chapter II: an overview of implementation of NBSAPs (assessing the extent to which actions identified in NBSAPs are implemented, including obstacles encountered as well as the effectiveness of the strategy)

- Chapter III: a description of efforts to integrate biodiversity into relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral policies, plans and programmes (focusing on the extent of integration and mechanisms to make integration happen, use of the Ecosystem Approach and efforts to increase synergies)
- Chapter IV: information is drawn together for an analysis of progress towards the 2010 Target and the Strategic Plan, concluding with an overall assessment of implementation and suggestions for future actions

- Appendix I: information concerning Party and process of report preparation
- Appendix II: further sources of information (supplementary information, if any)
- Appendix III: a brief report on implementation of the PoW on Protected Areas and the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation
- Appendix IV (optional): brief description of the indicators used in the report
- Executive Summary: capturing key findings from the whole report (concise and appealing to decisionmakers and general public)

6. How should national reports be developed?

- Get as many relevant stakeholders involved.
- Preparation of a report not as end in itself, instead a process of planning further and mobilizing support for implementation.
- Include information and data from as many sources as possible.

7. Process of Preparing National Reports

- Establish a process to prepare the report by identifying as many relevant stakeholders as possible.
- Designate an agency or department to coordinate overall preparation.
- Establish a steering committee, if necessary.
- Develop a work plan.
- Convene a national workshop to agree on methodologies and identify sources of information.

7. Process of Preparing National Reports (continued)

- Pool together the first drafts for review and identify further work that needs to be done.
- Revise the report based on review.
- Release draft report for public review.
- Finalize the report and submit it for approval by appropriate authorities.
- Submit the report to the CBD Secretariat.
- Disseminate the report and associated products.

8. Who should be involved in the preparation of national reports?

- Government departments (including local governments)
- Relevant stakeholders (NGOs, industry, media, academics, local and indigenous communities, etc.)
- Research institutes, organizations and educational institutions
- International organizations (UNDP, UNEP, GEF, etc.)

9. What assistance is available to Parties for the preparation of the Fourth National Report?

- Tools and materials developed by the CBD Secretariat
- Q & A mechanism established at SCBD to respond to requests and queries from Parties
- Guidelines for assessment of progress towards the 2010 Target
- Technical support from UNEP, UNDP and other organizations as well as bilateral agencies
- GEF funding available to eligible countries
- Regional or subregional workshops to strengthen countries' capacities

9. What assistance is available to Parties for the preparation of the Fourth National Report? (continued)

 Training Module "An Introduction to National Reporting" available at:

https://www.cbd.int/nbsap/guidancetools/training-modules.shtml

10. How will information from 4NRs be used?

At the global level:

- Facilitating review and decision-making processes under the Convention
- Identifying gaps in implementation and priorities for future actions
- Assessing progress towards the 2010 Target and the Strategic Plan
- Contributing to the preparation of GBO-3 and reviews prepared for COP-10 in 2010 and major meetings prior to that
- Facilitating exchange of experiences of national implementation

10. How will information from 4NRs be used? (continued)

At the national level:

- Providing an overview of the status and trends of and major threats to biodiversity
- Assessing implementation of NBSAPs
- Reviewing progress towards the 2010 Biodiversity Target and the Strategic Plan
- Identifying needs and priorities for future implementation
- Communicating with various stakeholders and involving them in implementation

The Guidelines for the Fourth National Report are available in all UN languages at:

http://www.cbd.int/reports/guidelines.shtml

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