



Quick guide to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets Sustainable consumption and production

By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.

The unsustainable use or overexploitation of resources is one of the main threats to biodiversity. Currently, many individuals, businesses and countries are making efforts to substantially reduce their use of fossil fuels, with a view to mitigating climate change. Similar efforts are needed to ensure that the use of other natural resources is within sustainable limits. This is an integral part of the Vision of the Strategic Plan.

Explanation of the Target

This target should be seen as a commitment by Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels to take the steps necessary to bring resource consumption to sustainable levels. Specifically the target requires that:

- **Steps to achieve sustainable production and consumption have been taken or plans for this purpose have been implemented** – Recognizing that achieving sustainable production and consumption is a long term process, this target does not require that sustainable consumption and production is achieved by 2020 but that meaningful steps have been taken or measures put in place by 2020 to achieve it.
- **The impacts of use of natural resources with safe ecological limits** – The concept of ecological limits can generally be understood as a point where the amount of resources being extracted or used is less or equal to the amount of resources ecosystems are able to provide on a sustainable basis while maintaining ecosystem functionality. Specific limits will vary with different ecosystems depending on ecosystem compositions and conditions and the type and magnitude of pressures being applied. In many cases the actual limits will be unknown so applying a precautionary approach will be needed.

Implications for setting national targets

This target will build upon, and contribute to, the achievement of the target established in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation as well as the sustainable consumption and production framework resulting in the Marrakech process. Similarly actions towards this target would contribute to the 10 year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production adopted as part of the Rio+20 outcomes. Further, given its cross cutting nature, progress towards this target will help to achieve many of the other Aichi Biodiversity Targets as well as greatly contribute to the overall Mission and Vision of the Strategic Plan. Fulfilling this target will require dialogue among sectors and stakeholders in order to develop plans for sustainable consumption and production which are effective. While a general overall plan could be developed it is likely that different and more detailed plans would be required for each sector given their specific characteristics.

Guiding questions for setting national targets

- **What are the main production sectors in the country?** What effect do these have on natural resources? Are the impacts at safe levels?
- **What is the natural resource demand in the country (ecological footprint)?** Is it sustainable? What processes are in place to encourage less resource consumption? How effective have these been?
- **What plans for sustainable consumption and production are already in place?** How effective have these been? How could their effectiveness be improved? What sectors are not covered by production or consumption plans?



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- **What are the opportunities and constraints in taking steps to achieve or implement plans for sustainable production and consumption?** What are the potential ecological, economic, and social costs and benefits of addressing unsustainable consumption and production? How may these justify a national target which differs from the global target?
- **Who are the stakeholders that may be affected?** How can they be involved and their needs addressed? What are the trade-offs to consider? Are there stakeholders who could also act as champions for more sustainable production and consumption?
- **What additional resources (financial, human and technical) will be required to reach the national target that is set?** How can additional resources be raised? What are the possible sources for these resources

Note that, given the particular national circumstances, national targets may be more specific and more precise than the global target. Further national targets should be ambitious but realistic and be supportive of the Strategic Plan by moving beyond business as usual.

Actions and milestones

The programme of work on the sustainable use of biodiversity, the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity as well as the work on impact assessment would be particularly relevant to this target. Similarly the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity provide guidance which is relevant. Reducing total demand and increasing efficiency will contribute to the target and can be pursued through government regulations and/or incentives, education, and social and corporate responsibility. Further fostering sustainable consumption and production patterns for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, both in the public and the private sector, including through business and biodiversity initiatives, procurement policies that are in line with the objectives of the Convention, and development of methods to promote science-based information on biodiversity in consumer and producer decisions would contribute to the attainment of this target. Early action would involve each production- and consumption-related sector developing and implementing plans for this purpose. The target can be achieved through dialogue among sectors and stakeholders, supported by planning tools such as strategic environmental impact assessment and economic tools such as incentive measures that integrate biodiversity issues. Likewise the greater promotion of scientific and technological innovation related to sustainable consumption and production could help in the achievement of this target. The creation of inter-ministerial committees, nationally developed guidelines, sectoral guidelines and the promotion of ecosystem management in city districts and other local authorities could be used to help reach this target. Support to indigenous and local communities for the development and implementation of community-based sustainable management plans would also contribute to the achievement of the target. Reducing total demand and increasing resource use and energy efficiency, which can be pursued through government regulations and/or incentives, education and research, and social and corporate responsibility, would contribute to the target.

Possible indicators

- Trends in Ecological Footprint and/or related concepts
- Trends in extent to which biodiversity and ecosystem service values are incorporated into organizational accounting and reporting
- Trends in biodiversity of cities
- Ecological limits assessed in terms of sustainable production and consumption
- Trends in population and extinction risk of utilized species, including species in trade

Resources

- Cross cutting thematic issue on Sustainable Use of Biodiversity - www.cbd.int/sustainable/
- Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity - www.cbd.int/business
- CBD Technical Series 60 - www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-60-en.pdf
- CBD Technical Series 56 - www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-56-en.pdf
- CBD Technical Series 52 - www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-52-en.pdf
- CBD Technical Series 39 - www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-39-en.pdf
- CBD Technical Series 12 - www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-12-en.pdf
- CBD Technical Series 9 - www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-9-en.pdf
- The Addis Ababa Principles - www.cbd.int/doc/publications/addis-gdl-en.pdf

