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Convention on Biological Diversity

Policy Review

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Convention on Biological Diversity

Policy Review
Name/Type of the Legal Act or Policy
CBD, Convention on Biological Diversity Supplementary agreements: *Cartagena Protocol*: On 29 January 2000, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted a supplementary agreement to the Convention known as the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. The Protocol seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology. It establishes an advance informed agreement (AIA) procedure for ensuring that countries are provided with the information necessary to make informed decisions before agreeing to the import of such organisms into their territory. The Protocol contains reference to a precautionary approach and reaffirms the precaution language in Principle 15 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. The Protocol also establishes a Biosafety Clearing-House to facilitate the exchange of information on living modified organisms and to assist countries in the implementation of the Protocol. *Nagoya Protocol:* The *Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization (ABS) to the Convention on Biological Diversity* is a supplementary agreement to the Convention on Biological Diversity. It provides a transparent legal framework for the effective implementation of one of the three objectives of the CBD: the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources. The Nagoya Protocol on ABS was adopted on 29 October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan and entered into force on 12 October 2014, 90 days after the deposit of the fiftieth instrument of ratification. Its objective is the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources, thereby contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. In decision X/2, the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, held from 18 to 29 October 2010, in Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture, Japan, adopted a revised and updated Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, for the 2011-2020 period. This plan provides an overarching framework on biodiversity, not only for the biodiversity-related conventions, but for the entire United Nations system and all other partners engaged in biodiversity management and policy development.
Entry into force
The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) entered into force on 29 December 1993
Departments/Units in charge
The Convention on Biological Diversity provides a global legal framework for action on biodiversity. It brings together the Parties in the Conference of the Parties (COP) which is the Convention's governing body that meets every two years, or as needed, to review progress in the implementation of the Convention, to adopt programmes of work, to achieve its

objectives, and provide policy guidance. The COP is assisted by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical, and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), which is made up of government representatives with expertise in relevant fields, as well as observers from non-Party governments, the scientific community, and other relevant organizations. SBSTTA is responsible for providing recommendations to the COP on the technical aspects of the implementation of the Convention.

Other subsidiary bodies have been established by the COP to deal with specific issues as they arise. These are called "ad hoc open-ended Working Groups" because they are established for a limited mandate and period of time, and because they are open to all Parties as well as the participation of observers. Working Groups make recommendations to the COP, and, as is the case for the Working Group on Access and Benefit-Sharing, may also provide a forum for negotiations of a particular instrument under the Convention. The COP and SBSTTA may also establish expert groups or call for the organization by the Secretariat of liaison groups, workshops, and other meetings. Participants in these meetings are usually experts nominated by governments, as well as representatives of international organizations, local and indigenous communities and other bodies. Unlike SBSTTA and the open-ended Working Groups these are usually not considered as intergovernmental meetings. The purpose of these meetings vary: Expert groups may provide scientific assessments, for example, while workshops may be used for training or capacity building. Liaison groups advise the secretariat or act as for cooperation with other conventions and organizations.

Common Implementation strategy (CIS processes)

The EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 follows up on the 2006 EU Biodiversity Action Plan and is the European Union's equivalent to a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) – and among the first ones to be fully aligned with the global Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. Apart from this EU Biodiversity Strategy, nearly all EU Member States have revised their own NBSAPs. As presented in their respective country profiles, EU Member States' NBSAPs further add to the implementation of the CBD and related multilateral agreements in individual countries through a wide range of national and sub-national policies and measures.

The EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 underlines the need for close coordination between authorities at all levels – EU, national, sub-national – which are responsible for ensuring implementation of the Strategy, as well as the importance of stakeholders' involvement in implementation (including business and society at large). To this end, the Strategy is accompanied by a common implementation framework (CIF), which also serves the purposes of monitoring, assessing and reporting on progress in implementing the Strategy. The CIF involves the European Commission and Member States in partnership with key stakeholders and civil society. Specifically, its purpose is to (i) facilitate implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 by putting in place a clear and logical EU level governance framework that is as efficient and effective as possible; (ii) create ownership for the implementation of the Biodiversity Strategy across all relevant policy areas by involving representatives from a wide range of services, ministries and institutions in implementation of the Strategy; (iii) ensure the involvement of all relevant stakeholders at the appropriate level of policy making, beyond the traditional "biodiversity community"; and (iv) to minimise duplication of work and maximise synergies between efforts undertaken at different levels

and by different actors and stakeholders; share information and best practice and address common challenges.

Administrative body handling implementation in MS

National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) are the principal instruments for implementing the Convention at the national level (Art. 6). The Convention requires countries to prepare a national biodiversity strategy (or equivalent instrument) and to ensure that this strategy is mainstreamed into the planning and activities of all those sectors whose activities can have an impact (positive and negative) on biodiversity. To date, a total of 184 of 196 (94%) Parties have developed NBSAPs in line with Art. 6. Submitted NBSAPs can be found here.

Belgium: In November 2013, Belgium's Interministerial Conference for the Environment adopted an update of the National Biodiversity Strategy to 2020. Based largely on the previous Strategy (2006-2016), the update incorporates provisions aligned with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011-2020) and the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020. It will guide activities for revising federal and regional biodiversity action plans and be promoted in sectoral policy-making. Its main focuses are: a) tackling emerging risks and the impact of internal trade of live specimens; b) protecting and restoring biodiversity and associated ecosystem services through protected areas – green infrastructure – no net loss; identifying pathways of introduction on IAS; c) phasing out perverse incentives and using guidelines on the integration of the values of biodiversity and ecosystem services in development strategies, planning processes and reporting systems included; developing an approach to include these values in national accounting; d) implementing the Nagoya Protocol; e) mapping ecosystem services in Belgium and assessing their values; f) ensuring the implementation and enforcement of biodiversity legislation; g) involving provinces, cities and other local authorities; h) boosting the mobilization of resources (including through innovative mechanisms) and enhancing capacities. The Strategy contains 15 priority strategic objectives and 85 operational objectives that have been mapped to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and to the targets of the EU Biodiversity Strategy. Specific actions and indicators for the Strategy will be developed at a later stage (during the implementation process).

Spain: The Spanish "Plan Estratégico del Patrimonio Natural y la Biodiversidad 2011-2017", adopted through Royal Decree 1274 on 16 September 2011, constitutes a fundamental element in support of the 2007 Law on Natural Heritage and Biodiversity. The plan considers themes derived from the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the 2011 EU Strategy, and was subjected to Strategic Environmental Assessment in accordance with the provisions of the 2006 law on assessment of the effects of environmental plans and programmes.

United Kingdom: While ultimate responsibility for CBD implementation lies with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) of the UK Government, it is shared among the UK's 4 countries (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales) and its Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies. In view of this, individual Country Biodiversity Strategies have been developed, as have a number of strategies for the Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies. To date, England and Scotland have completed revisions of their strategies in the light of the 2010 Nagoya outcomes. A UK-wide post-2010 biodiversity framework has also been developed.

England – "Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services" outlines the strategic direction for biodiversity policy for the next decade on land (including rivers and lakes) and at sea, building upon the Natural Environment White Paper published in June 2011. The strategy stresses the provision of support for healthy well-functioning ecosystems and the establishment of coherent ecological networks. A set of outcomes for 2020 has been defined, including the establishment of a network of marine protected areas containing in excess of 25% of English waters by the end of 2016. The strategy aims to ensure that biodiversity values are considered in the decision- making processes of both the public and private sectors. The government also intends to develop new and innovative financing mechanisms for achieving the 2020 outcomes.

