



Quick guide to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets Sustainable agriculture, aquaculture and forestry

By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.

The increasing demand for food, fibre and fuel will lead to increasing losses of biodiversity and ecosystem services if issues related to sustainable management are not addressed. On the other hand, sustainable management not only contributes to biodiversity conservation but can also deliver benefits to production systems in terms of services such as soil fertility, erosion control, enhanced pollination and reduced pest outbreaks, as well as contributing to the well-being and sustainable livelihoods of local communities engaged in the management of local natural resources.

Explanation of the Target

This target has implications for areas under:

- **Agriculture** is a broad term that encompasses the cultivation of animals, plants, fungi, and other life forms for the purposes of providing food, fiber, and other products used to sustain life. The variety and variability of animals, plants and micro-organisms used in agriculture is an important aspect of biodiversity. However some agricultural practices are also a major cause of biodiversity loss.
- **Aquaculture** refers to the cultivation of fish, crustaceans, mollusks and aquatic plants. It can occur in both inland water and marine environments. Aquaculture can be contrasted with commercial fishing which is the harvest of wild aquatic organisms.
- **Forestry** refers to the interdisciplinary process of establishing, managing, using, and conserving forests and their associated resources. As such, forestry encompasses not just trees, but the multitude of plants, animals and micro-organisms that inhabit forest areas and the ways in which they are used. Forestry can occur in all types of forests from plantations to primary forests.

Specifically this target requires that these different types of productive landscapes are:

- **Managed sustainably** which refers to situation in which the use of the components of biodiversity occurs in such a way and at a rate that does not lead to their long-term decline. When a resource is used sustainably it maintains its potential to meet the needs and aspirations of present and future generations.

Implications for setting national targets

Sustainable use is one of the three main objectives of the Convention. Article 10 of the Convention provides that, inter alia, each Party should integrate consideration for the sustainable use of biological resources into national decision-making and adopt measures, as far as possible and as appropriate relating to the use of biological resources to avoid or minimize adverse impacts on biological diversity. As such progress towards this target will help to meet one of the three main objectives of the Convention as well as help countries to ensure that they fulfill their obligations to it. Given the broad nature of this target, progress towards its fulfillment will contribute to several other targets, in particular targets 4, 5, 6, 8, 13 and 15.

Guiding questions for setting national targets

- **What are the main areas in the country used for agriculture, forestry and aquaculture?** Which are particularly important for biodiversity? Which are particularly important for economic reasons?
- **What measures are in place to ensure the sustainability of agriculture, aquaculture and forestry?** How effective have these been? How could their effectiveness be improved? What areas are not currently covered by any type of sustainable management?



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- **What are the opportunities and constraints to enhancing sustainable management?** What are the potential ecological, economic, and social costs and benefits of enhancing sustainable management? How may these justify a national target which differs from the global target?
- **What biodiversity related problems could be addressed through sustainable management?** How could sustainable management be used to address the main threats to biodiversity?
- **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 enhancing sustainable management?
- **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 type of actions that will help to achieve sustainable management will vary between ecosystems and countries. While, as yet, there are no universally-agreed sustainability criteria, given the diversity of production systems and environmental conditions, each sector and many initiatives have developed their own criteria which could be used pending the development of a more common approach. Already criteria for sustainable forest management have been adopted by the forest sector and there are many efforts by governments, indigenous and local communities, NGOs and the private sector to promote good agricultural, aquaculture and forestry practices and to apply law and governance mechanisms. In addition, customary use of biodiversity by indigenous and local communities can often offer lessons of wider applicability and could be enhanced by increasingly delegating governance and management responsibility to the local level. Similarly, the use of certification and labeling systems or standards could be promoted as part of this target. The Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity developed under the Convention on Biological Diversity could serve as a framework for developing further sustainability criteria. The programmes of work on agricultural, forest, inland water, marine and coastal, dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity, and the Convention's work on sustainable use, as well as the International Initiatives on Soil Biodiversity and on Pollinators are particularly relevant to this target.

Possible indicators

- Trends in area of forest, agricultural and aquaculture ecosystems under sustainable management
- Trends in population of forest and agriculture dependent species in production systems
- Trends in production per input
- Trends in proportion of products derived from sustainable sources

Resources

- Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines - www.cbd.int/doc/publications/addis-gdl-en.pdf
- CBD Technical Series No. 60 - www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-60-en.pdf
- CBD Technical Series No. 52 - www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-52-en.pdf
- CBD Technical Series No. 39 - www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-39-en.pdf
- CBD Technical Series No. 34 - www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-39-en.pdf
- CBD Technical Series No. 3.- www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-03.pdf

