



*Trial Phase of the Open-ended Review Forum on the Implementation of the  
UNCBD*

**GUYANA**

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SBI 3

Vidyanand Mohabir  
Diana Fernandes

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# Background

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- ❖ Signed in 1992; ratified in 1994 the UNCBD
- ❖ Environmental Protection Agency is the National Focal Point
- ❖ Acceded to Cartagena on March 18, 2008
- ❖ Acceded to Nagoya Protocol on ABS on April 22, 2014



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# Background

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- ❖ Submitted 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th National Reports
- ❖ Prepared NBAP, NBAP II and most recent, NBSAP (2011-2020)
- ❖ INR on ABS and 2nd, 3rd and 4th NR on CPB.

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## 2011-2020 Plan

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- ❖ For the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan was developed for the period 2012-2020. The NBSAP included:
- 31 National targets linked to 13 Aichi Biodiversity Targets contribute to the implementation of the strategic plan 2011-2020.



# Strategic Objectives

- ❖ The measures adopted to achieve the implementation of the 13 ABTs, Guyana developed nine (9) Strategic Objectives to better streamline implementation.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE (NBSAP)	NATIONAL TARGET	RELATED TO AICHI TARGET
SO1	1,2,3,4,5	11,14,15
SO2	6,7,8,9,10	7
SO3	11,12	1
SO4	13,14,15,16,17,18	9,16,17
SO5	19	1,19
SO6	20,21,22	2
SO7	15,23,24,25	4,5
SO8	26,27,28	19
SO9	29,30,31	19,20

# Strategic Objective 1

- ❖ **Improve the status of biodiversity by conserving ecosystems, species and genetic diversity and by restoring biodiversity and ecosystem services in degraded areas.**
- **Target 1** - 17% of terrestrial area for in-situ conservation in legal protection by 2020 effectively managed and financially sustainable.
- **Target 2** - Reducing biodiversity loss and showing recovery by 2020
- **Measures** -
  - Int'l obligations** - Guyana committed to UNFCCC via NDCs to designate 2 million hectares to achieve the 17% protected areas coverage by 2020.
  - Legislative** - The Protected Areas Act was passed in 2011, establishing the Protected Areas Commission (PAC) and the National Protected Areas System (NPAS).
  - Policy** - A Sea Defence and Integrated Coastal Zone Management was drafted in 2017 for effective management of the coastal zone reflecting the multi-sectoral function.



# Strategic Objective 1

- **Target 3** - By 2020, Protected Areas Trust Fund established, have adequate resources, and fully functioning
- **Measures -**  
Legislative - The Protected Areas Trust Fund (PATF) was established under the Protected Areas Act to provide co-financing for the management of the NPAS.
- **Target 4** - By 2015, at least three (3) mined-out sites have been duly restored and managed
- **Measures -**  
Policy - Draft National Land Use Policy was revised to include sustainable land management.
- **Target 5** - The Germplasm Facility (Gene Bank) is formalised by end of 2015 in accordance with FAO Germplasm Standards and 1st Report published in 2016.
- **Measures:**  
Policy - A national strategy for Agriculture, 2013-2020 was developed which highlighted the importance of agriculture to the economy.

## Strategic Objective 2

- ❖ **Promote the conservation, sustainable use and value of biodiversity into key productive sectors used for growth, expansion and diversification of the economy**
- **Target 6** - By 2020 REDD+ framework established and functioning.
- **Target 7** - By 2016, a National Conflict Resolution Strategy for REDD+ developed and functional.
- **Measures** -  
Policy - Green State Development Strategy (GSDS) developed, building on the foundation from the Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS), the GSDS is a developmental document to transfer Guyana into a 'green state.' A National Forest Plan was also developed for the forestry sector along with a draft National Conflict Resolution Strategy (NCRS) for REDD+.



