

Enhancing Synergies across Global Biodiversity Conventions - Experiences from the Global South



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Enhancing Synergies across Global Biodiversity Conventions - Experiences from the Global South

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Foreword

Governments across the world have addressed biodiversity loss and ecosystems degradation through a number of legal, policy and regulatory frameworks and mechanisms. However, implementation of such mechanisms warrant additional guidance and support to countries to realize the internationally-agreed biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements at the national level.

To support countries in addressing such challenges, the UN Environment has been involved in a number of initiatives in capacity building in the realm of MEAs, specific to biodiversity as well as other thematic clusters. Over the past few years, UN Environment has led a multi-stakeholder process to identify options for enhancing synergies and cooperation among the global biodiversity conventions. To that effect, UN Environment organized a workshop on NBSAPs and synergies among Biodiversity Conventions held in Nairobi, Kenya from March 15-17, 2016. The workshop brought together national focal points, government representatives and biodiversity experts from countries the African, Caribbean, Latin America, Pacific regions as well as MEA Secretariats in an important, first-of-its-kind knowledge and experience sharing exercise. The select countries who participated in the workshop are all at various stages of the revision of their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) – a key instrument for implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) at the national level.

Working towards a synergistic implementation of biodiversity MEAs reflects a changing tide in the framework of international law and governance which seeks greater coherence and efficiency in converting the written word into action. Paragraph 89 of the Rio+20 outcome document, 'The Future We Want' explicitly emphasizes the need for greater synergies among MEAs, and in enhancing implementation at global, regional and national levels. It is hoped that the country inputs and conclusions reported from the workshop builds on the body of work on synergies in biodiversity conventions and will be a critical resource for other countries to learn from both for finalizing the NBSAPs as well as the implementation.



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Introduction

Over the past decades, countries have negotiated and agreed to be bound by a number of biodiversity-related conventions and other multilateral environmental agreements. These efforts have put in place a comprehensive governance regime addressing the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services. However, as the number of obligations under such legal instruments has grown, so have concerns about how to implement them effectively and coherently and avoid duplication of efforts. As a result, significant efforts have already been made to improve alignment among the biodiversity-related conventions and to identify and build on opportunities for collaboration, cooperation and coordination, and such work continues.

In February 2012, in paragraph 1 of decision SS.XII/3, on international environmental governance,¹ the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) recognized the importance of enhancing synergies, including at the national and regional levels, among the biodiversity-related conventions, without prejudice to their specific objectives and recognizing their respective mandates, and encouraged the conferences of the parties to those conventions to strengthen efforts further in that regard, taking into account relevant experiences. In paragraphs 2 and 3 of the same decision, the Executive Director was invited to undertake, as appropriate, further activities to improve the effectiveness of and cooperation among multilateral environmental agreements, taking into account the autonomous decision-making authority of the conferences of the parties, and was requested to explore the opportunities for further synergies in the administrative functions of the multilateral environmental agreement secretariats administered by UNEP and to provide advice on such opportunities to the governing bodies of those multilateral environmental agreements.

¹ UNEP/GCSS.XII/14, annex I. Available from <http://www.unep.org/gc/gcss-xii/docs/Proceedings/K1280542%20-%20e-GCSS-XII-14.pdf> [accessed on 10 August 2015].

In adopting that decision, the UNEP Governing Council considered how the efficiency and effectiveness of international environmental governance might be increased, in particular through reducing fragmentation and the potential for duplication – issues of concern raised in the first and second reports of the Joint Inspection Unit on review of environmental governance within the United Nations system.² Improving efficiency and enhancing coordination and cooperation among the multilateral environmental agreements was also called for in paragraph 89 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012, in which Heads of State and Government and high-level representatives recognized the significant contributions to sustainable development made by the multilateral environmental agreements and encouraged parties to multilateral environmental agreements to consider further measures, as appropriate, to promote policy coherence at all relevant levels, improve efficiency, reduce unnecessary overlap and duplication and enhance coordination and cooperation among the multilateral environmental agreements, including the three Rio conventions, as well as with the United Nations system in the field.³

Through multi-stakeholder consultations, the UNEP project entitled “Improving the effectiveness of and cooperation among biodiversity-related conventions and exploring opportunities for further synergies” led to the release in 2015 of an options paper aimed at enhancing cooperation and synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions. The options paper, entitled “Elaboration of options for enhancing synergies among biodiversity-related conventions,”⁴ was presented at the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, held in Nairobi in May 2016, during which Member States agreed to focus further on actions related to achieving those synergies.

Through seven linked thematic areas, the options paper provided 28 options under which 88 actions were identified for various actors, including Governments, convention secretariats, UNEP and other relevant United Nations bodies. Those options and actions take into account relevant completed, existing and planned initiatives undertaken by a number of actors.⁵

The options presented through the UNEP options paper intended to achieve two main outcomes: (a) implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions carried out in an increasingly coherent manner, involving greater collaboration and cooperation among convention parties, convention secretariats and key partners, and leading to more efficiency and effectiveness in achieving the aims of those conventions; and (b) increased collaboration and cooperation in the implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions at all levels, facilitated engagement with other sectors and improved opportunities for mainstreaming biodiversity objectives into other policies and sectors (including through the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and in furtherance of the Sustainable Development Goals).

Synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions

Following the adoption of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its tenth meeting, held in Nagoya, Japan, in October 2010, the United Nations General Assembly, in paragraph 4 of its resolution 65/161 of 20 December 2010, noted with appreciation the adoption of the updated and revised Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. In paragraph 11 of the same decision, it noted the ongoing work of the Liaison Group

² *Management Review of Environmental Governance within the United Nations System* (JIU/REP/2008/3) and *Post-Rio+20 Review of Environmental Governance within the United Nations System* (JIU/REP/2014/4).

³ A/RES/66/288, paragraph 89. Available from <http://www.uncsd2012.org/thefuturewewant.html> [accessed 10 August 2015].

⁴ Available from <http://unep.org/environmentalgovernance/Portals/8/publications/elaborations-options-enhancing-synergies.pdf>.

⁵ Ibid.

of Biodiversity-related Conventions, among others, and recognized the importance of enhancing synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions, without prejudice to their specific objectives. Also in paragraph 11, it encouraged the conferences of the parties to the biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements to consider strengthening efforts in that regard, taking into account relevant experiences and bearing in mind the respective independent legal status and mandates of those instruments.

In section IV C of “The future we want,” on the environmental pillar in the context of sustainable development, Heads of State and Government and high-level representatives expressed their commitment to strengthening the role of UNEP and invited the General Assembly, at its sixty-seventh session, to adopt a resolution strengthening and upgrading UNEP, including through the establishment of universal membership in the Governing Council. With regard to the multilateral environmental agreements, in paragraph 89 they recognized the significant contributions to sustainable development made by the multilateral environmental agreements; acknowledged the work already undertaken to enhance synergies among the three conventions in the chemicals and waste cluster (the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants); encouraged parties to multilateral environmental agreements to consider further measures, in those and other clusters, as appropriate, to promote policy coherence at all relevant levels, improve efficiency, reduce unnecessary overlap and duplication and enhance coordination and cooperation among the multilateral environmental agreements, including the three Rio conventions, as well as with the United Nations system in the field.

At its first session, held in Nairobi from 23 to 27 June 2014, the United Nations Environment Assembly adopted resolution 1/11 on coordination across the United Nations system in the field of the environment, including the Environment Management Group, in which it reiterated paragraph 3 of Governing Council decision 27/5 and requested the Executive Director, mainly through the Environmental Management Group and in line with paragraph 88 of “The future we want”, to develop system-wide strategies on the environment and to invite the engagement of the Secretary-General and the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination to facilitate broad ownership in the United Nations at all levels. It also requested the Executive Director to identify possible measures to maximize the effectiveness and efficiency of the Group and to submit a report with recommendations to the United Nations Environment Assembly for consideration at its second session.



The governing bodies of all seven global biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements have adopted decisions or resolutions calling for enhanced synergies with other conventions, while the strategic planning documents of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Convention on Migratory Species) and the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention) also carry provisions for implementing synergies (UNEP-WCMC 2012).

National biodiversity strategies and action plans as a key tool for promoting mainstreaming and synergies among the biodiversity conventions

The paper on “Elaboration of options for enhancing synergies among biodiversity-related conventions” identifies priority attention to achieving synergies among the biodiversity conventions using the national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) as the key entry point, at the national level, to enhance cooperation, synergies and mainstreaming across the biodiversity-related conventions. More specifically, the following options were presented for consideration in the paper.

- 1.1 Taking into account already existing materials, prepare streamlined and simple guidance and tools for facilitating the development, revision and implementation of NBSAPs across the conventions.
- 1.2 Support the integration of NBSAPs and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets into different sectors, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and sustainable development instruments at all levels.
- 1.3 Support parties in promptly obtaining funding provided through the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for the development, revision and implementation of NBSAPs, through the promotion of coherent implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions in a coordinated manner among their respective national authorities.
- 1.4 Support the exchange of experience on the development and implementation of NBSAPs and voluntary peer review of NBSAPs, including through the NBSAP Forum, with a particular focus on the coherent implementation of biodiversity-related conventions.
- 1.5 Explore the use of regional approaches to address transboundary issues identified in NBSAPs, by focusing efforts on collaboration between national focal points, authorities and stakeholders involved in the implementation of NBSAPs in different countries.
- 1.6 Elaborate on the role of each convention and United Nations body in contributing to the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

In response, UNEP published a document, entitled “Enhancing cooperation among the seven biodiversity related agreements and conventions at national level using the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans,” aimed at providing countries with guidance on how NBSAPs can be used to promote synergies, mainstreaming and cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions.⁶ The guidance document was presented in March 2016 during a workshop that brought together 13 countries at varying stages of finalizing their NBSAPs with a view to reviewing the guidance and using the options, within their national contexts, to work synergistically on four of the biodiversity conventions, namely the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Convention on Migratory Species and the Ramsar Convention.

The outcomes of the workshop and country studies presented by the participating countries form the core of the publication aimed at providing additional information and support to countries intending to promote

⁶ <http://unep.org/environmentalgovernance/Portals/8/publications/Synergies-and-NBSAPs.pdf>.

synergies and cooperation to enhance the implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions at the national level.

In addition, the Interim Assessment of Revised National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans⁷ indicates that very few NBSAPs systematically consider policy, legal and implementation options for enhancing national-level cooperation and synergies across the biodiversity conventions, possibly owing to a lack of clarity about how synergies would promote the effective implementation of biodiversity-related and ecosystem-related actions at the local and national levels. A small number of NBSAPs have, however, considered such options.⁸

Though not explicitly elaborated in the NBSAPs, several countries have already started to put in place institutional, programmatic, financial and strategic actions to realize synergies. A detailed description of such actions is set out in the “Sourcebook of opportunities for enhancing cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions at national and regional levels”, published by UNEP in 2015.⁹ However, the post-2010 NBSAPs that have been finalized by countries thus far are still weak in dealing with synergies issues specifically. Therefore, there is a documented need to provide countries with guidance on how to include issues of cooperation and synergies among biodiversity-related conventions within the revised/updated NBSAPs since these documents are considered the main strategies for dealing with national biodiversity agendas.

Preparing countries to deal with synergies

One of the key initial steps countries could consider in revising the existing NBSAPs is to undertake an assessment on how the different conventions are currently being implemented at the national level; the legal and policy framework(s) that guide implementation of the key biodiversity conventions; key stakeholders at the national level; financing options for implementing the biodiversity-related conventions; available human resources and institutional capacities; and the kind of resources (financial, time, energy and related) being spent on monitoring, reporting, compliance and evaluation. In addition, it is important to understand whether key linkages are already being established in implementing actions associated with multiple biodiversity-related conventions.

Examples of such an assessment could include the role of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora or the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (World Heritage Convention) in achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 12, on the conservation of threatened species; the impact of conserving a Ramsar or World Heritage Site in ensuring that the flyways of birds are protected; the means of national implementation of access and benefit-sharing provisions in the context of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture; and the impact of sustainable use practices under the Convention on Biological Diversity with regard to movement of species in the Appendices to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

7 Available from <https://www.cbd.int/doc/nbsap/Interim-Assessment-of-NBSAPs.pdf>.

8 See the NBSAPs of Moldova, Niue and Seychelles.

9 <https://nationalmeasynnergies.files.wordpress.com/2015/06/sourcebook-web.pdf>

Such an assessment could provide a clear basis for the systematic revision of NBSAPs in order to best realize potential for cooperation and synergies. In some countries, such actions may already be under way and can be further strengthened during the revision or implementation of the NBSAPs.

Structure, organization and key outcomes of the workshop

With close to one hundred countries currently revising, reviewing or updating their NBSAPs,¹⁰ the focus of the workshop was to provide opportunities and additional guidance to countries to ensure that key emerging and strategic issues relevant to the effective realization of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 were integrated into the NBSAPs. Given that the objective of the workshop was to support countries in enhancing synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions within the revised NBSAPs and to address legal preparedness in their national contexts to deal with synergies, preworkshop and in-session work focused on issues such as better understanding synergies among the conventions, identifying options to integrate synergies within the NBSAPs according to specific national contexts using the four biodiversity conventions as examples, and developing a set of action points and inputs to be considered at the national level during the finalization of the NBSAPs, taking into account national targets and action plans.

Preparing for the workshop

Since the workshop focused on enhancing synergies among the four biodiversity-related conventions and used the NBSAPs as the mechanism to deliver on synergies, the national focal points for the conventions were requested to undertake a pre-workshop activity within their respective countries, during which they were expected to jointly prepare a status report on the implementation of the conventions at the national level; the manner in which synergy-related issues were being addressed; the nature of challenges being faced to enhance mainstreaming and synergies; and the key needs for countries to promote synergies.

Prior to the workshop, participating countries provided a consolidated report that was used as a guidepost for preparing in-session presentations and group activities.

The information provided by the participating countries was integrated into the country case studies set out in the present report.

Representatives of the four biodiversity-related conventions were invited to participate, either in person or remotely, provide updated information regarding the mandates of the conventions and focus on synergies during the workshop. Representatives from the Convention on Migratory Species and the Ramsar Convention participated in person while the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora was represented remotely.

During the workshop

Following a presentation on the workshop expectations, presentations were made by the representatives of the respective biodiversity-related convention secretariats. UNEP gave a presentation on the Convention on Biological Diversity, which was followed by a presentation focusing on facilitating synergies among the biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements using the NBSAPs as an entry

¹⁰ As of 1 March 2016, according to www.cbd.int/nbsaps (accessed on 1 March 2016).

point. Another presentation was given on the links between the Sustainable Development Goals and biodiversity-related conventions, with a focus on targets and indicators and how NBSAPs could facilitate the implementation of actions for the Sustainable Development Goals. Country presentations were made on the issues and challenges involved in finalizing the NBSAPs.

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) secretariat gave a presentation on the mainstreaming of biodiversity in the region, highlighting the successful use of a multilateral environmental agreement mainstreaming module. Created in partnership with the International Institute for Sustainable Development, the Caribbean Environment Programme and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Programme on Integrated Watershed and Coastal Areas Management project, the module uses the driving forces, pressures, state, impact, responses framework in order to highlight how environmental goals contribute to national development and to link sound environmental management with overall social and economic well-being. The module takes into consideration vertical mainstreaming by connecting biodiversity and biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements to national development priorities, while promoting horizontal mainstreaming through the creation of connections and synergies between agencies involved in biodiversity management. The module has been used in a number of train-the-trainer workshops, most recently at a regional workshop held in Georgetown, Guyana, from 21 to 23 June 2016.

Group discussions were held on dealing with multilateral environmental agreement priorities within the NBSAPs, considering country priorities and based on the preworkshop activity and the presentations made during the first day; on how stakeholders and focal points for other biodiversity conventions could be involved in the finalization of NBSAPs considering issues of mainstreaming and synergies; and on issues of legal preparedness in finalizing and implementing the NBSAPs. Conclusions and outputs from the discussions were presented by the group rapporteurs and considered by the country groups on the last day of the workshop to prepare country matrices on synergistic implementation of the four biodiversity-related conventions.

Key considerations

Legal preparedness for NBSAPs: building legal and policy frameworks

A presentation was delivered on legal preparedness for NBSAPs, which focused on the role legal frameworks could play in building effective NBSAPs. Although prior to 2010 legal tools were not significantly considered within the NBSAPs, the revised post-2010 NBSAPs showed a noticeable focus on issues of legal preparedness in dealing with implementation. The following were identified as ways in which legal preparedness could contribute to NBSAPs:

- (a) Setting biodiversity mainstreaming as a national priority (by raising awareness and fostering debate);
- (b) Enshrining biodiversity principles into decision-making (setting norms and environmental impact assessment safeguards);
- (c) Setting a legal basis for biodiversity policy and planning across sectors and levels of government;
- (d) Setting out clear mandates for cross-cutting biodiversity institutions (policy-setting and information hubs);
- (e) Building the confidence of stakeholders in new processes and incentives (reform of perverse incentives and market-based instruments);
- (f) Recognizing community rights and customary law, as well as sui generis regimes and rights-based approaches;
- (g) Building equity, justice and fairness into outcomes.

In terms of the methodology of building legal preparedness, a three-step process was identified as key. The first part of the process included setting up the conditions in which there was a commitment to adapting legal reform by identifying legal champions within the State, civil society and communities, as well as learning from successful case studies, specifically trying to inculcate the new generation of biodiversity mainstreaming laws such as spatial planning laws and payment-for-ecosystem laws. In order to understand the existing conditions, it was important to review the impacted sectors to identify gaps, challenges, barriers and risks.

The second part of the process involved identifying legal approaches that could have a far-reaching impact. Rather than implementing reactionary legislative action or failing to review the wide range of legal options, the emphasis was on mainstreaming biodiversity into national policies; using rights-based approaches; and recognizing biodiversity as an issue of justice and equality rather than of limited scope. There was an array of new innovative legal tools such as benefit-sharing agreements, proper recognition of resource rights, and community protocols that could play a crucial role in the approach. Focusing on the implementation of such steps required engaging with a wide range of direct and indirect beneficiaries and designing a detailed work plan that clearly identified roles, responsibilities, budgets and timelines. Once legal mechanisms were in place, building effective monitoring and evaluation systems and collecting relevant data was crucial to understanding the impact.

Another presentation was made on the legal implications to be considered when developing or implementing NBSAPs, especially in the national context. The presentation was made in the context of the role that law could play in specific Aichi Biodiversity Targets. For example, Target 7 aims, by 2020, to have areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity. The presenters discussed how the law could play a key role in the regulation of land-use planning and the use of genetically modified organisms, given the national legal mechanisms that were in place.



Understanding the biodiversity-related conventions from a synergies perspective

i. Convention on Biological Diversity

Article 6 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, on general measures for conservation and sustainable use, emphasizes that each contracting party shall, in accordance with its particular conditions and capabilities, develop national strategies, plans or programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity (article 6 (a)); and integrate the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies (article 6 (b)). This can be seen as the basis from which NBSAPs derive their mandate. However, the development of the NBSAPs should not be seen as an end in itself, but rather as a living document or process that is subject to reforms over time.

Some key challenges were highlighted in the presentation on the Convention on Biological Diversity and the NBSAPs. One such challenge involved finding the relevance or points of connection for NBSAPs in dealing with the agendas of multiple biodiversity conventions and linking them with the respective strategies and targets. Another key task involved identifying capacitybuilding needs and funding for coordinated actions.

The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020, adopted as the overarching plan for dealing with biodiversity priorities across different biodiversity conventions, as agreed by the Biodiversity Liaison Group in 2011, was cited as critical in promoting synergies. Various decisions of the governing bodies of the conventions, relating to issues of synergies and the outcomes of the UNEP project on enhancing synergies and cooperation among the biodiversity related conventions, were also discussed during the presentation.

ii. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

The representative of the Convention secretariat gave a presentation on issues relevant to the Convention in the context of synergies and NBSAPs. The presentation outlined a number of decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention that indicated the cross-complementarity between the various biodiversity conventions, such as the recognition of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020, the recognition of the effective contribution of the Convention in achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and links to actions under the Convention on Migratory Species and the Ramsar Convention. The presentation emphasized that close collaboration was needed between the biodiversityrelated conventions through the creation of groups such as the Environment Management Group and the ad hoc Issue Management Group.

Recognizing the reciprocal benefits between the NBSAPs and the aims of the Convention, the secretariat representative outlined some key elements of the document entitled “Contributing to the development, review, updating and revision of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs): A Draft Guide for CITES Parties,” developed by the Convention with the aim of encouraging parties to consider Conventionspecific issues when revising and updating NBSAPs.¹¹

11 Available from <http://www.unep.org/environmentalgovernance/Portals/8/documents/CITES-NBSAP-Module.pdf>.

iii. Convention on Migratory Species

As an environmental treaty under the aegis of UNEP, the Convention on Migratory Species provides a global platform for the conservation and sustainable use of migratory animals and their habitats. The Convention brings together the range States – the States through which migratory animals pass – and lays the legal foundation for internationally coordinated conservation measures throughout a migratory range.

As the only global convention specializing in the conservation of migratory species, their habitats and migration routes, the Convention complements and cooperates with a number of other international organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and partners in the media and in the corporate sector.

Migratory species threatened with extinction are listed in Appendix I to the Convention, which works towards strictly protecting these animals, conserving or restoring the places where they live, mitigating obstacles to migration and controlling other factors that might endanger them. The Convention establishes obligations for each State party to the Convention and promotes concerted action among the range States of many of these species.

Migratory species that need or would significantly benefit from international cooperation are listed in Appendix II to the Convention. Consequently, the Convention encourages range States to conclude global or regional agreements.

In that regard, the Convention acts as a framework convention. Agreements may range from legally binding treaties (known as “agreements”) to less formal instruments, such as memorandums of understanding, and can be adapted to the requirements of particular regions. The development of models tailored to conservation needs throughout the migratory range is a unique capacity of the Convention.

During a presentation on the Convention, a representative of its secretariat explained that 124 countries were parties to the Convention. The Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015–2023 was aimed at identifying interconnections between migratory systems and addressing them by incorporating local and global solutions, and conserving species nationally and across migratory ranges. Considering that the parties to the Convention on Migratory Species were also parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, their national obligations could play a key role in conserving and sustainably utilizing migratory species as well as biodiversity in general.

The representative highlighted that synergies between multilateral environmental agreements could maximize biodiversity impacts and efficiency, optimize resources and the management of capacities, and ultimately enhance local and global reach and visibility. Although every party to the Convention had an NBSAP in place, only an estimated 42 per cent of those outlined actions for migratory species within the NBSAPs. With an ongoing revision process of NBSAPs, it was to be hoped that the remaining 58 per cent of countries would integrate actions on migratory species into their NBSAPs using the range of guidance options available, including the *Guidelines on the integration of migratory species into national biodiversity strategies and action plans*.¹²

¹² http://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/doc_27_guidelines_nbsap_e_0.pdf.

iv. Ramsar Convention

The representative of the Ramsar Convention secretariat presented an outline of the Convention, and explained the importance of resolution XII.3 of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Convention, which emphasized the need for increasing synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and other international institutions. Highlighting the importance of addressing issues of synergies, the presentation outlined a number of recommendations, decisions and actions that had been approved or implemented by the Conference of the Contracting Parties, the standing committees, the Scientific and Technical Review Panel and the Communication, Education and Public Awareness Panel, and that called for synergies in the implementation of the Convention at the global, regional and national levels. Actions such as aligning the strategic goals and targets of the Convention with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and supporting national reporting processes, were also highlighted. The presenter called for the NBSAPs to be integrated at the subregional and national levels, so that they could be used as a key platform for cooperation and synergy-building at different levels.

With regard to the mainstreaming of NBSAPs, the presenter made recommendations for building synergies and cooperation within the subregional group. At the institutional level, it was recommended that a biodiversity working group be established within national departments in charge of the environment and natural resources. Suggestions were made to appoint a subregional focal point for NBSAPs, and to identify centres of excellence for the implementation of the NBSAPs. The presenter also recommended the preparation of a fundraising strategy for synergies. For more effective synergy in the implementation of NBSAPs, he proposed a comprehensive review of the strategic plans of the conventions with a view to identifying common targets and indicators. He also proposed a project to develop a manual for stakeholders in charge of the implementation of NBSAPs to complement various tools provided by the multilateral environmental agreements.

Country and group work during the workshop

During the group work, countries were encouraged to identify common and prioritized actions to integrate synergies-related actions using the NBSAP review process and linking the same with the national target and indicator development.

Since the workshop brought together the national focal points for the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on Migratory Species, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and the Ramsar Convention, discussions were encouraged with the aim of identifying synergies among those conventions. The results are set out in the country chapters in the present report.

Countries were also encouraged to identify key follow-up actions and needs to effectively translate intentions to achieve synergies into actions using programmatic, institutional and human-resource-centred actions. Such priorities are set out in the respective country chapters in the present report.



Country Studies

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Introduction

Comoros have a series of enabling policy frameworks such as the National Environmental Policy, the Itsandra Manifesto on the Green Economy, the Accelerated Growth Strategy and Sustainable Development (SCA2D), an Agricultural Strategy, and an Action Plan on Climate Change, the Programme on the Millennium Goals for Development, the alignment of the NAP/LD and its integration into the political processes, the national action plan for adaptation (NAPAs), the Small Grants program, the Program of Comprehensive Agriculture Development in Africa (CAADP) under 2014-2019 programming countries, among others. The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) is a key document that links with all the policy documents outlined above.

