

COMPANION VOLUME

GUIDELINES
FOR AN INTEGRATED APPROACH IN THE
DEVELOPMENT AND
IMPLEMENTATION OF
NATIONAL, SUBNATIONAL AND LOCAL
BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES
AND ACTION PLANS



Convention on
Biological Diversity

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GUIDELINES FOR AN INTEGRATED APPROACH IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL, SUBNATIONAL AND LOCAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS COMPANION VOLUME

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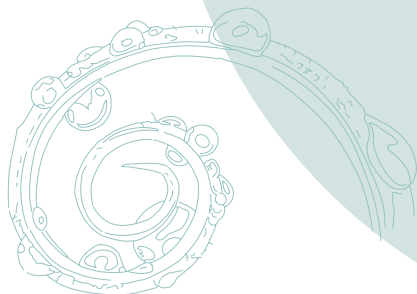
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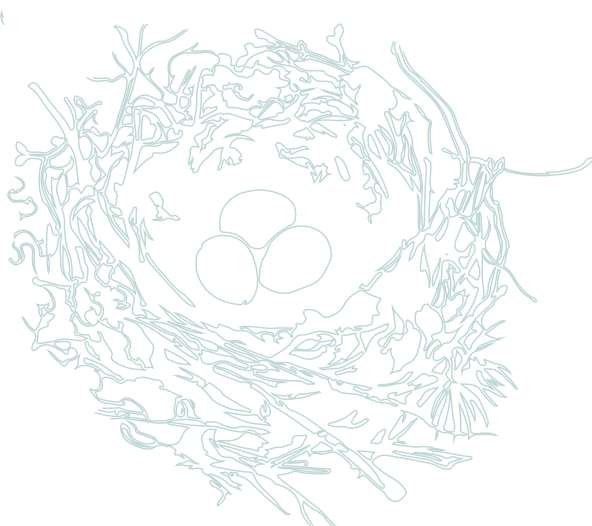
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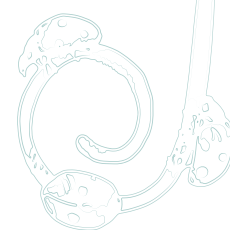
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1.

INTRODUCTION



This companion volume provides a background to and supplementary information for the ...

Guidelines for an Integrated Approach in the Development and Implementation of National, Subnational and Local Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans. It includes an overview of the status of Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP) development at national and subnational government levels. It also outlines the key findings of the consultative process as well as the process and methodology followed in the development of the Guidelines. Furthermore, it includes some supporting information, such as a situational analysis, an analysis of key findings and a list of useful tools and resources for further reading.





2.

SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS OF THE STATUS OF BSAP DEVELOPMENT

Effective implementation of NBSAPs at subnational and local levels generally depends on two interconnected elements: the capacity of each level of government to develop, execute and monitor their own BSAPs or related instruments that mainstream biodiversity into wider objectives and cover the obligations of the NBSAP; and the coordination between levels of government.

An assessment of the current situation regarding NBSAP development and implementation at subnational level, and links between NBSAPs and S/LBSAPs is presented below,

based primarily on the responses from the countries selected to participate in the survey undertaken to develop the Guidelines for an Integrated Approach in the Development and Implementation of National, Subnational and Local Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (described in paragraph 1.5 of the Guidelines). The assessment also benefits from a comparative analysis of NBSAPs and S/LBSAPs from the following countries: Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Canada, England, Malawi, Mexico, New Zealand, South Africa and Republic of Korea. The comparative analysis considered the following five functional themes:

- a) *Institutionalising coordination*, which included:
 - Specifying and institutionalising collaboration and coordination in policy and strategy;
 - Clarifying mandates, institutional roles and responsibilities;
 - Establishing institutional coordination and cooperation mechanisms and forums; and
 - Coordinating strategies to ensure alignment with NBSAPs and Aichi Biodiversity Targets.
- b) *Planning together*, which included:
 - Planning for action together (mainstreaming biodiversity and Aichi Biodiversity Targets into planning and resource allocation).
- c) *Cooperation for implementation*, which included:
 - Cooperating on programmes and projects (mainstreaming biodiversity and Aichi Biodiversity Targets into programmes and projects);
 - Cooperation across political borders; and
 - Cooperation on science, information and monitoring and evaluation.
- d) *Participation, communication and awareness raising*, which included:
 - Facilitating consultation and participation; and
 - Communication and awareness raising.
- e) *Support and capacity building*, which included:
 - Financial support and incentives;
 - Technical support and non-financial incentives; and
 - Capacity building and sharing lessons learnt.

The current status with regard to the development of subnational strategies and actions plans is described as follows in the updated progress report:¹

"The post-Nagoya NBSAPs² of six Parties mention that their country either already has subnational biodiversity plans or has started developing them (examples appear below). However, the Secretariat is aware of 19 Parties (including the six mentioned above) that have at least one subnational biodiversity action plan;³ however, not all of these are reflected in the revised NBSAPs. Information on these can be found at: <https://www.cbd.int/nbsap/related-info/sbsap/default.shtml>. Nine other Parties⁴ mention their intent to prepare subnational biodiversity strategies and actions plans.

- (a) *In Bosnia and Herzegovina, local environmental plans which integrate the values of biological diversity (as a separate domain in the action plan) have been developed in five out of 10 cantons;*
- (b) *In Malawi, the Lilongwe City Council is developing a LBSAP that highlights particular species and habitats to be protected in the city and how biodiversity and development can integrate with the city's development activities. Malawi also has a national target to develop LBSAPs;*

Several national and/or subnational authorities provide guidance to subnational authorities in preparing and/or implementing biodiversity plans.

A total of 16 other NBSAPs⁵ contain elements, actions or targets that aim to integrate biodiversity into subnational level plans:

- (a) *In Australia and Belgium, the actions of the NBSAP are intended to be considered and taken on board in conjunction with regional, state and territorial plans/documents;*
- (b) *Burundi – Target 18, action 2 – "Elaborate ecoregional (local) plans for the implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan". This action also proposed that these local implementation plans would be integrated into the community development plans;*
- (c) *Cameroon – Target 18 – "By 2020, key production sectors and decentralized local authorities should have developed sector or region-specific biodiversity targets, linked to the national targets";*
- (d) *France's strategy will be incorporated as a priority into all public policy at every territorial level, and frameworks must be put in place at every level of governance, from the global to the local;*
- (e) *Malta intends to engage local councils in supporting the implementation of the NBSAP at the local/subnational level and will integrate biodiversity considerations into urban infrastructure investments;*
- (f) *The Republic of Korea has developed guidelines for planning local biodiversity strategies and is establishing a legal basis for metropolitan cities/provinces to set up biodiversity strategies in the Act on the Conservation and the Use of Biodiversity. The Republic of Korea aims to have eight metropolitan or provincial strategies by 2018."*

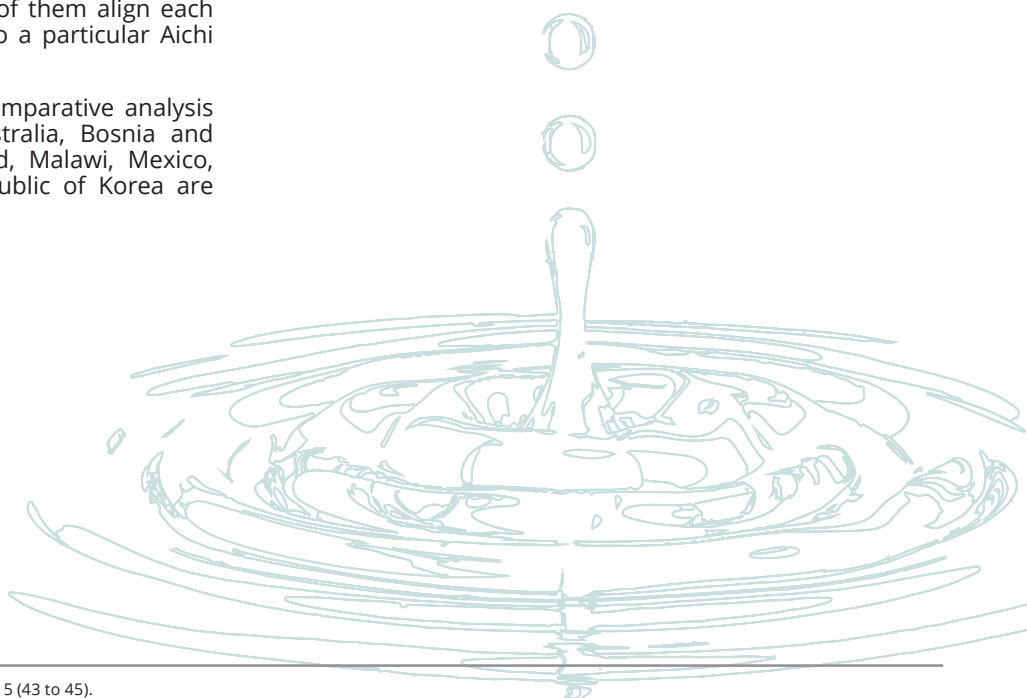
Subsequent to the September 2016 version of the COP Progress Report, the Secretariat of the CBD released another update in November 2016, which indicates that the number of Parties that intend to prepare subnational and local BSABs has increased from nine to 10; and the total number of NBSAPs containing elements, actions or targets that aim to integrate biodiversity into subnational and local plans has increased from 16 to 19.⁶ Japan has made considerable efforts in addressing subnational plans as all 35 prefectures have completed subnational plans.

In a desktop review of BSAP documents, nine out of 10 NBSAPs coordinate their strategies according to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets or the CBD Strategic Goals, and 10 out of 12 S/LBSAPs do so. Many of them align each of their national or local strategies to a particular Aichi Biodiversity Target.

The key findings of the high level comparative analysis of NBSAPs and S/LBSAPs from Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Canada, England, Malawi, Mexico, New Zealand, South Africa and Republic of Korea are summarised in **Table 1**.

What do the plans indicate?

A review comparing S/LBSAPs and NBSAPs from ten countries indicates a wide range of coordination clusters undertaken, including examples from all five of the areas discussed in these Guidelines (**Figure 1**), though coordination is not consistent even within countries (**Table 1**). The table below compares the coordination clusters by country. It indicates whether only the NBSAP, the S/LBSAP, or all plans indicate coordination within each cluster. It also indicates inconsistencies within each country regarding how S/LBSAPs and NBSAPs discuss coordination with one another. They rarely align, with only England showing exact alignment between its national and subnational plans in terms of coordination, though Brazil comes close.



1 UNEP/CBD/COP/13/8/Add.1, 12 September 2016, para 5 (43 to 45).

2 Austria, Japan, Peru, Scotland, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Republic of Korea.

3 <https://www.cbd.int/nbsap/related-info/sbsap/default.shtml>.

4 Bosnia and Herzegovina, China, Republic of Korea, Ireland, Malawi, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, Northern Ireland.

5 Australia, Belgium, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, France, India, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malta, Malawi, Malaysia, Nigeria, Sudan, United Kingdom of Great Britain, Republic of Korea and Zimbabwe.

