



Supporting Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to Prepare for Updating the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)

“Technical Support for the Global Biodiversity Framework Early Action Support”

Checklist of key elements, thematic and cross-cutting issues that should be a part of the updated National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans

1. Introduction

Component 1 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) Early Action Support (EAS) project requires the alignment of national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) and/or national biodiversity targets with the GBF. The checklist is an aid to Parties to ensure that the key elements, and thematic and cross-cutting issues are included in the revised or updated national biodiversity strategies and actions plans (NBSAPs). It enables a rapid NBSAP screening to identify where national goals and targets are already aligned with the GBF or need to be added or updated to become more aligned with it. The checklist includes a list of relevant questions under each of the following areas of relevance to the scope of the GBF EAS project:

- Key elements
- Thematic issues
- Cross-cutting issues

1.1 Key elements

Decision 15/4 has identified the following **key elements** for the successful implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF):

- a) National biodiversity strategies and action plans, revised or updated in alignment with the Framework and its goals and targets as the main vehicle for

implementation of the Framework, including national targets communicated in a standardized format.

b) Information on non-state actor commitments towards the Framework, as applicable.

Decision 15/6 consider these elements as important towards ensuring the utility of NBSAPs in the enhanced implementation, monitoring, reporting and review mechanism, while retaining their flexibility and their principal role as national implementation vehicles.

1.2 Thematic issues

Thematic issues were identified during the post-2020 Open-ended Working Group consultations based on Decision 14/34 and noted in Decision 15/4. They are: access and benefit sharing, biosafety, ecosystem restoration, marine and coastal environment, area-based conservation measures, resource mobilization, planning, monitoring, reporting and review, and capacity building and technical and scientific cooperation.

1.3 Cross-cutting issues:

Decision 15/8 recognizes that Capacities can be categorized as “functional” capacities (cross-cutting skills needed to get things done and not associated with any one particular sector or theme); and “technical” capacities (associated with specific areas of expertise, sectors or themes). Accordingly, the checklist includes the following critical cross-cutting issues: adequate financial, human and technical resources, interministerial/inter-agency cooperation and coordination, timely and reliable access to knowledge, information and data, scientific expertise to support project development and management, and access to relevant technologies for implementation.

Government and non-government actors are encouraged to adopt, as appropriate, strategies to enhance capacity-building and development initiatives in support of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and ensure alignment and synergy with the Sustainable Development Goals and other relevant national and global processes. Each country should decide which strategies to apply, taking into account its needs, circumstances and local contexts: thematic capacity-building and development strategies or action plans be developed to support the achievement of the respective targets or groups of related targets.

2. Key elements, thematic and cross-cutting issues

2.1 Key elements:

a) National biodiversity strategies and action plans, revised or updated in alignment with the Framework and its goals and targets as the main vehicle for implementation of the Framework, including national targets communicated in a standardized format.		
	Yes/No/N.A.	Comment/Explanation ¹
What national biodiversity priorities have your country identified?		
What stakeholder engagements on the NBSAP or during the identification of national biodiversity priorities have your country convened?		
Which existing national targets from NBSAP and other relevant plans have your country mapped to the GBF?		
Is your country applying a whole of society approach to the NBSAP development and implementation?		
What non-state actor commitments have been identified in the context of the NBSAP? ²		
<p>Is the NBSAP being revised or updated in alignment with the GBF?</p> <p>If yes, what assessment of the alignment of existing NBSAP and its targets with the GBF is being carried out?</p> <p>Which aspects/elements have been included in the assessment: national circumstances, implementation gaps, existing goals, targets and indicators, the effectiveness of past actions, monitoring systems (including any data and/or knowledge systems and gaps), sectoral and cross-sectoral policies, finance and other means of implementation?</p> <p>Which of the following stakeholders have been meaningfully engaged in the revision</p>		

¹ Countries may wish to work with the relevant GEF Executing Agency to request the delivery of tools, guidance, and trainings needed for early action to implement the GBF. In formulating the request, countries may find the information contained in columns 2 and 3 particularly useful.

² See below (2.1 b.) for additional information.

and updating process: indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth?		
What gaps have been identified for alignment with the GBF?		
Is your country adopting the revised or updated NBSAP as policy and/or legal instrument?		
Which broader strategies and plans, such as national sustainable development plans, national development plans, poverty reduction strategies and other relevant national sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, have been used to mainstream the NBSAP (or elements thereof) in line with national circumstances and priorities?		
Which of the three dimensions of sustainable development (environmental, social and economic) have been addressed to create the conditions necessary to fulfil the goals and targets of the Framework?		

b) Information on non-state actor commitments towards the Framework, as applicable

	Yes/No/N.A.	Comment/Explanation
Is your country aware of the development and/or piloting of the template contained in annex II to Decision 15/6, and of core elements for reporting of non-State actors, where needed, and in an inclusive and transparent manner?		
What information on commitments from non-State actors have been used for revising or updating the NBSAP?		
Has your country clearly identified commitments from non-State actors?		
What measures have been taken to avoid double counting of commitments from non-State actors?		