The Ministry of Production, Environment, Energy, Industry and Crafts manages the environmental issues in the country. The ministry is responsible for planning, programming, monitoring and evaluation of development actions in its areas of competence.

In addition to this, each island has an authority that deals with environmental issues and has functional links with the main Ministry. The implementation of the NBSAP is supported through projects in each island, in partnership with local communities, NGOs and other actors.

Status of NBSAP Revision

The National Action Plan is established on the basis of the inventory of biodiversity, assessed in the fifth national report on biodiversity. Priority issues within the NBSAP are formulated by the nature of the problems identified in the assessment report of implementation of the first generation NBSAP. Actions in support of implementation are divided into four categories: priority and urgent actions (PU), short-term actions (CT), the medium-term actions (MT) and long-term actions (LT).

A number of possible indicators are available to assess the implementation of the Action Plan, and monitor the status of biodiversity. The implementation of the Action Plan is set in 3 separate stages of 5 years each. This approach is dictated by the inadequate human and institutional capacity and understaffed national and island institutions.

The long-term vision of NBSAP of Comoros is "By 2030, the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, in order to fulfill the legitimate aspirations of the people of Comoros, a dignified life, in a world of change, and plagued by unprecedented upheavals in the history of humanity."

Comoros has not yet ratified the CMS and the ITPGRFA. All relevant focal points of the conventions are members of the NBSAP Project Steering Committee. However, their participation is limited in dealing with issues of synergies due to lack of awareness and capacities. It may be noted that the implementation of Ramsar Convention has received more attention recently since there are three sites that are a part of the network of protected areas in accordance with Aichi Target 11. The CITES focal point has been fully involved in the development of NBSAP.

The following matrix provides some ideas for achieving synergies across the biodiversity conventions using the current draft framework of NBSAP.

Matrix to consider the priorities of CMS, CITES, and Ramsar Conventions and the linkages with goals and targets of NBSAP

NBSAP Goal /Target	Link to CMS	Link to CITES	Link to Ramsar
Goal A1 By 2030, the people become conscious of the importance of biodiversity and have sufficient knowledge regarding the consequences of human action on species, genetic diversity and ecosystems services	X	X	X
Goal A2 By 2030, develop scientific information in order to strengthen the inclusion of sustainable management of biodiversity into key economic sector development plans		X	X
Goal A3 By 2030, reinforce and apply all legal frameworks related to various biodiversity aspects in order to improve efficiency of conservation actions and limit the introduction and spread of harmful invasive alien species		X	X
Goal A4 By 2030 at the latest, the values of biodiversity are integrated into national strategies and planning processes of local development and poverty reduction and incorporated into the national budget with revenues and expenditures (1)			

NBSAP Goal /Target	Link to CMS	Link to CITES	Link to Ramsar
Strategic goal B: Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use			
Goal B1 By 2020, access to land for at least 80% of farmers in sharecropping situation is secured			
Goal B2 By 2030, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation of habitats is significantly reduced			X
Goal B3 By 2020, the use of wood fuels as an energy source will be reduced at least by half			
Goal B4 By 2030, the management of threatened endemic flora and fauna species is considerably improved		X	X
Goal B5 By 2030, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs and other vulnerable marine ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are reduced			
Goal B6 By 2030, areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are sustainably managed to ensure the conservation of biological diversity. (2)			X
Strategic Goal C: To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity			
Goal C1 By 2030, at least 17% of terrestrial and inland water, and 10% of coastal and marine areas protected representative of national biodiversity heritage are conserved through ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas (1)			X
Goal C2 By 2030, degraded ecosystems are restored; at least 50% of extinct species are restored and maintained at a sustainable level of conservation in the long term. (2)			X
Goal C3 By 2030, a development program for the genetic diversity of plant and animal species will be developed and implemented. (2)		X	X
Goal C4 By 2030, pollution will be reduced to a level that has no adverse effects on the components and the functioning of ecosystems			

NBSAP Goal /Target	Link to CMS	Link to CITES	Link to Ramsar
Strategic Goal D: Enhance the benefits from biodiversity and the ecosystems services for all			
Goal D1 By 2030, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks have been enhanced, through conservation and restoration measures, including restoration of at least 15% of degraded ecosystems.			
By 2030, the sharing of benefits derived from the sustainable use of biodiversity, genetic resources and traditional medical knowledge will increase the incomes of local communities (4)		X	
Strategic Goal E: Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building			
Goal E1 By 2015, all Parties have developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and started to implement, updated and effective participatory strategy and national plan of action on biodiversity (6)	X	X	X
Goal E2 By 2030, traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of communities relevant to biodiversity are respected and integrated in accordance with national legislation and international obligations in the implementation of the Convention and Community participation is effective. (3)	X	X	X
Goal E3 By 2016, a coordination mechanism for the implementation the NBSAP is in place, strengthened and functional (1)			
Goal E4 By 2030 at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for the effective implementation of the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan for Biodiversity will increase substantially from current levels. (4)	X	X	X

Considerations for Achieving Synergies

Lack of understanding, opportunities to demonstrate synergies on the ground, limited human resource capacities and funding are key challenges for Comoros to deal with a robust NBSAP that focuses on integrated implementation of biodiversity conventions.

The following are some key issues that will receive attention during the NBSAP review and implementation processes.

Strategic Area 1: Development and implementation of an information and communication system involving all stakeholders

Appropriate communication and information sharing tools and platforms need to be established to improve cooperation and coordination among the focal points of key biodiversity conventions. This can be done through a number of means, including establishing a national committee on biodiversity.

Strategic Area 2: Strengthening systemic, institutional and individual capacities for the implementation of MEAs

Considering the legal and policy implications of the NBSAP, it is critical for all the key biodiversity convention focal points to improve their understanding and capacities of key obligation under the conventions and for effective implementation.

Strategic Area 3: The establishment of sustainable financing mechanisms for environmental management

Sustainable and predictable finances for implementing the NBSAP, including for actions related to synergies will be a pre-requisite for effective realization of the objectives of NBSAP in the country.

Strategic Area 4: Coordination, Management, Monitoring and MEAs.

Institutional collaboration, sharing of expertise, monitoring and reporting of actions using a joint and coordinated approach will be to deal with effective implementation of the objectives of NBSAPs and all biodiversity conventions.



Cote d'Ivoire

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Statut de la révision de la SPANDB-CI¹³

Processus de préparation des SPANB

En vue d'actualiser la SPANDB-CI, une équipe de consultants a entrepris les activités suivantes :

Revue et analyse de la documentation

L'essentiel du travail a été réalisé à partir des documents et données bibliographiques existants. L'équipe de consultants a effectué une revue des documents pertinents pour chacun des enjeux de l'étude, notamment : (i) la Monographie nationale, (ii) les Rapports nationaux (Rapport N° 1, N° 2, N° 3 et N° 4), (iii) le document de Stratégie de Planification des Actions Nationales sur la Diversité Biologique de la Côte d'Ivoire (SPANDB-CI), (iv) les documents de planification des politiques, des stratégies, plans et programmes ; en particulier les cadres programmatiques transversaux (DSRP, PND, etc.) et sectoriels (agricultures, eaux et forêts, ressources animales, aménagement d'infrastructures), les rapports et évaluations d'envergure nationale produits dans le cadre de la mise en œuvre des conventions et accords, (v) les documents d'orientation produits dans le cadre des travaux de la Convention sur la diversité biologique, etc.

Consultations des parties prenantes aux moyens de rencontres individuelles ou groupées

Dans ce cadre, des échanges ont eu lieu avec tous les points focaux des conventions, toutes les institutions pertinentes, les membres des groupes de travail thématiques pour mutualiser l'information, les représentants de la société civile, les populations riveraines de sites sensibles, les enseignant-chercheurs, les chercheurs.

Participation à des ateliers nationaux

Plusieurs ateliers nationaux ont été organisés dans le but de recueillir et d'intégrer les avis des parties prenantes dans l'actualisation de la SPANDB-CI, et particulièrement l'atelier de lancement du processus de révision de la SPANDB-CI. En définitive, les ateliers régionaux et l'atelier national de préparation de la formulation de la stratégie ont permis d'appréhender les aspects particuliers liés au cadre législatif et institutionnel, ceux liés à la conservation, à l'utilisation et à la valorisation de la diversité biologique, et au partage juste et équitable des avantages tirés de l'exploitation de la diversité biologique. Les données recueillies ont permis d'élaborer le rapport sur la stratégie nationale de conservation et d'utilisation durable de la diversité biologique de la Côte d'Ivoire qui vise à résoudre les problèmes majeurs identifiés.

13 Stratégie de Planification des Actions Nationales sur la Diversité Biologique de la Côte d'Ivoire (SPANDB-CI)

Rôle des points focaux pour CITES, CMS, RAMSAR, TIRPAA et WHC

Tous les points focaux ont été associés à toutes les étapes du processus d'élaboration et de la révision de la SPANB. Par la suite, ces derniers ont participé à l'atelier de validation de l'avant-projet de stratégie et de plan d'action puis à l'atelier national de validation de la SPANB.

À la suite de la validation de ce document stratégique, un groupe de travail restreint regroupant les points focaux de ces conventions a contribué de façon spécifique en proposant des priorités stratégiques par rapport aux enjeux relatifs à chaque convention.

Etat actuel de la préparation des SPANB

À ce jour, le document de la SPANB-CI est totalement achevé et transmis au Secrétariat de la CDB.

Éléments clés des SPANB, y compris les objectifs et indicateurs

Vision

La vision globale de la Côte d'Ivoire pour sa diversité biologique se décline comme suit :

« À l'horizon 2025, la diversité biologique de la Côte d'Ivoire sera gérée de manière durable en vue de l'équilibre des écosystèmes, de l'amélioration de la qualité de vie des populations actuelles et de la préservation de l'héritage des générations futures, en tenant compte de la dynamique sous régionale et des dimensions régionale et mondiale ».

Objectifs

Les objectifs à terme de la SPANB-CI rencontrent ceux de la Convention sur la Diversité Biologique et s'articulent autour des points suivants :

1. Renforcer l'action visant à enrayer l'érosion des éléments constitutifs de la diversité biologique et les fonctions écologiques ;
2. Favoriser une valorisation de la diversité biologique de façon compatible avec la sauvegarde des écosystèmes et le renouvellement des espèces, en permettant à toutes les parties prenantes d'en tirer profit.
3. Contribuer significativement aux efforts de sauvegarde de la diversité biologique mondiale.

Pour atteindre ces objectifs, des orientations stratégiques précisées par des objectifs clairs sont définies comme suit :

Orientations stratégiques

Les six (06) orientations stratégiques avec des objectifs à atteindre d'ici à 2020 sont les suivantes :

1. la sauvegarde des milieux naturels, de leurs fonctions et services ;
2. la préservation des diversités spécifiques et génétiques ;
3. le renforcement des infrastructures de conservation ;
4. la valorisation et l'utilisation durable de la diversité biologique ;
5. la mobilisation citoyenne et la diffusion de la connaissance sur le vivant ;
6. le renforcement de la coordination nationale et de la coopération internationale.

Etat de mise en œuvre des AME¹⁴ liés à la diversité biologique : CITES, CMS, Ramsar, TIRPAA et WHC

Actions majeures réalisées par convention

Au niveau de la mise en œuvre des AME, chacun des points focaux avait été invité à préciser les exigences de mise en œuvre de leurs AME respectifs.

Convention sur la conservation des espèces migratrices appartenant à la faune sauvage (CMS) en Côte d'Ivoire

- Renforcement de la coopération transfrontière entre la Côte d'Ivoire, le Libéria et le Ghana pour la conservation de la flore et de la faune en général y compris l'éléphant d'Afrique : Projets Corridor Taï-Grébo-Sapo (Côte d'Ivoire-Libéria) et Corridor Bia-Diambarakro (Ghana-Côte d'Ivoire);
- Sensibilisation sur les dispositifs de sélectivité, d'exclusion et de réduction des prises accessoires en pêche chalutière (Tortues marines);
- Suivi d'un projet de conservation de tortues marines à Grand-Béréby (Sud-Est de la Côte d'Ivoire.) dans une zone protégée s'étendant sur 24 kilomètres constituant la plus importante plage de ponte des tortues marines en Côte d'Ivoire. Différentes espèces, notamment la tortue luth (*Dermochelys coriacea*) et la tortue imbriquée (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) classées comme espèces en danger critique sur la liste rouge de l'UICN, la tortue verte (*Chelonia mydas*) classée comme espèce en danger et la tortue olivâtre (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) classée comme espèce vulnérable.

Convention sur le Commerce International des espèces de faune et de flore menacées d'extinction (CITES)

- Renforcement de la législation, par la modification de la Loi sur la faune de 1965 en 1994, en mettant l'accent sur l'élévation du niveau de protection des espèces de la faune et prise du décret n°97-130 du 07 mars 1997, réglementant la détention des ivoires ;
- Création d'une brigade CITES à l'aéroport d'Abidjan ;
- Fermeture en juin 2013 des marchés locaux de vente d'ivoire avec le soutien d'Interpol et le Fond International pour la Protection des Animaux (IFAW) ;
- Gestion des conflits hommes-éléphants grâce à la mise en œuvre d'un projet depuis 2014 ;
- Mise en œuvre d'une campagne de récupération des armes de guerre et de petits calibres, qui a entraîné la réduction des armes en circulation donc de celles disponibles aux braconniers.

Convention relative aux zones humides d'importance internationale particulièrement comme habitats des oiseaux d'eau (RAMSAR)

- Création du Comité National Ramsar ;
- Classement de six sites Ramsar ;
- Organisation d'un atelier de formation des planificateurs et gestionnaires de sites Ramsar ;
- Suivi de la gestion des sites Ramsar ;
- Suivi des populations d'oiseaux d'eau de certains sites.

Traité International sur les Ressources Phytogénétiques pour l'Alimentation et l'Agriculture (TIRPAA)

- Coordination du projet de renforcement des capacités des partenaires techniques et institutionnels pour la mise en œuvre rationnelle du traité et de son système multilatéral d'accès et de partage des avantages découlant de leur utilisation en Côte d'Ivoire.

14 Accords Multilatéraux Environnementaux

Mécanisme de communication avec les points focaux

Il n'existe pas de mécanisme de communication formel entre les différents points focaux des AME liés à la diversité biologique. Les rencontres ne se font qu'au cours des ateliers.

Sujets et défis relatifs aux synergies entre AME :

Le développement de synergies entre les différentes AME nécessite la création d'une plate-forme d'échange et de coordination des AME (groupe de travail, un observatoire, etc.) accompagnée d'un système de d'évaluation de l'efficacité des synergies. Les quatre défis problèmes majeurs identifiés qui nécessitent une attention en cas de travail en synergie sont les suivants :

- réussir à identifier et définir les points de synergie ;
- désigner l'autorité susceptible d'initier la synergie ;
- définir le mécanisme pour le partage des informations ;

réussir à mettre en place une plateforme de coordination des interventions effective. Il importe d'optimiser les synergies à travers les actions suivantes :

- (i) Inventorier les actions obligatoires mutuelles et les actions conflictuelles, à travers l'analyse de l'ensemble des décisions liées aux questions horizontales relevant de ces accords,
- (ii) Cartographier les mesures et besoins communs y compris en matière de renforcement des capacités, de coopération technique et scientifique, d'élaboration de plans et stratégies spécifiques, de reporting périodiques, etc.,
- (iii) Rationaliser les processus de reporting et de suivi de la diversité biologique à travers la définition des données et des indicateurs communs, (iv) mettre en place une plateforme de travail dotée de moyens adéquats.

Tableau croisant les priorités des conventions CMS, CITES et RAMSAR, ainsi que les liens avec les objectifs et cibles de la SPANB

Spanb côte d'ivoire	Liens cms	Liens cites	Liens ramsar
Orientation stratégique 1: sauvegarde des milieux naturels, de leurs fonctions et services			
Objectif 1	objectif 7: les multiples pressions d'origine anthropique ont été ramenées à des niveaux non préjudiciables pour la conservation des espèces migratrices ou pour le fonctionnement, l'intégrité la connectivité écologique et la résilience de leur habitat		Objectif 5 : Les caractéristiques écologiques des Sites Ramsar sont maintenues ou restaurées par une planification efficace et une gestion intégrée.
Objectif 2			
Objectif 3			but 2, Objectif 7 : Les menaces pesant sur les sites dont les caractéristiques écologiques risquent de changer sont traitées.

Spanb côte d'ivoire		Liens cms	Liens cites	Liens ramsar
Objectif 4	D'ici à 2020, au moins 50 % des espèces exotiques envahissantes sont contrôlées			but 1, Objectif 4 : Les espèces exotiques envahissantes et leurs voies d'introduction et de propagation sont identifiées et hiérarchisées, les espèces exotiques envahissantes prioritaires sont contrôlées et éradiquées et des mesures de gestion sont conçues et mises en œuvre pour empêcher l'introduction et l'établissement de ces espèces.
Orientation stratégique 2: préservation de la diversité spécifique et de la diversité génétique				
Objectif 5	D'ici à 2020, la situation des espèces protégées au niveau national s'est améliorée et leur disparition est enrayerée dans la mesure du possible	objectif 12 : la diversité génétique des populations d'espèces migratrices est sauvegardée et des stratégies ont été élaborées et mise en œuvre pour réduire au minimum la réduction génétique	Objectif 3.1 La coopération entre la CITES et les mécanismes financiers internationaux et les autres institutions apparentées est renforcée afin d'appuyer les projets de conservation et de développement durable liés à CITES, sans diminuer le financement des activités prioritaires actuelles.	
Objectif 6	D'ici à 2020, des mesures de sauvegarde sont mises en œuvre pour 100% des espèces prioritaires			
Objectif 7	D'ici à 2020, l'état de la diversité génétique est connu et des mesures de conservation durable sont prises			
Orientation stratégique 3: renforcement des structures de conservation				
Objectif 8	En 2020, 100% des écosystèmes et habitats sont représentés au sein du réseau d'aires protégées viables	objectif 3.10 : tous les habitats et les sites essentiels pour les espèces migratrices sont recensés et inclus dans les mesures de conservation par zone afin de maintenir leur qualité, intégrité, résilience et fonctionnement conformément à l'objectif 11 d'Aichi	Objectif 1.4 : Les annexes reflètent correctement les besoins de conservation des espèces. Objectif 3.5 : Les Parties et le Secrétariat coopèrent, s'il y a lieu, avec d'autres organisations et accords internationaux pertinents traitant des ressources naturelles, afin de parvenir à une approche cohérente et concertée des espèces pouvant être menacées d'extinction par un commerce non durable, y compris celles qui sont exploitées commercialement.	Objectif 8 : Les inventaires nationaux des zones humides sont commencés, terminés ou mis à jour et diffusés et utilisés pour promouvoir la conservation et la gestion efficace de toutes les zones humides.
Objectif 9	D'ici à 2020, 100% des aires protégées sont gérées de façon efficace			Objectif 9 : L'utilisation rationnelle des zones humides est renforcée par la gestion intégrée des ressources à l'échelle qui convient, notamment celle d'un bassin versant ou le long d'une zone côtière.

Perspectives pour la réalisation de synergies

Collaboration institutionnelle

Plusieurs institutions sont étroitement impliquées dans la conception et la mise en œuvre de la politique pour la diversité biologique. Il importe d'optimiser les synergies à travers les actions suivantes :

- (i) mettre en place une plateforme de coordination des interventions;
- (ii) combler les vides institutionnels, notamment par rapport aux enjeux qui ne sont pas effectivement pris en compte au niveau conceptuel et sur le terrain ;
- (iii) renforcer les moyens matériels des institutions ; (iv) développer les ressources humaines (l'expertise).
- (iv) Renforcer la formation professionnelle visant à améliorer la qualification du personnel des Eaux et Forêts, en rapport avec l'évolution des enjeux de la gestion durable de la diversité biologique de façon non exclusive.

Former également des jeunes professionnels avec une expertise profonde et une capacité pratique dans les domaines de la gestion des terres, la gestion de l'environnement et l'utilisation durable de la diversité biologique.

Renforcement des capacités

Il y a lieu d'améliorer radicalement l'application des textes. Les mesures idoines sont :

la révision des textes en vigueur pour les rendre clairs, cohérents et précis,

le renforcement de la réglementation en général à travers l'adoption de textes pour combler les vides juridiques hautement préjudiciables à la gestion durable de la diversité biologique, par exemple l'instauration d'un régime de réparation des dommages causés aux éléments de la diversité biologique;

la formation du personnel responsable du contrôle du respect de la réglementation, notamment les agents des Eaux et Forêts, de la police, de la douane, ainsi que les juges et les procureurs. Ces formations seront ciblées sur la connaissance juridique, les méthodes d'investigation et de détection des infractions;

la réorganisation du travail pour assurer la présence à temps sur le terrain, d'équipes dotées de moyens.

Besoins d'informations et de connaissances

La stratégie sur la diversité biologique doit comporter un plan de communication et de diffusion, dont le but est d'assurer le lien entre toutes les parties prenantes afin de permettre la compréhension effective des questions clés, le partage des informations et la collaboration. Il a également comme objectif d'attirer le soutien et d'évaluer les incidences de la stratégie. Le cadre de la communication doit tenir compte du rôle des institutions telles que l'Unité de lutte contre l'érosion de la diversité biologique et renforcer la coopération, la collaboration, les activités de plaidoyer, l'éducation et la sensibilisation pour lutter contre la perte de la diversité biologique. Le système de communication sur la diversité biologique doit permettre d'identifier les priorités, les partenaires et les collaborateurs potentiels ainsi que leurs besoins spécifiques dans ce domaine. Il devra également aider à identifier et développer des instruments à effet de levier et à incidence élevée pour diffuser des messages sur la diversité biologique auprès des groupes cibles et des parties prenantes. Il doit également permettre l'élaboration et la mise en œuvre d'un mécanisme de suivi et d'évaluation axé sur les défis et les opportunités découlant de la gestion de la diversité biologique en Côte d'Ivoire.

Au demeurant, la communication est un élément central dans la mise en œuvre de la stratégie et du plan d'action de la diversité biologique, en raison des controverses multiples et des confusions persistantes dans la compréhension de cette diversité biologique.

En effet, au manque d'information et de la connaissance de la diversité biologique, s'ajoute un risque social majeur pour l'humanité ayant pour corollaires: les catastrophes, le changement climatique, la pauvreté, les maladies, etc. ...

La finalité recherchée est de contribuer, à travers des actions stratégiques et opérationnelles d'information et de communication, à l'établissement d'un cadre national consensuel participatif et transparent sur la gestion de la diversité biologique nationale.

Financement

Mobiliser les ressources financières par une approche claire, efficace, méthodique, prévisible et bien coordonnée pour solliciter, obtenir, gérer, notifier, suivre et évaluer les moyens financiers fournis par les différents partenaires de façon durable.

Il s'agit d'intégrer les questions en matière de diversité biologique et de services écosystémiques dans les efforts de planification domestiques et sectoriels et dans la promotion des allocations budgétaires. Il importe d'examiner les possibilités de création de fonds spécifiques à l'instar de celui dédié aux aires protégées ; de même que la mise en place de partenariats avec le monde des affaires peut se révéler fructueuse. L'un des handicaps majeurs à surmonter est l'absence de stratégies efficaces de captage des ressources des partenaires dédiés tels que le Fonds pour l'Environnement Mondial ou potentiellement accessible comme la GIZ, l'UE etc.

Partenariats

Une coopération internationale dynamique est un atout majeur pour assurer la sauvegarde de la diversité biologique. L'action des pouvoirs publics et même des acteurs non étatiques ne peut s'en passer. Les priorités en la matière concernent la gestion durable des écosystèmes en partage, la mise en œuvre des accords multilatéraux et la mobilisation des moyens nécessaires à l'efficacité de l'action.

Les écosystèmes et habitats transfrontaliers d'importance sont gérés en concertation avec les pays voisins. Le pays est situé dans le hotspot de la haute Guinée. Dans ce cadre, il a en partage avec plusieurs pays voisins des écosystèmes et des habitats exceptionnels dont le mont Nimba à l'ouest, la forêt classée de Diambarakro à l'est. La gestion de ces milieux et des populations animales qu'elles abritent s'inscrivent dans une approche écosystémique qui transcende les frontières administratives. C'est pourquoi, il importe de concevoir et mettre en œuvre des plans de gestion concertés.

Perspectives

Les mesures suivantes seraient favorables à la mise en œuvre de la SNDB:

- la stratégie de mobilisation des moyens financiers incluant l'évaluation du coût des axes stratégiques ;
- le plan de communication destiné à l'appropriation de la Stratégie Nationale pour la Diversité Biologique (SNDB) par la population et toutes les parties prenantes ;
- la coordination nationale des acteurs à travers un mécanisme de coordination institutionnelle et de suivi-évaluation.

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Introduction

While integral part of group of the Less Developed Countries, Guinea-Bissau benefitted from a donation of PNU/GEF through the Project no. GFL /2328-2716-4C37-2201 with the aim of helping the Country, among other, to update its Strategy, Action Plan and the Development of the Fifth National Report about the Biological Diversity.

To accomplish with these objectives it was firstly launched a public tender consultancy to collect sectorial data in 09 different thematic areas. In order to elaborate a diagnosis of the state of conservation of the biological diversity of the country, the recruited individual consultants proceeded in consequence to the rising of data and information in the domains that direct and indirectly interact with the problem of the conservation of the biological diversity.