6 UNEP/CBD/COP/13/8/Add.1/Rev.1, 24 November 2016, p13.

Table 1 Analysis of functional theme clusters by country

Nation	NBSAP year	Subnational Government(s)	LBSAP year(s)	Analysis of Coordination Clusters by Country				
				1. Institutional Coordination	2. Planning Together	3. Implementation Partnerships	4. CEPA Integration	5. Capacity Building
Australia	2010	Australian Capital Territory (ACT)	2013	LBSAP	None	LBSAP	None	LBSAP
Bosnia	2016	Foča-Ustikolina	2013	Both	NBSAP	None	NBSAP	NBSAP
Brazil	2016?	São Paulo	2013	NBSAP	Both	None	Both	None
Canada	1995	Ontario ⁷ ; Québec	2013; 2005	Both	None	NBSAP	NBSAP	None
England	2011	Devon County; Bristol	2009; ongoing	All 3	All 3	All 3	None	All 3
Malawi	2015	Lilongwe	2013-2015	LBSAP	NBSAP	None	LBSAP	NBSAP
Mexico	2016	Mexico City	2012	NBSAP	NBSAP	None	Both	NBSAP
New Zealand	2016	Auckland	2012	LBSAP	None	NBSAP	LBSAP	NBSAP
Republic of Korea	2014	Gyeonggi-do	2014	LBSAP	None	LBSAP	NBSAP	Both
South Africa	2015	Cape Town	2016	Both	NBSAP	NBSAP	Both	NBSAP

Nearly all of the plans mentioned their local or national counterparts, with some exceptions due to the fact that in some cases, the counterpart plans had not yet been created, and therefore could not be discussed. Also, nearly all plans mentioned either the Aichi Biodiversity Targets or the CBD goals, and most aligned their strategies within these global guidelines. Some LBSAPs also clearly indicated the national strategy pertinent to each of their local strategies.

The least common cooperation cluster was involvement of national partners in the planning process at the subnational scale. This is an area that could potentially be helpful for

subnational governments who could build upon this partnership to gain capacity-building assistance such as funding, training, or coordination of data, or to increase the likelihood of implementation partnerships.

An interesting additional area of coordination that arose in the plans, but was not addressed through the survey, is the possibility of subnational governments influencing national policy through lobbying or legislation proposals (bottom up approach). Subnational governments in the Republic of Korea and New Zealand both cited influencing national policy through these types of activities.

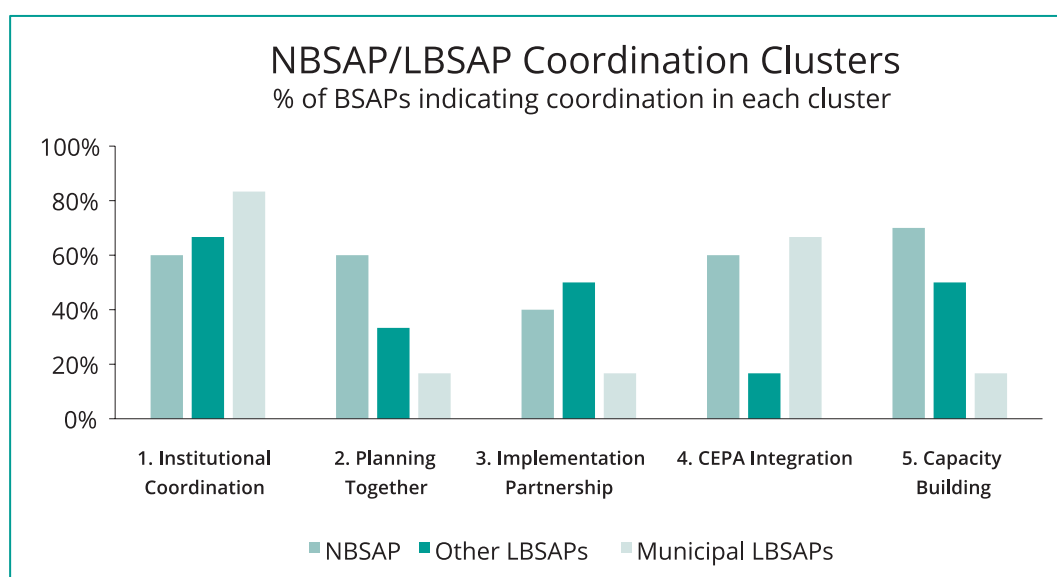


Figure 1 Frequency of the five functional theme clusters between national and S/LBSAPs, separated according to scale

⁷ Québec also previously adopted two strategies on biodiversity connected to CBD and as many action plans for the periods 1996-2000 and 2004-2007.





3.

ANALYSIS OF KEY FINDINGS

As in the case of the overview of the current status, the analysis of key findings is based primarily on the responses from countries selected to participate in the survey, as well as the high level comparative analysis of NBSAPs and S/LBSAPs. In addition, the key findings analysis also draws on other sources such as the updated report to COP 13 on *Progress in the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for*

Biodiversity 2011-2020 and towards the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets; the 2010 report on *Biodiversity planning: An assessment of NBSAPs* produced by the UNU-AIS; and a technical report on the *Interim Assessment of Revised National Biodiversity Strategies* produced by the Fridtjof Nansens Institute in March 2015.

According to the UNU-AIS Report on Biodiversity planning: An assessment of NBSAPs⁸:

The main obstacles reported are interrelated and are very much the same as cited earlier as obstacles to CBD implementation. They include:

- *Limited capacity due to lack of financial resources and technical expertise*
- *Limited project funding in cases of project-based action plans*
- *Weak administrative and institutional structure*
- *Lack of political will and interest*
- *Poor enforcement of legislation*
- *Limited mainstreaming and cross-sectoral integration*
- *Lost awareness of the NBSAP (the awareness may have been there during and just after the NBSAP preparation but was subsequently lost).*

These findings are supported in other sources, and substantiated by the findings on the common challenges and barriers to implementation, as well as the key “take home messages”, from the questionnaire responses gathered as part of the process to develop these Guidelines.

The most common challenges and barriers to implementation recorded by subnational and local authorities in the questionnaire responses are illustrated in the table below:

Table 2 Most common challenges & barriers to subnational implementation

Common Challenges/Barriers								
Subnational and Local Authorities	Awareness & communication	Human & technical capacities	Coordination/ Collaboration	Consultation	Financial resources	Legal and policy framework	Measuring progress (indicators, reports, assessments)	Integration across sectors/ alignment with objectives of other levels
Australia								
Canada								
Japan								
New Zealand								
Republic of Korea								
Brazil								
Colombia								
Iraq								
Malawi								
Mexico								
Nigeria								
Namibia								
Peru								
Philippines								
South Africa								
Uganda								
Timor-Leste								
Total (out of 17)	7	5	10	12	9	7	3	8
Percentage	41%	29%	59%	71%	53%	41%	18%	47%

Countries that participated in the survey proposed various approaches and solutions to addressing these challenges and barriers. These proposals included mainstreaming biodiversity considerations into sector plans; including subnational and local representation on consultative bodies; introducing schemes to reward and recognise subnational and local efforts and best practice; and initiating communication and awareness raising at subnational and local levels. The proposed solutions and relative prevalence of these solutions is illustrated in the table below. The X-axis is an indication of frequency of responses received.

Conclusion of analysis

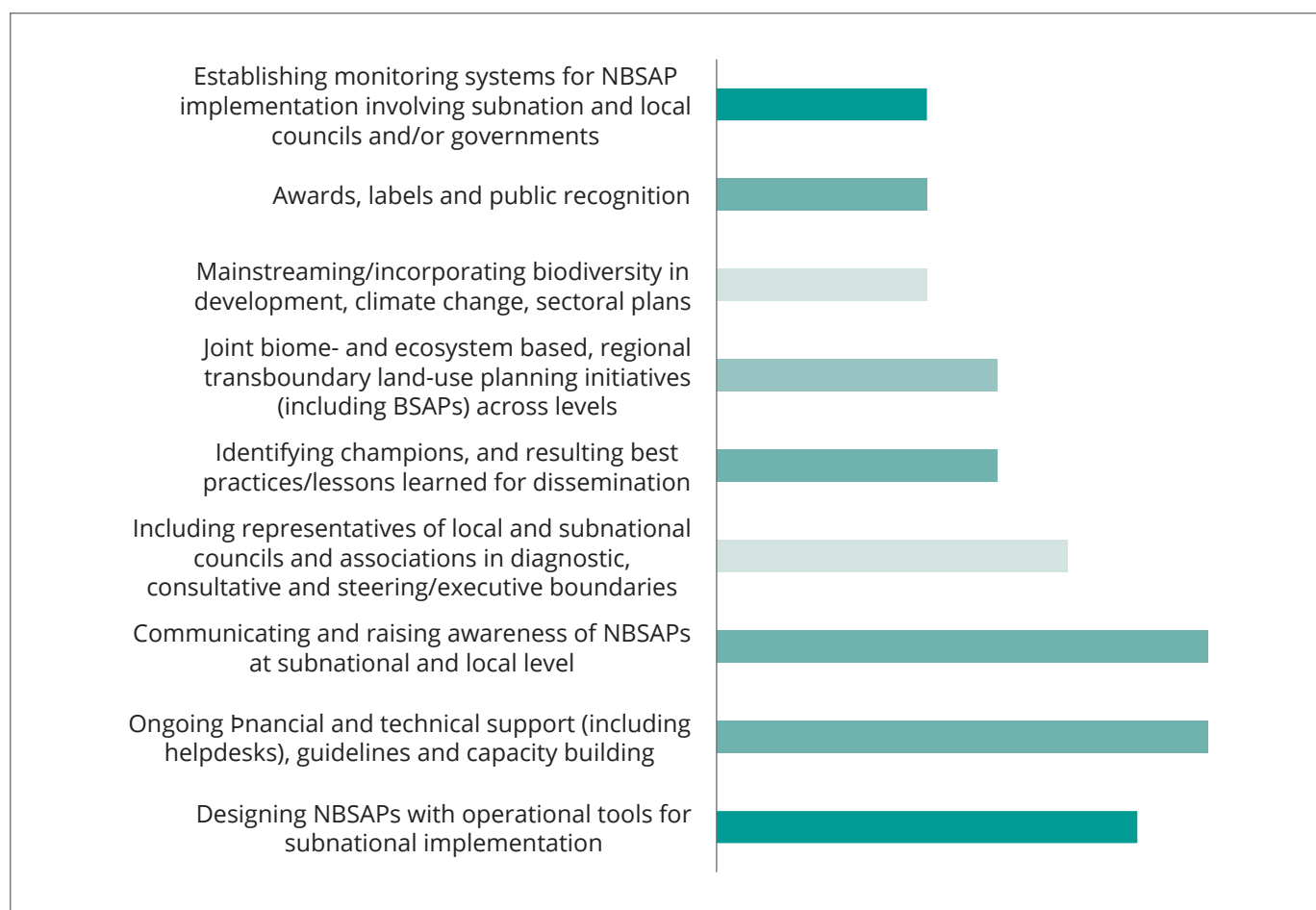
The key “take home messages” from the questionnaire responses are as follows:

a) Most responding Parties already have advanced subnational and local implementation of the CBD, and most respondents at subnational and local levels are aware of NBSAPs (the majority of which were involved in its development) and the CBD. This is not surprising given project methodology (i.e. voluntary responses), yet most respondents mention that this is

a recent trend, and in most cases national/subnational cooperation/coordination links are more developed than subnational/local levels, or national/local ones;

- b) Biodiversity means different things at each level of governance. The collection of priorities raised in the CBD agenda is not naturally reflected at subnational and local levels. Mainstreaming biodiversity to the subnational and local levels means translating and adjusting the CBD agenda to the level of landscape, and/or local/urban management, following the Ecosystem Approach in terms of the scale of management and the directive for decentralization – including producing awareness raising/communication materials for specific subnational/local audiences. Aside from resources for the development of subnational and local BSAPs, harmonization thus requires specific coordination and cooperation efforts across levels of governance;
- c) Although developed countries clearly had more institutional and financial resources for coordination, and often less pressing needs and obstacles than developing countries, most challenges and barriers – and approaches to overcome them – were common

Table 3 Proposed tools for overcoming barriers



across levels of development. Resource levels were different for implementing each level's obligations, but actual coordination/cooperation levels were much more similar. Often, developing countries provided innovations in efficiency and effectiveness of actual coordination and cooperation. In aggregate, however, developed countries had more consistent evidence of best practices, and their critical role as providers of best practices and facilitators for centralized and decentralized cooperation is reiterated often;

d) More than half of respondents (80% for developing countries) mentioned that NBSAPs define roles and mandates (to differing extents) for subnational and local authorities in NBSAPs. In the majority of these cases, however, those mandates are not fully implemented – mostly due to the lack of commensurate allocations of human and financial resources;

e) More than 53 activities distributed over 17 categories of best practices (i.e. areas for improvement in coordination/cooperation) were identified in this survey, and contributed to the updating/expansion of the Guidelines. This includes best practices about:

