

Introduction to NBSAPs

Fabiana Issler

*UNDP/GEF Regional Technical Advisor for Biodiversity and global
Focal Point for Biodiversity Enabling Activities in UNDP*



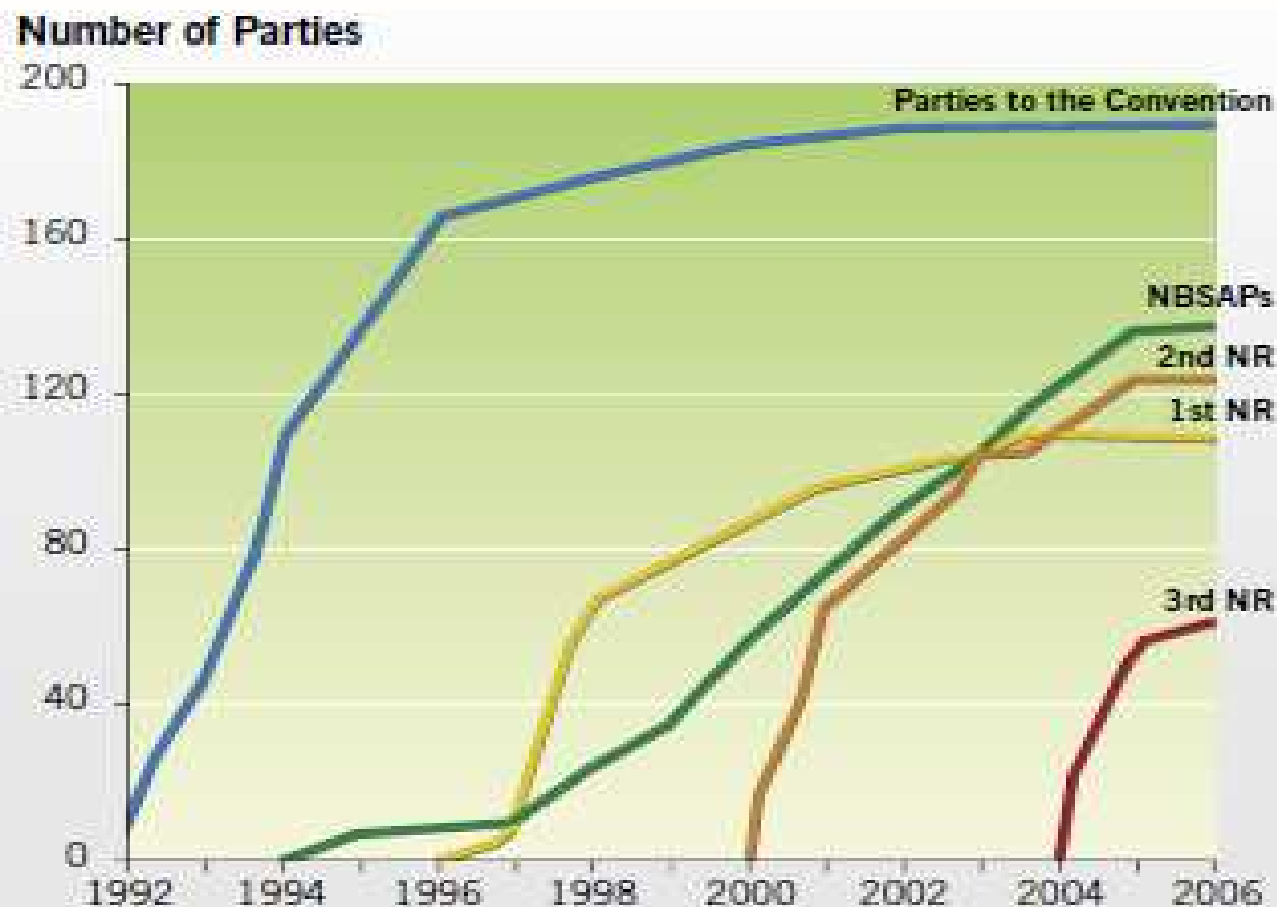
NBSAPs link to CBD articles

- Since the Rio Summit and in response to **Article 6 of the CBD** (*General Measures for Conservation and Sustainable Use*), Parties proceeded to preparing their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and periodic reports to the convention.
- NBSAPs touch upon two important aspects of CBD's Article 6:
 - The **development** of national strategies, plans or programmes for biodiversity conservation & sustainable use or the **adaptation** of existing strategies, plans or programmes; and
 - The **integration** of conservation and sustainable use into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies – known as “**mainstreaming**”.

Basic figures

- 147 countries have their NBSAPs posted in the CBD website (out of 191 countries that ratified the CBD)
- 139 GEF eligible countries accessed funding for the preparation on NBSAPs within the Biodiversity Enabling Activities window (out of 150 GEF eligible and, within these, 146 that accessed the EAs window overall).
- Of these, 103 countries submitted NBSAPs to the CBD.
- UNDP (89), UNEP (29) and the WB (21) were the GEF agencies to assist countries specifically with NBSAPs

FIGURE 3.1 | Participation in Convention processes



Completion of national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) and of national reports (NR) by Parties, 1992–2006. The year is based on the date when the Secretariat learned that a final version of the document was available.

Source: Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity reporting database.

NBSAPs in the context of Biodiversity Planning

- The large majority of CBD parties completed and submitted their NBSAP to the Convention, laying therefore the ‘**foundation**’ for biodiversity planning worldwide.
- For GEF eligible CBD Parties, the NBSAP process was often also linked to **the establishment of national CHM, capacity needs assessments** in the area of biodiversity and with the production of **national reports**.
- This generated a wealth of knowledge and helped “**keep the biodiversity sector alive**” in several countries