In this first phase, the survey addressed the problems i) of the avifauna; ii) of the Terrestrial Biodiversity; iii) of the Fishing and fishery resources; iv) of the legal and institutional Aspect; v) of the sector of the Energy; VI) in Water Resources; vii) of the exotic and invasive Species; viii) of the Mines sector and Extractive Industries and ix) of the Impact of the climatic changes on the Biological Diversity. The gender aspects and the Biodiversity in general were approached later by the responsible consultant by the final compilation of the documents.

In 2015 there were meetings about the validation of the sectorial data's raised by the consultants. Then it was recruited a national consultant to compile the respective data and consequently update the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP).

Between August 05 and 06, 2015, in the meeting room of the State's General Office of the Environment, National Steering Committee of the updating process of NBSAP welcomed the meeting of technical appreciation of the preliminary version of this document. Finally, in October 30 to November 01 in Canchungo, North of the country, was organized the Atelier of national validation in title of technical document.

Before its effective translation in one of the languages of work of the United Nations and of COP, it was recruited a team of linguistic of Portuguese of Camões Institute for the orthographic revision of NBSAP. Only after that the document was ready for translation into English, before its definitive delivery to the Secretariat of CBD.

Status of NBSAP Revision

Vision

“Until 2025 the Guinea-Bissau will be a model of sustainable development, whose biodiversity is preserved and regenerated to maintain durable way the potential value creation of its precious and renewable resources, providing services to local communities, the country and the set of all the sub-region and contributing significantly to the key environmental balance of the planet”.

In line with the vision and identified guiding principles and in order to manage and mitigate the root causes of biodiversity erosion, helping to improve the current state of conservation of key ecosystems and integral natural resources, Guinea-Bissau appoints the following six priorities for assistance under this NBSAP second generation:

1. Continue and strengthen ongoing actions to conserve biodiversity and representative ecosystems, through effective and coherent network of protected areas and other mechanisms and conservation systems;
2. Restore areas and degraded ecosystems and improve productivity of the land and its durability by combating the fires, coastal and water erosion, salinization and acidification of soils, management of surface and groundwater;
3. Strengthen and enhance the most of the advantages derived from the BD and ecosystem services, based on the principles of sustainable development and equitable sharing of benefits;
4. Ensure better involvement, commitment, integration and inter-sectorial coordination to strengthen ties and promote actions with all parties involved in the conservation, management and sustainable use of biodiversity at local and national level, dispelling contradictions in development strategies and planning;
5. Improve knowledge about biodiversity values, goods and services provided by ecosystems, integrating these services in the planning process, strategies, policies and sustainable socio-economic development programs in the country and promote the introduction of economic and environmental accounting in the sectorial and national policies;
6. Establish and implement national simple systems, effective and integrated ecological and socioeconomic monitoring to track the use, the state and the statutes of the species, the health of ecosystems and trends of biodiversity resources.

The extension to 26% the surface of the national territory in protected areas by 2020 is an important target set by the Guinea-Bissau government. At present, protected areas constitute 15% of the national territory, comprised of 6 protected areas. The country intends to create 2 terrestrial protected areas and 2 corridors for the conservation of fauna by 2016 thereby increasing the coverage of protected areas to 26%. Moreover, several corridors between protected areas have been identified, as have transboundary protected areas (Guinea-Bissau, Guinea and Senegal) which should also be protected under law in the short term. This initiative aims to strengthen and consolidate the National System of Protected Areas (SNAP).

This strategic vision is based on the need to ensure greater representation of ecosystems to maintain important ecological processes, ensure ecological connectivity in SNAP, protect and enable cross-border migration of many threatened or endangered species, in and around the SNAP and increase the system’s resilience to the effects of weather and the expansion of desertification changes.

It is noted that the different focal points, namely CITES, CMS, Ramsar, ITPGRFA and WHC are part of Steering Committee of whole updating process of NBSAP, post 2010. This ad-hoc organ so instituted had as function of giving technical orientation, policy and doing the supervision of the implementation process of the project. It is inter-ministerial panel of technicians that work in consuming sectors of genetic resources and

of the biodiversity or those that are directly implicated in its preservation or conservation in the country, in the perspective of helping the coordination of the project to identify and collect a group of data and quantitative information and qualitative updated. The aim is to associate in this context the designs of economic growth with the environmental protection, while mechanisms to assure the balance among the satisfaction of the needs of a poor population and extremely dependent of the resources of the biodiversity and without committing the satisfaction of the future generations' needs.

The Steering Committee of the project is almost exclusively dominated by the public structures of the country. Except up some national NGOs it is denoted a clear absence of bases actor, youth organizations, women, and scientific community, of investigation, religious and of the private sector in the composition of the Steering Committee, what testifies a weak implication of resources' updaters of the biodiversity and opinion leaders in this revision of updating process of NBSAP. Likewise, it is also the weak involvement and implication of the structures at the regional and local level or sub-national authorities.

Institutional mechanism for the implementation of the NBSAP

The effective implementation of the NBSAP should be based first of all on the allocation of responsibilities to the various institutions at the national, regional and local levels. It is also important to the success of the plan, the different sectors of society, including the private sector, NGOs and civil society in general are taken into consideration and included in the process of their design, development and implementation. The Secretary of State for the Environment (SSE) should ensure the coordination of activities and ensure the integration of the various sectors involved.

The implementation of this NBSAP2 will be made from the existing structures, improving others who express the need for greater efficiency. In the new organizational structure of the current SSE, it has recently launched the process of creation and institutionalization of the National Commission for Biodiversity (NCB).

The CNB is an organ for advice and consultation on Biological Diversity and will primarily function to monitor the implementation of commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and related MEAs (such as RAMSAR, CITES, CMS).

In particular, this committee will coordinate the implementation of NBSAP and to identify and propose priority areas and actions for research, conservation, sustainable use of biodiversity components, monitoring, evaluation, prevention and mitigation of impacts and sharing of benefits derived from its use.

This body is multisectoral and interdisciplinary nature: representatives of ministries, regional governments, and the private sector, universities, non-governmental organizations, local communities and their representatives and economic interest groups propose. It proposes recommends and analysis policies, actions and measures to implement effectively the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity and relevant national legislation on the subject.

The NCB, as a body of information, communication, concentration and coordination, should focus and strengthen relations with the specialized Commission on Environment and Natural Resources of the National Assembly, the Interministerial Commission for the Environment (the government agency), the Council Advisory of Environment, regional Planning Offices (regional governments), the Management Boards of the different protected areas and management committees of several other initiatives, programs and environmental projects and sustainable development.

Current plans/actions to include priorities and activities related to implementation of biodiversity related MEAs, namely CITES, CMS, Ramsar, WHC and the ITPGRFA.

In terms of the study and monitoring of biodiversity and living resources, it should be noted the role of Coastal Planning Office (GPC), the National Institute of Studies and Research (INEP) and Applied Fisheries Research Centre (CIPA). These three state institutions have cooperated regularly with Institute of Biodiversity and Protected Areas (IBAP) in studies and monitoring both inside and outside the Protected Areas, there is considerable overlap and complementarity within their intervention.

For the implementation of CITES guidelines, the Institute of Biodiversity and Protected Areas (IBAP) has developed several action plans, study programs and species monitoring and endangered habitats (sea turtles, primates, manatees, hippos, gray parrot, some aquatic and migratory water birds, mangroves, etc.) and published among others, several books and articles. There are, as was inevitable, targets for achieving and weaknesses to overcome.

With regard to the Ramsar Convention, a series of activities were carried out from 2012 until now, including:

- The constitution of the National Ramsar Committee;
- Several training sessions on the Ramsar Convention and the importance of wetlands were administered to members of the Committee and other partners involved in the management and conservation of wetlands;
- The Ramsar funds framework of small grants to conservation and wise use of wetlands was funded the project "Protection and enhancement of wetlands of the Ramsar site of Cufada lagoon in Guinea-Bissau" which allowed the implementation of a variety of activities;
- Recognition of the Biosphere Reserve of the archipelago of Bolama-Bijagos (RBABB) in January 2014 as Ramsar site, thus becoming the second site in the country to be awarded this recognition;
- Recognition on June 22, 2015, the Natural Park of Mangrove of Cacheu (PNTC) and Wendu Cham Lagoon (Boé National Park) with internationally important areas in the conservation and protection of wetlands and their resources, ecosystems and habitats, biodiversity and species thus constituting the third and fourth classified site in the country after Cufada Lagoon and the archipelago of Bijagos as Ramsar Sites;
- Annual participation in the global count of water birds, etc.



There is a long tradition of international partnerships (eg, with the nations of the Wadden Sea or the Wetlands International) created concerning the conservation of migratory birds that attach directly to Guinea-Bissau to most European countries as well as the countries of the Atlantic off the African coast range. It was in this context that Lagoon of Cufada and the archipelago of Bijagos were classified as Ramsar sites or the national NGOs such as the Organization for the Defense and Development of Wetlands (ODZH) was created.

It's in progress the process for the preparation of a Red List of the main groups of plants and animals in danger of Guinea-Bissau (National Red List). The future use of this book as a tool for environmental impact assessments and management of biodiversity should be encouraged.

Portuguese texts of major international environmental conventions (CBD, CMS, Abidjan, CITES, RAMSAR) were compiled and a copy of these texts have been distributed for each Parliamentary Group (Bancada) and government ministers.

CITES is one of the conventions that are in interinstitutional conflict. Its Focal Point is housed in the Secretariat of State for the Environment and Sustainable Development but their execution structure is located at the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

In 2005 it was announced in the first photographic exhibition about the archipelago, held at UNESCO headquarters in Paris, the intention of the application of the archipelago of Bijagos as the World Heritage site. In 2012, Guinea-Bissau deposited the application of this Archipelago on the UNESCO Committee with the proposed of their classification as natural and cultural mixed site of World Heritage.

After the classification of the proposal submission, an assessment mission composed of experts for the natural heritage and the IUCN experts to the cultural heritage of ICOMOS visited the archipelago in order to examine the conformity of the realities on the ground with the contents of the dossier. The assessment findings confirmed the outstanding universal value of the site on the natural plane.

However, evaluators expressed reservations about the cultural dimension. They noted that the Guinean state and the actors involved do not have sufficient capacity to maintain this good for a long-term. In addition, according to the experts, the scientific data supporting the cultural arguments are not sufficiently compelling to the point of showing the exceptional nature of this aspect of the application.

In consequence of the above and other secondary issues raised, the mission issued a negative opinion and called for a set of necessary measures, before submitting a new application.

The proposal to belong to the same technical institution, the Secretary of State for the Environment, will allow all focal points to participate in Executive Board meetings of this institution and thus will contribute to better communication and exchange of information between these different technicians. Furthermore, the Secretary of State for the Environment is the highest authority of all these conventions.

Synergy-related issues and challenges

Matrix to consider the priorities of CMS, CITES, and Ramsar Conventions and the linkages with goals and targets of NBSAP:

	NBSAP Goal/Target	Link to CMS/	Link to Ramsar	Link to CITES
1.1	Creation and operationalization of the National Committee	Synergies in action	Synergies in action	Synergies in action
1.2	Operationalization CHM	Tool for information exchange	Tool for information exchange	Tool for information exchange
1.4	Submit to and share NBSAPs with the decision makers, general public and related international organizations	Sensitization related to the protection of migratory species and their habitats	Sensitization for the sustainable use of the wetlands	Sensitization for application of the national law on the trade of wild species
2.8	Assess key ecosystems services and fundamental values of biodiversity and share them at the national level	Contribution of biocontrol species, handling of the ecosystems, pollination, development of tourism, subsistence and culture of local community	Goods and services of wetlands: aquatic biodiversity, water, groundwater, waste management, tourism, agriculture, breeding, of water birds habitats	Contribution of biocontrol species, handling of the ecosystems, pollination, development of tourism, subsistence and culture of local community
2.10	Strengthen the requirements of environmental assessments (infrastructure construction), in order to avoid negative impacts on the natural environment or introduce the principle of compensation of degraded areas	Strategies to avoid negative impacts on natural habitats and migration corridors	Strategies to avoid destruction and degradation of important areas for migratory birds and resident species	Protection of endangered species
3.16	Draw up an inventory of incentives and national subsidies in various sectors and analyze their effectiveness and impact on biodiversity and ecosystem services.	Supporting incentives regarding protection of migratory species	Reducing negative incentives and promoting positive incentives for wetland conservation and management	Promoting incentives to reduce illegal trade
3.17	Set up a national action plan aiming to the reduction, reform and elimination of incentives and subsidies harmful to biodiversity	Eliminate and/or reduce the incentives favorable to the capture and marketing, as well as the destruction of habitats of migrating species	Eliminate and/or reduce the incentives favorable to the destruction and degradation of wetlands	Eliminate and/or reduce the incentives favorable to the capture and marketing, as well as the destruction of lived species threats
4.23	Develop, in a participative way, guidelines and policies for the implementation of mitigation measures adapted to the country for the three main economic activities (agriculture, exploitation of forest resources, livestock), associated to deforestation and degradation of the forests	Eliminate and/or reduce the incentives favorable to capture, marketing, as well as destruction of habitats of migrating species	Eliminate and/or reduce the incentives favorable to the destruction and degradation of wetlands	Eliminate and / or reduce incentives favorable to capture and marketing, as well as destruction of habitats of endangered species
5.29	Develop and implement strategies targeting each sector at the regional and local levels to reduce ecosystems degradation	Eliminate and/or reduce incentives to capture or destruction of migrating species habitats	Eliminate and/or reduce the incentives favorable to the destruction and degradation of wetlands	Eliminate and / or reduce incentives favorable to capture and marketing, as well as destruction of habitats of endangered species

5.32	Implement a national strategy to restore ecosystems and habitats of endangered species	Restore migratory species habitats	Restore and protect wetlands	
6.39	Reduce and modify the fishing activities that undermine the sustainability and conservation of marine and aquatic species	Eliminate and/or reduce incentives to capture or destruction of migrating species habitats	Eliminate and/or reduce the incentives to the destruction and degradation of wetlands	
6.40	Implement measures that improve fishing methods, to minimize losses, incidental catches of cetaceans, birds and turtles and negative impacts on habitats and ecosystems, with the participation of economic sectors and groups involved	Eliminate and/or reduce incentives to capture or destruction of migrating species habitats	Eliminate and/or reduce the incentives favorable to the destruction and degradation of wetlands	Eliminate and / or reduce incentives favorable to capture and marketing, as well as destruction of habitats of endangered species
7.56	Develop invasive alien species eradication programs	Eliminate invasive alien species that threaten resources and habitats of migratory species	Eliminate invasive alien species in wetlands	

Considerations for Achieving Synergies

Preparedness of the country in including components related to synergies and mainstreaming of actions related to synergies between biodiversity related MEAs into the NBSAP that will be finalized (if the NBSAP is finalized plans for including the components in implementation phase), and

The National Biodiversity Committee (NBC) is an advisory body and for consultation on biological diversity and consists of several sectors, public and private, and will primarily function to monitor the implementation of commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and related treaties (such as RAMSAR, CITES, CMS, ITPGRFA and WHC).

More specifically, this committee should coordinate the implementation of NBSAP, as well as identify and propose priority areas and actions for research, conservation, sustainable use of biodiversity components, monitoring, evaluation, prevention and mitigation of impacts and sharing of benefits derived from its use.

Willingness of the country to participate in a pilot activity to be supported by UNEP subject to availability of funds, to develop actions for achieving such synergies.

Support for the country would be necessary in order to allow EPAN-BD was presented and taken back to different ministries, regional governments, the private sector, universities, non-governmental organizations, local communities and their representatives, associations and grassroots groups and group's economic interest. To ensure synergies between conventions related to biodiversity (RAMSAR, CITES, CMS, ITPGRFA and WHC) would be desirable that the CNB worked in full.

Other programmatic and administrative activities desirable to enhance the synergies between conventions on biodiversity would for example i) harmonize the national reports; ii) joint organization of training and capacity building activities for the different focal points and other partners involved; iii) joint monitoring of relevant indicators of the NBSAP, iv) joint programs of lobbying and awareness among decision-makers and the private sector, etc.

Kenya

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Introduction

Kenya has biological resources that are of considerable economic, social and intrinsic value, with an estimated 35,000 known species of animals, plants and microorganisms. The diversity of resources and the physical environment form a wide range of ecosystems in the country. Ecosystems include marine, coastal, freshwater and inland saline lakes, forests and rangelands rich in plants, animals and microorganisms. Not only does the wealth of biological diversity constitute the foundation of the country's socioeconomic development, but a significant proportion of the population depends on biological diversity either directly or indirectly for their basic and developmental needs. However, a combination of natural and anthropogenic factors exerts a great deal of pressure on biodiversity.

Although there are a number of national, subregional, regional and global agreements and conventions related to ecosystems and biodiversity, seven occupy prime space when it comes to protecting, managing, using and sharing the biodiversity. The conventions have complementary mandates to deal with their protection and use and the sharing of their benefits for humankind. Effective responses to counteracting biodiversity loss are able to build synergies among existing initiatives in order to be as efficient as possible. Responses should be holistic in order to effectively avoid the shifting of environmental pressures in space or time.

Status of the NBSAP revision

Kenya received funding from GEF to undertake the review and updating of the NBSAP process. A number of tasks have already been undertaken, such as carrying out a series of stakeholders workshops, establishing a steering/advisory committee and identifying key institutions through mapping. An inception workshop was held to bring together government ministries, departments, agencies and other key stakeholders. Terms of reference have been created for hiring experts and consultants, both nationally and internationally, as well as for the submission of tenders for evaluation. Furthermore, the programme of work for the updating and revision now includes country consultations.

The role of the focal point is mainly to coordinate and provide a framework for national actions and international cooperation. Some of the key responsibilities include the following:

- (a) Promoting national coordination among different institutions;
- (b) Promoting public awareness campaigns;

- (c) Spearheading the development of a national implementation plan for effective implementation and enforcement of decisions and resolutions;
- (d) Ensuring the preparation, completion and timely submission of the national report to the various multilateral environmental agreement secretariats;
- (e) Overseeing and ensuring the prompt and full payment of the annual contribution to secretariats;
- (f) Regularly exchanging information with focal points for other agreements and promoting synergies and strengthening liaison with them to avoid unnecessary duplication of efforts;
- (g) Ensuring that their country is represented at official meetings such as meetings of the Conference of the Parties by coordinating in a timely manner the nomination of the delegation members, securing and submitting credentials and applying for funding if applicable and needed;
- (h) Ensuring that the outcome of meetings, particularly of conferences of the parties, are brought home and initiating the implementation of decisions taken at the national level, if appropriate.

Considering the importance of focusing on enhancing synergies and cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions, Kenya is keen to support action through an NBSAP that promotes synergies. The following section highlights the work currently under way on key biodiversity conventions in the country.

Convention on Migratory Species

The Kenya Wildlife Service is the focal point for the Convention on Migratory Species and the Convention family agreements and memorandums of understanding and coordinates implementation on behalf of the Government. Kenya participates in all relevant meetings and working groups as per the procedures and decisions of the Conference of the Parties. The country is up-to-date with regard to payments.

Ramsar Convention

Kenya ratified the Ramsar Convention on 5 October 1990 and has six sites designated as wetlands of international importance (Ramsar sites), covering an area of 265,449 hectares. The Kenya Wildlife Service is the focal point for the Ramsar Convention and coordinates implementation on behalf of the Government. Kenya participates in all relevant meetings and working groups as per the procedures and decisions of the Conference of the Parties. At the national level, there is an active National Ramsar Committee that meets occasionally when the need arises. Though not very active, it is complemented by the national Kenya Wetlands Forum, which is coordinated by NGOs with strong involvement from the relevant government departments and agencies. In addition, sitespecific committees bring together interested key stakeholders including relevant national and county government departments and agencies.

World Heritage Convention

The National Museums of Kenya is the focal point for the World Heritage Convention and the Kenya Wildlife Service is in charge of Natural World Heritage Sites. Kenya is among 37 African countries with World Heritage Sites. As of June 2015, Kenya had six, as follows: Mount Kenya National Park and Natural Forest, Kenya Lake System in the Great Rift Valley and Turkana National Park representing natural sites; and Fort Jesus, Old Town Lamu and the Sacred Mijikenda Kaya Forest representing cultural sites.

Synergies-related issues and challenges

Synergies among multilateral environmental agreements can be addressed at different levels, ranging from national and regional to international, within policy development and implementation. Governments and intergovernmental platforms, such as the United Nations, have for many years noted the need to avoid duplication among international environmental agreements and related processes, as well as the implementation of activities. The outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want” stressed the importance of improving synergies among multilateral environmental agreements, as follows:

We emphasize the need for an improved and more effective institutional framework for sustainable development which should be guided by the specific functions required and mandates involved; address the shortcomings of the current system; take into account all relevant implications; promote synergies and coherence; seek to avoid duplication and eliminate unnecessary overlaps within the United Nations system; and reduce administrative burdens and build on existing arrangements.

Therefore, the need for synergies becomes even more evident. It is important to note that synergies in terms of the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements can lead to improved efficiency, especially as there has been reduced availability of funding globally and even nationally, due to competing needs. Furthermore, successful modalities of synergistic implementation can provide a good example for further replication or scaling-up for enhanced governance.

It is important to highlight that overlapping mandates among agencies and government bodies represent a challenge as they could lead to confusion and inefficient management of key policies. Hence, transparency across the board and stakeholder mapping are important means of promoting synergies.



The following matrix highlights ways of creating synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions.

Matrix of the priorities of the Convention on Migratory Species, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and the Ramsar Convention and the linkages with the goals and targets of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans

National goals/targets ¹⁵	Link to the Convention on Migratory Species	Link to CITES	Link to the Ramsar Convention
By 2020, 40 per cent of the population is aware of biodiversity issues and the steps to be taken to conserve and use them sustainably	Country species listing of proposals	Country listing of proposals	Country listing of Ramsar sites
Have a green economy strategy and action plan in place by 2015 Develop a sustainable production and consumption plan for priority sectors by 2020	Social and environmental impact assessment, environmental impact assessment and environmental assessments mandatory for projects within protected areas and outside that are likely to impact negatively and that contribute to implementing Convention-related actions	Convention licensing and national mechanism well established to ensure managed international and local use of wildlife resources, promoting the green economy	
By 2020, increase the forest cover to 10 per cent By 2020, restore/rehabilitate 20 per cent of degraded and fragmented habitats By 2020, bring the rate of loss of natural forest to close to zero Increase the percentage of protected areas	Project on mapping and recovery of wildlife migratory corridors initiated Establishment of wildlife conservancies by private and community land owners promoted		One new Ramsar Site designated (Tana Delta) and nomination of three World Heritage Sites: three Rift Valley Lakes (lakes Elementaita, Nakuru and Bogoria)
By 2020, eliminate or bring close to zero illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing By 2020, develop at least five management plans for inland specific water bodies and marine species			Management plans for inland-specific water bodies and marine species developed
By 2020, increase conservation and protected areas of terrestrial and inland water, and of coastal and marine ecosystems by 17 per cent	Recovery of wildlife dispersal areas and creation of wildlife corridors ongoing		
Develop a database on threatened species, a species action plan and a national register of threatened species	Species listing of the Convention on Migratory Species	Species listing proposals of CITES Significant trade review process Non-detriment finding studies process National action plans on combating illegal trade in elephants and rhinos	Important bird areas inventory and updating of conservation status

¹⁵ Proposed national goals that will be further refined during the NBSAP revision process and also inform refining target-setting.

National goals/targets ¹⁵	Link to the Convention on Migratory Species	Link to CITES	Link to the Ramsar Convention
By 2020, map 50 per cent of major ecosystems and establish the extent of degradation By 2020, restore 5 per cent of the degraded ecosystem	Restoration activities in degraded catchment areas that are key species habitats ongoing		
By 2017, establish the clearing house mechanism portal on access and benefit-sharing and make it operational National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation and Kenya Industrial Property Institute	Integrate information	Integrate information	Integrate information
Complete NBSAP by 2017			
Mainstream NBSAP in other sectorial development plans by 2020 Indigenous Information Network Kenya Industrial Property Institute National Museums of Kenya National Environment Management Authority Kenya Wildlife Service	Integrate priorities	Integrate priorities	Integrate priorities
By 2020, establish/strengthen a biodiversity repository for data, information and knowledge centre By 2020, establish a technology needs assessment By 2020, establish appropriate technologies for the conservation and sustainable use for biodiversity and strengthen capacity	Include relevant data and information	Include relevant data and information	Include relevant data and information
By 2017, develop a resources mobilization strategy for biodiversity Advocate for biodiversity research fund Designate a biodiversity national resource mobilization focal point by 2015	Use relevant priorities under the convention for implementation	Use relevant priorities under the convention for implementation	Use relevant priorities under the convention for implementation

Considerations for synergies

A number of key issues need to be addressed to foster synergies. On the institutional level, there needs to be enhanced coordination and a reassessment of structures, mechanisms, roles and responsibilities and the overall modalities of work. On substantive and technical issues related to multilateral environmental agreements, it is important to understand the crosscutting topics and how consolidated information management can help to establish synergies. Most significantly, establishing a national digital database for gathering and monitoring information on biodiversity can be a significant step towards synergistic implementation.

In matters of implementation, it is important to assess the capacities, administrative and resource requirements, and the role that stakeholders can play as enablers. It is important also to be mindful of overlapping mandates and how they may affect the implementation of certain initiatives. Mobilizing funding across all key levels is another significant recommendation, especially as activities that are being implemented jointly or synergistically may have an impact at the international, regional and national levels.