2.2 Thematic issues:

a) Access and benefit sharing (ABS)

	Yes/No/N.A.	Comment/Explanation
In what ways is your country able to access through the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House, existing and additional guidance on capacity-building and development?		
What legal, policy and administrative measures to ensure the fair and equitable		

sharing of benefits are in place in your country? Are these measures effective (are benefits being shared)? If not, what are the underlying reasons? In what way could their effectiveness be improved?		
Is your country taking effective measures (legal, policy, administrative and capacity-building), as appropriate, to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits that arise from the utilization of genetic resources and from digital sequence information on genetic resources, as well as traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, and facilitating appropriate access to genetic resources?		
Is your country taking legal, administrative or policy measures to encourage and enable business, and in particular to ensure that large and transnational companies and financial institutions report on compliance with access and benefit-sharing regulations and measures, as applicable?		

b) Biosafety

	Yes/No/N.A.	Comment/Explanation
What are the opportunities for and constraints to taking measures for biosafety, promoting participation in biotechnological research and providing equitable access to benefits and results from biotechnologies?		
Have necessary biosafety measures been taken as set out in Article 8(g) of the Convention and measures for the handling of biotechnology and distribution of its benefits as set out in Article 19 of the Convention? If so, how effective have these been? How could their effectiveness be improved?		

c) Ecosystem restoration

	Yes/No/N.A.	Comment/Explanation
What is the current extent of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) on land, in inland waters and in marine and coastal areas in your country?		
Which areas of importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services are not currently protected in your country? Which areas are underrepresented? Which habitats are		

declining the quickest? Which habitats have little left?		
What measures are in place to ensure the equitable governance of protected areas and OECMs in your country? How do these account for the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities and stakeholders? Are there benefit sharing measures or mechanisms in place? How could the effectiveness of these measures be improved?		

d) Marine and coastal environment		
	Yes/No/N.A.	Comment/Explanation
What is the current extent of areas of marine and coastal ecosystems that are under protected areas or OECMs?		
Has your country commenced measures to ensure and enable that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of marine and coastal areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, are effectively conserved and managed?		
Who are the key actors that may have an interest, responsibility and/or authority in this matter? How can they be involved?		

e) Area-based conservation measures		
	Yes/No/N.A.	Comment/Explanation
Is your country taking steps to apply 'other effective area-based conservation measures' as a tool for biodiversity conservation?		
If yes, is it embedded in the legislative or administrative framework of the country?		

f) Resource mobilization		
	Yes/No/N.A.	Comment/Explanation
Has your country provided information in its national biodiversity finance plans, on financial, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building support needed, received, and used, to implement its national biodiversity strategies and action plans?		
What is the current amount of biodiversity financing available in your country? What percentage of this funding comes from		

national budgets? What percentage comes from other sources?		
What financial resources will be required to implement your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan? How can additional funds be raised? Who are the stakeholders that may be involved?		
Is your country mobilizing resources for capacity-building and development in the national resource mobilization strategies, in line with decision 15/7 on resource mobilization?		
Is your country improving its information base on funding needs, gaps and priorities? Who are the stakeholders that are involved or may be involved?		
Is your country aware of potential additional sources of funding, recognizing the need for support from a wide variety of sources, including innovative sources?		

g) Planning, monitoring, reporting and review		
	Yes/No/N.A.	Comment/Explanation
Is your country considering or applying the guidance for revising or updating national biodiversity strategies and action plans to align with the GBF in accordance with Annex 1 to Decision 15/6?		
What relevant actions have been included to implement commitments and recommendations under each of the biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements to which your country is a party?		
What commitments contributing to your country's NBSAP have been received from women, indigenous peoples and local communities, youth, civil society organizations, academia, the private sector, all levels of government and stakeholders from all other relevant sectors?		
What measures have your country taken to obtain the free, prior and informed consent ³ of indigenous peoples and local communities, as appropriate, in their engagement and participation in the updating and revision of its NBSAP and		

³ Free, prior and informed consent refers to the tripartite terminology of "prior and informed consent" or "free, prior and informed consent" or "approval and involvement", as applicable.

national targets, and how these measures may affect them?		
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h) Capacity building and technical and scientific cooperation		
	Yes/No/N.A.	Comment/Explanation
What are the top priority capacity needs and gaps, at the individual, institutional and enabling environment levels, for national implementation in your country?		
Does your country have a capacity-development plan for biodiversity or a specific component on capacity in the national biodiversity strategy and action plan?		
What kind of technologies for different sectors does your country need to develop, access, transfer and diffuse to achieve its national targets and also contribute to the global goals?		
Is there coordination of biodiversity capacity-building and development through the national biodiversity committees or similar mechanisms in your country?		
Is this coordination facilitated through the United Nations Country Teams, within the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for the country?		
What are the opportunities and constraints in improving technology transfer and technical and scientific cooperation in your country? Who are the stakeholders that may be affected? How can they be involved and their needs addressed?		
Is your country identifying and prioritizing capacity-building and development needs, in partnership with indigenous peoples and local communities, and with the participation of women and youth and other relevant stakeholders, integrated capacity-building and development components in their NBSAPs while updating them in line with the GBF?		

