



COMMUNIQUE

Countries report on progress towards achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets

Montreal, 10 April 2014 – In preparation of a major international biodiversity conference in October 2014, Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) are currently submitting their fifth national reports that will enable a global assessment of progress made towards the 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets agreed by the global community in 2010 as part of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.

“The information in the fifth national reports will be vital in charting work under the Convention from now until 2020,” said Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, CBD Executive Secretary. “I am grateful to those countries that have already submitted their reports and I look forward to receiving fifth national reports from all Parties as soon as possible.”

To date, 40 countries have submitted their fifth national reports: Belarus, Belgium, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, China, Colombia, Congo, Côte d’Ivoire, Cuba, Denmark, Dominica, Ecuador, Germany, India, Iraq, Japan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Republic of Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Niue, Pakistan, Palau, Poland, Rwanda, Senegal, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan and Uganda. Another 26 have shared advanced drafts of their reports.

The fifth national reports provide an opportunity for Parties to report internationally on progress made domestically on biodiversity commitments since the landmark tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 10) in 2010. Submitting a national report at agreed intervals is an obligation that needs to be fulfilled by all 193 Parties.

A focus of the fifth national reports is on the attainment of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and associated national targets. These include targets under each of five goals of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, namely to address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society, reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use, improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity, enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services, and, enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building.

Through these reports, countries document the steps they are taking to attain the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. For example, South Africa, the first country to submit its fifth national report, has developed a partnership to foster better collaboration and coordination of ecological infrastructure investments aimed at improving water security in the greater Umgeni catchment, an important source of water for Durban. Japan has developed the “My Declaration” programme which provides people with a set of actions to take for biodiversity and encourages them to declare which actions they intend to take, and Denmark has reintroduced the European Bison to help restore ecosystem dynamics.



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National reports also provide a key source of information for the preparation of the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO-4), the CBD's major periodic assessment of the state of biodiversity, trends and options. The GBO-4 will contribute to assess overall progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and form an important communications tool during the 2011-2020 United Nations Decade on Biodiversity. The GBO-4, as well as the fifth national reports, will be considered during COP 12 that will be held in Pyeongchang in the Republic of Korea in October 2014. At COP 12 countries are expected to take stock of progress made and, among other things, prepare a road map on the way forward for the remaining implementation period of the Strategic Plan.

Adopted in 2010, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 represents a shared global vision for biodiversity and comprises a mission, strategic goals and 20 ambitious yet achievable targets, collectively known as the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. It provides an overarching framework for action by all countries and stakeholders to safeguard biodiversity and enhance its benefits for people.

Final versions of the fifth national reports are available at: www.cbd.int/reports/nr5/