In the short term, building knowledge and policy networks and introducing ecosystem restoration programmes and other initiatives can be some of the key recommendations. In the long term, the sustainability of key initiatives and programmes, enhanced natural capital accounting and assessment mechanisms, the mainstreaming of biodiversity and conservation plans into national development planning and the implementation of payment-for-ecosystem models for strategically important biodiversity and ecosystem services are some key considerations.

Looking forward

In the work that lies ahead, UNEP can play a crucial role in providing support to countries like Kenya in mainstreaming activities and linking the biodiversity agenda to the agendas of various sectors such as forestry, agriculture, fisheries and finance, and fostering synergies aimed at reducing the reporting burden, minimizing costs and dealing with administrative issues. As demonstrated during the workshop, UNEP has a key role to play in facilitating meetings between multilateral environmental agreement experts with national focal points, under the auspices of the post-2010 formulation, to ensure that the revised NBSAP of Kenya fully considers the issue of enhancing synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions.



Sierra Leone

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Introduction

The NBSAP is one of the key conservation policy guidance documents in Sierra Leone that has been at the forefront of the Government's strategy to conserve biodiversity in the country since its adoption in the early 2000s. The process was first championed and coordinated by the Forestry Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security but has now been taken up by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which was established by an Act of Parliament in 2008. EPA now has the mandate to coordinate environment-related processes and programmes on behalf of the Government of Sierra Leone. In fact, EPA operates under the auspices of the Office of the President, emphasizing the importance of environmental and biodiversity issues in the Government's development agenda.

Status of the NBSAP revision

EPA reviewed the NBSAP in 2013, a little over 10 years after the development of the first-generation NBSAP. A steering committee was constituted, composed of stakeholders representing various institutions, ranging from government ministries and agencies to universities and NGOs. The committee was given the mandate to oversee and direct the review of the NBSAP, based on the assessment of the current NBSAP, and to ensure that government policies were appropriately incorporated and aligned in the process.

Technocrats, administrators, academics and researchers in biodiversity and related disciplines were consulted to carry out studies on a good number of themes with the aim of providing expert input to the revision of the NBSAP.

A two-day national workshop was held in the capital, Freetown, where presentations were made with further inputs from participants of various backgrounds and expertise, during the plenaries and group work.

One stakeholder group that actively participated in the revision process and discussions comprised the biodiversity convention focal points who made significant contributions during the workshops. Due to the establishment of EPA and the recent constitution of the National Protected Area Authority (NPAA), there have been some changes and/or restructuring of personnel, leading to the shifting of focal points from one ministry or agency to another. Most of the focal points for environment-related conventions and agreements are now housed within EPA and are responsible for more than one convention. These changes have not adversely affected the roles of the respective focal points for the NBSAP process in the country. In addition to the studies undertaken by current focal points for some of the multilateral environmental agreements, several themes were identified by experts who have previously served as focal points or scientific advisers.

For those multilateral environmental agreements that Sierra Leone is not a party to, focal points are charged with the responsibility of promulgating the text of the conventions, organizing meetings of stakeholders

and awareness-raising programmes. They also maintain direct contact and communication with the secretariat of the respective multilateral environmental agreement.

No active review has been undertaken for the implementation of those multilateral environmental agreements. Nevertheless, some actions have been geared towards their effective implementation. For example, the 1972 Wildlife Conservation Act and the 1988 Forestry Act have been reviewed in the light of the country becoming a party to certain multilateral environmental agreements such as the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Ramsar Convention. In fact, a new wetlands act has already been drafted, awaiting parliamentary ratification.

Key elements of the NBSAPs including targets and indicators and institutional mechanisms that will help the implementation of the NBSAPs

The review of the NBSAP began with a review of the 2003 NBSAP document as the key baseline information and basis for the 2013 NBSAP review process. The Aichi Biodiversity Targets were the key focus of each of the thematic areas of review for which studies and presentations were prepared. The Aichi Targets had five strategic goals and a total of 20 targets. Each study assessed the achievement of the targets and the degree to which such achievements had been made at the national level.

Considerable progress has been made in terms of setting up the structures and institutional mechanisms to help implement the NBSAPs. NPAA has been established to manage protected areas, while the relevant acts (the Wildlife Conservation Act, the Forestry Act and the Wetlands Act) have been reviewed or drafted to address biodiversity conservation issues.

Status of implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

The status of implementation of the various conventions and agreements depends on whether a multilateral environmental agreement has been signed or ratified and the level of awareness and degree of integration within national legislation. In the case of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, there has been effective implementation of the Convention since it was ratified in the 1990s. In fact, even local hunters are aware of the relevant regulations of the Convention on certain species and the export or trade of threatened and non-threatened species is virtually non-existent nationwide. A number of workshops and awareness-raising consultations have been held, targeting various stakeholders on issues relating to the Convention. In addition, government wildlife officers are stationed at airports and border crossings to implement the Convention regulations, which has led to a number of persons being arrested and to the seizure of live animals and souvenir items over the years.

Status of implementation of the Ramsar Convention

The Ramsar Convention was signed in the year 2000 and ratified in 2012. Significant efforts have been made to implement the Convention, including the declaration of the Sierra Leone River Estuary as a Ramsar Site and the proposal for Yawri Bay to be declared a Ramsar Site. Furthermore, there has been an increased focus on the conservation of wetlands in the country, culminating in the legislative enactment of four major estuarine systems as coastal and marine protected areas.

Implementation of the Convention on Migratory Species and the World Heritage Convention

With the exception of some levels of inter-agency consultations, particularly through facilitation by the Conservation Society of Sierra Leone, not a great deal has been done in relation to the signing and ratification of the Convention on Migratory Species. However, the NPAA has initiated steps that would

eventually result in the signing and ratification of the Convention. The same applies to the World Heritage Convention, but efforts are already under way to recommend the declaration of Gola Rain Forest National Park in eastern Sierra Leone as a World Heritage Site. By all indications, Sierra Leone will in the near future become a party to the Convention on Migratory Species and to the World Heritage Convention.

Status of implementation of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Sierra Leone became a party to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in 2002. Very little is known about the Treaty, however, and its implementation is generally weak, with the exception of ad hoc research and documentation by the Sierra Leone Agricultural Research Institute and Njala University.

Synergy-related issues and challenges

Planning

Planning for the achievement of enhanced cooperation and synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions requires the full and informed participation of administrative and technical heads of all relevant ministries, departments and agencies. Once the results of the consultations are available and analysed to bring out the key issues, a multi-agency consultation could be held where consensus can be reached and possible memorandums of understanding signed between relevant agencies on areas of collaboration and synergistic action. Such consultations should also take into consideration community perspectives and priorities on issues of synergies in local action.

Institutional opportunities

There has always been an excellent level of collaboration between departments, agencies and universities on environmental and biodiversity issues. Such collaboration remains very strong and active. A number of agencies and institutions have already evinced a keen interest in participating in synergies geared towards the implementation of the multilateral environmental agreements.

Institutional challenges

One of the main institutional challenges in promoting synergies between the various conventions is the conflict of interest within and between institutions. As in other countries, overlapping mandates, particularly those stipulated in acts that established the various institutions, can be problematic. Furthermore, inadequate funding remains a vital concern within institutions in addressing issues related to the conventions, with government budgets being insufficient for effective implementation of the multilateral environmental agreements. There is also a lack of institutional and technical capacity and thus further training is required to address shortfalls in knowledge and technical expertise.

Other key challenges

In Sierra Leone, there are a number of issues to tackle while working on synergies. Disaggregating and clarifying mandates is absolutely essential. Capacity-building of human resources and on the institutional level is fundamental to moving forward. On the institutional and political levels, there is a need for enhanced political will in pushing forward key legislation and promoting synergies. Raising awareness is another key challenge in promoting synergies.

Matrix of the priorities of the Convention on Migratory Species, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and the Ramsar Convention and the linkages with the goals and targets of the national biodiversity strategy and action plan

NBSAPs goal/target	Link to Convention on Migratory Species	Link to CITES	Link to Ramsar
Wildlife conservation	Migratory birds and transboundary movement of animals	Illegal trade, endangered flora and fauna	Migratory birds
Protected area management	Migratory birds and transboundary movement of animals	Illegal trade, endangered flora and fauna	Marine protected areas established
Policy and legislation	Wildlife Conservation Management Act, Forestry Act, National Protected Area Authority Act, EPA Act, Wetlands Act	Wildlife Conservation Management Act, Forestry Act, National Protected Area Authority Act, EPA Act, Wetlands Act	Wildlife Conservation Management Act, Forestry Act, National Protected Area Authority Act, EPA Act, Wetlands Act
Education and awareness-raising (cross-cutting among the biological diversity multilateral environmental agreements)	National steering and technical committees	National steering and technical committees	National steering and technical committees
Public participation (cross-cutting)	Requires institutional strengthening (provision of monitoring tools) and training of government officers and law enforcement officers, e.g. police, judges, magistrates etc., provision of logistics support		
Coordination and collaboration	Requires funding for implementation of management plans for biodiversity conservation and enforcement		
Climate change and gender mainstreaming			
Impact assessment			
Capacity-building			
Resource mobilization/financing			
Data and information sharing			
Access and benefit sharing to genetic resources			
Science and research			
Indigenous knowledge			
Technology innovations and transfer			
Monitoring and reporting			

Considerations for achieving synergies

National reporting processes

In order to avoid duplication of efforts, it is important to synthesize information from focal points, experts and others to prepare a consolidated report for different multilateral environmental agreements. This can promote synergies and minimize the efforts of a limited number of people to replicate actions.

Partnerships

Achieving synergies would lose purpose if it did not involve various partners and entities, including relevant stakeholders such as civil society organizations, the private sector, research and academic institutions and local communities.

Looking forward

It is expected that the full text of the NBSAP will be completed and available by mid-2016. Furthermore, through the signing of memorandums of understanding and memorandums of cooperation, it is expected that effective inter-agency collaboration can be established for effective implementation of the NBSAP and the promotion of synergies. A coordination framework should be established for effective monitoring and reporting purposes as well.

In the immediate future, additional funds are needed to mainstream key and emerging issues, such as synergies and the Sustainable Development Goals, into the revised NBSAP. Building institutional, technical and human capacities through additional funding and training is essential. The technical committee and coordination mechanisms are soon to be established and operationalized within the next one to three years to achieve results on synergies. In the medium term (three to five years), it is expected that key components of the NBSAP, such as adequate funding and political will, will have been mobilized and that a comprehensive mechanism for NBSAP monitoring, evaluation and reporting will be in place.

UNEP has played a key role as an overall facilitator and can continue to do so by providing expertise and knowledge-sharing platforms, bringing countries together to discuss synergies at the regional or international levels. Furthermore, it is expected that UNEP could provide support in building consensus between agencies and creating a workable platform for stakeholders to work together in order to ensure smooth implementation of the multilateral environmental agreements in a synergistic manner. It can also provide support to develop and implement a training needs assessment and implementation plan.



Latin America and the Caribbean

Brazil

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Introduction

The Ministry of the Environment is the technical focal point in Brazil for the Convention for Biological Diversity, represented by the Biodiversity and Forests Secretariat. Brazil is one of the parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity that are still working on their respective NBSAPs. Because the revision is ongoing, it was not submitted for peer review at the NBSAP Forum.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, also called Itamaraty, has a Department of the Environment (Dema/Itamaraty), which acts as a political focal point for the biodiversity-related conventions, except for the World Heritage Convention, which is under the responsibility of the Department of Culture (DC/Itamaraty). Itamaraty works closely with ministries and government agencies responsible for the technical issues covered under each Convention. The technical aspects of international commitments are implemented by the different ministries and reported back to Itamaraty, which then reports to the convention secretariats.

The Ministry of the Environment has an Office for International Affairs, which operates as a channel of communication between Itamaraty and the Ministry of the Environment secretariats. The Office for International Affairs is responsible for guiding and supporting the Ministry of the Environment's participation in international forums; and articulating and negotiating with international agencies, entities and foreign Governments to support programmes and projects concerning the environment. After consolidating the technical information provided by the secretariats, the Office for International Affairs reports back to Itamaraty, which then transmits the information to the respective convention secretariats.

The technical focal point for the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Ramsar Convention and, more recently, the Convention on Migratory Species, is the Ministry of the Environment and its agencies. For the World Heritage Convention and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, this responsibility is shared with other ministries. This structure emphasizes the importance of the global environmental issues covered by the multilateral environmental agreements, such as strategies for climate change and reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries, and the various branches of government involved.

Status of NBSAP revision

Initially, a large participative process called "Dialogues on Biodiversity" was organized, resulting in the definition of the National Biodiversity Targets 2011–2020 (table 1 below), approved by the National Biodiversity Commission. In parallel to the process to define the National Biodiversity Targets 2011–2020, the Ministry of the Environment in partnership with the Ministry of Planning, Budget and Administration and the Brazilian Fund for Biodiversity, started a dialogue with other sectors of the federal Government to develop the Governmental Action Plan for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity, with the objective of minimizing or halting the loss of national biodiversity. This multisectoral debate resulted in a document entitled "Subsidies to the Governmental Action Plan and Guidelines for the 2016–2019 Multi-Year Plan:¹⁶ Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity", released in 2015.

Table 1: National biodiversity targets 2011–2020

Strategic objective A – Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity considerations across government and society
National target 1: By 2020, at the latest, Brazilian people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.
National target 2: By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values, geo-diversity values, and socio-diversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction and inequality reduction strategies, and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and into planning procedures and reporting systems.
National target 3: By 2020, at the latest, incentives harmful to biodiversity, including the so-called perverse subsidies, are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize negative impacts. Positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity, taking into account national and regional socioeconomic conditions.
National target 4: By 2020, at the latest, governments, private sector and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption to mitigate or prevent negative impacts from the use of natural resources.
Strategic objective B – Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use
National target 5: By 2020, the rate of loss of native habitats is reduced by at least 50 per cent (in comparison with the 2009 rate) and, as much as possible, brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced in all biomes.

¹⁶ The federal multi-year plan, prepared every four years by the federal Government with inputs from all sectors, contains all ongoing or planned sectoral programmes and activities for a given four-year period.

National target 6: By 2020, all stocks of any aquatic organism are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem-based approaches, so that overharvesting is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems, and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits, when scientifically established.

National target 7: By 2020, the incorporation of sustainable management practices is disseminated and promoted in agriculture, livestock production, aquaculture, silviculture, extractive activities and forest and fauna management, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.

National target 8: By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity.

National target 9: By 2020, the National Strategy on Invasive Alien Species is fully implemented, with the participation and commitment of states and the elaboration of a national policy, ensuring the continuous and updated diagnosis of species and the effectiveness of action plans for prevention, contention and control.

National target 10: By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other marine and coastal ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification, are minimized so as to maintain their integrity and functioning.

Strategic objective C: To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity

National target 11: By 2020, at least 30 per cent of the Amazon, 17 per cent of each of the other terrestrial biomes, and 10 per cent of the marine and coastal areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through protected areas foreseen under the Brazilian System of Protected Areas Law and other categories of officially protected areas such as Permanent Protection Areas, legal reserves, and indigenous lands with native vegetation, ensuring and respecting the demarcation, regularization and effective and equitable management, so as to ensure ecological interconnection, integration and representation in broader landscapes and seascapes.

National target 12: By 2020, the risk of extinction of threatened species has been significantly reduced, tending to zero, and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved.

National target 13: By 2020, the genetic diversity of microorganisms, cultivated plants, farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including socioeconomically and culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing the loss of genetic diversity.

Strategic objective D: Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services

National target 14: By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, traditional peoples and communities, indigenous peoples and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.

National target 15: By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced through conservation and restoration actions, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, prioritizing the most degraded biomes, hydrographic regions and ecoregions, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combatting desertification.

National target 16: By 2015, the Nagoya Protocol is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.

Strategic objective E: Enhance the implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacitybuilding

National target 17: By 2014, the national biodiversity strategy is updated and adopted as policy instrument, with effective, participatory and updated action plans, which foresee periodic monitoring and evaluation.

National target 18: By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples, family rural producers and traditional communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, in accordance with their uses, customs and traditions, national legislation and relevant international commitments, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples, family rural producers and traditional communities, at all relevant levels.

National target 19: By 2020, the science base and technologies necessary for enhancing knowledge on biodiversity, its values, functioning and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved and shared, and the sustainable use of biodiversity, as well as the generation of biodiversity-based technology and innovation are supported, duly transferred and applied. By 2017, the complete compilation of existing records on aquatic and terrestrial fauna, flora and microbiota is finalized and made available through permanent and open access databases, with specificities safeguarded, with a view to identifying knowledge gaps related to biomes and taxonomic groups.

National target 20: Immediately following the approval of the Brazilian targets, resource needs assessments are carried out for the implementation of national targets, followed by the mobilization and allocation of financial resources to enable, from 2015 onwards, the implementation and monitoring of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020, as well as the achievement of its targets.

Source: National Biodiversity Commission resolution 06/2013 of 3 September 2013.

At the end of the “Dialogues on Biodiversity” process in 2012, and to complement the Governmental Action Plan and ensure the necessary involvement of all sectors to achieve the biodiversity conservation targets, a discussion was initiated among the sectors involved in the process to develop a multistakeholder panel to promote the achievement of the National Biodiversity Targets.

In June 2012, during the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, an event was held to present the results of the “Dialogues on Biodiversity”, as well as the proposal to create the Brazilian Panel on Biodiversity (PainelBio). Since its creation, the Panel’s mission has been to contribute to the conservation and the sustainable use of Brazilian biodiversity by promoting synergy between institutions and knowledge, making scientific information available to society, promoting capacity-building at various levels, and supporting decisionmaking processes and public policies for the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in Brazil.

The definition of indicators for the new national biodiversity targets for 2020 became the first task assigned to the PainelBio, involving a meaningful social participation process. The Ministry of the Environment recently received the final document. PainelBio has suggested a set of 28 indicators for the monitoring of the national targets.

All these processes have resulted in a better understanding of biodiversity, especially in the realm of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The innovative approach of the Government of Brazil was recognized as a positive example of integration between different sectors of society and governmental institutions. Indeed, coordinating perceptions and expectations, identified through thematic discussion groups, and translating them into actions and projects that are planned or already under way requires significant effort.

The Brazilian NBSAP comprises a broad set of programmes and projects that reflect the principles and objectives of national policies and lead to the definition of instruments and actions capable of complying with the Aichi Biodiversity Targets for 2020 and the 20 national targets. A new step-by-step approach was chosen taking into account the need to define and ensure the achievement of the targets.

Given the above, the ongoing NBSAP revision, to be concluded soon, is focused on targets that are covered under the Biodiversity and Forest Secretariat’s responsibility. The manner in which the Secretariat and its departments are organized facilitates the monitoring and supervision of all related activities and helps to promote the advancement of the targets set forth in the Secretariat’s Strategic Plan, resulting in objectiveness and institutionalized targets. This innovative approach permits future negotiation and mainstreaming actions, leading to new, revised and extended versions of the NBSAP commitments and specific targets involving other actors.

Based on the Convention on Biological Diversity and national targets, this approach presents a real commitment to the implementation of Brazilian objectives. It should be underlined that important actions for the monitoring, conservation and recovery of the Brazilian ecosystems and the accomplishment of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets are undertaken and that several among them are closely related to the other multilateral environmental agreements. Some examples of Brazil’s progress towards achieving the Aichi and national targets, among others, include the following:

- Federal Law 13.123 (May 2015), regulating the exploitation of Genetic Resources and guaranteeing benefits-sharing resulting from the use of Brazilian biodiversity and associated traditional knowledge (Targets 1, 16 and 18).

- Environmental Monitoring Programme of the Brazilian Biomes, issued last November by ordinance 365/2015, extending the experience accumulated in the Amazon and the results in reducing its deforestation. It is worth noting that the initial data related to the monitoring of the Brazilian savannas revealed the conservation of 54 per cent of the Cerrado (Targets 5, 14 and 15).
- Fully embedded by the commitment to mainstream biodiversity, the Ministry of the Environment launched a partnership in late 2015 with a national agribusiness association to guarantee the protection of 40 per cent of the Northern Cerrado, in an area named MATOPIBA. Rural areas are recognized for their conservation value, and agricultural production respects the rights of local people. Another important initiative covers actions to do with private lands. With financial support from GEF, the project aims to guarantee biodiversity conservation in productive areas through the recovery and sustainable management of forests in private properties (Targets 3, 5, 7, 13 and 18).
- The Amazon Region Protected Areas Programme (ARPA) Project, which supports 35 per cent of protected areas in the Brazilian Amazon region (beyond Target 11) obtained support from the Global Environmental Facility, including a component for knowledge exchange with Colombia and Peru. Another project, funded by GEF, called Amazon Sustainable Landscapes, aims to protect the biodiversity and implement policies for the recovery of native vegetation coverage and the sustainable use of land in the Amazon. Linked to the ARPA project goals, the aim is to consolidate 60 million hectares into protected areas, guaranteeing financial sustainability and promoting connectivity among remaining forests and relevant ecosystems (Targets 11 and 5).
- The National Forest Code (federal law 12.651/2012) and the Rural Environmental Registry (decree 7.830/2014) are proving to be effective tools in fostering conservation in private areas, based on set-asides and the protection of riverbeds and areas prone to erosion, which potentially represents a system as large as the Federal System of Protected Areas (Targets 3, 11 and 14).
- The Brazilian Fauna Catalogue and the academy studies confirm that there are 46,096 recognized flora species and more than 100,000 fauna species in Brazil. Concerning the revised Red List of Threatened Species, 76 per cent of the flora and 75 per cent of fauna under threat are now protected under Protected Areas, National Action Plans or other initiatives. The Programme for Threatened Species helps to focus resources and efforts to increase knowledge and the level of conservation in the country (Targets 6, 10 and 12).
- The communication strategy is under review, including spontaneous communication and fundraising actions to make available a larger number of documents in the six official languages of the United Nations, as well as platforms used to publicize technical information.

The Biodiversity and Forests Secretariat is looking forward to consolidating the revised NBSAP of Brazil in early 2016. It is important to note that the information on targets and indicators provided in this document is still under revision, subject to broader approval process.

Some Brazilian states, such as São Paulo, Paraná and Rio Grande do Sul, have developed and started the implementation of subnational biodiversity strategies and action plans or state programmes with similar objectives. At least two other states (Ceará and Espírito Santo) have initiated the development of subnational strategies, and at least three others (Minas Gerais, Bahia and Tocantins) have developed or are preparing a state policy on biodiversity.

Strategic planning of the Biodiversity and Forests Secretariat and national biodiversity strategy and action plan revision

As mentioned above, the Biodiversity and Forests Secretariat is the core institution for the Brazilian biodiversity-related public policies and its strategic planning contemplates the inclusion of multilateral environmental agreement objectives into actions and programmes, resulting in a high level of synergy among them. The Ministry of the Environment recently reviewed its strategic plan for 2014–2022, which established guidelines for the Biodiversity and Forests Secretariat Strategic Plan revision, concluded in 2015.

The identified actions and strategic initiatives to be taken by the Biodiversity and Forests Secretariat during that period were divided into four priority agendas that covered the multilateral environmental agreement objectives and also took into account the national targets.

Table 2 shows the structural elements for the Brazilian policies for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, and table 3 shows the core actions to be carried out or coordinated by the Biodiversity and Forests Secretariat in the coming years.

Table 2: Priority agendas of the Biodiversity and Forests Secretariat (core action axes)

Brazilian species conservation, reducing threats and extinction risk.
Biodiversity conservation in protected areas.
Ecosystems conservation and landscape sustainable management.
Management of the national development of access and benefit-sharing strategy

Table 3: Priority actions on biodiversity conservation and sustainable use

National action plans for conservation of threatened species
Management system of shared fisheries
National exotic invasive species control programme
National strategy for the consolidation of protected areas
Enhancement of protected areas management capacity
Protected areas conservation assessment
Updating the information system of the national protected areas cadastre
Environmental Monitoring Programme of the Brazilian Biomes
Updating the priority areas for biodiversity conservation of the Brazilian biomes, marine and coastal areas
National Plan for Native Vegetation Recovery
Access and benefit-sharing legal framework regulation
National Plan on Capacity-Building, Access and Benefit-Sharing
Access and Benefit-Sharing Information System
Enhancement of access and benefit-sharing productive chain
Promotion strategy of the Brazilian model of access and benefit-sharing in national and multilateral forums

As mentioned above, the NBSAP under revision focuses on the targets under the responsibility of the Biodiversity and Forests Secretariat, listed in the 20 national targets established by the broader consultation process described.

Priority agendas

Table 4: Indicators for national targets covered by priority agenda targets and priority actions on biodiversity conservation and sustainable use

	Species conservation, reducing threats and extinction risk	Biodiversity conservation into the protected areas	Ecosystems conservation and landscape sustainable management	Management of the national development of access and benefitsharing strategy
National targets	6, 9, 12	11	5, 7, 10, 11, 14, 15	16, 18
Biodiversity and Forests Secretariat indicators	Percentage of threatened or endangered species covered by action plans of another legal framework for recovery or conservation	Percentage of protected areas that enhanced the conservation status	Number of maps developed by the National Programme for Biomes, Monitoring (type, biome, year)	Number of access and benefit-sharing agreements

Synergy-related issues and challenges

Due to the cultural, socioeconomic, geographic and biological diversity of the country and its continental dimension, the definition of National Biodiversity Targets proved to be a complex, although extremely enriching exercise (as mentioned in the fifth national report of Brazil). Reporting on different conventions remains a key challenge, which can be a time-consuming process and may lead to duplication of information and resource inefficiency. Financing remains a key challenge, both at the national and international levels. Fund-raising capacity, especially at the local level, remains a challenge that needs to be addressed. At the international level, the key issue remains mobilizing support and creating the conditions to unlock international financing mechanisms.

