



CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY



# How to keep an NBSAP alive?



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# ***An NBSAP is not just for Xmas!***

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- Many countries have put enormous effort into producing their NBSAP;
- Many have also found it hard to sustain this effort beyond the production of the « hard copy » of the NBSAP;
- This has left many countries with NBSAP`s that are in danger of becoming « living dead » - still breathing but not reproducing.



## ***Why revise an NBSAP?***

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- As part of a regular cyclic planning process, preferably linked to the national development planning process;
- to identify and incorporate new and emerging national needs and priorities,
- to ensure that the NBSAP is adjusted to new developments and requirements, for example to include new decisions and programmes of work adopted by the CoP (e.g. Global Strategy for Plant Conservation);
- some countries have revised their BSAPS to assist the process of “downscaling” an NBSAP to provincial/state level.



# ***Problems with NBSAPs?***

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## The three main problems with NBSAPs

- getting the Biodiversity right;
- getting the Strategy right; and
- getting the Action Plan right.



## ***Biodiversity (i)***

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- Documenting biodiversity is a never-ending task - no country has fully documented its biodiversity (at the genetic, species and ecosystem levels);
- Documenting biodiversity should be a continuous and distributed task, but should have a central national repository, linked to global taxonomic and biodiversity databases, providing data flow «up and down»;
- Documenting biodiversity should be more than just compiling lists of species - the ultimate aim should be a fully geo-referenced database of biodiversity and its value - a national «**Google Earth for Biodiversity**» - could this be the role of the CHM?



## ***Biodiversity (ii)***

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### **Examples of innovative use of biodiversity information:**

- **Mexico and Costa Rica:** INBio and CONABIO - commissions to avoid « ownership » problems, and an organised biodiversity documentation programme focused on both national and international data;
- **India:** the India Biodiversity Bill provides legal recognition to People`s Biodiversity Registers and the information they contain in order to strengthen ABS and IPR aspects of biodiversity knowledge;
- **Eritrea:** « manual GIS » - even transparent overlays of expert opinions can bring biodiversity into the national planning process, before it is fully documented.



## ***Biodiversity (iii)***

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### **Key messages for use of biodiversity information:**

- Make use of existing information sources;
- Identify key information gaps and prioritise filling them;
- Try to provide value-added to all contributors of information; and
- Try to demonstrate the value of biodiversity information to policy makers and decision takers.



# ***Strategy (i)***

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## **What are biodiversity strategies for?**

- To communicate a complex set of actions in a simple, but powerful, message;
- To set a vision, goals and principles of the strategy and also to set quantified, high-level targets (e.g. 2010 target) that allow monitoring of the effectiveness of implementation;
- To provide a «road map» for how to achieve the goals, including identification and strategy for removal of barriers;
- To set broad priorities and timelines for the actions that will implement the strategy;





## ***Strategy (ii)***

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### **Upwards and downwards linking of biodiversity strategies**

- Biodiversity strategy goals (CBD Objectives) need to be integrated into higher level strategies - National Development Strategies, MDGs, PRSPs, etc.;
- National biodiversity strategies could be disaggregated into regional and local equivalents to assist implementation;
- Embedding can sometimes be «win-win», but will also need to include Safe Minimum Standard and No Net Loss principles where biodiversity « needs » are taken into consideration in other strategies;



# ***From Strategy to Action***

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- The CBD process, and other actors, have generated huge amounts of useful technical information on how to operationalise high level strategic goals - for example, via the ecosystem-based and cross cutting Programmes of Work and Guidelines;
- An Action Plan is more than a wish-list of projects - it can include changes to policies and sub-policies, legislative measures;
- Each action should be linked to a specific objective(s) and should have a clear assignment of key players, funding sources and timelines;



# ***Prioritising Action Planning***

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The New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy identifies 147 actions that need to be collectively implemented over the next 20 years to implement the national biodiversity strategy