Scotland – "2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity" published in 2013 is Scotland's response to implementing the Nagoya outcomes and the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020. It aims to protect and restore biodiversity on land and in Scotland's seas, and support healthier ecosystems; connect people with the natural world, for their health and wellbeing and to involve them more in decisions about their environment; maximise the benefits for Scotland of a diverse natural environment and the services it provides, contributing to sustainable economic growth.

France: The revised National Biodiversity Strategy (2011-2020) is coherent with various existing national strategies and action plans. The strategy attaches particular importance to increasing biodiversity information and education for all stakeholders; biodiversity mainstreaming in development projects (especially in overseas territories where exceptionally rich biodiversity has significant socioeconomic and cultural value for the local populations); as well as to biodiversity governance at all levels (global to local).

Reporting by Parties: Parties will inform the Conference of the Parties of the national targets or commitments and policy instruments they adopt to implement the Strategic Plan, as well as any milestones towards these targets, and report on progress towards these targets and milestones, including through their fifth and sixth national reports. Suggested milestones, as well as suggested indicators, are to be developed in accordance with the processes laid out in paragraphs 3 (b), (e) and 17 (g) of decision X/2 on the Strategic Plan as well as decision X/7 on goals, targets and associated indicators. Parliamentarians, by responding to the needs and expectations of citizens on a regular basis, should play a role in reviewing the implementation of the Convention at the national and subnational levels, as appropriate, to help Governments produce a more comprehensive review.

Review by the Conference of the Parties: The Conference of the Parties, with the support of other Convention bodies, in particular the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention, will keep under review implementation of this Strategic Plan, and support effective implementation by Parties ensuring that new guidance is informed by the experience of Parties in implementing the Convention, in line with the principle of adaptive management through active learning. The Conference of the Parties will review the progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets[13] as set out in the Strategic Plan and make recommendations to overcome any obstacles encountered in meeting those targets, including revision of the provisional technical rationale, possible indicators and suggested milestones for the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and measures contained therein, and, as appropriate, to strengthen the mechanisms to support implementation, monitoring and review. To facilitate this work, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological

Advice (SBSTTA) should develop a common set of biodiversity metrics to be used to assess the status of biodiversity and its values.

Increasingly, Subnational Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (SBSAPs) are being developed at state/provincial/territorial, local and cities levels. Greater attention is also being given to the development of Regional (supranational) Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (RBSAPs). Decentralized planning serves as an effective support mechanism for implementing COP-10 decision X/2 and decision X/22 on, respectively, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011-2020) and the Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity (2011-2020). SBSAPs prepared by countries at subnational, local and cities levels, as well as information on activities being undertaken in this regard, are provided below where available.

Main Objective

Art. 1: The objectives of this Convention, to be pursued in accordance with its relevant provisions, are the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies, taking into account all rights over those resources and to technologies, and by appropriate funding.

Principles included in the legal text

States have, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental policies, and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.

The Cartagena Protocol contains reference to a precautionary approach and reaffirms the precaution language in Principle 15 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.

Other objectives/Key concepts/key elements of the legislation

In decision X/2, the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, held from 18 to 29 October 2010, in Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture, Japan, adopted a revised and updated Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, for the 2011-2020 period. This plan provides an overarching framework on biodiversity, not only for the biodiversity-related conventions, but for the entire United Nations system and all other partners engaged in biodiversity management and policy development. Parties agreed to translate this overarching international framework into revised and updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans within two years. Additionally, in decision X/10, the Conference of the Parties decided that the fifth national reports, due by 31 March 2014, should focus on the implementation of the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan and progress achieved towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

Terminology

Biological resources: includes genetic resources, organisms or parts thereof, populations, or any other biotic component of ecosystems with actual or potential use or value for humanity.

Biotechnology: any technological application that uses biological systems, living organisms, or derivatives thereof, to make or modify products or processes for specific use.

Domesticated or cultivated species: means species in which the evolutionary process has been influenced by humans to meet their needs.