In Brazil, communication, cooperation and collaboration on issues related to the implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions mainly depend on individual champions, or process-demands that require comprehensive gathering of information. There are risks associated with this informality, as insufficient human resources are available to implement the highly demanding biodiversity conservation agenda.

Furthermore, insufficient human resources intended to follow the highly demanding biodiversity conservation agenda in Brazil hinders the establishment of an appropriate coordination arrangement among the national focal points for the biodiversity-related conventions. A better human resource evaluation of the minimum team required to cover Convention on Biological Diversity issues will naturally improve coordination because when there is a lack of people, aspects such as coordination, integration and synergy are the first key points to be sacrificed.

Mexico

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Introducción

La primera Estrategia de Biodiversidad en México data del 2000. Después de la adopción del Plan Estratégico para la Diversidad Biológica 2011-2020 y las Metas de Aichi, México inició la actualización de su estrategia de biodiversidad y el Plan de Acción, en cumplimiento de la Meta 17. En el 2012 se designó a la Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad (CONABIO) como entidad coordinadora de dicho proceso. La Estrategia Nacional sobre Biodiversidad (ENBioMex) y su Plan de Acción Nacional 2016-2030, establece seis Ejes estratégicos:

Estado Actual de la ENBioMex y su Plan de Acción 2016-2030

Para la formulación de la ENBioMex, la CONABIO en coordinación con distintas instituciones y expertos en temas de biodiversidad, integraron el documento base de la Estrategia y su plan de acción nacional el cual, a partir de su versión final ha sido ampliamente consultado en el marco de diversos talleres de enriquecimiento. Posteriormente, fue sometido a un proceso consulta pública nacional, procedimiento al cual se tienen que someter todos los documentos de planeación y regulatorios que sean publicados por el gobierno de México, esto con la finalidad de dar a conocer el documento y recibir retroalimentación por parte de la sociedad. En este sentido, se recibieron propuestas y comentarios por parte de actores gubernamentales, sociales y académicos.

Actualmente la ENBioMex se encuentra en proceso editorial, de acuerdo a la programación de este proceso, la ENBioMex será presentada de manera oficial en la COP13 de biodiversidad a celebrarse en México en diciembre de 2016.

La Estrategia de México contiene información relevante sobre el estado actual de la biodiversidad de México, sus servicios ecosistémicos, así como las políticas nacionales y el marco jurídico aplicable. La ENBioMex destaca la inclusión de la perspectiva de género, las metas nacionales alineadas a las Metas de Aichi, la relación de la biodiversidad con el cumplimiento de los Objetivos de Desarrollo



Sostenible y la integración de la biodiversidad en los planes y programas de los sectores económicos de México.

La ENBioMex incluye principios rectores, una Misión y Visión al 2030, además de un plan de acción basado en seis ejes estratégicos: 1) Conocimiento, 2) Conservación y restauración, 3) Uso y manejo sustentable, 4) Atención a los factores de presión, 5) Educación, comunicación y cultura ambiental y 6) Integración y gobernanza; los cuales incluyen objetivos, fundamentos, líneas de acción, acciones, especificaciones, plazos de cumplimiento y actores clave para su implementación.

Proceso de actualización de la ENBioMex:

Año	Actividad	Resultados
2012	Taller de establecimiento de Metas Nacionales. CONABIO coordinó un taller con 80 funcionarios provenientes de 26 dependencias de la Administración Pública Federal.	34 metas nacionales alineadas con las Metas de Aichi.
2013	Talleres temáticos de la ENBioMex. Se realizaron seis reuniones de acuerdo a los seis ejes de la estrategia. Participaron más de 100 personas expertas tanto de gobierno federal, estatal, academia, sociedad civil organizada y consultores independientes.	propuestas de Misión, Visión y Plan de Acción de la ENBioMex: 1) Objetivos estratégicos, 2) Fundamentos, 3) Líneas de acción y 4) Acciones con: actores, especificaciones y plazos de cumplimiento.
2014	Taller de enriquecimiento de la ENBioMex. Participaron 160 representantes de los sectores público (federal y estatal), académico, privado y de la sociedad civil. Los objetivos fueron: 1) Dar a conocer el proceso de actualización de la ENBioMex 2) Revisar y enriquecer el documento base para que la versión consolidada se sometiera a una consulta pública, revisión por expertos y finalmente, el proceso editorial, publicación y presentación del documento final.	-Plan de Acción de la ENBioMex consultado y enriquecido.
2016	Taller de "Transversalización de la perspectiva de género en la Estrategia Nacional sobre Biodiversidad de México y su Plan de Acción (ENBioMex) 2016-2030". Participaron cerca de 65 mujeres de distintas organizaciones académicas, sociales y de gobierno, con la finalidad de incluir la perspectiva de género en la Estrategia.	Documento preliminar de la ENBioMex revisado, enriquecido y con la inclusión de la perspectiva de género, en particular los capítulos: 1) La biodiversidad de México: Aspectos clave y estado de conocimiento, 2) Servicios ecosistémicos 3) Fundamentos institucionales, 3) Plan de Acción de la ENBioMex, 4) Implementación de la Estrategia.
	La ENBioMex está en proceso editorial.	-Publicación de la Estrategia para el segundo semestre de 2016.

Esfuerzos estatales: Iniciativa de las Estrategias Estatales de Biodiversidad:

Adicionalmente México, a través de la CONABIO, colabora con 22 entidades del país para la elaboración de estudios diagnóstico de la biodiversidad y estrategias para la conservación y el uso sustentable de la biodiversidad de cada entidad. Se han publicado 13 estudios, con la participación de 2377 personas expertas nacionales e internacionales. Por otro lado, al día de hoy se cuenta con 9 estrategias publicadas para los estados de Aguascalientes, Campeche, Chiapas, Chihuahua, Guanajuato, Michoacán, Morelos, Puebla y Veracruz; así como 6 en proceso de elaboración para: Jalisco, Oaxaca, Ciudad de México, Quintana Roo, Yucatán y Tabasco. Dichos esfuerzos contemplan la alineación de sus ejes estratégicos a las Metas de Aichi. La elaboración de las Estrategias son procesos ampliamente participativos, en cada entidad han colaborado en promedio 200 personas, y en general para esta iniciativa, cerca de 2800 personas.

También se han elaborado otras estrategias temáticas a nivel nacional:

Estrategia y año de publicación	Objetivos en materia de biodiversidad y servicios ecosistémicos	Meta de Aichi que atiende
Estrategia Nacional sobre Especies Invasoras en México: Prevención, Control y Erradicación (2010)	<p>Identifica cinco acciones estratégicas transversales (marco legal y normativo, desarrollo de capacidades, coordinación intersectorial, concientización y conocimiento para la toma de decisiones informadas) para cumplir tres objetivos:</p> <p>i) Prevenir, detectar y reducir el riesgo de introducción, establecimiento y dispersión de especies invasoras;</p> <p>ii) Establecer programas de control y erradicación de poblaciones de especies exóticas invasoras destinados a minimizar o eliminar sus impactos negativos y favorecer la restauración y conservación de los ecosistemas, e</p> <p>Informar oportuna y eficazmente a la sociedad para que asuma responsablemente las acciones a su alcance en la prevención, control y erradicación de las especies invasoras</p>	9
Estrategia de Cambio Climático desde las Áreas Protegidas (eccap, segunda edición) (2014)	<p>Aumentar la capacidad de adaptación de los ecosistemas —y la población que habita en ellos— frente al cambio climático; y</p> <p>Contribuir a la mitigación de emisiones de gases efecto invernadero y al enriquecimiento de los almacenes de carbono.</p>	11 y 15
Estrategia 2040 de áreas naturales protegidas	<p>Consolidar el marco de planeación para orientar acciones de conservación en áreas protegidas rumbo al 2040.</p>	
Estrategia Nacional de Manejo Sustentable de Tierras (2010)	<p>Fomentar el manejo sustentable de tierras, en todos los ecosistemas del país, mediante la coordinación y concurrencia ordenada de acciones, programas y recursos de los tres órdenes de gobierno, y la participación de diversos sectores de la sociedad.</p>	5 y 7
Estrategia Nacional para la Conservación y el Desarrollo Sustentable del Territorio Insular Mexicano (2012)	<p>En relación al Territorio Insular Mexicano (TIM) se busca la articulación de cuatro líneas transversales (Conocimiento, políticas públicas, coordinación interinstitucional y financiamiento) se definen tres líneas estratégicas:</p> <p>i) Consolidar y garantizar la soberanía del TIM para beneficio de los mexicanos, por medio de un marco jurídico transversal, y asegurar la vigencia del Estado de Derecho,</p> <p>Lograr de manera sostenida la conservación de los ecosistemas insulares y su biodiversidad, tanto marina como terrestre, a través de la protección, el manejo, la restauración, el conocimiento, la cultura y la gestión, y</p> <p>ii) Lograr balance en las dimensiones fundamentales del desarrollo sustentable: ecológica, social y económica. Esto promoverá la calidad de vida de las comunidades que habitan o hacen uso del TIM, para beneficio de las presentes y futuras generaciones de mexicanos</p>	10 y 11
Estrategia Mexicana para la Conservación Vegetal 2012-2030. (2012)	<p>i) Generación y transmisión del conocimiento,</p> <p>ii) Conservación in situ y ex situ,</p> <p>iii) Restauración de ecosistemas degradados,</p> <p>iv) Prevención y control de amenazas,</p> <p>v) Uso sustentable y</p> <p>vi) Educación y cultura ambiental.</p>	1, 4, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14 y 15

Estrategia y año de publicación	Objetivos en materia de biodiversidad y servicios ecosistémicos	Meta de Aichi que atiende
Estrategia Nacional para la Atención del Ecosistema de Manglar (2012)	Alinear políticas y programas de la apf con un enfoque transversal que oriente sus actividades en el ámbito costero nacional, para: i) Lograr la protección de los ecosistemas de manglar, ii) Prevenir su deterioro y, en su caso, iii) Generar alternativas productivas sustentables, iv) Así como la restauración de su estructura, función y extensión, con la participación directa y permanente de la sociedad civil organizada.	10 y 14
Estrategia Nacional de Cambio Climático (encc) (2013)	Entre sus objetivos está el conservar y usar de forma sustentable los ecosistemas y mantener los servicios ambientales que proveen (Tema A3), así como Impulsar mejores prácticas agropecuarias y forestales para incrementar y preservar los sumideros naturales de carbono (Tema M4).	15
Política Nacional de Humedales (2014)	Establecer las bases y prioridades para la articulación de las acciones de la apf y la coordinación con los otros órdenes de gobierno, así como los sectores privado y social en el control, prevención y mitigación de los impactos que amenazan a los humedales.	10, 14 y 15
Política Nacional de Mares y costas (2012)	Tienen la finalidad de configurar la imagen objetiva la que debemos llegar para mejorar la situación de las zonas marinas y costeras de México, mediante una gestión que induzca el desarrollo económico y social sin menoscabo del patrimonio natural de estas regiones.	11

1. Planes y Acciones actuales que incluyen prioridades y actividades relacionadas con la implementación de los MEAs relacionados con biodiversidad como CITES, CMS, Ramsar, WHC e ITPGRFA.

- Plan Nacional de Desarrollo.
- Cuenta con algunos objetivos que tienen relación con la implementación de algunos MEAs, de manera específica, la Meta IV México próspero y la Meta V. México con Responsabilidad Global.
- Programa Sectorial de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales.
 - o Objetivo 2. Incrementar la resiliencia a efectos del cambio climático y disminuir emisiones de compuestos y gases de efecto invernadero.
 - o Objetivo 4. Recuperar la funcionalidad de cuencas de paisajes a través de la conservación, restauración y aprovechamiento sustentable del patrimonio natural. *Este objetivo de suma importancia para la implementación de los MEAs debido a que se incluye lo relacionado a Metas de Aichi, áreas naturales protegidas, especies en riesgo, impulsar desarrollo del marco regulatorio para implementar protocolos del CDB, actualizar la Estrategia Nacional de Biodiversidad en línea con el Plan Estratégico para la Diversidad Biológica 2011-2020 y las Metas de Aichi del CDB.
 - Uno de los indicadores principales del Objetivo 4 se refiere a la superficie conservada por medio de sistemas de áreas protegidas y otras modalidades de conservación. El indicador nacional comparte la meta de superficie protegida con la Meta 11 de Aichi, 17% terrestre y 10% marino y se establece como plazo para cumplirlo en 2018.

- Programa Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas 2014-2018
 - o Reconoce la importancia de fortalecer el papel de México en el contexto internacional por medio del desempeño de las Áreas Naturales Protegidas en el marco de los acuerdos, tratados y programas internacionales en materia de conservación de la biodiversidad.
 - o Se incluyen elementos que si bien no mencionan específicamente a algún convenio en particular, si retoman los elementos que estos mandatan, entre ellos destacan: las medidas de adaptación al cambio climático en áreas protegidas, la conectividad entre áreas, el incremento de la superficie conservada, el financiamiento sostenible de las áreas y la evaluación de la efectividad de manejo, entre otras.

Sobre Sinergias

Preparación del país para incluir los componentes relacionados a las sinergias y la integración de acciones relacionadas con las sinergias entre los MEAs en materia de biodiversidad dentro de las NBSAP (si la NBSAP ya está terminada, incluir los planes para la inclusión de los componentes en la fase de implementación)

Dentro de los fundamentos institucionales de la ENBioMex y su Plan de Acción 2016-2030 se ha incluido un apartado con los principales tratados internacionales relacionados a la biodiversidad y que han sido suscritos por México:

1. Convención Internacional para la reglamentación de la Caza de la Ballena
2. Convención Internacional de Protección Fitosanitaria
3. Convención sobre la Protección del Patrimonio Mundial, Cultural y Natural
4. Convención sobre el Comercio Internacional de Especies Amenazadas de Fauna y Flora Silvestres.
5. Convención RAMSAR
6. Convención Marco de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Cambio Climático
7. Convenio sobre la Diversidad Biológica
8. Convención de las Naciones Unidas de Lucha contra la Desertificación
9. Convención Interamericana para la Protección y Conservación de las Tortugas Marinas

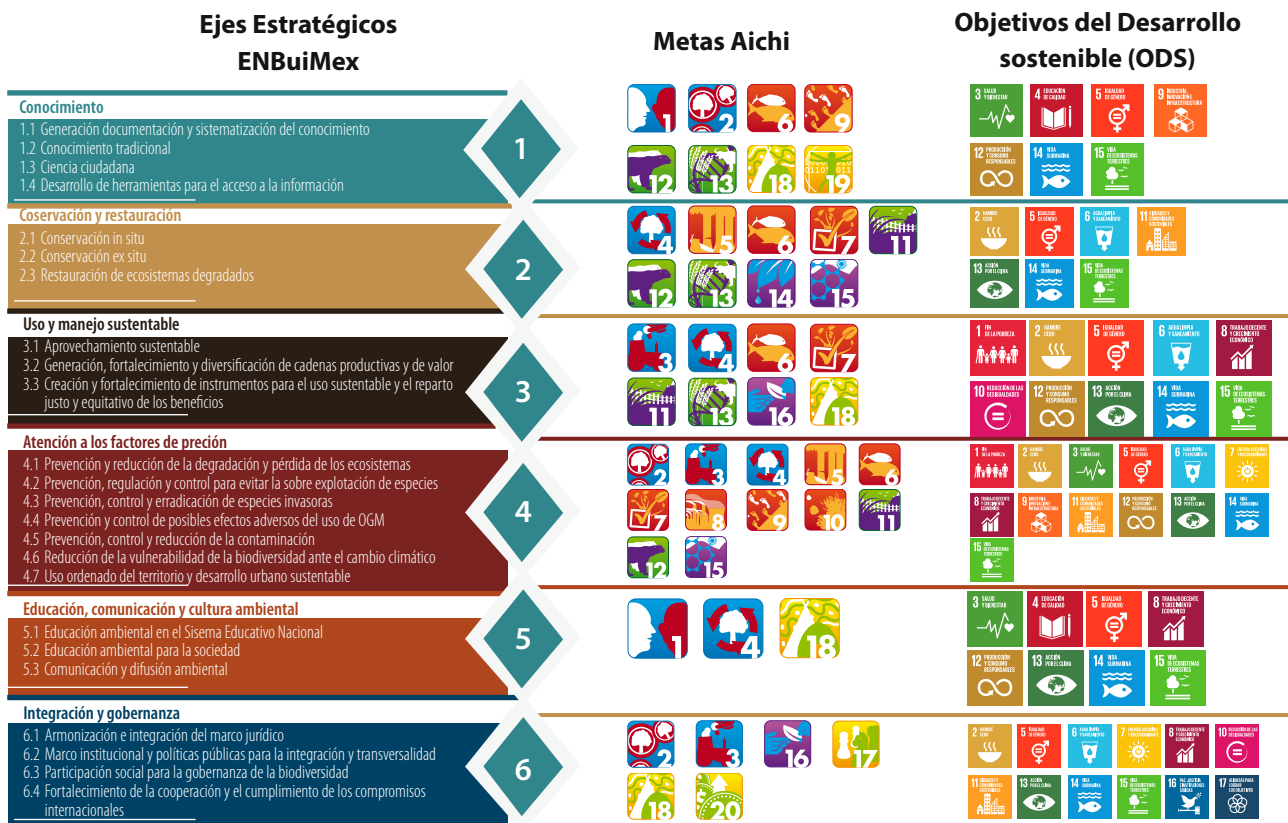
La ENBioMex definirá directrices que impulsarán el cumplimiento del Plan Estratégico para la Diversidad Biológica 2011-2020 y sus Metas de Aichi, así como los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible.¹⁷ En este sentido, se pueden identificar algunas líneas de acción que tienen relación con la implementación de algunos MEAs, a continuación se muestran algunos ejemplos:

¹⁷ En la ENBIOMEX se presentará un cuadro de las sinergias entre los Ejes estratégico de la ENBioMex y el cumplimiento de los ODS.

Sinergia de los ejes estratégicos de la ENBioMex con respecto a los ODS:

Cuadro 5. Sinergias entre los Ejes Estratégicos de la ENBioMex y el cumplimiento de los ODS.

Fuente: Elaboración propia.



Convención Marco de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Cambio Climático

Línea de acción 4.6. Reducción de la vulnerabilidad de la biodiversidad ante el cambio climático.

4.6.1. Promover la adaptación al cambio climático mediante el enfoque de Adaptación basada en Ecosistemas (AbE).

4.6.2. Implementar esquemas de compensación para la mitigación y adaptación ante los efectos del cambio climático.

4.6.3. Asegurar que en el diseño, implementación y uso de energías alternativas para mitigar la emisión de GEI se consideren y minimicen los impactos negativos a la biodiversidad.

4.6.4. Implementar acciones para la atención de los efectos de la acidificación, el aumento del nivel del mar y el aumento de la temperatura del océano, para reducir la vulnerabilidad de la biodiversidad y las comunidades humanas ante el cambio climático.

Cites:

4.2.1. Asegurar que las especies silvestres sujetas a comercio internacional se encuentren reguladas y que su aprovechamiento se realiza de manera sustentable.

- Promover criterios de sustentabilidad para el comercio internacional de especies silvestres reguladas y no reguladas por la CITES.
- Tomar en cuenta las características particulares de las especies no reguladas por la CITES, como: estatus de conservación, ciclo de vida, datos poblacionales, con base en la mejor información científica y técnica disponible, para su manejo y comercio.
- Desarrollar e implementar programas de monitoreo y evaluación periódica de las poblaciones de especies silvestres sujetas a comercio internacional.
- Llevar a cabo los dictámenes de extracción no perjudicial sustentados en la mejor evidencia científica, técnica y comercial disponible, para las especies sujetas a comercio internacional.
- Fortalecer las capacidades y los mecanismos de gestión transversal y transparente entre autoridades encargadas de dar cumplimiento a la CITES, desde que se emite un permiso de aprovechamiento de ejemplares del medio silvestre, hasta que éstos, sus partes o derivados, productos o subproductos son exportados, es decir, robustecer la cadena de custodia.
- Continuar y fortalecer la participación activa de México en foros internacionales como CITES, Comisión Ballenera Internacional y otros.
- Desarrollar e implementar mecanismos de mercado que promuevan el aprovechamiento sustentable.
- Fortalecer las capacidades de las comunidades que cuentan con especies sujetas a comercio internacional a fin de fomentar el aprovechamiento sostenible y evitar la sobreexplotación.
- Promover la revisión periódica de los decretos de veda y ajustarlos con base en información técnica y observaciones empíricas que incluyan los efectos del cambio climático, tomando en cuenta los cambios en la fenología de las especies.
- Promover que el aprovechamiento sustentable de la biodiversidad derive en beneficios justos y equitativos para las comunidades que la salvaguardan reconociendo sus conocimientos tradicionales.
- Promover la distribución inclusiva de beneficios económicos a todos los sectores de las comunidades.
- Coordinar acciones entre las autoridades involucradas en la exportación de especies silvestres, forestales, ganaderas y pesqueras a fin de coadyuvar al cumplimiento de las metas de protección de la biodiversidad.
- Establecer, como base para la toma de decisiones, áreas libres de explotación que sirvan como ecosistemas de referencia, como reservorios de biodiversidad y que permitan la comparación con los ecosistemas bajo distintos regímenes de aprovechamiento.
- Promover prácticas de producción sustentable, como viveros y criaderos, que reduzcan la presión sobre poblaciones silvestres.

a) Convención Ramsar:

2.1.5. Desarrollar, fortalecer e implementar mecanismos e instrumentos financieros y económicos destinados a la conservación y uso sustentable de ecosistemas y los servicios que estos proveen.

- Desarrollar e implementar esquemas de conservación ad hoc (p. ej. PSA) en ecosistemas costeros y humedales.

4.6.4. Implementar acciones para la atención de los efectos de la acidificación, el aumento del nivel del mar y el aumento de la temperatura del océano, para reducir la vulnerabilidad de la biodiversidad y las comunidades humanas ante el cambio climático.

- Implementar estrategias específicas de conservación de arrecifes coralinos, humedales y pastos marinos.

b) Conservación y Restauración:

Línea de acción: 2.1. Conservación in situ de la biodiversidad

- Fortalecer y consolidar las redes de áreas protegidas (AP).
- Generar políticas públicas para la conservación de áreas y procesos de importancia para la biodiversidad.
- Consolidar, apoyar y promover el establecimiento de reservas privadas y áreas comunitarias destinadas voluntariamente a la conservación.
- Aumentar el número de refugios pesqueros del país e implementar los ordenamientos y planes de manejo de los refugios pesqueros.
- Desarrollar, fortalecer e implementar mecanismos e instrumentos financieros y económicos destinados a la conservación y uso sustentable de los ecosistemas y sus servicios.
- Evaluar la efectividad de las herramientas y los programas de conservación de la biodiversidad.
- Promover la conectividad de ecosistemas para asegurar la continuidad de los procesos ecológicos.
- Conservar y recuperar la conectividad en cuencas hidrográficas.
- Promover la conservación de la biodiversidad en zonas urbanas y periurbanas.
- Desarrollar y fortalecer los instrumentos para la conservación y recuperación de las especies y poblaciones en riesgo de extinción, vulnerables, prioritarias y aquellas de especial importancia ecológica, económica, cultural y social, con énfasis en la conservación de sus hábitats.
- Desarrollar esquemas y mecanismos que articulen e incrementen la participación del sector social y privado en la conservación.
- Desarrollar e implementar políticas nacionales para fomentar la conservación de los recursos genéticos y sus centros de origen y diversidad.
- Desarrollar e implementar en los programas y herramientas de conservación in situ acciones para reducir los principales factores de presión sobre los ecosistemas y especies prioritarias, nativas, en riesgo y vulnerables.
- Promover y adecuar conocimientos y prácticas tradicionales exitosas que contribuyen a la conservación de la biodiversidad.

Línea de acción: 2.3. Restauración de ecosistemas degradados

- Diseñar, desarrollar, implementar y consolidar una política nacional de restauración ambiental con un enfoque interdisciplinario, integral y de género, intersectorial, y territorial de largo plazo que favorezca el manejo integrado de ecosistemas y cuencas para su uso sustentable y conservación.
- Implementar, ampliar y fortalecer las acciones de rehabilitación y restauración de ecosistemas terrestres de acuerdo a la importancia biológica y la condición de deterioro para lograr el restablecimiento de los servicios ecosistémicos que brindan.
- Implementar, ampliar y fortalecer las acciones de rehabilitación y restauración de ecosistemas costeros, insulares, ribereños, acuáticos continentales y marinos de acuerdo a la importancia biológica y la condición de deterioro para lograr el restablecimiento de los servicios ecosistémicos que brindan.
- Establecer programas de restauración y rehabilitación en áreas verdes dentro de zonas urbanas y periurbanas.
- Implementar acciones para la recuperación de suelos degradados del país.
- Elaborar programas de restauración y rehabilitación ambiental a diferentes escalas bajo un esquema de manejo adaptativo (con visión de largo plazo y continuidad).
- Evaluar la efectividad de los programas e instrumentos existentes en materia de restauración.
- Fortalecer bancos de germoplasma e implementar un sistema de certificación del germoplasma para programas de restauración, reforestación y rehabilitación.

De manera específica el Eje 6 sobre “Integración y Gobernanza” tiene como objetivo “Contar con marcos jurídico e institucional armonizados e incluyentes que garantizan el involucramiento de los diferentes sectores y actores de la sociedad, así como órdenes de gobierno en la conservación, aprovechamiento sustentable, restauración, rehabilitación y recuperación de la biodiversidad, de interés común de la humanidad para el desarrollo del país.

