Short guide to Target 11 of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets:

By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland-water areas and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscape and seascape.

Well-governed and effectively managed protected areas are a proven method for safeguarding both habitats and populations of species and for delivering important ecosystem services. Particular emphasis is needed to protect critical ecosystems such as tropical coral reefs, sea-grass beds, deepwater cold coral reefs, seamounts, tropical forests, peat lands, freshwater ecosystems and coastal wetlands. Additionally, there is a need for increased attention to the representativity, connectivity and management effectiveness of protected areas.

Explanation of the Target:

To meet the target several conditions need to be met: **The area conserved should:**

- **increase** – Globally, this should be to 17% for terrestrial (including inland water) areas and 10% for marine areas. National targets may vary from this, as justified (see the guiding questions below);
- **include areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services**– (including areas high in species richness, threatened species and areas with particular habitats such as key biodiversity areas, high conservation value areas, important plant areas, sensitive marine areas etc.) and ecosystem services (such as areas important for water supply, erosion control, sacred sites, etc.);
- **be ecologically representative** – protected area systems should contain adequate samples of the full range of existing ecosystems and ecological processes, including at least 10% of each ecoregion within the country;
- **be effectively and equitably managed** – with planning measures in place to ensure ecological integrity and the protection of species, habitats and ecosystem processes, with the full participation of indigenous and local communities, and such that costs and benefits of the areas are fairly shared.
- **be well-connected** – to the wider landscape or seascape using corridors and ecological networks to allow connectivity, adaptation to climate change, and the application of the ecosystem approach.

The areas can include not only strict protected areas but also areas that allow sustainable use consistent with protection of species, habitats and ecosystem processes. In addition to state-run areas, indigenous and community conserved areas as well as private areas may be included in the total area provided the other conditions are met. Other effective area-based conservation measures may also include restrictions on activities that impact on biodiversity, which would allow for the safeguarding of sites in areas beyond national jurisdiction in a manner consistent with the jurisdictional scope of the Convention as contained in Article 4.

Implications for setting national targets:

Currently, some 13 per cent of terrestrial areas and 6 per cent of coastal areas are protected, while very little of the open oceans are protected. Therefore reaching the proposed target implies a modest increase in terrestrial protected areas globally, with an increased focus on representativity, connectivity and management effectiveness, together with major efforts to expand marine protected areas. Some countries have already surpassed the global % value and therefore will be able to achieve targets higher than the global average. Indeed, this will be necessary to reach the global target. For most of these countries, however, the focus for terrestrial areas is likely to be on the need for improved management effectiveness.

What is the current extent of protected areas on land and in marine areas, (1) overall, and (2) by ecoregion? Do these figures include effective indigenous and community conserved areas?

What areas of importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services are not currently protected? Furthermore, what areas are under-represented (Gap analysis)? Consider the areas that need to be protected from local, national and global perspectives.

How effective are existing protected areas? Consider how management effectiveness can be improved.

What are the opportunities and constraints to expanding protected areas, generally and by eco-region, and how may these justify higher or lower figures for the national target than for the global target? Consider potential ecological, economical, and social costs and benefits of additional protected areas and how these could be shared.

Who are the stakeholders, including indigenous and local communities, that may be affected? How can they be involved and their needs addressed? What are the trade-offs to consider?

Note that, given the particular national circumstances, national targets may be more specific and more precise than the global target. Targets should be ambitious but realistic; moving beyond business as usual will require additional effort and additional resources.

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?

Actions and milestones

Actions taken to achieve this target should be guided by the CBD Programme of Work on protected areas. Additional guidance is provided in decisions XI/18 and X/31 which suggest the following steps:

(1) Institutionalize management effectiveness assessment towards assessing 60% of the total areas by 2015 and ensure that the results of the assessments are implemented;
(2) Completion of ecological gap analysis for identifying "ecologically representative areas (including unprotected IBAs, KBAs etc.) and implement the result;
(3) Integration of Protected areas into wider land and seascapes to show case mainstreaming of biodiversity with other sectors and ecosystem based approaches to adaptation to climate change adaptation and leading to mitigation through carbon sequestration;
(4) Recognition of ICCAs including through acknowledgement in national legislation or other effective means formal inclusion in the national systems and practicing of various governance types;
(5) Development and implementation of sustainable finance plans for protected area systems;

Possible indicators:

- Coverage of Protected Areas;
- Overlays of protected area coverage with species richness;
- Threatened species;
- Important biodiversity areas etc;
- Management effectiveness;
- Trends in abundance of species etc.

Resources:

New PoWPA Website: www.cbd.int/protected

PoWPA e-learning modules: www.cbd.int/protected/e-learning/