- ways to mobilize resources for action;
- consultation and participation processes which include undertaking a stakeholder analysis and engaging stakeholders, establishing some form of consultative body, as well as running consultative workshops and encouraging partnerships with civil society from the very beginning of the biodiversity planning process;
- capacity building and knowledge sharing programmes which include the development of tools and training resources, and the establishment of knowledge sharing or learning networks to provide a structured platform for the exchange of biodiversity information, experience and best practice within and across different levels of government and regions;

- monitoring and evaluation which involves ensuring adequate capacity and resources, integrating biodiversity monitoring into development planning and monitoring, ensuring a structured approach to monitoring and evaluation, and the design and use of a system of clear and measurable indicators;
 - clarifying roles and responsibilities, which involves decentralisation on biodiversity planning and decision making functions;
 - coordination and cooperation, which entails providing for multi-stakeholder bodies in domestic legislation;
 - integrated and coordinated planning, which involves creating a legal framework for integrated planning across all levels of government and sectors, and to ensure alignment between biodiversity strategies and action plans; and
 - cooperation on the implementation of programmes, which involves establishing multi-level partnerships to foster collaboration and coordination of ecological investment projects at subnational levels;
- f) Many respondents (most of those from developing countries) indicated roles and opportunities for the SCBD and for ICLEI's positive intervention in capacity building and facilitation of cooperation; and
- g) Developed Parties' respondents had fewer short-term recommendations for priorities leading to COP 13 compared to developing countries.
- h) Over half of the respondents from developed countries indicated that Guidelines on developing BSAPs (either formally within the NBSAPs or elsewhere) are available for subnational and local authorities, while less than 30% of developing countries have such Guidelines available.
- i) Most countries have indicated that incentives are available for subnational and local authorities to implement their BSAPs. In developing countries, all respondents confirmed such incentives, while in developed countries about 60% of respondents indicated such incentives are available.

The above points are key messages taken from the questionnaire responses, which have been summarized below. Tables are broken up into responses from national governments versus subnational and local authorities. Furthermore, responses from developing countries are separated from developed countries for easier comparison.

A breakdown of questionnaire responses from nine national governments in the developed countries that participated in the survey is captured in the table below⁹:

Table 4 Breakdown of questionnaire responses from national governments in developed countries

QUESTIONS	NATIONAL GOVERNMENT RESPONSES
If your country has produced an NBSAP, does the latest version include strategies and actions for subnational governments to follow?	100% have BSAP with some indication of responsibility for subnational and local levels, and in some cases the federal BSAPs are built on the contributions of subnational strategies (i.e. federal level establishes common elements and cannot be prescriptive). In the case of 14% of Parties, these mandates and roles are not specified, and most others respondents still indicate that improvements in the form of guidelines and capacity building are needed.
How have subnational governments participated in the latest NBSAP development process?	Almost 80% of respondents did involve subnational and local authorities in their NBSAP development; others have not yet done so, but plan to in future. Positive responses ranged from full and ongoing coordination and cooperation (28%) to partial involvement through workshops and some consultative networks (72%).
Has your national government produced guidelines specifically on how subnational governments can develop their own subnational Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (BSAPs)?	A quarter of the respondents indicated that their NBSAP already includes guidelines for subnational and local BSAPs, while 38% responded negatively (i.e. no guidelines available on BSAPs), although some mention that NBSAPs are still used as a reference for subnational and local ones. Another 38% said informal (i.e. non-governmental) guidelines were available and received national-level input.
In which ways are subnational governments in your country legally mandated or required to conduct biodiversity planning and implementation?	All respondents indicated that subnational and local authorities are mandated to act on biodiversity by clearly defined political and legal structures. The constitution, specific environmental or governance laws and NBSAPs are named as the original source of legal obligations. However, consultations reveal the levels of subnational and local authorities taking action are quite diverse, from very few to almost all.
Are there currently any incentives in place to promote subnational engagement and implementation of NBSAPs?	All respondents indicated that incentives are in place to promote subnational and local implementation. Recognition of leaders/excellence is the most common approach (37% of respondents), followed by financial support (through official programmes, 31% of respondents), seminars/workshops (18% of responses) and technical support (helpdesk, 12%). Only one respondent (16%, Republic of Korea) named specific fiscal incentives/allocation of tax funds, while another mentioned that the main incentive is still the clearly defined legal obligation.
Please identify and reflect upon the specific barriers and challenges you see in terms of effective NBSAP implementation by subnational governments in your country.	A third of respondents pointed to the lack of a clear legal obligation for subnational and local authorities to develop and implement their BSAPs, and a quarter of them mentioned the lack of financial resources for subnational and local activities. The issue of restricted human and technical capacity was noted (17%), particularly for subnational and local authorities with a small fiscal basis. The general lack of awareness of the value for biodiversity came up in 28% of cases. It is noteworthy that almost 40% of respondents mentioned that biodiversity indeed "means" different things at different scales, and it would therefore be essential to make international obligations (to which subnational and local authorities are not exposed) relevant to the landscape planning level for instance by "translating" them through mainstreaming via climate/energy programmes, sustainable agriculture and development plans, etc.
What changes/actions you would like to see to overcome those challenges and improve NBSAP implementation by subnational governments? What is required to make those changes happen?	Complementing the analysis of barriers and challenges, respondents focused on solutions involving capacity building, coordination of investments, and definitions of responsibilities through legal mandates. The establishment of funding mechanisms for subnational action and the need for awareness raising campaigns on the value and importance of biodiversity for human well-being were mentioned by several respondents.
In the short and medium term, can you propose a tool or approach that significantly improves subnational implementation of NBSAP in your country?	Many respondents indicated no need for short-term action beyond existing procedures. Priorities proposed were the development of guidelines (and application of existing ones) for production of BSAPs and for the coordination and establishment of committees at subnational and local levels, support in biodiversity assessments, review of NBSAPs through subnational governments, and promotion of ecotourism at subnational and local levels to raise awareness and generate benefits at local level.
Considering concrete guidance from CBD-COP Decision XII/9 (Engagement with subnational and local authorities) and the parallel Summit for Cities and Subnational Authorities to be organized around CBD COP 13 in Mexico (December 2016), do you see an opportunity to advance your work in relation to the proposed tool or approach to improve subnational implementation of the NBSAP?	Respondents had fewer short-term recommendations for priorities leading to COP 13 as compared to developing countries. Suggestions included the publication of guidelines for cooperation at COP 13, and the sharing of good practices, particularly on ways to mobilize resources for action. One respondent reiterated the importance of subnational and local authorities producing guiding statements for Parties and for the COP (Summit Declarations), and added that those statements could include "challenges" for more subnational and local BSAPs to be developed; another suggested involving capital cities as leaders in BSAP production.

⁹ Australia, Belgium, Brunei Darussalam, France, Germany, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, Republic of Korea.

The following table provides a more detailed breakdown of questionnaire responses from the nine subnational governments in developed countries that participated in the survey¹⁰:

Table 5 Breakdown of questionnaire responses from subnational and local authorities in developed countries

QUESTIONS	SUBNATIONAL GOVERNMENT RESPONSES
To what extent are you familiar with your NBSAP; and how do you use or apply it at subnational/local levels?	Seven out of nine respondents are very familiar with their national NBSAP, emphasizing knowledge of its core strategies and goals, and acknowledging its legal framework. There is high knowledge of the NBSAP process in Ontario and Region Wallonia, with mention to specific coordination functions. Respondents have consulted NBSAPs as a reference document to develop the subnational BSAP (Japan, Québec, Auckland) and consulted the CBD Plan of actions (North West Territories).
To what level was your government involved in the NBSAP process?	Six out of the nine respondents were involved in the process of developing the NBSAP. Three respondents stated that their subnational governments were not involved (Canada and New Zealand, with a 2000 NBSAP and Japan). CBD COP12 was held in Pyeongchang, Gangwon Province, in the Republic of Korea in 2014. This resulted in strengthening the involvement of subnational governments, increased levels of awareness and consequent formulation of inputs to the the Republic of Korea's third NBSAP. Elsewhere, for example Ontario, Canada, subnational involvement has been strengthened due to collaboration in national activities through representation in working groups and solid and continuous political commitment to biodiversity. Québec was not involved in the elaboration of the NBSAP in 1995, but contributed to the Canadian Biodiversity Outcomes Framework which was developed in 2006 and to the process of reflection leading to the adoption, in 2015, of the 2020 Biodiversity Goals and Targets for Canada. Auckland Capital Territory participated in a cross-jurisdictional working group involved in reviewing Australia's National Biodiversity Strategy. The Auckland Capital Territory was represented in a Working Group on the Development of the Strategy through the Natural Environment Team.
Does your government have a BSAP or equivalent, and if so, it is aligned with the NBSAP and with CBD guidance?	Eight of the nine subnational and local authorities have an LBSAP (with the exception of Region Wallonia). Of those, 50% have their BSAP well aligned and integrated with the NBSAP (Ontario, North West Territories and Australian Capital Territory, Brussels-Capital Region). Three responded that their LBSAP is poorly connected – only a few priorities build on the NBSAP (Gangwon, Auckland, Aichi). One replied that it is unconnected to the NBSAP (Québec). Québec takes note of the instruments adopted by Canada and may on occasion draw inspiration from them in developing its own tools, but its reflective process is primarily based on the CBD. Ontario has specific indicators to measure progress of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. When asked for explanations in relation to improved links with national instruments, responses ranged from reformulating NBSAPs with vision statements and targets which work better at the subnational and local contexts to providing an appropriate legislative context, and defining a joint work programme. Some respondents mentioned that the NBSAP has been consulted regarding the status of impacts on biodiversity. Ontario and Sao Paulo mentioned that they have preceded their national governments in the formulation of measurable targets related to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.
To what extent does the NBSAP (process and product) reflect subnational biodiversity priorities?	Five respondents indicated that subnational priorities are fully included. The Region Wallonia and Brussels-Capital Region mentioned having decentralized approaches to NBSAP formulation, and the Auckland Capital Territory said that the NBSAP identifies actions that should be delivered at subnational level. More limited inclusion of subnational priorities was reported in four cases (Gangwon, Aichi, Québec and North-West Territories). As main barriers, most respondents mention that subnational implementation is a recent CBD issue and that coordination is in the early stage of development, often with no definition of clear mandates and resources, or due to the NBSAP being outdated (i.e. not considering new issues such as subnational action, development and ecosystem-based climate change adaptation).
Which changes are most needed to overcome barriers for subnational implementation of NBSAPs?	The respondents mentioned a need to produce baseline information at subnational/local levels to formulate well-aligned strategies and evaluate NBSAP progress, and the need for reaching consensus on the identification of local priorities for funding. NBSAPs should specify which priorities at local level can be defined for subnational/local/community management. Many mentioned institutional barriers to overcome, and the usefulness of jointly developing regional strategies. Some reported a lack of definition of the coordination roles in areas where national governments have direct jurisdiction (such as climate change, and management of IAS). Most commented on the importance of making biodiversity a higher priority by communicating the importance of NBSAPs across all levels of governance, others noted competition between priorities, for instance on climate change issues in subnational governments' agendas. Other barriers mentioned were the lack of involvement of subnational and local authorities in NBSAP development, and in mainstreaming/integration strategies. Some suggested the update of the NBSAP with a clearer definition of responsibilities on leadership and contribution. Most respondents mentioned that national governments should provide additional workshops to include subnational inputs in NBSAPs, and requested efforts for improved capacity building of their key players.
Which changes/actions/mechanisms are needed in the NBSAP (process and product) for it to be more useful/connected to subnational/local priorities?	Common and differentiated priorities for each level of government need to be defined more clearly. The NBSAP process needs to be more informed of/connected to subnational and local players. National monitoring of NBSAPs should be based on agreements and mutual commitments with subnational governments, which in turn should support local processes (such as the Collaborative Australian Protective Areas Database – CAPAD model). NBSAPs should specifically define alignment mechanisms. Funding support can be linked to guidelines set by a regional (i.e. transboundary) natural resource management body that ensures that local projects are aligned with the NBSAP. Greater efforts can be invested in engaging representative bodies of subnational/local civil society, in awareness raising, and generally in informing decision-making processes at various scales of biodiversity management.