Asimismo, en este Eje se tiene una línea de acción (6.4) sobre “Fortalecimiento de la cooperación y el cumplimiento de los compromisos internacionales”, que incluye específicamente la promoción de la coordinación y sinergias entre los distintos puntos focales que dan seguimiento al cumplimiento de los compromisos adquiridos en el marco de los convenios internacionales con incidencia directa e indirecta en la biodiversidad (6.4.2). Las actividades contempladas en esta línea de acción son las siguientes:

6.4.1 Dar seguimiento a los diversos foros y acuerdos internacionales relacionados con biodiversidad, así como a los compromisos emanados de éstos.

- Elaborar un diagnóstico nacional de cuáles son los instrumentos que se vinculan a la conservación, restauración y uso sustentable de la biodiversidad.
- Asegurar que los intereses y necesidades de México queden reflejados en las agendas y resultados de los mismos.
- Asegurar la implementación nacional de los compromisos adquiridos a través del fortalecimiento de la coordinación entre las áreas internacionales y las áreas técnicas pertinentes y otros interesados.

6.4.2 Promover la coordinación y sinergias entre los distintos puntos focales que dan seguimiento a los diversos foros y acuerdos internacionales y al cumplimiento de los compromisos adquiridos.

- Promover la armonización y sinergias entre convenios internacionales con incidencia directa e indirecta en la biodiversidad.

6.4.3 Promover y comunicar de manera efectiva los resultados de los diversos foros y acuerdos internacionales a los distintos sectores a nivel nacional.

- Fortalecer la interfaz entre la ciencia y las políticas públicas en materia de biodiversidad, haciendo los resultados y herramientas que deriven de éstos y sus órganos técnicos, científicos y tecnológicos comprensibles para los tomadores de decisiones.
- Promover que estos resultados sean accesibles para diferentes grupos y sectores de la sociedad, adecuando contenidos, lenguajes y medios de difusión de acuerdo al público meta.

6.4.4 Impulsar la cooperación regional y transfronteriza para la conservación y el uso sustentable de la biodiversidad.

- Fortalecer el intercambio de experiencias exitosas y lecciones aprendidas y la cooperación Sur-Sur.
- Fortalecer la gestión sustentable de las cuencas binacionales y los ecosistemas y especies silvestres compartidos.
- Documentar las experiencias exitosas de conservación tomando en cuenta las lecciones aprendidas para fomentar que éstas sean replicadas siempre y cuando se adecúen a las situaciones particulares a nivel nacional o local.

Matriz para evaluar las prioridades de la CMS , la CITES y Ramsar y la relación con los objetivos y metas de ENBioMex

National Goals/Targets	Link to CMS ¹⁸	Ramsar	CITES
1.1. Generación, documentación y sistematización del conocimiento	Condiciones habilitadoras		
1.2 Conocimiento tradicional	Condiciones habilitadoras		
1.3 Ciencia ciudadana			
1.4 Desarrollo de herramientas para el acceso a la información			
2.1. Conservación in situ (ecosistemas, especies y genes)	X	X	X
2.2. Conservación ex situ			X
2.3. Restauración de ecosistemas degradados		X	
3.1. Aprovechamiento de la biodiversidad con criterios que aseguran su permanencia, estabilidad y funcionalidad a largo plazo.			X
3.2. Generación, fortalecimiento y diversificación de cadenas productivas y de valor sustentables con beneficios socioeconómicos que se distribuyen de manera cada vez más justa y equitativa.		X	X
3.3 Creación, alineación y fortalecimiento de políticas públicas y oportunidades que incentivan el uso sustentable de la biodiversidad y el reparto justo y equitativo de los beneficios derivados.			X
4.1. Prevención y reducción de la degradación y pérdida de los ecosistemas.		X	
4.2. Prevención, regulación y control de la sobreexplotación especies	X	X	X
4.6. Reducción de la vulnerabilidad de la biodiversidad ante el cambio climático		X	
5.3. Comunicación y difusión ambiental		condiciones habilitadoras	
6.1. Armonización e integración del marco jurídico (Meta nacional: 16 y 17)		condiciones habilitadoras	
6.2. Marco institucional y políticas públicas para la transversalidad .		condiciones habilitadoras	
6.3. Participación social para la gobernanza de la biodiversidad		condiciones habilitadoras	
6.4. Creación y fortalecimiento de capacidades para la gobernanza		condiciones habilitadoras	

18 Mexico is not a Party; however, this highlights the relations with other regional and global migratory species initiatives.

Consideraciones para el logro de sinergias

Colaboración Institucional

En la ENBioMex se ha propuesto el establecimiento un Mecanismo Interinstitucional de Integración de la Biodiversidad (MIIB) que dé seguimiento a la implementación de la Estrategia y a los acuerdos derivados de la COP 13.

Creación de Capacidad

El cumplimiento del Plan de Acción de la ENBioMex requiere necesariamente del fortalecimiento y desarrollo equitativo e incluyente de capacidades de los actores involucrados y esfuerzos coordinados de planeación institucional. Asimismo, la acción gubernamental debe estar basada en reglas claras, en programas y acciones con visión de largo plazo, que incorpore la valoración de la biodiversidad en las agendas de los otros sectores, condición necesaria para contener los principales procesos de deterioro. Se han identificado acciones clave de fortalecimiento de capacidades para cada uno de los ejes estratégicos de la ENBioMex, entre las que destacan las relacionadas con la generación y comunicación del conocimiento sobre la biodiversidad; la coordinación entre actores y sectores; el diseño e instrumentación de políticas y acciones para la conservación y el uso y manejo sustentable de la biodiversidad; la mejora en los mecanismos de evaluación y el seguimiento de las acciones, así como la formación de recursos humanos en distintas áreas permitirá avanzar hacia nuevas y mejores fuentes de información sobre nuestro capital natural.

Además, a través del proceso de integración de la biodiversidad, México está trabajando para fortalecer las capacidades del sector del medio ambiente, así como los demás sectores involucrados. También colaboramos con los otros países de la región con el fin de compartir experiencias y lecciones aprendidas sobre la aplicación de la ENBioMex y los convenios relacionados.

Necesidades de Información y Conocimiento

CONABIO es el Mecanismo de Intercambio de Información de México para la biodiversidad. Como Comisión intersecretarial ofrece información y asesoramiento para la toma de decisiones en todas las otras Secretarías e instituciones. El desafío es hacer que la información disponible para todos y en todos los niveles, especialmente para los tomadores de decisiones en todo el país, incluidas las instituciones subnacionales.

Financiación

México ya ha identificado la brecha financiera para administrar su Sistema Nacional de Áreas Protegidas, y actualmente se está emprendiendo proyectos sobre la movilización de recursos para la conservación y gestión de la biodiversidad a través de los proyectos del FMAM, así como a través de BIOFIN-PNUD (Iniciativa Financiera Biodiversidad), entre otros. Se espera que la iniciativa BIOFIN iniciará la presentación de informes sobre los resultados de mediados de 2016, y consolidará sus resultados finales hacia el primer semestre de 2017. México se sumó en 2015 a esta iniciativa promovida por el Programa de Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo. La iniciativa está respaldada por la SEMARNAT, la Secretaría de Hacienda y Crédito Público, la Comisión Nacional Forestal (CONAFOR), la Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas (CONANP), la Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad (CONABIO) y el Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía (INEGI). La Iniciativa BIOFIN tiene como mandato realizar un diagnóstico del

financiamiento que incide en la biodiversidad, a través de un análisis de las principales políticas públicas así como de las tendencias de gasto público y privado. Dicha información será la base para hacer una estimación de la brecha financiera actual y el desarrollo de una estrategia que propicie mayor inversión y gasto efectivo y eficiente para la gestión y conservación de la biodiversidad así como identificar y facilitar el desarrollo de planes de negocio que incrementen la inversión y rentabilidad en el manejo sustentable y equitativo, la protección, conservación y restauración de la biodiversidad y los ecosistemas. BIOFIN trabajará de la mano con diversas instituciones del sector ambiental para apoyar la integración de la biodiversidad en diversos sectores que impulsan el desarrollo nacional.

Proyectos de Informes Nacionales

El Instituto Nacional de Geografía (INEGI) es la institución encargada de llevar las estadísticas nacionales. Realiza estimaciones del Gasto en Protección Ambiental (GPA) que el Estado mexicano ejerce anualmente, incluyendo gastos federales, estatales y municipales. Los Gastos en Protección Ambiental (GPA) se refieren a las erogaciones monetarias realizadas en su conjunto para prevenir, medir, controlar, disminuir o resarcir la contaminación o cualquier tipo de degradación ambiental, así como promover, gestionar y proteger el medio ambiente. México tiene dos instituciones principales encargadas de las estadísticas nacionales y los datos nacionales de biodiversidad. Ellos están trabajando juntos para alinear y armonizar los diferentes indicadores que se utilizan para informar a diferentes estrategias nacionales, convenios, ODM, etc. (que se muestra en uno de los cuadros que figuran más arriba).

Además, México está llevando a cabo un proyecto piloto para consolidar el Sistema de Contabilidad Ambiental y Económica con el apoyo del Departamento de Estadística de la ONU, mismo que ampliará los sistemas de contabilidad para integrar los valores de los ecosistemas y los servicios que proveen.

De manera adicional, los puntos focales nacionales de las distintas convenciones y tratados internacionales de los que México forma parte, se encargan de elaborar los informes y comunicaciones nacionales para dar cuenta de los avances que el país tiene en la instrumentación de dichos acuerdos.

Colaboración institucional

La ENBioMex ha sido concebida con el esfuerzo de muchos socios de gobierno, la academia, el sector privado y la sociedad civil. Estos han estado participando en todo el proceso de elaboración de la Estrategia y sus diferentes posiciones y visiones se han tenido en cuenta a través de ella. Se prevé su involucramiento constante en la fase de implementación junto con socios internacionales clave que contribuirán a la consecución de nuestros objetivos nacionales.

Saint Lucia

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Introduction

The proposed vision for the revised second NBSAP for Saint Lucia reads as follows: “Biodiversity is vital to better living: by 2050, the valuation of biodiversity and ecosystem services is firmly embedded in all the island’s efforts at creating resilient livelihoods, social systems and ecosystems for improved human well-being in pursuit of its sustainable development agenda”.

Building on these principles, four major goals have been outlined for the revised NBSAP: biodiversity and ecosystems are valued and integrated into national planning and development; biodiversity benefits are generated and used by all citizens; genetic and biological resources of the country are managed and used sustainably; and behavioural change is effected through knowledge management and capacity development.

Status of national biodiversity strategy and action plan revision

The process for the development of the revised second NBSAP was a consultative process based on extensive stakeholder consultations and intensive document reviews to ascertain the current status of biodiversity management and outline specifications, actors and indicators to ensure successful implementation of the revised plan.

The document review sought to include new and emerging issues at the national and international levels, including the following:

- (a) At the international level:
 - Aichi Biodiversity Targets 1 and 2 which seek to promote recognition of the value of biodiversity and ecosystem services and include these in national planning and accounting
 - Adoption of the global Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020
 - Obligations to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity that require regulatory and risk assessment systems for handling genetically modified organisms for the preservation of human health and the environment
 - Entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol and regulation of issues involving access to genetic resources and equitable sharing of benefits.
- (b) At the national level:
 - Lessons from the implementation of the first-generation NBSAP
 - Lessons learnt from the development process of the second NBSAP
 - Developments since the second NBSAP

- Finalization of the draft environmental management bill
- National Action Plan and National Strategic Plan for the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa
- Finalization of the national environmental policy and national environmental management strategy
- Completion of a national invasive species strategy
- National position on the concept of the green economy

Inputs were received from the national focal points for the Ramsar Convention, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. In addition, tour guides, turtle watch groups and sea moss producers were also consulted. Other active participants in the revision process were the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Economic Planning and the Ministry of Sustainable Development, as well as non-government agencies involved in biodiversity conservation (e.g., the National Trust, the Caribbean Environmental Health Institute, the Piton Management Area, the Soufriere Marine Management Association) and stakeholders (e.g., representatives from customs; air and seaport authorities; city, town and village councils; members of the media; the diplomatic core; social and cultural leaders; the health and tourism sectors and the private sector, including industry, manufacturing and businesses that rely on biodiversity).

The revision of the draft revised second NBSAP included a peer review by UNEP. Some of the major recommendations from the review were the inclusion of spatial data and the formulation of targets and indicators within time-bound implementation schedules. The Plan was commended for the thorough treatment of biodiversity loss and conservation issues and the inclusion of extensive stakeholder feedback.

Final revisions are being made to the NBSAP to include the findings and recommendations of the peer review in preparation for its presentation to the Cabinet of Ministers.

Table 1: National goals and targets outlined in the draft revised NBSAP

National strategic goals and objectives/targets	National targets
<p>Goal 1: To internalize and integrate biodiversity values into decision-making and national accounting to stimulate/advance national development (strategic goals A and E)</p>	<p>1.1 All relevant sectors and publics (communities, schools, judiciary, politicians, businesses, resource users, financial institutions etc.) are well aware of biodiversity, including goods and services, and how it can be sustainably managed to derive benefits.</p> <p>1.2 The NBSAP rationale, objectives and insights of values of nature are well embedded into other policy areas, sectors and plans to enable the contribution of biological resources to national socioeconomic development.</p> <p>1.3 Improved legal and fiscal measures to support more effective biodiversity management are identified, implemented and enforced.</p> <p>1.4 Mechanisms and measures for cooperation are formalized, and harmonized plans and activities across sectors, agencies and stakeholders are in place for sustainable production and consumption, and ensuring that the impacts of use of resources are well within ecological limits.</p> <p>1.5 Traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are integrated into relevant decision-making processes such as national and sectoral plans, programmes and policies with full and effective participation of local communities at all relevant levels.</p>

National strategic goals and objectives/targets	National targets
<p>Goal 2: To generate benefits for all citizens from biodiversity and ecosystem services for improved human well-being (strategic goal D)</p>	<p>2.1 Critical ecosystems that provide ecosystem services, such as water, livelihoods, and other goods and services that contribute to improved social welfare, food security, health, poverty reduction and well-being, especially of women, youth and other vulnerable groups, are being restored and safeguarded.</p> <p>2.2 Ecosystem resilience is enhanced through synergistic collaboration in the implementation of the multilateral environmental agreements and other relevant fiscal measures, including payment or compensation for ecosystem services and the reform of perverse incentives.</p> <p>2.3 By 2015, appropriate systems to operationalize the Nagoya Protocol for all citizens, especially for women, youth and other vulnerable groups, are established and functional.</p> <p>2.4 Synergistic collaboration of national policies, strategies and plans for building resilience for the conservation of biodiversity goods and services.</p>
<p>Goal 3: To encourage and effect sustainable management and use of biodiversity and genetic resources (strategic goals B and C)</p>	<p>3.1 The rate of natural habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation, especially of forest, land and water ecosystems, is significantly reduced.</p> <p>3.2 Sustainable forest management and effective management of species ecosystems are promoted to reduce the endangerment of species and reverse species extinction through the effective implementation of the National Forest Policy and Plan.</p> <p>3.3 Overfishing is minimized through the use of sustainable management and harvesting practices. Current and potential adverse impacts of climate change on threatened stocks, depleted species and vulnerable terrestrial, marine and fisheries ecosystems are reversed through ecosystem-based approaches.</p> <p>3.4 Pollution from excessive use of fertilisers and harmful chemicals is reduced to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>3.5 A systems plan for protected areas for the conservation of important terrestrial and inland water, coastal and marine biodiversity and ecosystem services is formally established and designated protected areas are effectively and equitably managed and integrated into other area-based (landscapes and seascapes) conservation measures. At least 15 per cent of terrestrial and inland water and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas are conserved.</p> <p>3.6 Agriculture and fisheries, including aquaculture and forestry biological resources, are conserved, restored and sustainably managed and genetically modified organisms and living modified organisms are effectively managed to minimize genetic erosion and safeguard genetic diversity.</p> <p>3.7 The National Invasive Species Strategy for the prevention and management of priority invasive alien species is mainstreamed and operationalized.</p>
<p>Goal 4: To engender ongoing behavioural change through knowledge management and capacity-building for enhanced implementation (strategic goals E and A)</p>	<p>4.1 The updated NBSAP is endorsed by the Cabinet and systems are in place and operationalized for effective implementation using participatory and collaborative approaches.</p> <p>4.2 Data management systems for biodiversity management are improved, particularly with regard to systems for data gathering and widespread dissemination. The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services is engaged by the country to help monitor and assess the conservation of its biological resources.</p> <p>4.3 The national clearing house mechanism is made operational and functional as the means for development of systems for policy, scientific and technological knowledge sharing, transfer and application for effective management of biodiversity.</p> <p>4.4 Forest, wildlife and natural resource information systems are developed and implemented to facilitate evidence-based decisions for the conservation of species, ecosystems, goods and services.</p> <p>4.5 Appropriate systems and measures for the documentation and protection of traditional knowledge, practices and innovations related to biological resources are in place and subject to national legislation for societal use.</p> <p>4.6 Sustainable financial resources are mobilized for the effective implementation of NBSAP activities and overall biodiversity management, in accordance with the agreed processes in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization in the updated NBSAP.</p>

Synergy-related issues and challenges

The stocktaking and review of the second NBSAP identified opportunities for developing synergies with related projects, programmes and national activities being conducted under international conventions such as the Ramsar Convention, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Convention on Biological Diversity, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol.

The modality of implementation considers the parallel nature of work undertaken within the Strategic Programme for Climate Resilience and the Climate Change Adaptation Policy and seeks to align these initiatives to maximize outputs and cost effectiveness. Through targeted mainstreaming, the implementation of the revised second NBSAP will be integrated into relevant national policies, strategies, plans and programmes, e.g., National Action Plan and National Strategic Plan for the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

The revised NBSAP called for the formulation of an entity to coordinate biodiversity management activities. With the formulation of the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Energy, Science and Technology, it is anticipated that coordination of the various biodiversity conventions will be streamlined and monitored in a less ad hoc fashion.

Institutional mechanism that will help in the implementation of the NBSAP

Institutional arrangements for the administration and implementation of the revised NBSAP are based on recommendations from the stakeholder consultation process within the context of the existing mandates of the relevant government agencies and counterparts. Given that the responsibility for biodiversity management is shared, it is expected that elements of the revised NBSAP will be “internalized and integrated” into implementation plans by the relevant sectoral ministries, agencies/organizations, communities and enterprises.

The programme for the implementation of the revised second NBSAP is predicated on the establishment of a national biodiversity coordinating committee that will serve as a national focal point and policy lead for matters related to biodiversity management. The composition of the national biodiversity coordinating committee is proposed to include representatives from the ministries responsible for finance, economic and national development, sustainable development, energy science and technology, among others.



Status of implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Convention on Migratory Species, the Ramsar Convention, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the World Heritage Convention

Conventions/ multilateral environmental agreements	Focal point	Status
Convention on Biological Diversity, ratified July 1993	Ministry of Sustainable Development, Energy, Science and Technology	The revision of the draft revised second NBSAP included a peer review by UNEP. Some of the major recommendations from this review were the inclusion of spatial data and the formulation of targets and indicators within timebound implementation schedules. The Plan was commended for the thorough treatment of biodiversity loss and conservation issues and the inclusion of extensive stakeholder feedback. Final reviews are being made to the NBSAP to include the findings and recommendations of the peer review in preparation for its presentation to the Cabinet of Ministers.
CITES, ratified in 1983	Department of Forest and Land Resources and Department of Fisheries	Active involvement in meetings and negotiations. The CITES Act was passed by parliament but its enactment is pending the development of regulations.
Ramsar Convention, ratified in June 2002	Department of Forest and Land Resources, Ministry of Sustainable Development, Energy, Science and Technology	Two wetlands (Savannes Bay and Mankote Mangrove) have been placed on the List of Wetlands of International Importance. An island-wide status assessment of wetlands conducted in 2014–2015. Work plan is being developed and will be implemented with assistance under the Eastern Caribbean Marine Managed Areas Network project.
Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife	Department of Forest and Land Resources and Department of Fisheries	To significantly increase the number and improve the management of national protected areas and species in the region, including the development of biosphere reserves, where appropriate.

Matrix of the priorities of the Convention on Migratory Species, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and the Ramsar Convention and the linkages with the goals and targets of the NBSAP (jointly worked on by Saint Kitts and Nevis and Saint Lucia participants at the workshop)

NBSAP goal/target	Link to the Convention on Migratory Species	Link to CITES	Link to the Ramsar Convention
To internalize and integrate biodiversity values into decision-making and national accounting to stimulate/advance national development 1.1 All relevant sectors and publics are well aware of biodiversity, including goods and services, and how it can be sustainably managed to derive benefits.	Ecotourism values of migratory species Action: Promotion of sustainable or alternative livelihoods (turtle watching, bird watching) Identify and pilot biodiversity-friendly livelihoods utilizing goods and services	Public education and awareness Action: Promotion of best harvesting practices and value adding to reduce overharvesting	Natural capital accounting Action: Valuation of ecosystem services provided by wetlands Promotion of sustainable/ alternative livelihoods (turtle watching, bird watching) Identify and pilot biodiversityfriendly livelihoods utilizing goods and services
To generate benefits for all citizens from biodiversity and ecosystem services for improved human well-being 2.1 Critical ecosystems that contribute to water, sanitation and livelihoods for improved social welfare, particularly health, poverty reduction and well-being, especially of women, young people and other vulnerable groups are being restored and safeguarded.	Conservation of wetlands for migratory bird species	Conservation of Queen conch and sea urchins	Conservation of wetland ecosystems Actions: Development of sustainable livelihoods (sustainable charcoal production, ecotourism ventures, fisheries, seamoss production)

NBSAP goal/target	Link to the Convention on Migratory Species	Link to CITES	Link to the Ramsar Convention
<p>To encourage and effect the sustainable management and use of biodiversity and genetic resources</p> <p>3.2 Overfishing is minimized through the use of sustainable management and harvesting practices</p> <p>3.3 Current and potential adverse impacts of climate change on threatened stocks, depleted species and vulnerable terrestrial, marine and fisheries ecosystems are reversed through ecosystembased approaches.</p>	<p>Protection of migratory sea turtles</p> <p>Action: Declare closed season on sale and consumption of turtles</p> <p>Moratorium on hunting of all bird species</p> <p>Monitoring and enforcement</p> <p>Seasonal bird monitoring programme</p> <p>Turtle monitoring network (tagging) and development of management plans for turtle nesting areas</p>	<p>Conservation of Queen conch and sea urchins and green turtle</p> <p>Action: Enforcement of legislation barring import/export of turtles and derivatives</p> <p>Monitoring of imports/ exports</p> <p>Training of customs officers and stakeholders (media personnel)</p> <p>Public education and sensitization</p>	<p>Protection of migratory bird species</p> <p>Action: Local area management plan</p> <p>Seasonal bird monitoring programme</p> <p>Moratorium on hunting of all bird species</p>
<p>To engender ongoing behavioural change through knowledge management and capacity-building for enhanced implementation</p> <p>4.2 Data management systems for biodiversity management are improved, particularly with regard to systems for data gathering and widespread dissemination.</p>	<p>Action: Tagging and monitoring of migratory bird species (NGO - Birds Caribbean)</p>	<p>Non-detrimental findings status maintained</p> <p>Action: Data collection, monitoring and analysis of species and ecosystems</p>	<p>National wetland inventories information</p> <p>Action: digitized mapping of Ramsar Sites</p> <p>Develop standard wetland inventory methodology</p>

Considerations for achieving synergies

Communication mechanism for sharing of data and information

A communication mechanism for focal points to share data and information in the preparation of reports and implementation plans was recognized as a core capacity need in the National Capacity SelfAssessment of Saint Lucia for 2007. That need has been expressed as an area of intervention in the strategic plan of the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Energy, Science and Technology. The longterm outcome in that regard includes an integrated and evidenced-based approach to governance in the area of sustainable development. As such, some noteworthy initiatives and projects have been developed to addresses the core crosscutting capacity needs for Saint Lucia to implement its commitments to the major environmental conventions as well as its national environmental and sustainable development priorities. These projects are as follows:

1. The Conventions and Agreements Committee

The Conventions and Agreements Committee was the first attempt at exploiting synergies among the multilateral environmental agreements. The overall objective of the Committee is to facilitate the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements relevant to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. The Committee is expected to provide guidance and exchange of information on issues related to the multilateral environmental agreements, thereby assisting Saint Lucia in fulfilling its obligations under these agreements.

2. Increasing Saint Lucia's capacity to monitor multilateral environmental agreement implementation and sustainable development

The objective is to strengthen institutional capacity for the implementation and monitoring of international conventions as a follow-up to the National Capacity Self-Assessment of Saint Lucia and to better integrate environmental concerns, and the value of ecosystems, into its broader development frameworks.

The components and expected outcomes are as follows:

- An operational information and reporting system for sustainable development and multilateral environmental agreement implementation:
 - o Increased human and institutional capacity to use environmental science and information to guide development planning
- Tools for mainstreaming environmental management and multilateral environmental agreement objectives:
 - o Coordination of environmental information management is agreed and piloted in multilateral environmental agreement reporting
 - o Environmental information system and online platform is operational
 - o National stakeholders are able to use environmental information for planning, project development and environmental management
- Public awareness campaign
 - o Increased human and institutional capacity to use environmental science and information to guide development planning

The project is also consistent with the vision and objectives of Saint Lucia's NBSAP, such as to ensure that the state of biological resources is known, and fulfils a number of the priority projects indicated in the Action Plan, including projects 2, 3, 4 and 17.