## Strategic Objective 2

- **Target 8** - By 2020, biodiversity concerns are integrated into hinterland ecotourism development plans and strategies
- **Measures:**  
Policy - A National Tourism Policy and Action Plan, 2018-2025 was developed to contribute growth of the GDP by supporting sustainable tourism development.
- **Target 9** - By 2016, a GEF supported project designed to mainstream biodiversity into mining.
- **Measures:**  
Project Initiative - A GEF medium sized project aimed at enhancing biodiversity via uptake of environmental regulations in gold mining sector was submitted to GEF.
- **Target 10** - Guidelines for responsible recreational fishing and practices in ornamental fish collection and handling published and at least 2 awareness and training programmes conducted per year.
- **Measures:**  
Policy - A national strategy for agriculture, 2013-2020 was developed, which aimed at sustainable agriculture including the promotion recreational fishing as part of a viable tourism industry.

# Strategic Objective 3

- ❖ **Expand and improve awareness, appreciation and communication on biodiversity and ecosystems**
  - **Target 11** - The achievement of the intended impact of the full implementation of the communication strategy for the implementation of the NBSAP
  - **Measures:**  
Programme - A Communication Strategy was developed, but implementation was unorganised and intended impact fragmented.
  - **Target 12** - By 2020, Coastal Wetlands, Savannahs, Mountain Highlands and Rainforests ecosystems featuring in the Zoological Park to highly encourage visitors and enhance informal education through interactive and engaging experiences.
  - **Measures:**  
Policy - Protected Areas Commission's Strategic Plan 2016-2020 outlines improvements in carrying out mandate of the commission. Such included an initiative to revitalise the zoological parks.



# Strategic Objective 4

- ❖ **Improve national implementation, monitoring and reporting for Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and other bilateral commitments**
  - **Target 13** - Fifth national report submitted in 2014
  - **Target 14** - By 2014, revised NBSAP completed
  - **Target 15** - By 2015, indicators developed, adopted and being used.
  - **Measures:**  
Project - A PCA was signed between Guyana and UNEP for the preparation of 5NR and NBSAP.
  - **Target 16** - By 2015, MEAs Committee established.
  - **Target 17** - By 2015, a status report on the implementation of MEAs.
  - **Measures:**  
Project - A project was developed which focused on management of data and information, institutionalising capacities to meet the Multi-lateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) obligations and updating of key technological needs. One outcome from the project was the development of the Terms of Reference for an MEA Committee and the identification of the members.

## Strategic Objective 5

- ❖ **Create stronger and wider national, regional and international partnerships that contribute to achieving the goal and objectives of the Plan**
  - **Target 18** - By 2015 finalise the ABS regulations.
  - **Measures:**  
Project - A GEF supported project aimed at advancing the Nagoya Protocol in the Caribbean region was formulated and Guyana was able to finalise its ABS legislation.
  - **Target 19** - By 2016, research interface developed with University of Guyana, Conservation International, and WWF.
  - **Measures:**  
Target abandoned, see Target 27



# Strategic Objective 6

- ❖ **Consolidate/harmonise policy, legal, regulatory, and administrative frameworks that support the sustainable use, protection and management of biological resources**
  - **Target 20** - By 2020 all timber for export to the EU will be verified legal and granted a FLEGT license.
  - **Measures:**  
Programme - The EU FLEGT under REDD+ was initiated with the VPA signed in 2018. No further developments since.
  - **Target 21** - By 2020, all developers and operators will secure environmental authorisation.
  - **Measures:**  
Environmental Authorisation regulations were made under the EP Act for improved environmental management.
  - **Target 22** - By 2020, develop standards for air and water quality.
  - **Measures:**  
Programme - Legislation were in place since 2002, but no standards for effective implementation.

# Strategic Objective 7

- ❖ **Improve substantially biodiversity monitoring at the national level and within key productive sectors.**
  - **Target 23** - By 2020, EU-FLEGT VPA in place.
    - **Measures:**  
Programme - VPA was initialled, not signed. No further development
  - **Target 24** - By 2020, MRV system in place and functioning fully.
    - **Measures:**  
Bilateral Agreement - Guyana and Norway signed an agreement worth up to 250 million in performance based payments for sustainable forest management.  
Legislative - In 2018, forest regulations were gazetted detailing the modalities for the MRVS
  - **Target 25** - By 2020, monitoring reports for large projects submitted to the EPA.
    - **Measures:**  
Legislative - regulations were in place to facilitate.