¹⁰ Australian Capital Government, Brussels Capital Government, Region Wallone, North West Territories, Government of Québec, Ontario State, Aichi Prefecture, Auckland Council and Gangwon Provincial Government.

The following two tables provide a more detailed breakdown of questionnaire responses from the developing countries that participated in the survey. **Table 6** summarises survey responses from national governments¹¹:

Table 6 Breakdown of questionnaire responses from national governments in developing countries

QUESTIONS	NATIONAL GOVERNMENT RESPONSES
If your country has produced an NBSAP, does the latest version include strategies and actions for subnational governments to follow?	Nineteen out of 21 respondents reported that they have some strategies and actions for subnational and local authorities to follow, and in most of those cases, Local Biodiversity Action Plans are harmonized with the existing strategies related to environmental/nature protection. In countries that do not have strategies and actions for subnational and local authorities, respondents indicated that plans had already been made to address this in the future or that they recognised that it is important for local authorities to have clear strategies and action plans for implementing the NBSAP.
How have subnational governments participated in the latest NBSAP development process? (You may choose more than one answer. Please elaborate on your answers.)	Nineteen out of 21 respondents reported involvement of subnational and local authorities in their NBSAP development. Others have not yet done so but plan to in the future. Positive responses ranged from full and direct consultation (10 respondents) to partial involvement through workshops and some consultative networks (16 respondents) and in some cases, there is both direct consultation and partial involvement of subnational and local authorities.
Has your national government produced guidelines specifically on how subnational governments can develop their own subnational Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (BSAPs)?	Six out of 21 respondents indicated that their NBSAP includes guidelines for subnational and local BSAPs, while 13 responded negatively (i.e. no guidelines available on BSAPs). The rest of respondents mentioned that certain provinces are in process of developing BSAPs, or that they plan on producing guidelines as part of NBSAP II. Where guidelines do exist, these all attempt to align subnational BSAPs with NBSAPs.
In which ways are subnational governments in your country legally mandated or required to conduct biodiversity planning and implementation?	Most (18 out of 21) respondents indicated that subnational and local authorities are mandated to act on biodiversity by clearly defined political and legal structures. The constitution, specific environmental or governance laws and NBSAPs are named as an original source of legal mandates and obligations. In some cases, where there is no legal framework, respondents mentioned other instruments (such as the community based-natural resource management program in Namibia) which mandate subnational governments to carry out biodiversity planning and implementation. Likewise, in Palau, subnational governments must engage in biodiversity planning in order to secure membership and funding.
Are there currently any incentives in place to promote subnational engagement and implementation of NBSAPs? You may select more than one answer.	Twelve out of 21 respondents indicated that incentives are in place to promote subnational and local implementation. Seminars/workshops are the most common approach (eight respondents), followed by financial support (seven), recognition of leadership/ excellence (six) and technical support (six). Two respondents named other incentives.
Please identify and reflect upon the specific barriers and challenges you see in terms of effective NBSAP implementation by subnational governments in your country.	Thirteen out of 21 respondents pointed to the lack of awareness/knowledge of the importance of the biodiversity conservation, and stated that biodiversity is not a priority in subnational governments (i.e. there is no interest in implementing activities identified in the NBSAP). Ten out of 21 mentioned a lack of human resources in their entities for environmental/nature protection and a lack of management capacity to carry out the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. A lack of financial resources for subnational and local activity was noted (nine out of 21). Altogether 12 respondents mentioned the lack of coordination: seven pointed to coordination between different administration levels, especially with subnational governments, and five pointed to a lack of inter-sectoral cooperation. Other barriers mentioned included difficulty with monitoring and implementation, pressure of national development and growing population, and insecurity. Only two respondents are unclear about barriers.
In 1-3 paragraphs, please explain which changes/actions you would like to see to overcome those challenges and improve NBSAP implementation by subnational governments. What is required to make those changes happen?	The respondents mostly focused on solutions involving capacity building, promotion of cooperation between the federal government and local authorities, and creation of awareness on biodiversity among policy makers, implementers and the public. The establishment of financial mechanisms to implement the NBSAP was mentioned by several respondents. Other suggestions mentioned included valuation and assessments of biodiversity, inclusion of subnational governments in national activities and the introduction of incentives.
In the short and medium term, can you propose a tool or approach that significantly improves subnational implementation of NBSAP in your country?	Many respondents suggested developing projects that aim at raising awareness of biodiversity in subnational governments, and cooperation with subnational governments through periodic meetings and monitoring. Evaluation of conservation efforts at the current time (baseline assessments) and mobilization of financial resources were also brought up. Furthermore, some also mentioned future efforts to bridge technical gaps. Most suggestions were medium- to long-term.
Considering concrete guidance from CBD-COP Decision XII/9 (Engagement with subnational and local authorities) and the parallel Summit for Cities and Subnational Authorities to be organized around CBD COP 13 in Mexico (December 2016), do you see an opportunity to advance your work in relation to the proposed tool or approach to improve subnational implementation of the NBSAP (question 8)? Please explain.	Six out 21 respondents clearly stated that they see participation in COP 13 as an opportunity to advance their work in relation to the proposed tool or approach to improve subnational implementation of the NBSAP. However, some respondents (four) were concerned about their financial capacity to further advance their work. Those who responded negatively mentioned financial resource constraints and technological disadvantages as the main reason preventing them from implementing NBSAPs.

¹¹ Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Cameroon, Colombia, Iraq, Madagascar, Malawi, Mexico, Namibia, Nigeria, Palau, Peru, Philippines, Seychelles, South Africa, Timor-Leste, Uganda, Venezuela.

The questionnaire responses from the subnational governments in the developing countries that participated in the survey are summarised in the table below¹²:

Table 7 Breakdown of questionnaire responses from subnational and local authorities in developing countries

QUESTIONS	SUBNATIONAL AND LOCAL AUTHORITY RESPONSES
To what extent are you familiar with your country's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)?	Eleven out of 19 respondents reported being very familiar with their country's NBSAP, while seven reported being moderately familiar with it. In general, the respondents showed a positive understanding of the goals and spirit of their country's NBSAP and consistently use it to structure subnational projects, policies, and actions. Some subnational representatives, such as the FEICOM representative from Cameroon ¹³ and the representative from the Western Cape Province, South Africa, were actually involved in the creation and implementation of their country's NBSAPs. However, in the Imo State of Nigeria, there is no clearly defined NBSAP and the representatives refer to the Agricultural policy for reference on how to shape their decisions regarding biodiversity.
Was your subnational government involved in the development process of the NBSAP?	The respondents' answers showed that the development of their country's NBSAP was generally an inclusive process that relied on the input of subnational governments and various government organizations. Fifteen out of 19 respondents indicated that they had participated in the development process of the NBSAP, two (from the Medellín municipality in Colombia and Lilongwe in Malawi) stated that they were not involved, and the respondent from the Imo State in Nigeria stated that there was no clear NBSAP to be involved in developing. The subnational governments most often participated in NBSAP development through workshops, where they provided data and expertise on aspects of biodiversity at the local level that were used in the formulation of a national strategy.
Do you have a subnational (city/local/state/ provincial) Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP), or any equivalent?	Eleven out of 19 respondents reported that they have a subnational BSAP. Namibia noted that while they do not have a BSAP, their National Policy on Community Based Natural Resource Management functions similarly to a BSAP in how it guides local communities in their approaches to biodiversity. Ten respondents indicated that the BSAPs, or equivalent document, were strongly aligned with their countries' NBSAPs, and the objectives and actions of these local BSAPs were clearly guided by the NBSAP. Lilongwe, Malawi and Buikwe, Uganda describe their subnational BSAPs as poorly connected to NBSAPs – only a few elements are based on the national guidelines. The remaining eight state that there is no local BSAP or comparable programs in their subnational government.
To what extent does the NBSAP (process and product) reflect subnational biodiversity priorities?	Most respondents agreed that the NBSAP process and product reflects subnational biodiversity priorities to at least some extent. Nine out of the 17 who responded to this question asserted that some subnational priorities are included in their countries' NBSAP, while five considered the NBSAP as fully inclusive and representative of their localized priorities. Two respondents maintained that subnational priorities are not reflected at all in their countries' NBSAP. A disparity between local and national priorities does not always indicate that a NBSAP is inefficient or unconcerned with the needs of local communities. It can be the result of practical limitations. The Brazilian respondents pointed to the size and geographical diversity of their country – since each area has extremely different priorities, it would be very difficult to reflect all of them in a NBSAP. The respondents who said that their NBSAP is not aligned with their subnational priorities illustrated the need for improved communication and a more streamlined vision for biodiversity outcomes. The respondents from Namibia mentioned land degradation as one of their areas of utmost concern, an aspect not included in a NBSAP. The respondents from the Philippines indicated that their subnational and national governments have fundamentally different attitudes towards biodiversity – the local level believes in a more eco-centric approach than the national level. Overall, it seems that all subnational governments could benefit from more inclusive NBSAPs, especially if they don't have subnational BSAPs.
Please reflect on the current barriers and challenges to making the NBSAP more useful and connected to local priorities.	The overarching problem associated with NBSAP is that it does not reach or have the capability to effectively implement change at the local level. This can stem from a lack of knowledge. A few countries mentioned that while their countries' NBSAPs are good documents, they aren't known about at the subnational level. Furthermore, some subnational entities still don't realize the connection between the environment and their responsibilities; they consequently don't utilize the NBSAPs as they see them as unrelated to their work. For the local authorities that are aware of the NBSAP, oftentimes a lack of funding, capacity, technical support, and/or coordination make the goals or mandates of the NBSAP difficult to actualize. Another issue is the absence of clear targets or enforcement measures set for the local level. Without these, it is hard to guarantee that subnational progress (which is essential to the overall national contribution) will be made.
In 2-4 paragraphs, please explain what changes you would like to see in the NBSAP (process and product), to help overcome these challenges and make it more useful and connected to local priorities. Please comment on what actions/mechanisms are required in order to make those changes happen.	The respondents suggested a number of tactics to address common challenges related to NBSAPs. One of the main suggestions was to increase awareness and knowledge for stakeholders and communities. Subnational governments should be made aware of the existence of NBSAPs (apparently many communities aren't), how it pertains to their communities, and the available tools to implement change. Workshops were recommended to achieve this goal of educating communities as well as increasing ownership of biodiversity issues. Another change the respondents agreed was necessary was to find ways to make NBSAPs more aligned with local priorities – suggestions in achieving this included developing local BSAPs where they do not exist, making NBSAPs more comprehensive, decentralizing aspects of NBSAPs, and reviewing and updating BSAPs more frequently to make sure that they reflect changing needs and priorities. Numerous respondents also proposed that governments introduce measurement standards and monitoring methods to ensure that communities are actually fulfilling their biodiversity responsibilities. This would help gauge the success of programs and collect data that would be valuable in the formulation of future initiatives. Another widely stated challenge – one that is more difficult to correct – is lack of resources. The respondents stated that their governments and international organizations should provide more resources (funding, technical training, etc.) if they want to see projects implemented. At the very least, in order to deal with a lack of capital, local authorities could identify areas of priority that are non-negotiable in the face of budget cuts.