3. Caribbean Harmonized Reporting Template

The Caribbean Harmonized Reporting Template was prepared in 2013 by the CARICOM Secretariat through a consultancy as part of the project for capacitybuilding related to multilateral environmental agreements in African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries (known as the ACP-MEAs project). The overall objective of the project is to enhance the capacity of countries to comply with the multilateral environmental agreements, thereby improving the management of the environment and natural resources. The CARICOM Secretariat serves as the Caribbean Hub under the above-mentioned project.

Working together in planning and implementation the above multilateral environmental agreements

The Government of Saint Lucia faces a number of systemic constraints such as low technical capacity and lack of data as well as tools and facilities to generate, access and use data, and challenges in integrating sustainable development concerns in broader economic and infrastructure planning.

In that regard, the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Energy, Science and Technology is well positioned to contribute to the fostering and creation of the enabling environment for continued effort towards implementation of the three initiatives and projects mentioned in the above. This is in line and consistent with long-term outcome 1 of the Strategic Plan, which speaks to an integrated and evidence-based approach to governance in the area of sustainable development.

The following interventions will be necessary in that regard:

- (a) Establish and manage a system for a strategic and coordinated approach to the multilateral environmental agreements. This calls for the abolishment of individual national steering committees and the establishment and operationalization of the Convention and Agreement Committee.
- (b) Ensure that national policy and legislation reflect obligations under the multilateral environmental agreements and the formulation of country positions on various issues related to the multilateral environmental agreements.
- (c) Foster public awareness and sensitization on issues related to compliance and obligations and provide avenues for effective consultation with and participation by civil society (resource users, local communities, relevant non-governmental organizations and private sector).
- (d) Establish an ad hoc working group will be necessary to address specific issues that may arise from time to time.
- (e) Assess the implications associated with proposed and existing agreements and generate recommendations related to implementation.
- (f) Foster operational synergies at the ministerial and national levels and mainstream the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements in the work programmes of the various departments, ministries, NGOs and community groups.

Finalization of the NBSAP with regard to synergies

A strategic planning session must be conducted to align the work programmes of the key ministries with the activities identified within the NBSAP. This would require participation from all the agencies listed in the stakeholder analysis and thorough dissecting of their relevant projects to determine current status, gaps and areas for collaboration. The expertise of a programme manager would be necessary to consider these initiatives, assign timelines to activities, reduce duplication, enhance coordination and assign implementation leads for the various activities.

Mechanisms for information sharing can also be developed as these would allow for easier reporting, monitoring and compliance with the multilateral environmental agreements.

Saint Kitts and Nevis

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Introduction

The Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis is proud of its biodiversity heritage and the approaches that have been undertaken to manage this critical resource. Accordingly, on 1 July 1993, the Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity. In 2004, the Government made a public declaration of its commitment to biodiversity management in Saint Kitts and Nevis, and to the Convention on Biological Diversity through the submission of its first NBSAP.

Status of the NBSAP revision

In 2014, Saint Kitts and Nevis completed the revision of its 2014–2020 NBSAP under a regional project funded by UNEP and GEF. The process was led by the Department of Physical Planning and Environment in the Ministry of Sustainable Development with technical support from the Biodiversity Steering Committee and a team of consultants who prepared the final report.

Threats to biodiversity sustainability

As part of the review process, a number of threats to biodiversity were identified. These include the following:

- Private land ownership
- Climate change and sea level rise
- Invasive species and disease
- Unsustainable resource base
- Wild fires
- Ecosystem loss
- Pollution
- Recreational pressure and human disturbance

The revision of the NBSAP involved producing five outputs (stocktaking and assessment; setting national targets; setting the principles and main priorities of the strategy; development of the Strategy and Action Plan; and development of Implementation Plans and related activities) and the development of the fifth national report to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

A key component of the review was the incorporation of the national biodiversity targets for Saint Kitts and Nevis, developed through a process of consultation with all relevant stakeholders. The consultation was carried out by convening a number of workshops geared at receiving inputs from all participants. The first of the workshops introduced the stakeholders to the Aichi Targets, with the output being a consolidation of the 20 Aichi Targets into 12 National Biodiversity Targets.

Key elements of the revised NBSAP

The key elements of NBSAP include the following elements:

1. Green economy interventions in Saint Kitts and Nevis
2. Mainstreaming biodiversity
 - Poverty reduction
 - Agriculture and rural development
 - Land degradation
 - Water resource management
 - Land use planning
 - Infrastructure development
 - Gender issues
 - Climate change
3. National biodiversity targets and priorities
4. Convention on Biological Diversity and the Millennium Development Goals
5. Protected areas initiatives in Saint Kitts and Nevis

Institutional framework to implement the revised NBSAP

The Department of Environment in the Ministry of Agriculture, Marine Resources, Cooperatives, Environment and Human Settlement is the competent authority for implementation of the NBSAP and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements. It was strongly recommended that the implementation of the NBSAP should be a shared responsibility among various line agencies with guidance from the National Biodiversity Steering Committee.

Summary on the implementation of the multilateral environmental agreements of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Convention on Migratory Species, the Ramsar Convention, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and the World Heritage Convention in Saint Kitts and Nevis

Convention on Biological Diversity

Saint Kitts and Nevis has been a party to the Convention on Biological Diversity since 1993 and to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and is currently participating in the Regional Project for Implementing National Biosafety Frameworks in the Caribbean led by UNEP and GEF.

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

Saint Kitts and Nevis has been a party since 1994 with the national competent authority being the Department of Agriculture and the focal point being the Director of Agriculture.

World cultural and natural heritage

As a member of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) since 1983, Saint Kitts and Nevis is home to one of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites (Brimstone Hill Fortress National Park).

Saint Kitts and Nevis is not a party to the Convention on Migratory Species, the Ramsar Convention or the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

Matrix of the priorities of the Convention on Migratory Species, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and the Ramsar Convention and the linkages with the goals and targets of the national biodiversity strategy and action plan (jointly worked on by Saint Kitts and Nevis and Saint Lucia participants at the workshop)

NBSAP goal/target	Link to the Convention on Migratory Species	Link to CITES	Link to the Ramsar Convention
<p>To internalize and integrate biodiversity values into decision-making and national accounting to stimulate/advance national development</p> <p>1.1 All relevant sectors and publics are well aware of biodiversity including goods and services, and how it can be sustainably managed to derive benefits</p>	<p>Ecotourism values of migratory species</p> <p>Action: Promotion of sustainable/alternative livelihoods (turtle watching, bird watching)</p> <p>Identify and pilot biodiversity friendly livelihoods utilizing goods and services</p>	<p>Public education and awareness</p> <p>Action: Promoting best harvesting practices and value adding to reduce overharvesting</p>	<p>Natural capital accounting</p> <p>Action: Valuation of ecosystem services provided by wetlands</p> <p>Promotion of sustainable/alternative livelihoods (turtle watching, bird watching)</p> <p>Identify and pilot biodiversityfriendly livelihoods utilizing goods and services</p>
<p>To generate benefits for all citizens from biodiversity and ecosystem services for improved human well-being</p> <p>2.1 Critical ecosystems that contribute to water sanitation and livelihoods for improved social welfare, particularly health, poverty reduction and well-being, especially of women, youth and other vulnerable groups are being restored and safeguarded</p>	<p>Conservation of wetlands for migratory bird species</p>	<p>Conservation of Queen conch and sea urchins</p>	<p>Conservation of wetland ecosystems</p> <p>Actions: Development of sustainable livelihoods (sustainable charcoal production, ecotourism ventures, fisheries, seamoss production)</p>
<p>To encourage and effect sustainable management and use of biodiversity and genetic resources</p> <p>3.2 Overfishing is minimized through the use of sustainable management and harvesting practices</p> <p>Current and potential adverse impacts of climate change on threatened stocks, depleted species and vulnerable terrestrial, marine and fisheries ecosystems are reversed through ecosystem-based approaches.</p>	<p>Protection of migratory sea turtles</p> <p>Action: Declare closed season on sale and consumption of turtles</p> <p>Moratorium on hunting of all bird species</p> <p>Monitoring and enforcement</p> <p>Seasonal bird monitoring programme</p> <p>Turtle monitoring network (tagging) and development of management plans for turtle nesting areas</p>	<p>Conservation of Queen conch and sea urchins and green turtle</p> <p>Action: Enforcement of legislation barring import/export of turtles and derivatives</p> <p>Monitoring of imports/exports</p> <p>Training of customs officers and stakeholders (media personnel)</p> <p>Public education and sensitization</p>	<p>Protection of migratory bird species</p> <p>Action: Local area management plan</p> <p>Seasonal bird monitoring programme</p> <p>Moratorium on hunting of all bird species</p>
<p>To engender ongoing behavioural change through knowledge management and capacitybuilding for enhanced implementation</p> <p>4.2 Data management systems for biodiversity management are improved, particularly with regard to systems for data gathering and widespread dissemination</p>	<p>Action: Tagging and monitoring of migratory bird species (NGO - Birds Caribbean)</p>	<p>Non-detrimental findings status maintained</p> <p>Action: Data collection, monitoring and analysis of species and ecosystems</p>	<p>National wetland inventories information</p> <p>Action: digitized mapping of Ramsar sites</p> <p>Develop standard wetland inventory methodology</p>

Synergy-related issues and challenges

Overlapping responsibilities among line agencies and departments is a key challenge, especially as the mandates have not been fully elaborated. Ineffective as well as informal communication channels and lack of coordination among the focal points and agencies responsible for the conventions have all led to impediments in effective implementation of the NBSAP.

In Saint Kitts and Nevis, the line agencies tend to have a limited staff with multiple responsibilities overstretching the human resources. Moreover, the lack of experience and high turnover rate of staff in the agencies and departments also lead to inconsistency and delays, which has an impact on synergies. In this context, it becomes hard to address issues of synergy when the flow of routine work is challenged by limited technical and financial resources.

Considerations for achieving synergies

A key recommendation is the establishment of an environmental commission/committee for overseeing implementation of all environmental agreements. Members who are part of it will represent the national competent authority for the individual convention or protocol.

Addressing crosscutting issues among the different multilateral environmental agreements and aligning the stakeholders and agencies is another key priority. It is equally important to improve coordination among the donor agencies for the design and implementation of biodiversity projects.

It is also suggested that a department be created that is dedicated to environmental matters comprising representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, Marine Resources, Cooperatives, Environment and Human Settlement.



The Pacific

Kiribati

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Introduction

Biodiversity is of utmost significance in Kiribati and our very existence relies on it. However, it has been observed that the present state of biodiversity in Kiribati is being degraded socially, economically, politically and even judicially. As a nation with very limited resources, we cannot afford to sit back and let this serious degradation continue. If biodiversity is not conserved or used on a sustainable basis, then future development will not be able to sustain the people in the long term.

The Government of Kiribati, through the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agricultural Development and its partners from other government departments, NGOs and private bodies, is currently working together on promoting the importance of biodiversity conservation and management in the country. The assistance from the Convention on Biological Diversity after Kiribati became a party and from other external sources enables Kiribati to implement projects that promote biodiversity conservation and management. One of the important exercises carried out in Kiribati is the implementation of the NBSAP.

In 2005 Kiribati submitted its first NBSAP report, which is currently being reviewed. The review of the NBSAP has been highly consultative, with the participation of local communities, government bodies and NGOs, among others. The process of collecting data and information was carried out and coordinated by the

Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agricultural Development through the Environment and Conservation Division with partners who are members of the Biodiversity Steering Committee, a multi-disciplinary committee composed of representatives from different stakeholders.

The review exercise involved reviews of conservation-related legislation that already existed in Kiribati. It is also in line with the Kiribati Development Plan (a national plan) and other existing conservation-related policies. The review will also consider issues of synergies among the biodiversity conventions.

Status of the NBSAP revision

In 2013, with support from GEF, through UNEP, Kiribati started to revise the NBSAP and prepare the fifth national report. Consultations were carried out with communities in different parts of Kiribati to assess the implementation experiences and identify priorities for the revision.

In preparation for the NBSAP review, the Biodiversity Steering Committee that was established earlier was approached for support. The revision was designed to focus on the following key components:

Component 1: Stocktaking and assessment

Component 2: National targets, actions and priorities of the strategy

Component 3: Strategy and action plan development

Component 4: Development of implementation plans

Component 5: Institutional monitoring, reporting and exchange

The steering committee agreed to form a working group/drafting team with members from the steering committee to undertake stocktaking and assessment of the NBSAP. The group was made up of representatives from the Environment and Conservation Division, the Agriculture and Livestock Division, the Fisheries Division, the Lands Management Division and the Kiribati National Tourism Office. The component was completed taking into account different expertise, views and opinions.

Despite the challenges faced, the group came up with a draft on the stocktaking assessment that was circulated and reviewed by the steering committee and the Environment and Conservation Division.

A retreat was organized to undertake the revision process, during which the thematic areas identified in the stocktaking exercise were confirmed. Further work was carried out on the details under those thematic areas, including biodiversity threats, national targets and actions, and indicators and output are being developed.

Working on thematic areas sheds more light on how biodiversity could be mainstreamed into the different sectors/areas. Below are the draft thematic areas and aims of each thematic area.

Thematic area	Aim
Biodiversity	To protect biodiversity through sustainable use of natural resources to enhance livelihood and maintain cultural significance
Climate change	To increase biodiversity resilience through sustainable climate change adaptation and mitigation
Pollution	Healthy biodiversity through the effective and sound management of chemicals and waste
Urbanization	Sustainable urban growth through sustainable use of resources to address pressure on biodiversity
Good governance	Strengthen governance for better biodiversity and better livelihood
Education, capacity-building and awareness	Enhance protection and conservation of threatened island biodiversity through improving knowledge and information

In the previous NBSAP, the following goals were set and used for reference in the current NBSAP review:

- Improvement of informal education and public awareness at local community levels, which would form the basis for improved decision-making and participatory approach in biodiversity protection;
- Sustainable use and management of land and terrestrial resources that are in line with traditional and customary land and marine tenure systems;
- Biological resources shall be enhanced, used and managed to maintain biological diversity in the short and long term;
- Available data and information on national biodiversity shall be expanded and made available to policymakers and the public;
- Activities that pollute and threaten biodiversity shall be minimized.

Status of implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Convention on Migratory Species, the World Heritage Convention, the Ramsar Convention and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

It is important to note that Kiribati is also party to the biodiversity-related conventions listed below. Focal points for these conventions are placed in different departments/ministries. Focal points are determined and appointed based on their ministry's portfolio and area of expertise. However, there is a general consensus to work on enhancing cooperation and synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions.

Convention on Biological Diversity

Kiribati became a State party to the Convention on Biological Diversity on 16 August 1994. The Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agricultural Development is the national focal point. The Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agricultural Development through the Environment and Conservation Division is leading the implementation of activities at the national level with assistance from stakeholders from the Government, private sector and NGOs. A steering committee for all biodiversity-related activities is currently functional under the Environment and Conservation Division, Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agricultural Development. Communication between the Convention on Biological Diversity focal point and its stakeholders is made through the committee. Reporting to the Convention is carried out by the Environment and Conservation Division of the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agricultural Development.

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

Although Kiribati is not yet party to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, a number of activities are carried out that contribute to the Convention, e.g., adopting the Shark Regulation and the Amalgamated Regulation which encompasses the conservation of giant clams and turtles. The Ministry of Fisheries and Mineral Resources Development is administering and implementing those regulations.

Convention on Migratory Species

Kiribati is not a party to the Convention on Migratory Species. However, through the Ministry of Fisheries and Mineral Resources Development, it is a member of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, which obligates the country to adopt conservation management and measures on pelagic species.

World Heritage Convention

The national focal point is the Ministry of Education but the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agricultural Development and the Ministry of Internal Affairs through its Cultural Office are involved based on their expertise on natural and cultural heritages, respectively. The Ministry of Education normally sends out information provided by the secretariat to the two different ministries.

With regard to natural heritage, Kiribati has listed the Phoenix Islands Protected Area as a World Heritage Site and tries to meet its obligations through fulfilling the reporting requirements of the Convention and sustaining the value of its Site. Scientific reports on the Site are normally prepared by the scientists doing the research. These reports are shared nationally and internationally through the Phoenix Islands Protected Area website and the monthly newsletter formerly known as "Ana Okai Bakoa." A regulation for the Phoenix Islands Protected Area has also been adopted and implemented.

Ramsar Convention

Kiribati is party to the Ramsar Convention. There is one Ramsar Site in Kiribati that was officially declared in 2014. The Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agricultural Development through the Environment and Conservation Division is the leading agency on the activities to be implemented in the country. The first step Kiribati needs to take for its Ramsar Site is to develop its management plan.

International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

The Agriculture and Livestock Division is the focal point for the treaty and leads its implementation in the country.

Synergy-related issues and challenges

Limited human resources and financial support for implementation is perhaps the biggest challenge for Kiribati. Presently, there is a lack of consultation between the different focal points for all biodiversity-related conventions to effectively deal with issues of synergies.

The following matrix provides a synoptic view of possible options for enhancing synergies in action to implement relevant biodiversity conventions in Kiribati.



Matrix of the priorities of the Convention on Migratory Species, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and the Ramsar Convention and the linkages with the goals and targets of the national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Goals/target	Convention on Migratory Species	CITES	Ramsar Convention
Goal: To protect biodiversity through sustainable use of natural resources to enhance livelihood and maintain cultural significance			
Targets: Identify endangered, threatened, extinct and protected species by 2020 Enhance biodiversity resources per island by 2020 Develop a mangrove management plan by 2017/2018 Enhance sustainable use of natural resources by 2020 Strengthen national capacity and mechanisms to effectively conserve and manage biodiversity Investigate or trial other innovative approaches to encourage replanting		Update the national list of endangered, threatened and protected species in line with regional and international identification and rehabilitation of ecosystems (coral planting, mangrove planting, medicinal, crop)	Establishment of a nursery area on a number of islands Mapping of biodiversity areas such as terrestrial plant species, marine habitats and substrate distribution
Goal: To increase biodiversity resilience through sustainable climate change adaptation and mitigation			
Explore and implement best adaptation measures by 2020 Explore and implement best adaptation measures by 2020 Determine carbon stock stored in mangrove ecosystems by 2020		Undertake feasibility study to explore the long-term positive impacts of an ecosystem-based adaptation approach	Assess the ecological importance of mangrove ecosystem services Undertake research on determining carbon stored in mangrove ecosystems
Goal: Sustainable urban growth through sustainable use of resources to reduce pressure on biodiversity.			
Develop a management plan that supports the usage of traditional and medicinal knowledge and skills Support mechanisms that enhance the utilization of local foods and improve nutritional diet Protect vulnerable coastal areas Implement effective and sustainable resource management measures Develop a strategy that supports the increase in participation of women in farming and fishing activities Allocate capacity-building that improves income and livelihood	Rehabilitation of terrestrial ecosystems Identify sustainable yield for terrestrial resources Identify and empower community-based conservation Identify relevant areas for marine conservation on outer islands		Identification of the most vulnerable areas for possible/best protection measures (buihui, mangrove planting)
Goal: To strengthen governance for a better biodiversity and a better livelihood			

Goals/target	Convention on Migratory Species	CITES	Ramsar Convention
Conduct training on the enforcement of biodiversity provisions in the Environment Act by 2017		Development of the enforcement manual for the biodiversity provisions in the Environment Act	
Undertake the evaluation and review of biodiversity-related policies implementation by 2018		Engaging the independent review of the biodiversity-related policies implementation	
Create and centralize a database for national biodiversity by 2019 Create a database for national and external funding allocated for biodiversity by 2019 Improve the structure on data and information collection and storage		Establishment of centralized and updated database on national biodiversity Establishment of database on national and external funding allocated for biodiversity	
Healthy biodiversity through the effective and sound management of chemicals and waste			
Protect water reserves Establish regular water quality monitoring and develop national water quality parameters, standards/guidelines Develop a waste water management plan and improve port waste management facilities Review the existing National Marine Ordinance	Protection of water reserves Establish regular water quality monitoring Develop national water quality parameters, standards/guidelines		
Enhance protection and conservation of threatened island biodiversity through improving knowledge and information			
Improve the information and database facilities on plants (Agriculture and Livestock Division) 2018 Strengthen national capacity and mechanisms to effectively conserve and manage terrestrial plants and fauna biodiversity by 2018 Investigate or trial other innovative approaches to encourage replanting (Agriculture and Livestock Division)	Identify terrestrial plants and fauna status Capacity-building needs on plants and fauna for effective conservation and management		Develop at least one terrestrial protected area on each outer island Communitybased conservation capacitybuilding for terrestrial plants and fauna

Considerations for achieving synergies

Institutional collaboration

There is a need to enhance institutional coordination and collaboration between different ministries or focal points for effective implementation at the national level. Mapping out the activities and stakeholder roles under the different conventions can be a key mechanism in complementing each other's work.

A national biodiversity steering committee was established a few years ago by the Environment and Conservation Division with support from the Ministry. Members represent their institutions and are selected based on their expertise and the manner in which they can contribute to the biodiversity programmes at the national level. Some members (institutions) are focal points for other biodiversity-related conventions.

It is important to make a clear indication of the roles stakeholders who are focal points for other biodiversity-related conventions would play and how they could contribute to the biodiversity programme of work in Kiribati. Further, this would improve and enhance information sharing, which can benefit all for reporting purposes.

Capacity-building

In terms of capacity-building, it is recommended that efforts are made towards involving different stakeholders in training to deliver and contribute based on their expertise and to provide on-the-job training, involving stakeholders in community workshops, fieldwork, awarenessraising programmes, to name a few. Wider stakeholder participation can enhance synergistic implementation at local levels.

Information and knowledge needs

One of the key recommendations made by many countries interested in exploiting synergies is the establishment of a centralized database of information relevant to multiple conventions, which can feed information to the follow-up and review of various conventions. Additionally, efforts to strengthen and enhance the biodiversity network for discussions, peer reviews and innovation can be an important step towards achieving synergies.

Financing

Another recommendation is to establish a system to include national and external or development budgets that indicate the percentage of the total budgets allocated to biodiversity-related activities. This could determine each ministry's contribution to such activities and clarify those areas in which biodiversity funding and contributions need to be improved. Additional guidance on how resources can be used to promote synergies in actions would also be helpful.

National reporting

The above inputs and considerations would lead to a more efficient means of national reporting on the various conventions, which could include mapping out activities, improving information sharing and harmonizing activities to enable focal points to meet their national reporting obligations.

Looking forward

Presently, there are a number of pending tasks in moving the NBSAP revision process forward such as organizing more consultations with the Environment and Conservation Division staff, the working group/drafting team and the steering committee/stakeholders for verification and to confirm and review national actions, indicators, target setting, implementation, budgeting and finalization of the report.

UNEP will be consulted during the review process for guidance and technical assistance. Once the report has been finalized by the technical group, it will be presented to the Cabinet for its endorsement and to gain political legitimacy.

Since Kiribati is still in the process of reviewing its NBSAP, it is an opportune time to consider synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions as a part of the revised NBSAP in Kiribati.

Samoa

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Introduction

The revised and updated NBSAP of Samoa directly links with the global Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and responds to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets as a flexible framework in compliance with decision X/2, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its tenth meeting.

The NBSAP also has clear linkages to the National Environment Sector Plan and Strategy for the Development of Samoa. In addition, all 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets were adopted with appropriate albeit minor modifications to reflect national and local priorities and capabilities.

The updated NBSAP also recognizes and takes on board the concerns of the 2014 Gangwon Declaration on Biodiversity for Sustainable Development emanating from the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Those concerns include, inter alia, the conclusions of the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook that current progress is not sufficient to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and that biodiversity loss is continuing with adverse impacts on human well-being; and the importance for parties of linking the implementation of the post2015 development agenda to other relevant processes including NBSAPs.

Similarly, the updated NBSAP takes cognizance of the 2014 Small Island Developing States Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and places emphasis on the importance of building partnerships in its funding arrangements to support the implementation of the NBSAP, including links to sustainable tourism and climate change resilience building.

Samoa has finalized its NBSAP document with strong ownership by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and its implementing partners. Targets have also been readjusted and actions and indicators revised to reflect priorities and improve the achievement of the objectives of the NBSAP.

Table 1: Samoa's national biodiversity targets 2015–2020

Strategic objective A: Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by consolidating the mainstreaming of biodiversity across government and society	
National target 1:	By 2020, at the latest, the people of Samoa are aware of the values of biodiversity, the threats it faces and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.
National target 2:	By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting and budgetary processes, as appropriate, and reporting systems.
National target 3:	By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socioeconomic conditions.
National target 4:	By 2020, at the latest, government agencies, private sector organizations and groups, NGOs, civil society and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have developed and implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.
Strategic objective B: Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use	
National target 5:	By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.
National target 6:	By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystembased approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.
National target 7:	By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.
National target 8:	By 2020, land-based and marine pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity.
National target 9:	By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.
National target 10:	By 2020, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning.
Strategic objective C: To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity	
National target 11:	By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, 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 seascapes.
National target 12:	By 2020, the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.
National target 13:	By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socioeconomically as well as culturally valuable species, is at least maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.

Strategic objective D: Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services	
National target 14:	By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, local communities and the economically vulnerable.
National target 15:	By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.
National target 16:	By the end of 2015, Samoa has ratified and or acceded to the Nagoya Protocol with national legislation enacted to support its implementation.
Strategic objective E: Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity-building	
National target 17:	By 2015, Samoa has developed, adopted as a policy instrument and commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan.
National target 18:	By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are fully protected by national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in national and sector plans and budgetary processes.
National target 19:	By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.
National target 20:	By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing Samoa's NBSAP 2014–2020 from all sources is increased substantially from the current levels.

