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# Biodiversity Planning: An Assessment of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans

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# NBSAP project objectives

- Review experience gained by parties in development, implementation and revision of NBSAPs - with a specific focus on developing countries' experience;
- review the extend of mainstreaming into policy, plans and projects, in particular into policies for alleviating poverty and achieving the MDGs;
- identify the obstacles/barriers; and
- develop recommendations for national biodiversity planning.



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# Method

- ToR for study were derived from elements of NBSAP guidance included in CoP decision IX/8;
- Collected information from CBD regional workshops on NBSAPs;
- desk reviewed all NBSAPs countries;
- made country studies in Australia, Nepal, Malaysia, Benin, Cameroon, Mexico, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, and Canada.



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# Main Conclusions

Generally, a positive trend:

- picture is more nuanced than described in most earlier reviews;
- that nearly all CBD parties have prepared NBSAP is in itself an achievement;
- 2nd generation NBSAPs are better prepared, more focused, more based on mainstreaming and on self-reliance; but
- NBSAPs have not been able to attenuate the main drivers of biodiversity loss.

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# NBSAP process

- 171 countries (89%) have prepared NBSAPs;
- 13 countries are in the process of preparing NBSAPs;
- 9 countries have not taken steps to prepare NBSAPs (of which 2 are new Parties); and
- 49 countries have revised NBSAPs or are in the process of doing so.

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## NBSAP process (2)

- most countries prepared NBSAPs with participation of stakeholders, but indigenous communities, women, industry largely missing;
- most countries created coordination structures to oversee implementation, but often these do not function well; and
- trend towards greater political ownership at higher level - early NBSAPs typically approved only by responsible ministry, newer NBSAPs often approved at Cabinet or Parliament level.
- few countries have used tools other than NBSAPs for national biodiversity planning;

**Getting the process right is crucial to implementation!**



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# Knowledge base

- Most countries have included improvement of the knowledge base as an important objective;
- countries generally have only a basic knowledge of the state of biodiversity in their countries – although this is sufficient to act;
- NBSAPs would have been a good opportunity to increase/better document knowledge about biodiversity.

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# Coverage of the CBD objectives

- Very uneven focus of CBD objectives;
- conservation features dominantly, especially protected areas;
- sustainable use appear mostly in very general terms;
- ABS is absent from most NBSAPs.



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# Mainstreaming with higher and cross-sectoral plans and policies

- NBSAPs portray biodiversity as an asset for, rather than an impediment to development, but:
- not all NBSAPs place biodiversity in a broader development policy context, some NBSAPs may have strong emphasis on development, but MDG plans have no focus on biodiversity;
- improving, but generally poor, reflection of biodiversity in MDG plans. Countries seem unaware that the 2010 biodiversity target was included as a target under MDG 7.



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# Mainstreaming with higher and cross sectoral plans and policies

- EIA is generally covered in NBSAPs, but SEA is included in only very few recent NBSAPs;
- the Ecosystem Approach (EA) is often mentioned, but has usually not been applied as an overall planning tool;
- very few NBSAPs fully reflect the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and its conceptual framework; and
- most NBSAPs highlight the need to value and create economic incentives for biodiversity, but few move beyond general statements.



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# Sectoral mainstreaming

- much focus on mainstreaming into forestry;
- less on agriculture;
- and even less on fisheries;
- CEPA features prominently in most NBSAPs but often as a “add-on”; and
- Mainstreaming with climate change and other biodiversity-related conventions is rather weak, although some positive signs emerging with recent NAPAs.



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# National targets and prioritisation

- Only very few countries in very new NBSAPs include time bound and measurable targets;
- Very few quantified targets;
- few countries prioritise between actions in their action plans;
- generally very few NBSAPs with mechanisms for monitoring and review at country level.



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# Sub-national BSAPs

- An increasing number, but only a minority of countries have provisions for sub-national BSAPs.



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# Financing implementation

- few countries have strategies for financing NBSAPs – most action plans are just “wish lists” of projects without secure funding;
- newer NBSAPs have a more programmatic approach.



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# NBSAPs in different regions

- few consistent differences between regions, but big differences between NBSAPs within regions;
- the Pacific region seems to be the most “homogenous”, with a strong emphasis on indigenous people, ABS and climate change;
- development status does not predetermine the quality of NBSAPs.



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# CBD decisions work programmes, guidelines etc.

- Very few countries use CBD decisions/POWs/ guidelines as points of departures for their NBSAPs – PoWPA and GPCS are perhaps the exceptions.



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# Conclusions on Implementation of NBSAPs

- Generally, 4<sup>th</sup> NR and CBD NBSAP workshops show a more nuanced picture of NBSAPs, indicating a bigger impact than previously assumed and reported;
- Some countries have reported full implementation of 1st NBSAPs, but gaps and constraints to implementation are reported in nearly all other countries.



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## Proportion of NBSAP activities/ elements implemented:

- Djibouti - **30%** of projects carried out;
- France - **32%** of actions completed; (additional 54% initiated; 14% have yet to be launched)
- Krygyzstan - **30%** of strategic components implemented;
- Togo - **40%** of 119 priority actions implemented;
- Turkmenistan - **49%** of objectives & activities implemented;

Information from fourth NR: UNEP/CBD/SP/EW/Inf.1



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# Progress in NBSAP implementation

Progress in implementation of NBSAPs  
has mostly been in the following areas:

- improving the knowledge base;
- communication, education and public awareness;
- coverage of protected areas; and
- development of new legislation.



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# Obstacles to NBSAP implementation

- Major design faults:
  - over-ambitious, un-prioritised, under-funded plans poorly communicated to the wider audience are the main obstacles to implementation;
- and, as per Strategic Plan:
  - lack of financial human and technical resources,
  - lack of economic incentives,
  - lack of mainstreaming and horizontal cooperation,
  - lack of public education and awareness at all levels.



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