¹² City of Cape Town, Buikwe District Local Government, Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality, Gobierno Regional de Piura, Imo State, Iraq Subnational Government, Jinja District Local Government, Kayunga District, Kwazulu-Natal Wildlife Provincial Organization, Lilongwe, Medellín Municipality, Namibia Subnational Government, Oyam District Local Government, Palawan Council for Sustainable Development, São Paulo State, Special Support Fund for Local Authorities (FEICOM) Cameroon, Timor-Leste Subnational Government, Western Cape Province.

¹³ The Special Fund for Inter-communal Equipment and Intervention (FEICOM) is a public administration establishment that was created by law No 74/23 of 5th December 1974. Its main purpose is to organize local councils in the country; and provide mutual assistance through technical and financial support.





4.

CASE STUDIES



To support the Guidelines, Parties were asked to submit case studies on success stories and best practices in ...

...their endeavour to protect biodiversity and aid the implementation of NBSAPs. Parties that submitted case studies were: Canada (Government of Québec; Biodiversity Education and Awareness Working Group (BEAN), Ontario Biodiversity Council and Canada - Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and Ontario Biodiversity Council); Japan (Aichi Prefectural Government); Singapore; South Africa (City of Cape Town).

Canada - Government of Québec

The Government of Québec declared itself bounded by the CBD in 1992 and developed two biodiversity strategies and related action plans for the periods 1996-2000 and 2004-2007. The Government of Québec is currently working to meet the objectives of the CBD's Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. To do so, in 2013 it published its Government Biological Diversity Guidelines as a first step to reach the Aichi Targets.

Government Biological Diversity Guidelines stem from a broad dialogue process involving some twelve Government of Québec ministries and civil society actors. These guidelines are meant for all Government of Québec ministries and other governmental bodies. Their top priority is to ensure that biodiversity issues are taken into account in policy planning and implementing action. The significant advantage of these guidelines is that they provide ministries and governmental bodies with a flexible framework for improving how they incorporate biodiversity issues into their respective fields of activity.

They are also excellent tools for mainstreaming biodiversity in all government areas of endeavour. Moreover, all ministries and government bodies are charged with defining mission-specific targets, monitoring indicators and adequate accountability procedures. The Guidelines also instituted a Biological Diversity Steering Committee, composed of high-level governmental representatives from several ministries, to ensure inter-ministerial coordination and collaboration.

The Government of Québec is currently preparing an overview of government actions that contribute to the achievement of the Aichi Targets. This is one more step on the road to identifying eventual gaps, steering future efforts and implementing optimal complementary structural policies. A preliminary review has concluded that the Government of Québec is acting on all of the Aichi Targets that fall within the purview of its responsibilities. It also uses the wide range of tools at its disposal to intervene in the field of biodiversity. These include legislation and regulations, strategic instruments, programs, publications and concrete implementation actions.



Canada - Biodiversity Education and Awareness Working Group (BEAN), Ontario Biodiversity Council

Description of the successful mechanism

The Biodiversity Education and Awareness Network (BEAN) is a working group of the Ontario Biodiversity Council. It was created in 2005 as part of Ontario's first biodiversity strategy. BEAN is a network of organizations that work together to increase awareness and understanding of biodiversity. Its members come from formal and non-formal education, the environment and conservation sectors, government and private industry.

BEAN inspires and empowers people to value, protect and improve biodiversity by:

- Developing Ontario curriculum-linked resources on biodiversity;
- Supporting International Biodiversity Day events;
- Supporting a new organization called Emerging Leaders for Biodiversity, providing youth and young professionals with a forum to get hands-on experience, network and share knowledge, and contribute to biodiversity conservation;
- Providing an online calendar of biodiversity and education related events and activities in Ontario, and
- Assisting others in program development and delivery.

Reason of importance and factor of success

Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy 2011 (OBS) is organized around four strategic directions: engage people, reduce threats, enhance resilience and improve knowledge. Action and activities are required under each of the four strategic directions to meet the goals of the OBS.

BEAN's reach goes beyond that of the Ontario Biodiversity Council and connects teachers, outdoor education specialists, conservation organizations and institutions with an education and awareness mandate. BEAN provides teachers and educators with resources and support to increase knowledge of biodiversity and awareness of its importance to health and well-being.

Challenges and main obstacles

There are many individuals and organizations that are interested in supporting biodiversity education and awareness but lack the resources and support to do so. There are also many organizations that offer resources and support but are not able to reach all audiences who might benefit. BEAN's unique model as a network that connects people and groups allows it to eliminate these obstacles by connecting scientists, governments and resource providers with teachers, parents and students to provide educational resources and practical actions to conserve biodiversity.

Solutions/tools

BEAN administers a small grant program for International Day for Biodiversity events and activities with funding available up to \$500 (CDN). Grants can be used for activities include hosting a BioBlitz, removing invasive species and organizing community biodiversity walks, fairs and speakers. Funding for the grant program is provided by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. In-kind support for BEAN is provided by the organizations represented on the BEAN board of directors.

BEAN has produced a number of resource documents linked to the Ontario school curriculum that are provided directly to teachers and other practitioners. Several of these documents were developed based on the theme for the International Day for Biological Diversity, as determined by the UN Convention on Biological Diversity. Themes with curricula support included: Island Biodiversity (Ontario's Natural and Man Made Islands), Water & Biodiversity, Marine Biodiversity (Ontario's Oceans), Forests & Biodiversity and Invasive Species (Garlic Mustard Removal).

Lessons learnt and elements for replication

An organization dedicated to supporting biodiversity education and awareness (both formal and non-formal) is able to reach and connect with audiences while providing information and resources in a form useful to practitioners who undertake biodiversity education and awareness activities.

Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy 2011 includes several targets relevant to biodiversity education and awareness including:

1. By 2015, biodiversity is integrated into the elementary, secondary and postsecondary school curricula, including schools business. [This target was used as the basis for a national one under the *2020 Biodiversity Goals and Targets for Canada*.]
2. By 2015, 50 percent of Ontarians understand biodiversity and its role in maintaining their health and well-being. [This target is similar Aichi Target 1.]

The State of Ontario's Biodiversity report uses indicators to track progress against these targets. In 2015, substantial progress was reported. Biodiversity was fully integrated into the curriculum at elementary and secondary schools and was partially integrated into postsecondary and schools of business. Further, 60% of Ontarians were found to be aware of the term biodiversity; 36% correctly defined it; 17% provided a partial definition and 73% agreed that biodiversity was important to their health.

Further references

- BEAN website [www.biodiversityeducation.ca]
- State of Ontario's Biodiversity 2015 [www.sobr.ca]
- Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy 2011 [<http://viewer.zmags.com/publication/c527c66f>]

Canada - Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and Ontario Biodiversity Council

Name of the Case Study: The Framework for Conserving Biodiversity in Ontario, Canada

Description of the successful mechanism

The Ontario Biodiversity Council (OBC), created in 2005, is a multi-stakeholder, provincial-level organization that has “come together” to achieve the vision and higher order goals and targets set by Ontario’s Biodiversity Strategy 2011 (OBS). It is blueprint championed by Council for an ecologically sustainable future for Ontario.

The Council’s task is to help drive the implementation of the OBS through its members and more broadly, across society. The Council is also committed to report on the state of Ontario’s biodiversity on a five year cycle and to report progress against targets. Two reports have been produced, with the first being released in 2010. The second report, *State of Ontario’s Biodiversity Report 2015* (SOBR 2015), was formally launched on May 19, 2015, on the eve of the Ontario Biodiversity Summit. It can be found at: <http://ontariobiodiversitycouncil.ca/sobr/>.

The Council currently has a membership of some 34 organizations from a broad constituency of industry and industry associations, conservation and environmental groups, academia, Aboriginal groups and the provincial government, all united around the theme of “protecting what sustains us” (see: ontariobiodiversitycouncil.ca). This embodies the spirit of mainstreaming biodiversity across various sectors. The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry provides superb secretariat support for the Council’s work.

The Council is not an advisory body to government, nor does it formally report to government. Rather, the government is formally represented in the Council by the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry who brings a vitally important public sector voice to its activities. Indeed the provincial government of Ontario produced its own response to the Ontario Biodiversity Strategy in December 2012, entitled: *Biodiversity – It’s in our Nature* (BIION). Sixteen provincial Ministries have explicitly indicated their role in conserving Ontario’s biodiversity and have agreed to act on 24 actions from the OBS.

Reason of importance and factor of success

Ontario’s first biodiversity strategy (OBS 2005) set out to challenge and overcome the notion that the protection of biodiversity and the sustainable use of biological assets is the unique preserve of government. “Government can be a change agent and a partner in implementation, but cannot do so alone. Protecting the diversity of life on Earth – of which we are an integral part – requires broad societal consensus and participation. It is a challenge not for some of us, but for all of us.”

The OBS 2005 was reviewed, revised and strengthened through yet another multi-stakeholder engagement process during the first half of 2011, led by the Ontario Biodiversity Council. That engagement process served to further cement Council ownership and commitment to the strategy.

Ontario’s Biodiversity Strategy 2011 is a 10-year strategy which includes a vision statement, three high level goals, four strategic directions and 15-time bound targets that broadly align with the CBD Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and associated Aichi Targets.

Given its broad membership, the Ontario Biodiversity Council sets out to work across sectors and interests to mainstream biodiversity in society. Members are encouraged to develop their own biodiversity programs that are in alignment with the OBS 2011. They also work to deliver messages about biodiversity and the state of biodiversity to a wide cross section of Ontario.

Challenges and main obstacles

OBS establishes a blueprint for living within the means of nature and reducing the human footprint. However, despite Ontario’s framework for biodiversity conservation, biodiversity remains as not a “top of mind” issue for many, including decision makers.

In terms of progress on the OBS, the State of Ontario’s Biodiversity

2015 Report in May 2015 made a few things very clear. While Ontario is making decent progress in achieving targets associated with engaging people, reducing threats and improving knowledge, it is lagging in achieving targets associated with Enhancing Resilience. This is something Ontario must do to both slow down the rate of biodiversity loss and to become truly “restorative”. Ontario needs to close these gaps and significantly accelerate its efforts if it is to even come close to achieving OBS targets by 2020. Whereas work will continue on all targets, the Council believes it must focus its efforts on those targets where performance is clearly lagging.

Accordingly, its strategic focus over the next five years pertains to enhancing ecosystem resilience by linking the two greatest global environmental issues of our time, biodiversity loss and climate change into an integrated response to achieve multiple wins for biodiversity, climate and society. These issues are intertwined both in terms of causation and in terms of solutions. Finding effective solutions is challenged by institutional barriers at virtually all levels, from international to national to subnational agreements which treat these issues separately and often under different government agencies. Our challenge is to effectively break down the institutional barriers and “silos” that exist between climate change mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity. We believe that much greater attention is needed to promote biodiversity friendly, nature-based actions for climate mitigation and adaptation for the multiple benefits they will achieve. That also means protecting, sustainably managing and restoring ecosystem services across the landscape at multiple scales.

Solutions/tools

To address these challenges, the Council believes that “protecting, restoring and sustainably managing the diversity of life on Earth is our best defence in a world of rapidly changing climate.”

Accordingly, the Council will work on the following four priorities over the planning period 2016–2020:

1. Enhance ecosystem resilience in a changing climate through habitat protection, restoration and stewardship. Specific actions include:
 - Integrate biodiversity into provincial climate change strategies;
 - Value, maintain, restore and enhance ecosystem services (e.g. flood attenuation values of wetlands);
 - Develop and implement biodiversity plans and strategies at the landscape and municipal levels; and
 - Expand the protected areas system to achieve Aichi Target 11.
2. Maintain and update the State of Ontario’s Biodiversity Report;
3. Engage people in supporting and implementing Ontario’s Biodiversity Strategy so that we may better enhance ecosystem resilience, and;
4. Promote the Ontario Biodiversity Council as a champion for biodiversity and as a trusted source for information on the state of biodiversity in Ontario.