Ecosystem: a dynamic complex of plant, animal and micro-organism communities and their non-living environment interacting as a functional unit.

Ex-situ conservation: the conservation of components of biological diversity outside their natural habitats.
In-situ conditions: conditions where genetic resources exist within ecosystems and natural habitats, and, in the case of domesticated or cultivated species, in the surroundings where they have developed their distinctive properties.

In-situ conservation: means the conservation of ecosystems and natural habitats and the maintenance and recovery of viable populations of species in their natural surroundings and, in the case of domesticated or cultivated species, in the surroundings where they have developed their distinctive properties.

Sustainable use: the use of components of biological diversity in a way and at a rate that does not lead to the long-term decline of biological diversity, thereby maintaining its potential to meet the needs and aspirations of present and future generations.

Derogations

Denmark: the Kingdom of Denmark became a State Party to the CBD by ratification (1993). The Convention applies fully to Greenland, an autonomous entity within the Kingdom and one of the EU's OCTs.

France: France became a State Party to the CBD by ratification (1994) and the Convention applies to all its overseas entities, some being ORs and others OCTs of the EU.

Netherlands: the Kingdom of the Netherlands became a State Party to the CBD, on behalf of the Netherlands, by acceptance (1994). The Convention came into force in Aruba and the Netherlands Antilles in June 1999.

Portugal: the Azores and Madeira are autonomous regions of Portugal and ORs of the EU, where the CBD fully applies by virtue of Portugal's ratification of the Convention (1993).

Spain: the Canary Islands constitute an autonomous region of Spain and an OR of the EU, where the CBD fully applies by virtue of Spain's ratification of the Convention (1993).

United Kingdom: the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland signed the Convention (1992) on behalf of the Kingdom, including its Overseas Territories, but only three (the BVI, the Cayman Islands, and Saint Helena, Tristan da Cunha and Ascension Island) were included, at their request, in the UK's ratification of the Convention (1994). Some other territories are interested in becoming part of the UK's ratification, but the process for doing so is unclear.

Types of management measures

The thematic programmes of work of the Convention include: biodiversity of inland waters, marine and coastal biodiversity, agricultural biodiversity, forest biodiversity, biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands, mountain biodiversity and island biodiversity. Together with the various cross-cutting issues they provide detailed guidance on implementation of the Strategic Plan. They are key tools to be considered in the updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

Inland Waters Biodiversity

CBD Tools and Guidelines

CBD Technical Series No. 22 /Ramsar Technical Report No. 1: Guidelines for the Rapid Ecological Assessment of Biodiversity in Inland Water, Coastal and Marine Areas

CBD Technical Series No. 27 /Ramsar Technical Report No. 3: Valuing wetlands - Guidance for Valuing the Benefits Derived from Wetland Ecosystem Services

Other Tools and Guidelines

Much of the technical tools and guidance relevant to the programme of work is produced in partnership with the Ramsar Convention and may be found on their website.

Integrated Water Resources Management Toolbox (produced by the Global Water Partnership) -In the IWRM ToolBox, you will find a collection of good practices for managing water resources at all levels. The ToolBox is a free and open database with a library of case studies and references that can be used by anyone who is interested in implementing better approaches for the management of water or learning more about improving water management on a local, national, regional or global level. The ToolBox is also an excellent tool for you to engage with a broader community of interested professionals around the world and to share your experiences.

Educational Opportunities in Water Management The UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education has a diversity of flexible arrangements to improve your knowledge and skills in water management. They offer full time programmes in Delft, the Netherlands, such as a 4-year PhD programme and an 18-month Water Management Master of Science Programme, as well as short courses of 3 to 4 weeks. They also offer part-time programmes in the form of 16-week on-line courses and upon request are able to offer tailor-made training sessions to groups.

The Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences offers a two-year masters programme focusing on Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM), which seeks to combine technologies, institutional strategies and processes needed for facilitation of sustainable management of watersheds, basins, rivers and coastal waters in the face of conflicting interests. The aim of the programme is to prepare students for the challenge of IWRM by providing training in managing complex stakeholder, inter-sectoral and transboundary processes. Please click here for further information on the masters programme. To learn about the Network for Integrated Transboundary Water Research of the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, please click here.

Marine and Coastal Biodiversity

Programme of Work

The elaborated programme of work, as contained in the annex to decision VII/5, aims to assist the implementation of the Jakarta Mandate at the national, regional and global level. It identifies key operational objectives and priority activities within the five key programme elements, namely: implementation of integrated marine and coastal area management, marine and coastal living resources, marine and coastal protected areas, mariculture, and alien species and genotypes. It also provides a general element to encompass the coordinating role of the Secretariat, the collaborative linkages required and the effective use of experts, as well as an element on enabling activities.

The ecosystem approach, precautionary principle, the importance of science, making full use of the roster of experts, the involvement of local and indigenous communities and three levels of programme implementation (national, regional and global) were identified by the Parties as the basic principles for the implementation of the programme of work. The primary basis for this programme of work is action at national and local levels. The Parties should, in accordance with Art. 6 of the Convention, develop national strategies, plans and programmes in order to promote the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity.

At the regional level, organizations, arrangements and bodies should be invited to coordinate activities relevant to the programme of work.

At the global level, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) (including the Global International Water Assessment), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (IOC/UNESCO), the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the United Nations and other relevant bodies should be encouraged to implement the programme of work. These organizations should be invited to inform the CBD on their efforts to implement the Convention.

General management measures: Achieving a positive outcome requires actions at multiple entry points, which are reflected in the goals of this Strategic Plan. These include: (a) Initiating action to address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss, including production and consumption patterns, by ensuring that biodiversity concerns are mainstreamed throughout government and society, through communication, education and awareness, appropriate incentive measures, and institutional change; (b) Taking action now to decrease the direct pressures on biodiversity. Engagement of the agricultural, forest, fisheries, tourism, energy and other sectors will be essential to success. Where trade-offs between biodiversity protection and other social objectives exist, they can often be minimized by using approaches such as spatial planning and efficiency measures. Where multiple pressures are threatening vital ecosystems and their services, urgent action is needed to decrease those pressures most amenable to short-term relief, such as over-exploitation or pollution, so as to prevent more intractable pressures, in particular climate change, from pushing the system "over the edge" to a degraded state; (c) Continuing direct action to safeguard and, where necessary, restore biodiversity and ecosystem services. While longer-term actions to reduce the underlying causes of biodiversity are taking effect, immediate action can help conserve biodiversity, including in critical ecosystems, by means of protected

areas, habitat restoration, species recovery programmes and other targeted conservation interventions; (d) Efforts to ensure the continued provision of ecosystem services and to ensure access to these services, especially for the poor who most directly depend on them. Maintenance and restoration of ecosystems generally provide cost-effective ways to address climate change. Therefore, although climate change is an additional major threat to biodiversity, addressing this threat opens up a number of opportunities for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use; (e) Enhanced support mechanisms for: capacity-building; the generation, use and sharing of knowledge; and access to the necessary financial and other resources. National planning processes need to become more effective in mainstreaming biodiversity and in highlighting its relevance for social and economic agendas. Convention bodies need to become more effective in reviewing implementation and providing support and guidance to Parties.

Spatial coverage

Global - The CBD incorporates the vast majority of the world's governments and sets out commitments for maintaining the world's ecological underpinnings as we go about the business of economic development.

Reporting units - what are the specific transposition requirements

Reporting is carried out on national level: The Convention requires countries to prepare a national biodiversity strategy (or equivalent instrument) and to ensure that this strategy is mainstreamed into the planning and activities of all those sectors whose activities can have an impact (positive and negative) on biodiversity.

Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020:18. Reporting by Parties: Parties will inform the Conference of the Parties of the national targets or commitments and policy instruments they adopt to implement the Strategic Plan, as well as any milestones towards these targets, and report on progress towards these targets and milestones, including through their fifth and sixth national reports. Suggested milestones, as well as suggested indicators, are to be developed in accordance with the processes laid out in paragraphs 3 (b), (e) and 17 (g) of decision X/2 on the Strategic Plan as well as decision X/7 on goals, targets and associated indicators. Parliamentarians, by responding to the needs and expectations of citizens on a regular basis, should play a role in reviewing the implementation of the Convention at the national and subnational levels, as appropriate, to help Governments produce a more comprehensive review.

19. Review by the Conference of the Parties: The Conference of the Parties, with the support of other Convention bodies, in particular the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention, will keep under review implementation of this Strategic Plan, and support effective implementation by Parties ensuring that new guidance is informed by the experience of Parties in implementing the Convention, in line with the principle of adaptive management through active learning. The Conference of the Parties will review the progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets[13] as set out in the Strategic Plan and make recommendations to overcome any obstacles encountered in meeting those targets, including revision of the provisional technical rationale, possible indicators and suggested milestones for the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and measures contained therein, and,

as appropriate, to strengthen the mechanisms to support implementation, monitoring and review. To facilitate this work, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) should develop a common set of biodiversity metrics to be used to assess the status of biodiversity and its values.

Increasingly, Subnational Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (SBSAPs) are being developed at state/provincial/territorial, local and cities levels. Greater attention is also being given to the development of Regional (supranational) Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (RBSAPs). Decentralized planning serves as an effective support mechanism for implementing COP-10 decision X/2 and decision X/22 on, respectively, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011-2020) and the Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity (2011-2020).

Timelines

Strategic Plan for Biodiversity: In decision X/2, the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, held from 18 to 29 October 2010, in Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture, Japan, adopted a revised and updated Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, for the 2011-2020 period. This plan provides an overarching framework on biodiversity, not only for the biodiversity-related conventions, but for the entire United Nations system and all other partners engaged in biodiversity management and policy development. Parties agreed to translate this overarching international framework into revised and updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans within two years. Additionally, in decision X/10, the Conference of the Parties decided that the fifth national reports, due by 31 March 2014, should focus on the implementation of the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan and progress achieved towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

Integration/coordination issues with other related pieces of legislation

The EU is strongly committed to further strengthening the CBD as the key international instrument for achieving global biodiversity targets and to making sure that it is effectively implemented. The EU Biodiversity Strategy outlines how the CBD's Strategic Plan for Biodiversity is implemented by the EU. The Strategy, 'Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020' (COM 2011/244 final, adopted in May 2011) lays down the framework for EU action during this decade, in order to meet the commitments made by EU leaders in March 2010. The Strategy is also the European Union's means of implementing the CBD Strategic Plan for Biodiversity into EU policies and actions, a 'National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan' (NBSAP) in the CBD terminology. In addition to the EU Biodiversity Strategy, nearly all EU Member States have also developed their own NBSAPs, further adding to the implementation of the CBD and related international agreements at national level through a wide range of national and sub-national policies and measures. The EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 is built around six mutually supportive targets which address the main drivers of biodiversity loss and aim to reduce the key pressures on nature and ecosystem services in the EU. Each target is further translated into a set of time-bound actions and other accompanying measures. Target 6 addresses the EU's contribution to global biodiversity conservation, which requires concerted international action. The actions

foreseen in the Strategy aim not only to ensure the EU fulfils the commitments it made in the CBD and in other international fora, but also, as the world's biggest trading bloc, to reduce its own biodiversity footprint in the rest of the world and assist developing countries in their efforts to conserve biodiversity and ensure its sustainable use. Actions foreseen in this context will in particular aim to reduce the biodiversity impacts of EU consumption patterns; enhance the contribution of trade policy to conserving biodiversity, whilst eliminating as far as possible any negative impacts of EU trade agreements; 'biodiversity-proof' EU development cooperation programmes and projects in order to minimise their negative impacts on biodiversity; provide the right market signals for biodiversity conservation, including work to reform, phase out and eliminate harmful subsidies at both EU and Member State level and to provide positive incentives for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. In addition, the EU will aim to mobilise additional resources for global biodiversity conservation from all possible sources, and has recently proposed legislation to implement the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilisation so that the EU can ratify the Protocol as soon as possible.