# Strategic Objective 8

- ❖ **Strengthen the knowledge base and capacity for conservation, management and sustainable use of biodiversity.**
- **Target 26** - Clearing House Mechanism fully functional.
- **Measures:**  
Int'l obligation - The CHM was partially developed. However, remains unpopulated
- **Target 27** - By 2020, a biodiversity information system established.
- **Measures:**  
Project - A EU funded programme, BID provided support for Guyana to develop a biodiversity information system to be integrated into GBIF network and national databases.
- **Target 28** - By 2020, an updated and fully functional National Biodiversity Research Information System (NBRIS)
- **Measures:**  
Project - NBRIS benefitted from the Advancing Nagoya Protocol project by updating GUI.

# Strategic Objective 9

- ❖ **Secure adequate resources from national, regional and international sources for the implementation of the Plan**
  - **Target 29** - Resource mobilisation plan prepared in 2014.
  - **Measures:**  
Policy - Resource mobilisation plan was developed along with NBSAP
  - **Target 30** - By 2015, all of the initial GEF SGP allocation programmed
  - **Measures:**  
Programme - A country programme strategy for GEF was developed in 2015.
  - **Target 31** - .By 2016, at least 2 biodiversity related projects designed and submitted for GEF Council approval.
  - **Measures:**  
Initiative - More than five (5) projects were submitted to GEF for approval.



# Outcomes of Measures

Strategic Objective	National Targets	Progress	Outcomes
1	1	Insufficient rate	8.7% of area under PA status
	2	Unknown	Mangroves have been restored but evidence not assessed.
	3	On track	PAT and PATF established and functional
	4	On track	Five (5) areas have been restored
	5	No change	None
2	6	On track	Guyana received payments from Norway
	7	On track	Nat'l Conflict Resolution Strategy drafted
	8	On track	Approval of National Tourism Policy and Action Plan
	9	On track	GEF Council approval of project
	10	Insufficient rate	Draft legislation for and guidelines for Arapaima

3	11	Insufficient rate	Draft strategy in NBSAP
	12	No change	Petting Zoo established
4	13	On track	NBSAP and 5NR submitted to UNCBD
	14	On track	
	15	No change	None
	16	On track	MEAs Committee TORs prepared
	17	On track	Project to assess Rio Conventions implementation framework
	18	Insufficient rate	Draft ABS regulations
	20	Insufficient rate	Initialled VPA

# Outcome of Measures

6	21	On track	90% of developers have received authorisations
	22	No change	None
7	23	On track	Initialled VPA
	24	On track	Independent deforestation assessments
	25	On track	All required reports submitted to the EPA
8	26	On track	CHM platform established
	27	On track	Biodiversity information system was established
	28	On track	NBRIS GUI was updated
9	29	On track	RMP was developed and included in NBSAP
	30	Insufficient rate	Low rate of funds disbursement
	31	On track	Five projects. Were submitted to GEF Council



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# Technical & Financial Support

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- ❖ Global Environment Facility (GEF);
  - ❖ Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW);
  - ❖ IDB;
  - ❖ UNEP;
  - ❖ UNDP;
  - ❖ IUCN; and
  - ❖ the CBD.
- ❖ Throughout the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, both technical and financial resources were made available to parties, parties were subjected to make decisions as it relates to prioritising areas at the expense of others. This, consequentially led to an uneven implementation of the plan outside of local enabling variables or lack thereof.

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# Need for Revision

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- ❖ Lacking the depth needed for effective implementation of the Strategic Plan.
- The formulation of the national targets were inconsistent with recognised methodologies, no more this was evident than with the absence of corresponding indicators which lacked 'SMARTness.'
- Did not include an effective framework for monitoring and reporting of its implementation. As such, in the revision of the NBSAP, the targets and mechanisms will need to be amended as necessary for both the national context and the post 2020 biodiversity framework.



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# Unresolved Challenges

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- ❖ The challenges encountered with implementation of the strategic plan remain mostly unresolved as limited funded and lack of local technical capacity continues to plague its implementation.
- ❖ Awareness, both at a political and public level still poses a challenge as the uptake has been slothful.

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Questions?

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