Lessons learnt and elements for replication

Involving key sectors and stakeholders in the development and oversight of a Biodiversity Strategy is key to achieving ownership and commitment for its implementation.

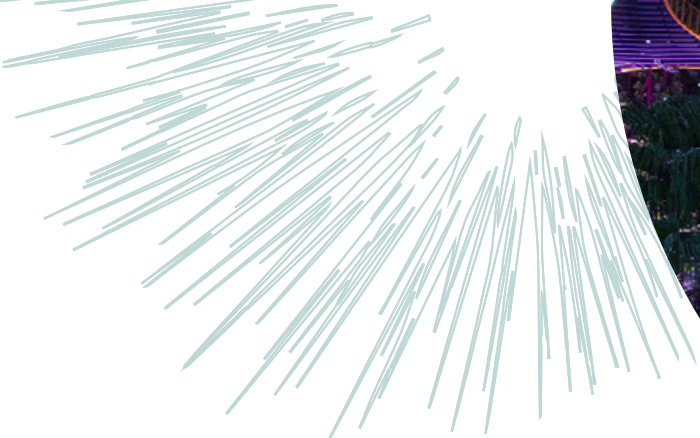
Whereas this is an issue for everyone and all sectors, it is clear that government has a key role in sustaining the effort and providing the institutional glue to build and maintain momentum to achieve desired biodiversity outcomes.

Greater levels of coordination between levels of government can reduce redundancy of effort and help empower groups closest to the ground where actions are most urgently needed.

A parallel effort is needed for business sectors at multiple scales to ensure that biodiversity is mainstreamed into planning and operations as a way of doing business, in a manner similar to the ISO 14001 standard of a commitment to the “prevention of pollution”.

Further references

- Ontario’s Biodiversity Strategy 2011
- Biodiversity: It’s In Our Nature, Ontario Government Plan to Conserve Biodiversity 2012-2020



Japan - Aichi Prefectural Government

Name of the Case Study:

Involving Local Governments in the Implementation of NBSAs through “Ecological Network Councils”

Description of the successful mechanism

The Aichi Prefecture divided its territory into nine sub-regions and established “Ecological Network Councils” in each of them. These councils draw their members from NPOs, universities, private companies and local governments. There are 54 municipalities in Aichi, and all of them participate in at least one of the councils.

The councils provide us with opportunities to involve local governments, including those not actively engaged in the conservation of biodiversity, in the discussion on the NBSAs and LBSAPs through forums, meetings and other networking tools, such as mailing lists.

Reason of importance and factor of success

Although the Ministry of the Environment (MoE), Japan, is taking part in the development and implementation of Aichi’s LBSAPs, local governments are currently not involved. To help the municipalities understand and implement the NBSAPs and our LBSAPs, the Ecological Network Councils are very effective as they enable us to communicate and share information with local governments.

In these councils, the local governments can work proactively and conceive the conservation of biodiversity as their own matters. This is because they are based in the local area and not the whole prefecture.

Challenges and main obstacles

Although all 54 municipalities in Aichi participate in our Ecological Network Councils, where we have been communicating with local governments, the level of engagement of each government varies.

Similarly, although the MoE Japan encourages local governments to make their own LBSAPs to implement at local level NBSAPs and Prefectural LBSAPs, the number of municipalities that have already published their LBSAPs is limited. In Aichi, only three big cities have made their own LBSAPs so far. Because they do not have their own LBSAPs, local governments that are small are failing in taking actual measures to conserve biodiversity.

Solutions/tools

We have been sharing information on biodiversity with local governments through various events held by Ecological Network Councils and are pleased to report that some councils are developing their own collaborative LBSAPs. In addition, in 2016, the Prefecture held a seminar for the local governments on how to develop their own LBSAPs that align with NBSAPs and Prefectural LBSAPs. As a result, several governments are now starting to establish one.

Lessons learnt and elements for replication

To implement NBSAPs at regional level, which can be a very vast task, it is essential to work closely with municipalities. In this, it is effective to have a tool like our “Ecological Network Councils” to connect the regional and local governments and enable the municipalities to work actively in their own areas.





Singapore

Name of the Case Study:

Conserving Singapore's biodiversity through the Community in Nature Initiative

The Community in Nature (CIN) Initiative is a national movement to connect and engage communities in conserving Singapore's natural heritage. Launched in September 2011, this initiative is aligned to National Parks Board's (NParks) *City in a Garden* vision and Singapore's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. It seeks to involve multiple groups of stakeholders – educational and research institutions, families, corporate groups, government agencies, NGOs and passionate individuals in the conservation of Singapore's biodiversity through a range of targeted programmes focusing on the streams of nature education, citizen science habitat enhancement and species recovery (www.nparks.gov.sg/biodiversity/community-in-nature-initiative).

The Festival of Biodiversity is a key signature CIN event organised annually by NParks in collaboration with the Biodiversity Roundtable (a group comprising local non-governmental organisations involved in local biodiversity issues) to target the masses. Inaugurated in 2012 by Singapore's President Tony Tan Keng Yam, the festival marks a major milestone for biodiversity conservation where the biodiversity community, public agencies, corporate and school groups and individuals are galvanised to contribute to a common goal: the conservation of Singapore's natural heritage. It is also the first national effort and the most comprehensive gathering of groups to communicate the importance of biodiversity and its conservation to Singaporeans and residents of Singapore. The two-day educational event involves some 300 volunteers and 30 partners, each contributing to the Festival's programme and exhibits to create greater awareness and interest in our biodiversity; and has reached some 65,000 people over a five year period. Based on straw polls done during the event some 96% of visitors stated that they gained a deeper understanding and appreciation of our rich biodiversity, its benefits and relevance in Singapore.

CIN also seeks to empower the community through active participation in biodiversity conservation programmes. In particular, citizen science programmes serve as an effective tool to achieve multiple goals – outreach, crowd-sourced research efforts involving the community and amassing useful data that yields interesting information to guide conservation and management. A record number of over 1,000 volunteers have participated in NParks CIN Citizen Science programmes since April 2015, which include Garden Bird Watch, Butterfly Watch and BioBlitzes.

CIN efforts also focus on schools as they are natural targets to increase awareness of biodiversity and environmental education. In observance of International Day of Biological Diversity, a week-long variety of activities is typically planned targeting students of different age groups from pre-schools to tertiary institutions. In 2016, these activities were carried out across 270 schools, reaching over 17,000 students. Schools that wish to pursue a deeper involvement in biodiversity conservation are encouraged to participate in programmes with higher involvement by teachers and students. Initiated in 2014, the Greening Schools for Biodiversity programme promotes the targeted planting of bird-, butterfly-, and/or dragonfly-attracting plants guided by results from student-led biodiversity audits. Through this programme, not only are habitats created for animals, bringing the entire school population closer to nature, the resultant green network of schools also has the potential to act as link-ways for wildlife movement between nature areas across the whole of Singapore. Participants of the programme are also encouraged to learn about, appreciate, and support local biodiversity. Growing from strength to strength, there are currently 80 schools in the programme.

South Africa - City of Cape Town

Name of the Case Study: Discuss how spatial planning was incorporated into biodiversity planning (SPLUMA and the BioNet)

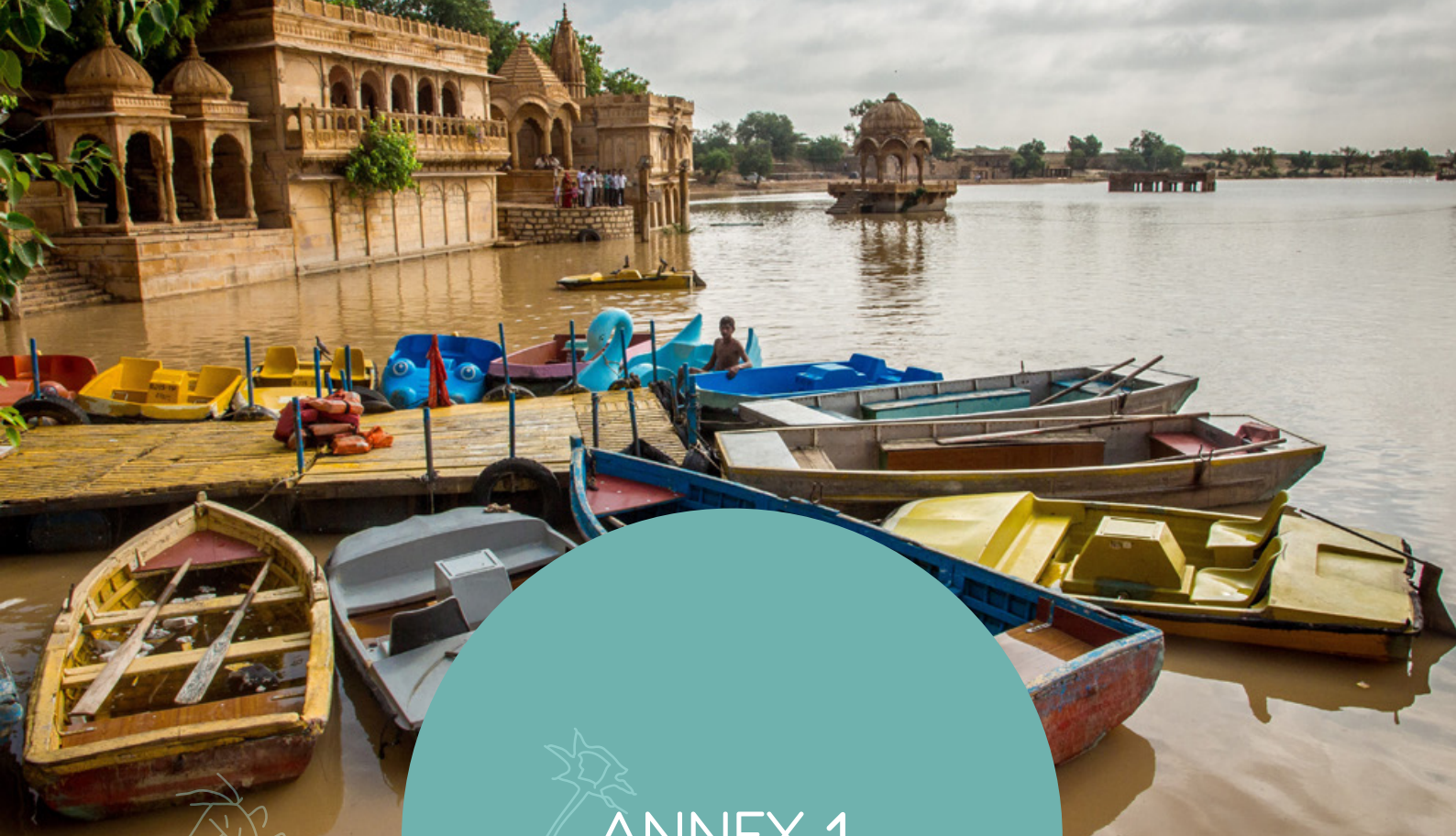
Cape Town (the city) is located within a global biodiversity hotspot. In order to ensure a sustainable city and to facilitate development, good planning is critical. Its local government, the City of Cape Town (the City) has been at the forefront of conservation planning in South Africa and has a long history of identifying which parcels of land it should proclaim, protect and manage.