Coordination issues with the EU Biodiversity Strategy

The CDB has direct implications for all parts of the EU biodiversity strategy. See EU biodiversity targets and their link to CBD Aichi targets.

Relevance to ecosystems/habitats?

The CBD implicitly relates to all ecosystems and habitats. The Strategic Plan includes 20 headline targets for 2015 or 2020 (the "Aichi Biodiversity Targets"), organized under five strategic goals. Several of these make direct, explicit reference to aquatic ecosystems. Strategic goal B. Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use:

Target 6: By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based 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.

Target 10: By 2015, 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 goal C. Improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity use:

Target 11: By 2020, at least 17% of terrestrial and inland water areas, and 10% 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 landscapes and seascapes.

Drivers

Among the main pressures and drivers causing biodiversity loss are habitat fragmentation, degradation and destruction due to land-use change. Natural grasslands are still being turned into arable land and built-up areas, and extensive agricultural land is being converted into forms of more intensive agriculture and parts into forest. Intensive agricultural production systems and land abandonment are a major concern, as 70% of species are threatened by the loss of their habitat. Fragmentation due to urban sprawl and infrastructure development — nearly 30% of EU land show signs of moderately high to very high fragmentation — severely affects ecosystem connectivity and their health and ability to provide services. Further, 30% of species are threatened by overexploitation of forests, oceans, rivers, lakes and soils — for instance: 88% of stocks are being fished beyond maximum sustainable yields, which mean that stocks may not be replenished. Also, 26% of species are threatened by pollution in the form of pesticides, and fertilisers like nitrates and phosphates. In particular, half of the geographical range of natural and semi-natural habitats across the European Union was exposed to atmospheric nitrogen deposits above the critical load in 2004. Increasing threats to biodiversity are invasive alien species — about 12,000 alien species have been found in the environment, 10-15% of them becoming invasive, and their number is steadily rising, in particular in marine and estuarine systems, threatening 22% of species — and climate change, with already recorded negative impacts on, for example, a majority of bird species.
Pressures
See above
Assessment of Environmental State
Difficult to differentiate between status and state in convention. See below
Assessment of Status
The fifth national reports, which were due in 2014, have a particular focus on assessing progress made towards the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity. They provide information on the status and trends of biodiversity in each country as well as activities underway and planned, including case studies. Many Parties provide a self-assessment of progress towards the Aichi Targets (see Part III of GBO-4). For countries that have not yet updated their NBSAPs, the national reports provide important information on national targets and commitments under development. National reports are available here. *Indicators:* The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 identified three categories of operational indicators. Indicators which are ready for use at the global level are denoted by the letter (A). Indicators which could be used at the global level but which require further development to be ready for use are denoted by the letter (B). Additional indicators for consideration for use at the national or other sub-global level are denoted by the letter (C) and given in italics. The set of (A) and (B) indicators are those which should be used to assess progress at the global level, while the (C) indicators are illustrative of some of the additional indicators available to Parties to use at the national level, according to their national priorities and circumstances