2.3 Cross-cutting issues:

a) Adequate financial, human and technical resources		
	Yes/No/N.A.	Comment/Explanation

Does your country have access to adequate, predictable and easily accessible financial resources for implementation of the GBF?		
Is your country able to develop cooperation and collaboration in building the necessary capacity and transfer of technologies needed to fully implement the GBF?		
Is your country able to carry out an internal review of the Strategy for Resource Mobilization?		

b) Interministerial/inter-agency cooperation and coordination

	Yes/No/N.A.	Comment/Explanation
What measures have your country taken during the process to review and update the NBSAP to garner high-level political support, ensure interministerial coordination and vertical integration?		
Is your country coordinating plans and activities across biodiversity-related multilateral environment agreements and the Rio conventions?		
What measures have your country taken to convene a national coordination mechanism, including representatives of key government ministries and other authorities at all levels, national gender and biodiversity focal points, traditional knowledge focal points, national focal points for the Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols, national focal points of the biodiversity-related conventions and the Rio conventions and for the Sustainable Development Goals?		

c) Timely and reliable access to knowledge, information, and data

	Yes/No/N.A.	Comment/Explanation
What biodiversity data, information and knowledge are available in your country? Who has the data, information and knowledge? What are the major gaps? What data, information and knowledge would be crucial to have for the updating and revision of the NBSAP?		
What mechanisms are in place in your country to manage and share biodiversity data, information and knowledge? How do these mechanisms address traditional knowledge, innovations, practices and technologies? How effective have these		

been? How could information and data be shared more effectively? What have been the limitations in sharing information and data?		
What are the main constraints to accessing available biodiversity data, information and knowledge in your country? What actions could be taken to improve accessibility?		

d) Scientific expertise to support project development and management		
	Yes/No/N.A.	Comment/Explanation
Is there evidence that biodiversity has been mainstreamed in development cooperation in your country?		
Is there a harnessing and scaling of synergies in project development and financing with a view to generating and increasing biodiversity co-benefits in your country?		

e) Access to relevant technologies for implementation		
	Yes/No/N.A.	Comment/Explanation
Is your country establishing and/or strengthening partnerships for the sharing of existing knowledge, expertise and technologies on specific issues related to the targets of the GBF, in line with national priorities?		
Is your country developing joint research programmes and joint ventures for the development of technologies that are relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity?		
What measures have been taken to engage the private sector , proactively and as appropriate, in the development of national capacities to address biodiversity-related issues?		
Is your country developing solutions based on innovative technologies embedded in local contexts to enhance the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity?		
Is your country pursuing technological cooperation for financial planning and effective resource utilization and management?		

3. Summary list of gaps related to the key elements, thematic and cross-cutting issues

	Gaps	Recommended measures to strengthen capacities
3.1 Key elements		
a) National biodiversity strategies and action plans, revised or updated in alignment with the Framework and its goals and targets as the main vehicle for implementation of the Framework, including national targets communicated in a standardized format.		
b) Information on non-state actor commitments to implement the Framework, as applicable		
3.2 Thematic issues		
Access and benefit sharing		
Biosafety		
Ecosystem restoration		
Marine and coastal environment		
Area-based conservation measures		
Resource mobilization		
Planning, monitoring, reporting and review		
Capacity building and technical and scientific cooperation		
3.3 Cross-cutting issues		
Adequate financial, human and technical resources		
Interministerial/inter-agency cooperation and coordination		
Timely and reliable access to knowledge, information and data		
Scientific expertise to support project development and management		
Access to relevant technologies for implementation		

Conclusions

Parties have committed to revising or updating their national biodiversity strategies and action plans in alignment with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and its goals and targets. Parties are encouraged to use the checklist of key elements, thematic and cross-cutting issues when carrying out this process thereby increasing the utility of the revised or updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans as the main vehicle for

enhanced implementation of the Framework. The design of the checklist with its series of questions and summary list of gaps to inform measures to strengthen capacities is expected to contribute to the revised or updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans retaining their flexibility and their principal role as national implementation vehicles in accordance with Article 6 of the convention.

Sources of primary information for this checklist

CBD COP 15 Decisions.

<https://www.cbd.int/decisions/cop?m=cop-15>

- CBD COP Decision 15/4 Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.
- CBD COP Decision 15/6 Mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review.
- CBD COP Decision 15/7 Resource mobilization.
- CBD COP Decision 15/8 Capacity-building and development and technical and scientific cooperation.

CBD COP Decision 14/34 Comprehensive and participatory process for the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

<https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-14/cop-14-dec-34-en.pdf>

GBF 2030 Targets with guidance notes.

<https://www.cbd.int/gbf/targets>

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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