The City's systematic biodiversity conservation plan – known as the Biodiversity Network (BioNet) – is a key informant in its Integrated Development Plan (IDP); and the base layer for Cape Town's Spatial Development Framework (SDFs), Environmental Management Frameworks (EMFs) and Spatial District Plans (SDPs), helping to guide development towards a sustainable city. The Bioregional Plan (incorporating the BioNet and management guidelines) was adopted by its Council in July 2015 and is also core element of the City's approved Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (LBSAP 2009-2019). Although both the Environmental Impact Assessments and the Land Use Planning processes should take cognisance of biodiversity, decisions often ultimately fail to protect the BioNet as transformation of natural areas remains the greatest threat to biodiversity and ecosystem services within the city. It is acknowledged that development is critical to address Cape Town's social and economic challenges, but it is also essential to ensure that it is sustainable and that biodiversity is integrated into open-space systems for the benefit of all citizens. It is also necessary to ensure that ecosystem services are sustained.

Finally, it has been far more successful to proactively secure and conserve land according to the BioNet priorities than to rely on EIAs and land use decision making processes.







ANNEX 1

PLAN OF ACTION ON SUBNATIONAL GOVERNMENTS, CITIES AND OTHER LOCAL AUTHORITIES FOR BIODIVERSITY (2011-2020)

In decision X/22, the Conference of the Parties to the CBD endorsed the Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity (2011-2020) and encouraged Parties and other Governments as well as subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities and their networks to implement it, as appropriate, in the context of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, taking into account national priorities, capacities and needs.

A. Background

1. The Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity under the Convention on Biological Diversity is intended to support Parties, their partners and local authorities in implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties, as well as paragraphs 3, 4, 5, and 6 of decision IX/28, consistent with each Party's specific governance arrangements and legislation. The Plan of Action has been developed through a four-year long wide-ranging consultation process with Parties, Cities and Local Authorities, and other organizations cooperating through the Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity at various events through 2010, culminating with the Aichi/Nagoya City Biodiversity Summit, held from 24 to 26 October 2010, on the margins of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Nagoya, Japan.

B. Mission

1. Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity should, as appropriate, seek to engage their subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities, as appropriate, to achieve the objectives of the Convention and the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, by developing policy tools, guidelines and programmes, providing technical assistance and/or guidance, as appropriate, in line with their national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) and other relevant governance arrangements established by their national Governments.

(a) Relevant tools, guidelines and capacity-building programmes based on best practices, as well as innovative financial mechanisms to support their implementation should, as appropriate be in place to increase synergies between the various levels of government in implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, considering the specific mandates of each level of government;

(b) National biodiversity strategies and action plans should be supported, as appropriate, by subnational and local strategies and corresponding action plans;

(c) Awareness campaigns on the importance of biodiversity and ecosystem services should, as appropriate be implemented at local level as part of the Parties' communication, education and public awareness strategies, including major groups such as business, youth, non-governmental organizations and indigenous and local communities, through initiatives such as celebrations of the International Day for Biological Diversity (May 22), *The Green Wave* initiative, and other activities in support of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

(d) Monitoring and evaluation systems for subnational governments and local authorities should, as appropriate be applied, guided by national frameworks, to report on progress to national governments in line with reporting obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity, and to set benchmarks for local biodiversity management in line with the 2011-2020 indicator framework under the Convention on Biological Diversity, using tools such as the Singapore Index on Cities' Biodiversity¹⁴.

C. Objectives

2. The present Plan of Action has the following objectives, based on the mission outlined above:

(a) Increase the engagement of subnational governments and local authorities, in support of their Parties, in the successful implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, the 2020 target and the programmes of work under the Convention on Biological Diversity;

(b) Improve regional and global coordination and exchange of lessons learnt between Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, regional and global organizations, United Nations and development agencies, academia, and donors on ways and means to encourage and support local authorities to manage biodiversity sustainably, provide ecosystem services to citizens and incorporate biodiversity concerns into urban planning and development;

(c) Identify, enhance and disseminate policy tools, guidelines, and programmes that facilitate local action on biodiversity and build the capacity of local authorities to support their national Governments in implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity;

(d) Develop awareness-raising programmes on biodiversity for local residents (including major groups such as business, local administrators, non-governmental organizations, youth and indigenous and local communities) in line with communication, education and public awareness strategies.

D. Indicative list of activities

3. Parties may wish to consider the activities below, based on concrete examples researched with the Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity, in order to enable and support their subnational governments and local authorities to contribute to the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity. These activities are considered to be interrelated and complementary:

(a) Consider and engage subnational governments and local authorities in the revision and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) at the local level, as appropriate;

(b) Encourage the development and implementation of subnational and local biodiversity strategies and actions

plans in support of national biodiversity strategies and action plans;

(c) Encourage subnational governments and local authorities to apply the ecosystem approach and promote other holistic landscape management approaches, consistent with relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties, integrated into adaptation and sustainable development plans, and engage them in synergies across the Rio conventions and the biodiversity-related conventions;

(d) Recognize and reward efforts of subnational governments and local authorities in implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity at their respective levels, such as through the ICLEI Local Action for Biodiversity programme, the European Capitals of Biodiversity award, the Nordic Nature project, the *Red + Biodiversidad 2010* in Spain and many others;

(e) Encourage subnational governments and local authorities, as appropriate, to integrate biodiversity considerations into public procurement policies and urban infrastructure investments (parkways and green transportation systems, public buildings, vertical gardens, water treatment and distribution, convention and conference centres, housing projects, waste management, etc.);

(f) Engage subnational governments and local authorities in the implementation of the programme of work on protected areas of the Convention on Biological Diversity, by supporting the establishment and maintenance of systems of local protected areas, local conservation corridors and mosaics of land-use (such as biosphere reserves), in line with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020;

(g) Encourage, promote and support, as appropriate and through policy tools, guidelines and programmes, direct decentralized cooperation on biodiversity and development between local authorities at national, regional and global levels;

(h) Promote and support the representation of subnational governments, Cities and other local authorities in delegations for official events and activities under the Convention on Biological Diversity, such as meetings of the Conference of the Parties, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, the Working Group on Review of Implementation, and *ad hoc* technical expert groups. Local authorities can contribute specifically to thematic programmes of work and cross-cutting issues such as inland waters, protected areas, invasive alien species, climate change, development and poverty alleviation, tourism, health and biodiversity, agriculture, food and nutrition, among others;

(i) Support the development of landscape-level and ecosystem-based partnerships between subnational governments and local authorities on conservation corridors and sustainable land-use mosaics at national and transboundary levels, also in the context of the Multi-Year Plan of Action on South-South Cooperation for Biodiversity and Development;

(j) Organize regular consultations with local authorities (such as Japan's preparatory meeting for the City Biodiversity Summit 2010 and Canada's consultative process), regarding their commitments and activities that contribute to the targets and relevant programmes of work of the Convention on Biological Diversity; also as a contribution to each Party's reporting process to Conference of the Parties and Convention bodies.

¹⁴ The User's Manual for the index, developed in two expert meetings and tested in over 30 cities, is available at <http://www.cbd.int/authorities/gettinginvolved/cbi.shtml>.

(k) Support as appropriate the use of the Singapore Index on Cities' Biodiversity, and local biodiversity surveys and assessments or similar mechanisms, as a means for local authorities to measure the state of their biodiversity and its management in line with the Convention's 2011-2020 indicator framework;

(l) Contribute to a dialogue with and between subnational governments and local authorities at regional and international levels through relevant forums to be held back to back with or parallel to the meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;

(m) Welcome the Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity as a possible platform for promoting cooperation and strengthening local-national dialogue;

(n) Organize, as appropriate and while recognizing the roles of different levels of government, capacitybuilding initiatives (web-based tools, publications, newsletters, collections of case studies, best practices and lessons learnt, workshops, seminars and conferences) for local authorities on the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and on the present Plan of Action and its tools (including the Singapore Index on Cities' Biodiversity), at national, regional and global levels, and disseminate these through the clearinghouse mechanism;

(o) Promote research and technology development on urban biodiversity, and encourage the establishment of national and regional centres of excellence in urban biodiversity, and biodiversityfriendly city design, planning and management, with links to global academic networks such as URBIO and URBIS,

(p) Per the communication, education and public awareness programme of the Convention on Biological Diversity, encourage local authorities to reach out to major groups such as children and youth, women, local parliamentarians and/or legislators, NGOs and businesses, to raise awareness about the importance of biodiversity and promote partnerships on local action for biodiversity.

E. Partnerships and coordination mechanism

4. Parties and other Governments are encouraged to implement the Plan of Action, as appropriate, with the support of the Secretariat of the Convention, and other key partners, taking into account national priorities, capacities and needs, and to report on their activities in future national reports of the Parties to the Convention.

5. An advisory committee comprising mayors of relevant cities will provide input and support to the Plan from the point of view of Cities and local authorities. These Cities may be previous and/or current hosts of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and its Secretariat. When first set up in 2007, it included the mayors of the headquarters of the Convention, Montreal, and of past and future venues of the Conference of the Parties: Curitiba, Bonn and Nagoya. The host mayors of the last and upcoming meetings of the Conferences of the Parties will act as co-chairs of the Advisory Committee. A similar mechanism may be set up for subnational governments in close consultation with Parties and their partners, such as National and Regional Governments for Sustainable Development (nrg4SD), in recognition of their critical, complementary and distinct role in the implementation of the Convention.

6. Implementation of the Plan of Action will also be supported by the Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity, an informal cooperative platform launched at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in 2008 and composed of United Nations agencies and programmes,

such as UN-HABITAT, UNEP and UNESCO, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), academic networks such as URBIO and networks of local authorities such as ICLEI and its Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB) programme, and facilitated by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Global Partnership and its advisory committees may propose events and activities in support of the plan of action, and may meet at the margins of relevant and appropriate meetings of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The meetings will be open to Parties, observers or special invitees, and its outcomes will be incorporated into reports submitted to Parties by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity at each meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

7. Parties may further promote projects and programmes and coordinate activities in support of sub-national and local authorities at the regional and global levels through regional centres of excellence and organizations, and regional offices of United Nations agencies. Consultations and partnerships may involve other relevant and interested stakeholders such as donors, regional economic commissions, regional development banks, representatives of the private sector, NGOs, and indigenous and local communities as appropriate. Where such regional mechanisms do not exist and when appropriate, Parties and the Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity may cooperate towards their establishment.

8. The Plan of Action recognizes the need to maintain flexibility in its strategy for implementation in order to accommodate changing national and local priorities as well as future decisions of the Conference of the Parties.

F. Monitoring and reporting

9. In order to measure the success of the Plan of Action, Parties are requested to include, in their national reports and other reports to the Convention on Biological Diversity (such as in-depth reviews and issues-based consultations), information on cooperation between different levels of government, and with relevant local organizations, on subnational and local action for biodiversity. Parties may promote the use of self-monitoring tools such as the Singapore Index on Cities' Biodiversity (CBI) to set goals and milestones, and to measure progress by subnational and local authorities.

10. At the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in 2012, and subsequent meetings, the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity reported on the implementation of the present Plan of Action. This will continue at further meetings. Contributions will be sought from relevant Parties, participating organizations and United Nations agencies.