NBSAPs in the context of Biodiversity Planning

- Due to the focus on the **process** NBSAPs have at times been interpreted “as an end in itself”, while they are instead **a means to implementing the goals of the CBD**.
- In order to fulfill their purpose, NBSAPs must be instrumental in **influencing national decision-making**, which implies:
 - The NBSAP is a document that is widely shared, supported and “owned” by national **stakeholder** across the board
 - The NBSAP helps **shape policy** – both “formulated” and actual policies
 - The NBSAP is a dynamic, strategizing & planning document, i.e. it is “**alive**” and **up-to-date**
 - The NBSAP is **implemented**.

Challenges to NBSAPs

- The greatest challenge of NPSAPs – and of biodiversity planning in general – is that of **expanding the impact** of the exercise
- NBSAPs should not be the mere “fulfillment of obligations” to a convention but actually help **shape policy at national level**.
- There are **constraining factors** and limits to how these factors can be addressed:
 - National capacity
 - Funding
 - Time constraints

Challenges to NBSAPs

- Several NBSAPs in developing countries are today **outdated**
- Some NBSAPs were not prepared with sufficient **scientific stringency** to inform policy
- In several cases, NBSAPs were **not necessarily a participatory process.**

Positive elements from countries' experiences

- There is today **a wealth of experiences** to draw from and **guidance available** in terms of the preparation and implementation of NBSAPs
- Several CBD parties benefited from **GEF projects in biodiversity** and are in different ways actively implementing their NBSAPs.
- If countries are **engaged**, they can find ways to update their NBSAPs and use it actively to shape interventions in the biodiversity area

The way forward

- Fourth National Report (4NR) has a different format from that of 2NR and 3NR, allowing for **analytical work and presentation**
- 4NR is all about **2010 Targets**. This is bound to make biodiversity planning a much more goal-oriented or **results-oriented** exercise
- **2010 Targets were incorporated into MDGs**. This brings an opportunity to mainstream biodiversity into a wider range of policies and sectors and incorporate biodiversity into their key challenges in the turn of the millenium