Data
National reports are periodic reports provided by Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. These reports address a number of issues including the status and trends of biodiversity at the national level, the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, the mainstreaming of biodiversity, as well as the successes and challenges encountered. The fifth national reports, which were due in 2014, have a particular focus on assessing progress made towards the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity. They provide information on the status and trends of biodiversity in each country as well as activities underway and planned, including case studies. Many Parties provide a self-assessment of progress towards the Aichi Targets (see Part III of GBO-4). For countries that have not yet updated their NBSAPs, the national reports provide important information on national targets and commitments under development. National reports are available here. The second meeting of the Conference of the Parties called for the preparation of a periodic report on biological diversity: the Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO). It suggested that the GBO should provide a summary of the status of biological diversity and an analysis of the steps being taken by the global community to ensure that biodiversity is conserved and used sustainably, and that benefits arising from the use of genetic resources are shared equitably. The fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook and its underlying technical reports draw upon several sources of information (i.e. National Biodiversity Action Plans, National Reports, Indicator-based extrapolations of recent and current trends to 2020 Model-based scenarios to 2050) to assess progress made towards CBD targets.
Funding
The most important single source of funding for biodiversity-related activities is the financial mechanism of the Convention, the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The GEF is a partnership for international cooperation, bringing 183 countries, international institutions, civil society organizations and the private sector together to address global environmental issues. Since 1991, the GEF has provided $12.5 billion in grants and leveraged $58 billion in co-financing for 3,690 projects in 165 developing countries. Developed and developing countries alike have provided these funds to support projects related to biodiversity, climate change, international waters, land degradation, and chemicals and waste. *Other:* Darwin Initiative (UK); BioNET Events Bulletin-includes training workshops and conferences; Belgian Development Cooperation support to GTI projects; California Academy of Sciences-Various internship opportunities mostly directed at U.S. citizens; European Funding Sources-list of funding sources in the European GTI Toolkit; The Systematics Research Fund-supported by the councils of the Linnean Society and the Systematics Association.
Other issues to be aware of relevant for AQUACROSS?
This IUCN position paper provides views and recommendations on the urgent need to step up work to achieve the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.

About AQUACROSS

Knowledge, Assessment, and Management for AQUAtic Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services aCROSS EU policies (AQUACROSS) aims to support EU efforts to protect aquatic biodiversity and ensure the provision of aquatic ecosystem services. Funded by Europe's Horizon 2020 research programme, AQUACROSS seeks to advance knowledge and application of ecosystem-based management (EBM) for aquatic ecosystems to support the timely achievement of the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy targets.

Aquatic ecosystems are rich in biodiversity and home to a diverse array of species and habitats, providing numerous economic and societal benefits to Europe. Many of these valuable ecosystems are at risk of being irreversibly damaged by human activities and pressures, including pollution, contamination, invasive species, overfishing and climate change. These pressures threaten the sustainability of these ecosystems, their provision of ecosystem services and ultimately human well-being.

AQUACROSS responds to pressing societal and economic needs, tackling policy challenges from an integrated perspective and adding value to the use of available knowledge. Through advancing science and knowledge; connecting science, policy and business; and supporting the achievement of EU and international biodiversity targets, AQUACROSS aims to improve ecosystem-based management of aquatic ecosystems across Europe.

The project consortium is made up of sixteen partners from across Europe and led by Ecologic Institute in Berlin, Germany.

AQUACROSS PARTNERS

Ecologic Institute (ECOLOGIC) | Germany

Leibniz Institute of Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries (FVB-IGB) | Germany

Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (IOC-UNESCO) | France

Wageningen Marine Research (WMR) | Netherlands

University of Natural Resources & Life Sciences, Institute of Hydrobiology and Aquatic Ecosystem Management Austria

Fundación IMDEA Agua (IMDEA) | Spain

Universidade de Aveiro (UAVR) | Portugal

ACTeon – Innovation, Policy, Environment (ACTeon) | France

University of Liverpool (ULIV) | United Kingdom

University College Cork, National University of Ireland (UCC) | Ireland

Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (RBINS) | Belgium

Stockholm University, Stockholm Resilience Centre (SU-SRC) | Sweden

Danube Delta National Institute for Research & Development (INCDDD) | Romania

Eawag – Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology (EAWAG) | Switzerland

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) | Belgium

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