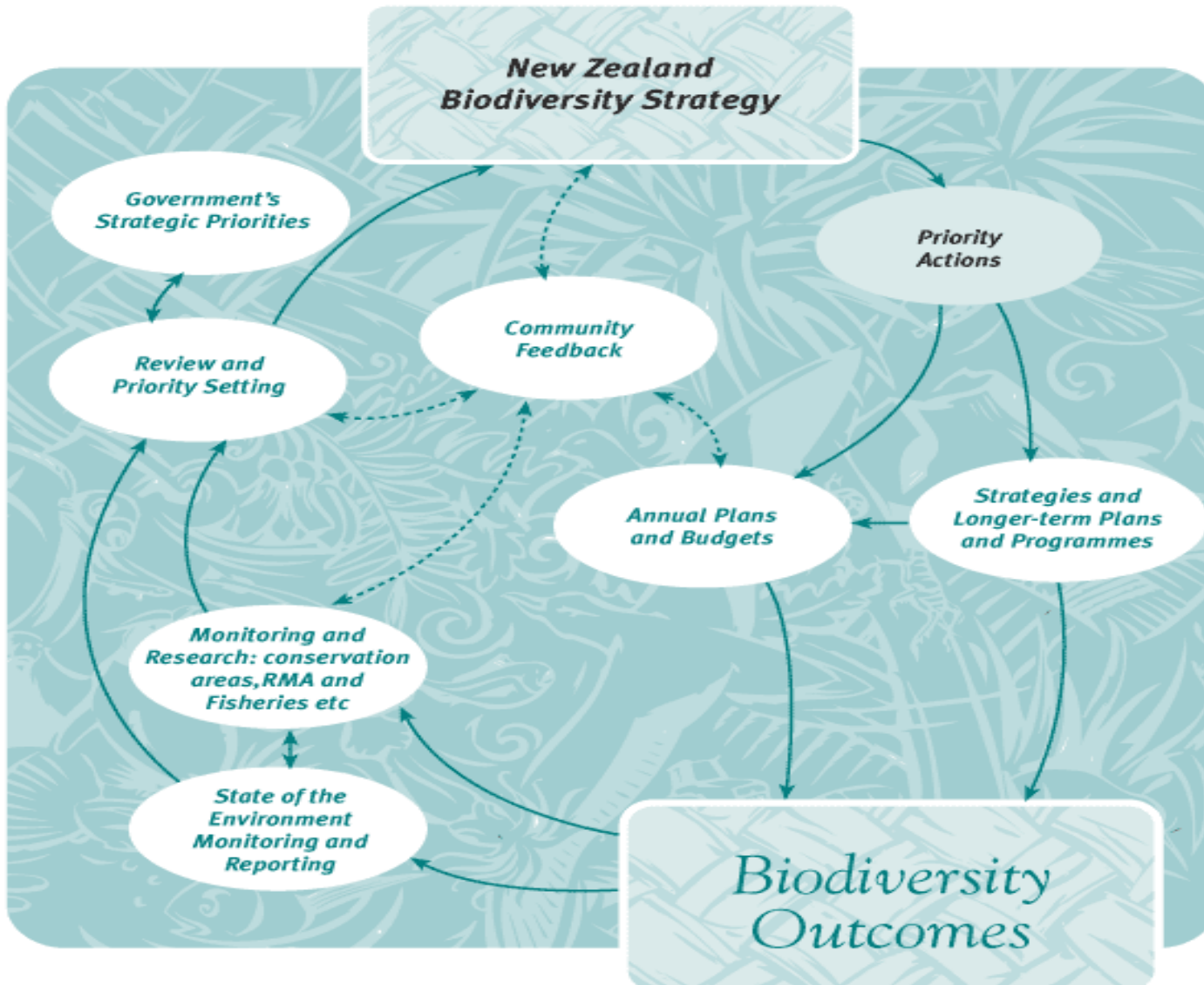
## Why prioritise?

- It is not possible to implement all actions at once;
- some actions contribute relatively more towards achieving biodiversity goals than others; and
- to be effective, some actions need to precede others.



# Re-iteration: I will not repeat this!

Figure 4.2: Monitoring and Review of the New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy





# *Some Final Thoughts*

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- An NBSAP is not a thing - it is a process:
- Set ambitious, but realistic, goals and targets;
- Measure success by the amount of progress towards goals and targets, not only attainment of goals;
- Expect change - adaptive management is normal.
- Biodiversity is a «way of thinking», not a sector - become sure of your own thinking, and use this to change others thinking.



*Thank you*

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