Process of revising the NBSAP

Stakeholder consultations for the revision process followed in the wake of other environmental planning exercises, namely the 2013 State of the Environment Report and the National Environment Sector Plan 2013–2016. Extensive public and in-government consultations were carried out focused on reviewing targets and actions and ensuring that all relevant partners in implementation were recognized and included.

National focal points for the key biodiversity conventions in Samoa were consulted to ensure the effective and efficient coordination and facilitation of meetings and workshops with different stakeholder groups with a view to finalizing the revision.

Implementation status of various conventions

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

Samoa became a party to the Convention in 2004. The national focal point for the Convention is the Assistant Chief Executive Officer at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Scientific Authority is the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. There is a steering committee of the Convention that includes the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the Samoa Ports Authority, the Ministry of Revenue and the Attorney General. Samoa is up to date with its annual and biannual reporting to the Secretariat. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment is the agency responsible for compiling the data for these reports. Samoa has also drafted a trade in endangered species bill to implement the Convention.

Convention on Migratory Species

The national focal point for the Convention on Migratory Species is the Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Samoa signed a memorandum of understanding in 2014 for the conservation of migratory sharks. There is a steering committee for marine turtle species that includes the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, the Samoa Tourism Authority and the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development. The committee is gearing towards expanding to include all migratory and other species of conservation concern under the committee. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment is responsible for compiling all data and developing the annual and biannual reports required under the convention. Research and awareness programmes, mainly on whales, dolphins and turtles, are being carried out. Awareness materials for these particular species such as identification posters and brochures have also been produced and disseminated to schools and the general public.

Ramsar Convention

The Ramsar Convention focal point for Samoa is the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. Activities such as the identification of potential Ramsar Sites, inventories, the preparation of management plans and the monitoring of site status and ecological character are reflected and itemized in the National Environment Sector Plan 2013–2016.

World Heritage Convention

In 2001 Samoa ratified the World Heritage Convention. The World Heritage Committee, which consists of 21 members chosen from among States parties to the Convention, receives expert advice and decides whether a place should be included on the World Heritage List. Currently, there are no World Heritage listed places in Samoa. The Fagaloa Bay - Uafato Tiavea Conservation Zone and the Manono, Apolima and Nuulopa Cultural Landscape have been placed on the World Heritage Committee's tentative list given that no funding is available to be approved on the World Heritage List.

Synergy-related issues and challenges

Synergistic implementation of multilateral environmental conventions can be beneficial in a number of ways for a country like Samoa. It can reduce the time and funding inputs needed for various national reporting mechanisms, eliminate duplication of efforts and achieve better results in the implementation of actions. Some of the challenges to synergistic collaboration include a lack of time, resources and capacity; a lack of data or scattered information; inadequate institutional arrangements; and suboptimal information management systems and institutional mechanisms in the country.

Key issues need to be addressed in order to be able to work on synergies. Samoa would like to build capacity that will allow the completion of reports with limited external support over time. It needs to assess the existing institutional arrangements and develop a strategy for collaboration. It must strive to incorporate technological options and innovation to enhance access and sharing of data and resource efficiency. Broadly, communicating the results of national reporting and making sure that stakeholders are sufficiently involved are other key issues that must be addressed.

Sample Matrix of the priorities of the Convention on Migratory Species, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and the Ramsar Convention and the linkages with the goals and targets of the national biodiversity strategy and action plan.

The following two examples indicate the opportunities available in Samoa to implement the revised NBSAP, focusing on the issue of synergies. Similar linkages across key biodiversity conventions can also be found with regard to other national targets.

	Current national target	Links to the Convention on Migratory Species	Links to the Ramsar Convention	Links to CITES
1	By 2020, at the latest, the people of Samoa are aware of the values of biodiversity, the threats its faces and the steps the Government and the people can take to conserve, protect and use it sustainably	People of Samoa are aware of the value of migratory species so that they can take actions for the conservation and the protection of these species	People of Samoa understand and are aware of the value of wetlands wildlife for their livelihoods	Conservation of wildlife and especially Samoa's endangered species
2	By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats including forests is reduced and where feasible brought close to zero per cent and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced	The rate of loss of natural habitats for migratory species is reduced	The rate of loss of wetland areas is reduced and the population of wetlands wildlife is increased	The rate of loss of natural habitats of endangered species is reduced and the population of endangered species is increased
12	By 2020, the extinction of known threatened species is prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained	Conservation status of migratory species is sustained and or improved	Extinction of known threatened species in wetlands is prevented and their conservation status has been improved	Conservation status of threatened species listed on CITES

Considerations for achieving synergies

The NBSAP is incorporated into the National Environment Sector Plan, which brings together relevant sectors to implement activities aimed at achieving targets. The NBSAP is a subsector plan under the National Environment Sector Plan which in turn is one of the many sectors under the Strategy for the Development of Samoa. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment has established the NBSAP Technical Coordination Committee, which is chaired by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and is responsible for coordinating the implementation of the NBSAP. The specific responsibility for implementing the bulk of the proposed actions lies largely within the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. But to achieve the targets many of the activities require close collaboration with other agencies, institutions and organizations.

The representatives of the NBSAP Technical Coordination Committee are responsible for providing the information required from their respective ministries, organizations and institutions in relation to implementing the NBSAP. The representative from the Ministry of Finance plays an important role in the coordination, management and monitoring of donor funding. In addition, the representative from the Ministry of Education, Sport and Culture is responsible for actions related to environmental education and the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development deals with certain activities requiring coordination with local villages.

Looking forward

Various opportunities exist in Samoa for further promoting synergies in the implementation of biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements, including through the revised NBSAP. The opportunities identified include coordinated efforts towards national reporting, which will enable Samoa to complete reports faster and with external funding support, and providing incentives for greater consultation in reporting and facilitating greater collaboration among national focal points within the Ministry. In doing so, remaining challenges that need to be addressed include a lack of time, resources or capacity; unavailability of data; data being scattered in numerous places and difficult to access; existing databases not being linked; inadequate institutional arrangements; existing information management systems not being used/updated; and overlaps in the contents of national reports resulting in duplication of efforts. Key issues that need attention for Samoa to work on synergies include assessing existing institutional arrangements and developing a strategy for collaboration; identifying technological options that will enhance access to and sharing of data; saving costs by increasing efficiency of processes; communicating the results of national reporting widely; and fostering activities of regional organizations that aim at promoting synergies. Financial and technical support from UNEP to these efforts will be helpful.

Tonga

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Introduction

The Government of Tonga acceded to the Convention on Biological Diversity on 19 May 1998 and ratified the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety on 18 May 2003, with the Department of Environment as the focal point. The Department plays the coordinating role in advising the Government on the implementation of the multilateral environmental agreements.

The principal instrument for implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity at the national level is the NBSAP. Tonga developed its initial NBSAP in 2006, formulating a strategy and planned actions for the conservation of biodiversity and its sustainable use. The revision has been under way since 2014 to include the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and an implementation plan.

Tonga considers that the NBSAP is a living document designed to address priorities as currently defined but will also incorporate and address new issues and priorities as they emerge. Thus, Tonga welcomes opportunities for implementation and update actions in support of the NBSAP if they can support effective conservation and sustainable management of its biodiversity.

Tonga's NBSAP has a focus on eight thematic areas: forestry ecosystem; marine and coastal ecosystem; agro-biodiversity; species conservation; invasive alien species; access and benefit sharing from the genetic resources; mainstreaming biodiversity conservation; and financial resources mechanism.

Status of the national biodiversity strategy and action plan revision

Tonga's revised NBSAP has been in draft form since October 2014 due to the reshuffling of the Government. The process for revising the NBSAP commenced in June 2014 with a consultation process with the various stakeholders ranging from the Government, NGOs, private sector and communities in the four island groups. The work was reviewed through a multisectoral consultative process. Technical assistance for the review was provided by the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme in Apia. Funding for the work has been generously provided by UNEP as the implementing agency for GEF enabling activities, with a continuous and tireless contribution by the NBSAP Technical Working Group. The Technical Working Group is responsible for revising and mainstreaming biodiversity strategies into their respective sectors, implementing the NBSAP and reporting on the implementation of the Plan. The Technical Working Group has nine members.

The issue of synergies and cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions is of interest to Tonga, which will be keen to incorporate issues related to synergies within the revised NBSAP. In that regard, it is important to understand the current roles and functions of key biodiversity convention focal points.

Roles of focal points

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

Tonga is yet to sign the Convention. However, there is an understanding that the Department of Environment, under the Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communications, and the Ministry of Fisheries, functions as the focal point for the Convention. Tonga is working towards accession in June 2016.

Convention on Migratory Species

Tonga has yet to sign the Convention. However, there is an understanding that the Department of Environment, the Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communications, the Department of Fisheries and the Ministry of Tourism, serves as the focal point for the Convention on Migratory Species. Other memorandums of understanding under the Convention on Migratory Species, such as the memorandum of understanding on marine mammals and sharks, have been signed.

Ramsar Convention

Although Tonga is not yet a signatory to the Convention, it is currently preparing for accession, with the Department of Environment serving as focal point for the Ramsar Convention. The role for mangrove rehabilitation and conservation is a part of the Department's mandate under its legislation and strategic management plans.

International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Tonga is a contracting party to the Treaty, with the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry serving as focal point for the Treaty.

World Heritage Convention

Tonga is a party to the World Heritage Convention. The focal point operates through the UNESCO office, located within the Ministry of Education and Training, and liaises with the various stakeholders with a view to developing action plans and reporting to the secretariat. Stakeholders include the Department of Environment, the Palace Office, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Society.

Institutional mechanisms that can potentially support synergies

The Department of Environment plays the leading role of coordinating biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements. The NBSAP Technical Working Group, established in 2003, will revise and mainstream NBSAP priorities into their respective sector plans, implement the NBSAP and report on its implementation. There are nine members in the Technical Working Group, and it is chaired by the Chief Executive Officer responsible for the Environment.

The National Environment Coordinating Committee of Tonga oversees all environmental projects. The Committee is chaired by the Minister for the Environment and consists of chief executive officers of the different sectors and a member representing NGOs and the private sector. A community member is co-opted periodically depending on where a project is being implemented. The Technical Working Group reports to the Committee.

Tonga also has a political committee, the Climate Change and Environment Cabinet Committee, which consists of three permanent ministers from the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communications, and co-opts others when required. Their role is to support actions requiring Cabinet approval.

Synergy-related issues and challenges

Nationally, Tonga recommends the convening of the technical body of the NBSAP to ensure synergies among the biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements. Annual meetings for the technical body are needed to bring together agencies focusing on specific conventions and to report on the progress of implementation of the NBSAP.

The task of revising the NBSAPs also presents itself as an opportunity to align existing national strategies and action plans to find areas of synergies and linkages. Moreover, the exercise encourages NBSAP priorities to be mainstreamed into relevant sector plans.

However, a key challenge for Tonga is the limited human resource capacity and expertise to deal with issues of natural resource management and lack of financial support for implementation plans at the national level.

Matrix of the priorities of the Convention on Migratory Species, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and the Ramsar Convention and the linkages with the goals and targets of the national biodiversity strategy and action plan

NBSAP goal/target	Link to the Convention on Migratory Species	Link to CITES	Link to the Ramsar Convention
Target 3. Species conservation: to protect priority species	Implement a monitoring programme to generate accurate data on the impact of fishing on the ecosystem and priority species. Conservation of terrestrial fauna and flora (e.g. Birds Act and Fisheries Act)	Monitor trade in marine species by the Ministry of Fisheries, (e.g. Endangered species such as clams). Recruit staff to monitor trading in endangered species. Monitoring of international trade in endangered species, both terrestrial and marine.	Conserve endemic mangroves and rare species that live on mangroves ecosystem
Forest ecosystems: arrest agro-deforestation by 2020	Conservation of species (e.g. birds, conservation of mangroves for fish)	Conservation of endangered species (e.g. native plants biosecurity by forest department)	Conservation of mangroves ecosystem
Marine ecosystems: minimize the adverse impact of land-based activities on coastal and marine species and ecosystems	Establishment of the Marine Reserves Park, sanctuaries and communitybased marine protected area. Formulation of the Tuna Management Plan and South Pacific Whale Research Project to emphasize the sustainable management of stocks of the pelagic species	Support the existing moratorium on whale harvesting within Tonga's exclusive economic zone and regional efforts for the setting up of a South Pacific whales sanctuary	Conserve marine reserves, parks and communitybased marine protected areas.
Agrobiodiversity	Encourage traditional and sustainable farming practices to avoid/reduce pollution discharge into the ocean that may affect migratory species	Genetic variability may be preserved through a combination of in-situ and ex situ approaches. Encourage replanting programmes to preserve and widen the gene pools of rare and endangered species	Promote mixed cropping on wetland areas
Local community and civil society	Engage community consultants in marine protected areas	Engage on consultation and conservation of endangered species in Tonga	Engage in mangroves replanting

Considerations for achieving synergies

Institutional collaboration

In the realm of institutional collaboration, there are a number of considerations for achieving synergies. It is important to promote the idea of synergies as a thematic concept across various sectoral institutions. Collaboration must also occur with the involvement of local communities to understand points of synergy.

The Technical Working Group plays a key role in contributing to the revision of the NBSAP and thus it must retain its integrity and consistency. It is recommended that it conducts regular meetings in order to share opportunities and challenges. It is also important to emphasize that cooperation, coordination and transparency among agencies and focal points make achieving synergies easier and more effective.

Capacity-building

In terms of capacity-building, there is a need to provide further training for officers responsible for coordinating the NBSAP to identify requirements needed for the assessment, review and development of activities. It is also recommended that training be provided for the Technical Working Group on how to conduct a review exercise and the scope of synergies within it. Training on how to improve reporting while considering synergies is another key area of capacity-building that needs attention.

Information and knowledge needs

Information should be shared among the relevant stakeholders through public consultations on the need for and benefits of synergies. Various channels and platforms can be utilized, including showing awareness programmes on television. Tonga organizes an annual Environment Week that can be a key platform for sharing information through diverse mediums to support actions related to synergies.

Financing

Given that most of the activities implemented under the NBSAP rely on external funding, it is important to complete the revision on time so that further funding can be requested for future activities. It is important to note that external and local funding is needed to support the implementation of the Plan activities with specific focus on synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions.

Support for the ratification of key biodiversity conventions such as the Convention on Migratory Species, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and the Ramsar Convention is also needed to support actions on synergies through the revised NBSAP.

National reporting processes

There should be a mechanism in place that allows the focal points to report to the Technical Working Group on a routine basis, especially on updates concerning the multilateral environmental agreements. A common reporting format and framework that provides implementation details to different conventions is needed.

Partnership

Partnerships are essential in this exercise because they help in sharing ideas on how to improve the revised NBSAP while considering other conventions. It is also important to link existing activities related to the strategies and actions under the NBSAP with ways of achieving objectives of other conventions and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Looking forward

Tonga is keen to focus on issues related to synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions to optimize available resources, including technical, financial and human resources. However, it needs targeted support to incorporate specific suggestions and actions within the revised NBSAPs to effectively push forward the issues at the local and national levels.



Vanuatu

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Introduction

Vanuatu ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity on 29 December 1993 and is therefore committed to implementing the decisions of the Conference of Parties to the Convention. The Vanuatu Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation is the focal institution for the Convention on Biological Diversity. Article 6 of the Convention states that each contracting party shall, in accordance with its particular conditions and capabilities:

- (a) Develop national strategies, plans or programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity or adapt for this purpose existing strategies, plans or programmes which shall reflect, inter alia, the measures set out in this Convention relevant to the Contracting Party concerned;
- (b) Integrate, as far as possible and as appropriate, the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies including but not limited to national development plans.

Similarly articles 26 and 10 (a) of the Convention call on parties to present, through their national reports, information on measures that have been taken for the implementation of the provisions of the Convention and their effectiveness in meeting the objectives of the Convention and encourage parties to integrate consideration of the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources into national decisionmaking.

The Vanuatu Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation has received support from GEF, through UNEP, towards the revision of the NBSAP and development of the fifth national report to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The project received its first cash advance in March 2013 but did not have a coordinator until September 2013. The project was supposed to end in December 2015; however, due to the devastation of a category 5 cyclone in March 2015, the main consultations were shifted to the end of 2015 and the first and second quarters of 2016. It is anticipated that the Plan should be finalized by September 2016. Therefore, the Vanuatu Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation has contracted the services of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources Oceania's Regional Office to support the Vanuatu Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation in revising the NBSAP with the overarching goal of integrating the Convention on Biological Diversity obligations into national planning processes, the main objective being to support the Vanuatu Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation in revising the Plan.

The specific activities of the Plan review include stocktaking and review of relevant plans, policies and strategies; stakeholder analysis, including identification of roles and responsibilities of all concerned stakeholders; assessment of the causes and consequences of biodiversity loss and highlighting the economic ecological services value of biodiversity and ecosystem, and their contribution to human wellbeing (with special reference to the Provincial Biodiversity Consultation Report of September 2014); setting the national targets, principles and main priorities of the strategy; developing the strategy and actions to implement the agreed targets; preparing a framework for mainstreaming and implementation of the Plan; and developing a resource mobilization plan for the Plan implementation.

NBSAP review update

The following activities have been carried out thus far in the process of revising the NBSAP

Scoping: The review of national strategies and policies has been conducted. Stakeholder meetings have been held to raise awareness of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the current NBSAP focal areas and to confirm the proposed focal areas for the new Vanuatu NBSAP.

The proposed focal areas have been changed or reworded to reflect the real situation and be more specific when addressing issues relating to current biodiversity management practices. During the provincial consultations it was observed that Vanuatu's biodiversity is currently under huge pressure from increasing population, an increase in tourism activities, an increase in local and overseas export, an increase in land sales, new infrastructure developments, invasive species and the impact of climate change. It is therefore critical that the new focal areas address these issues directly.

The following are the current focal areas and the proposed new areas:

Existing NBSAP focal areas	Proposed NBSAP focal areas
Protection and wise use of biodiversity	Protection and wise use of biodiversity
Application of policy, planning and legal mechanisms to enable sustainable management of biodiversity	Conservation of ecosystems, species and genetic diversity
Research, assessment and monitoring of biodiversity	Reduction of the direct pressures on biodiversity and promotion of sustainable use
Capacity-building for environment management	Enhancement of the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services
Environment education, awareness and information sharing	Effective implementation and financing of biodiversity plans at all level
Participation of local communities in the management of biodiversity	

The NBSAP focal areas proposed are still being reviewed and will be confirmed at the consultation planned for the second quarter of 2016.

Some key observations made in the current process and focal areas of the revised NBSAP are as follows:

- National strategies and sector plans are well developed.
- Context of implementation can be better articulated at the community and provincial level. However, this needs to be further clarified and elaborated.
- There is a need for developing the revised NBSAP as a national biodiversity policy framework with clear implementation targets within sector strategies and at provincial level needs to guide the finalization process of the revised NBSAP.
- Engagement with communities and traditional chiefs is critical for effective implementation of the NBSAPs.
- Provincial-level implementation needs to be strengthened and prioritized.
- Capacity-building should be prioritized at all levels.
- Biodiversity should be mainstreamed into sectors such as education, tourism, agriculture, civil society and communities.
- Gender needs to be a guiding principle in the implementation of the NBSAP.

Given the above and considering the need to link new and emerging issues such as the need to enhance cooperation and synergies among the biodiversity conventions, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and options to realize the Sustainable Development Goals, there is a need to have specific consultations to identify key opportunities to deal with the above. This could be followed by a national stakeholder target-setting exercise before finalizing the revised NBSAP for the country.

Considering the options for enhancing synergies among the biodiversity conventions, the following section elaborates current actions in the country related to key biodiversity conventions. Fine-tuning the actions that will promote synergies is possible and can be attempted.

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

The Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation is the focal point for the Convention. The Convention was signed on 17 July 1989 and ratified on 15 October 1989. As the management authority, the Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation issues the Convention permits for trading of the species listed in the Convention appendices. Every year it prepares an annual report for the Convention secretariat. The Department also produces awareness materials such as posters, booklets and pamphlets (in English, French and Bislama) on national endangered species and disseminates them throughout the nation to inform people of the Convention law for such species. Raising awareness of the Convention to customs and biosecurity departments, Vanuatu Chamber of Commerce clients who are involved with trading of Convention-listed species, schools and green produce markets, including tourist shops, is ongoing. The Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation has also engaged the Customs and Biosecurity border control departments. The Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation is in the process of signing a memorandum of understanding with the Vanuatu Biosecurity and Customs Department to assist the Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation in the implementation of the Convention at border control points.

Convention on Migratory Species

The Vanuatu Fisheries Department is the focal point for the Convention on Migratory Species. Vanuatu has yet to sign the Convention on Migratory Species though three memorandums of understanding have been signed, the first for cetaceans and their habitats on 15 September 2006, the second for the conservation of dugongs on 4 April 2010 and the third for the conservation of migratory sharks on 19 February 2013. There is a national action plan for turtles, sharks and marine mammals.

Ramsar Convention

The Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation is the focal point for the Convention. Though Vanuatu is yet to accede to the Convention, it is preparing the implementation of conservation action for wetlands through a project of the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund.

World Heritage Convention

The national World Heritage Advisory Group, which was formed in 2015, composed of one representative of relevant government departments. One of the functions of the Advisory Group is to raise awareness of the Convention. According to the Regional World Heritage Plan, one of the actions required is to prepare nominations of more sites. The tentative national list of sites contains both cultural and natural sites.

Synergy-related issues and challenges

Before embarking on synergy-related work, it is important to understand the linkages or overlapping mandates of key biodiversity-related conventions by mapping the linkages. This can be done by bringing together all the focal points for the relevant multilateral environmental agreements and presenting the thematic areas of their respective conventions.

With limited technical, financial and human resource capital, the issue of synergies is not receiving enough attention. The following table provides a sample of the current state of understanding in terms of dealing with issues of synergies both in the NBSAPs and through sectoral policies and plans in Vanuatu.

Matrix of the priorities of the Convention on Migratory Species, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and the Ramsar Convention and the linkages with the goals and targets of the national biodiversity strategy and action plan

NBSAP target	Actions	Link to the Convention on Migratory Species	Link to CITES	Link to the Ramsar Convention
	Protect threatened and endemic species habitat	Increase habitat for migratory species Increase population Conserve/maintain genetic pool	Increase habitat for endangered species Increase population for endangered species Enhance traditional knowledge and cultural significance	Increase habitat for species Increase production of species
	Develop bylaws and management plan for provincial protected areas	Allow migratory/corridor for species Better management allows increase of species population	Enhance compliance and monitoring of CITES species at the provincial and community levels Expand knowledge of CITES at the provincial and community levels	Increase knowledge of wetlands at the provincial and community level
Reforestation: To increase forest cover level from 900,000 to 1m HA with total 10,000 HA new reforested area (forestry)	Promote the department of forestry's "decade of reforestation" initiative	Increase habitat for migratory species Increase population of migratory species	Increase population gene pool of threaten species Increase habitat for threaten species	Create buffer zone for species
	Promote sustainable agriculture production through agroforestry farming systems	Increase habitat for migratory species	Protect gene pools and traditionally significant agricultural crops	Enhance agriculture production in wetlands Minimize impacts of soil erosion, nutrient leaching, salinity, etc.

Considerations for achieving synergies

The Vanuatu Government has developed a new National Sustainable Development Plan.

In line with the new global Sustainable Development Goals, the pillars of the Plan are economy, society and environment, which clearly align the NBSAP with the Plan. The environment pillar consists of priority objectives covering the different environment sectors, such as forestry, fisheries, water resources, land, energy and agriculture. The following are key considerations regarding means to achieving synergies.

Capacity-building

In order for the NBSAP to be implemented successfully, the Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation is encouraging mainstreaming of different sector policies and strategies into the NBSAP to enable wider participation in implementation and reporting. There will also be participation of various organizations such as civil society organizations, private enterprise and individual resource owners. Capacity at all levels will include awareness and training for monitoring and reporting purposes.

Information and knowledge needs

The Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation acknowledged the need to share information with its partners at all levels. A new Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation website is currently being developed to aid the sharing of information among the different NBSAP partners. Furthermore, a biodiversity clearing house mechanism will be developed alongside the Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation website with more emphasis on biodiversity and related activities, as required by the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Financing

For a small country like Vanuatu where economic resources are scarce, implementation of the NBSAP will depend very much on collective financial resources from all sectors within the environment pillar as occurs in the National Sustainable Development Plan. Foreign donor contributions are vital for the implementation of the NBSAP and consolidation of efforts in that regard is needed.

Looking forward

UNEP can play a key role in providing support to better understanding and articulating issues related to synergies within the NBSAPs, as well as supporting peer review of the revised NBSAP to ensure that synergies among key biodiversity conventions become a reality in Vanuatu.

The Vanuatu Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation envisions a country in which all persons treasure the use of environmental resources and ensure its protection, conservation and restoration, to equitably meet the needs of the present and future generation and enhance their quality of life.

The environment is an essential pillar of economic and social development and consequently environmental sustainability is a key objective of economic development and planning.

The Vanuatu NBSAP establishes a platform for long-term planning and action to respond to priority biodiversity issues that are currently addressed by the Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation and its partners. In formulating the strategy, the Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation focused on the sustainable management of its biodiversity and ecosystem services.



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