



Quick guide to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets Biodiversity values integrated

By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.

The values of biodiversity are not widely reflected in decision-making. This is true in the context of development and poverty reduction strategies. Integrating and reflecting the contribution of biodiversity, and the ecosystem services it provides, in relevant strategies, policies, programmes, and reporting systems is an important element in ensuring that the diverse values of biodiversity and the opportunities derived from its conservation and sustainable use are recognized and reflected in decision-making. Similarly accounting for biodiversity in decision-making is necessary to limit the unintended negative

Explanation of the Target

The aim of this target is to place biodiversity into the mainstream decision-making framework so to help give it greater visibility amongst policy-makers when formulating country development strategies and planning progress. This target:

- Considers all **biodiversity values** – Biodiversity underpins a wide range of services that support economies, food production systems, secure living conditions and human health. In addition biodiversity is central to many cultures, spiritual beliefs and worldviews and has intrinsic value in its own right. As such biodiversity has multiple values some of which can be quantified in monetary terms and others which are more abstract. Given the various values of biodiversity that need to be considered when taking actions towards this target a multidisciplinary approach will be required to assess the values of biodiversity.
- Requires integrating biodiversity into **national development and poverty reduction strategies** – these are key instruments in countries' efforts to eradicate poverty in line with the Millennium Development Goals.
- Requires integrating biodiversity into **national and local planning process** – land use planning in particular, can have major impacts on biodiversity. The integration of biodiversity concerns into national and local decisions will help to internalize the costs and benefits of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and help to frame conservation and sustainable use in terms of opportunities for development.
- Requires integrating biodiversity into **national accounting**, if appropriate – National accounting provides a means of keeping track of resource flows and of better understanding the benefits which are being derived from biodiversity. Such information allows for more informed policy decisions to be made.
- Integrating biodiversity into **reporting systems** - Governments are required to report on a variety of issues to their own constituents as well as to the international community. Including biodiversity in reporting systems, where relevant, can help to ensure that the importance of biodiversity remains visible and is appropriately accounted for in decision making.

Implications for setting national targets

Integrating the values of biodiversity into planning processes and national accounting and reporting systems will require Parties to appropriately value biodiversity. Efforts to improve the valuation of biodiversity should include tools and methods that recognize social and cultural values, in addition to economic values, and should be conducted in ways that encourage the sustainable use of biodiversity at all levels. The evaluation and integration of biodiversity can be costly and time-consuming depending on national circumstances. Given this some countries will need to build capacity, both technical and administrative, as well as adopt a flexible approach towards this target. A combination of both national and local policies will be needed to fulfill this target.



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Aichi Biodiversity Target 2

Guiding questions for setting national targets

- **What are the most important ecosystem services in the country?** Have valuation studies of these services been undertaken? Which services would be the most feasible to value?
- **Is biodiversity valuation being used to inform policy-making?** If so how could it be strengthened? What are the gaps/needs that exist? If not what are the obstacles to it occurring?
- **What are the opportunities and constraints in integrating biodiversity into national planning processes?** What are the key national planning instruments and processes? What are the potential ecological, economic, and social benefits and costs of integrating biodiversity into such instruments and processes?
- **What are the opportunities and constraints in integrating biodiversity into local (sub-national) planning processes?** What planning decisions are (being) devolved to sub-national (state/province, city, municipal) governments? What are the potential ecological, economic, and social benefits and costs of taking into account ecosystem services and other benefits of 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?
- **What additional resources (financial, human and technical) will be required to reach the national target that is set?** How can additional funds be raised? What are possible funding sources?

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

There are a variety of tools available to help assess the values of biodiversity. These include the Convention's work on economic, trade and incentive measures, the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) study, and the UN System of Economic and Environmental Accounting (SEEA). Tools are also available for integrating biodiversity into spatial planning exercises through the mapping of biodiversity ecosystem services and through systematic conservation planning. Strategic environmental assessment and similar tools provide useful methodologies to assess impacts on biodiversity and allow for the assessment of trade-offs in decision-making. Payment for ecosystem services mechanisms and the development of private sector guidelines for the appropriate reflection of the values of biodiversity are additional implementation mechanisms which could be used to meet this target.

Depending on national circumstances, the integration of biodiversity could be undertaken in a step wise or incremental manner by first including those values of biodiversity which are easiest to account for and then further developing or enhancing systems for integrating biodiversity values into decision making processes. To do so, in many countries there will be a need to increase coordination among government ministries and different levels of government.

Possible indicators

- Trends in incorporating natural resource, biodiversity, and ecosystem service values into national accounting systems
- Trends in number of assessments of biodiversity values, in accordance with the Convention
- Trends in guidelines and applications of economic appraisal tools
- Trends in integration of biodiversity and ecosystem service values into sectoral and development policies
- Trends in policies considering biodiversity and ecosystem services in environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment

Resources

- CBD Technical Series 27 - www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-27.pdf
- CBD Technical Series 28 - www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-28.pdf
- CBD Poster on Options for the Application of Tools for Valuation of Biodiversity and Biodiversity Resources and Functions - www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-2007-poster-en.pdf
- TEEB Reports - www.teebweb.org/InformationMaterial/TEEBReports/tabid/1278/Default.aspx