G. Funding

11. The present Plan is designed to avoid additional financial burdens on Parties and partners; however, according to national priorities and processes, and in acknowledgment of the substantial implementation capacity and obligations of the subnational and local levels, Parties may identify funding avenues oriented specifically towards biodiversity at the subnational and local levels for the implementation of this Plan of action. Initiatives may include, *inter alia*:

(a) Designing and supporting innovative partnerships with the private sector, non-governmental organizations, development banks, multi- and bilateral cooperation agencies and other donors, to support subnational and local authorities in the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

(b) Engaging and linking subnational governments and local authorities and their networks with new and innovative financial mechanisms being discussed and formulated in other areas such as climate change, payments for ecosystem services and enhanced efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD +);

(c) Exploring opportunities presented by environmental fiscal reforms, including innovative tax allocation models

and fiscal incentives for achieving the three objectives of the Convention at the subnational and local levels;

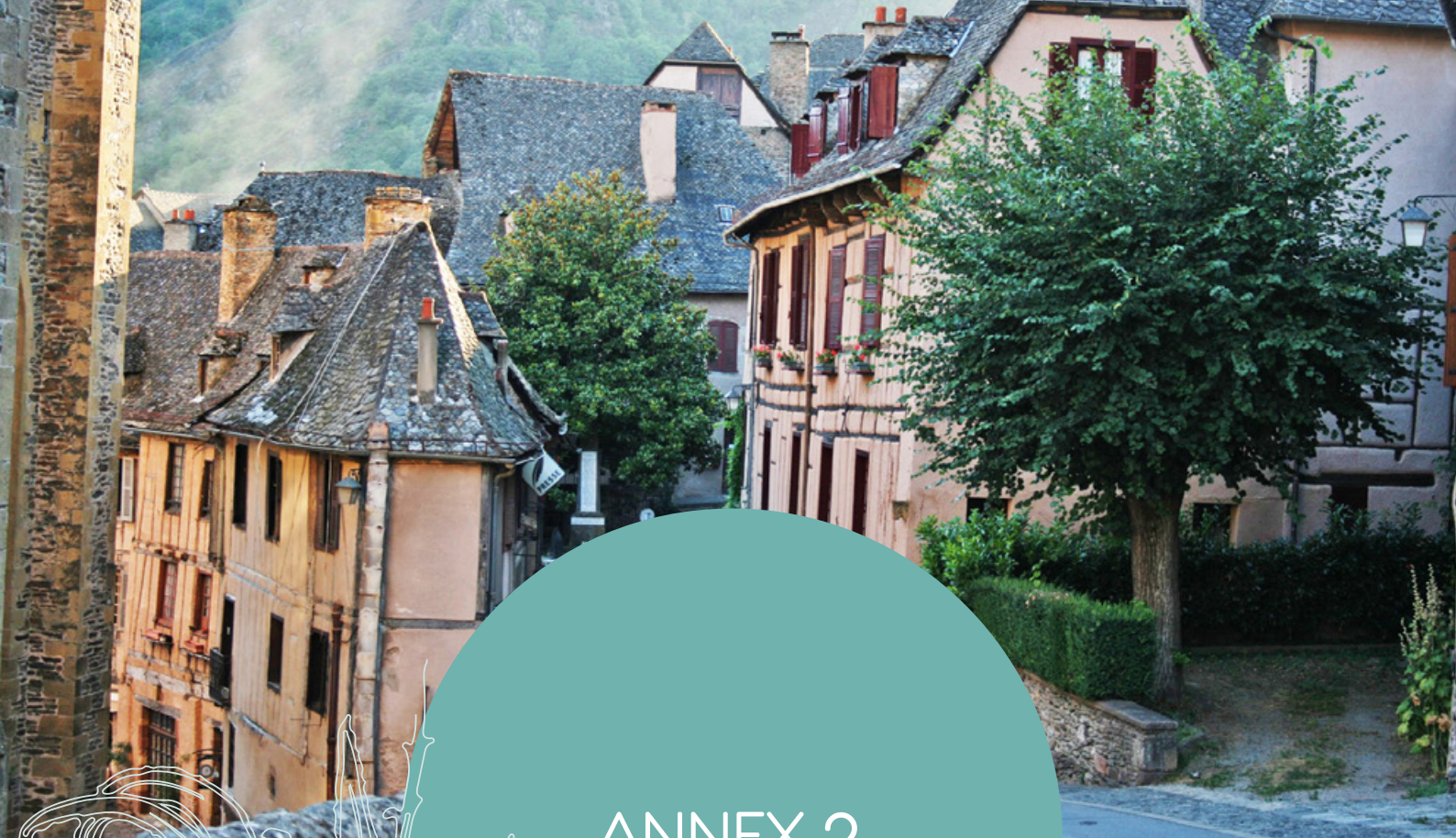
(d) Earmarking national budgetary allocations and re-prioritizing existing allocations to engage subnational and local authorities on local action on biodiversity;

(e) Engaging the Global Environment Facility to assist in efforts to implement the Plan of Action at the project level.









ANNEX 2

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS

This questionnaire is produced by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in partnership with ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability. It marks the first phase of a project (*"Building Capacity for the Subnational Implementation of NBSAPs"*, financed by the Japan Biodiversity Fund) that seeks to improve subnational and local implementation of the Strategic Plan on Biodiversity around the world. The questionnaire should take roughly 20 minutes to complete.

Please Note:

- It is not required that your country have an NBSAP that is separate from the sustainable development plans and policies. The term "NBSAP" may also refer to the biodiversity management sections of national development plans/strategies/policies.
- In this questionnaire, "subnational government" refers to any governmental body that governs on a more localized level than the national government, and includes provincial, municipal, state, and regional governments.

Your thoughtful reflections and thorough insights will inform the creation of a set of guidelines that will assist in building the capacity of all Parties to the CBD and their subnational counterparts to implement NBSAPs, as they work to sustainably manage and protect their biodiversity. We appreciate your time and your candid responses, as they will directly impact the quality of the resource being produced.

Name: _____

Title/Role in Government: _____

Country: _____

Email address: _____

Phone Number: _____

In a sentence or two, please provide a brief explanation of your role in the development and implementation of the NBSAP.

Is there someone else who has had more involvement with the development and implementation of the NBSAP who should fill out this survey? If so, please write their name and email address below. You may list multiple people.

1) If your country has produced an NBSAP, does the latest version include strategies and actions for subnational governments to follow?

If yes, what are these strategies/actions (e.g. ecosystem restoration, management of protected areas, etc.)?

If no, do you have future plans to include them (please elaborate)?

2) How have subnational governments participated in the latest NBSAP development process?

(You may choose more than one answer)

- ☐ There has been direct consultation
- ☐ Subnational governments have not yet participated
- ☐ Subnational governments have attended NBSAP workshops

Please explain your answer.

3) Has your national government produced guidelines specifically on how subnational governments can develop their own subnational Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (BSAPs)?

(You may select more than one answer).

- ☐ No, there are no guidelines on subnational BSAP development as of now
- ☐ Yes, guidelines on development of subnational BSAPs exist in the current NBSAP
- ☐ Yes, guidelines on development of subnational BSAPs exist in another document

If yes, do the guidelines attempt to align subnational BSAPs with NBSAPs? If so, how?

4) In which ways are subnational governments in your country legally mandated or required to conduct biodiversity planning and implementation?

5) Are there currently any incentives in place to promote subnational engagement and implementation of NBSAPs? You may select more than one answer.

- ☐ Recognition of leadership and excellence
- ☐ Technical resources
- ☐ Financial resources
- ☐ Seminars/workshops
- ☐ Incentives

6) Please identify and reflect upon the specific barriers and challenges you see in terms of effective NBSAP implementation by subnational governments in your country.

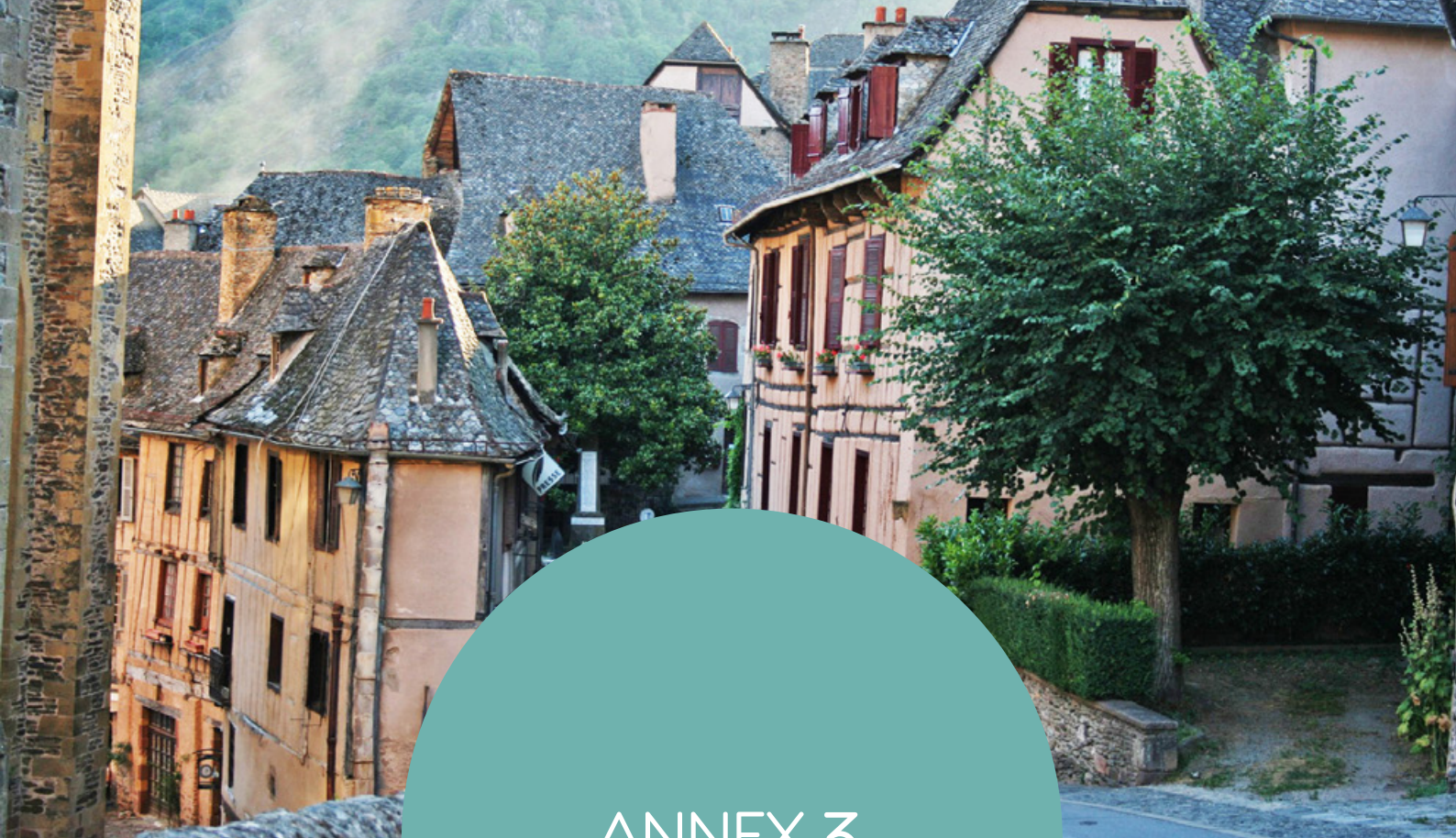
7) In 1-3 paragraphs, please explain which changes/actions you would like to see in order to overcome those challenges and improve NBSAP implementation by subnational governments. What is required in order to make those changes happen?

8) In the short and medium term, can you propose a tool or approach that significantly improves subnational implementation of the NBSAP in your country?

Considering concrete guidance from CBD-COP Decision XII/9 (Engagement with subnational and local governments) and the parallel Summit for Cities and Subnational Authorities to be organized around CBD COP 13 in Mexico (December 2016), do you see an opportunity to advance your work in relation to the proposed tool or approach to improve subnational implementation of the NBSAP (question 8)? Please explain.

9) Please use the space below to suggest any other way through which the Secretariat could help you harmonize national biodiversity strategies with those of Provinces, States and/or Municipalities, and vice versa. You may also use this space to provide any additional information that you feel would be of use.





ANNEX 3



QUESTIONNAIRE FOR SUBNATIONAL GOVERNMENTS

Name: _____

Title/Role in Government: _____

Country: _____

Email address: _____

Phone Number: _____

1) To what extent are you familiar with your country's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)?

- ☐ Not at all familiar (I know only by name)
- ☐ Slightly familiar (limited knowledge)
- ☐ Moderately familiar (knowledgeable)
- ☐ Very familiar (working knowledge/highly knowledgeable)

If possible, please briefly explain your answer below.

- If yes, what was your contribution?**

- ☐ No. We do not have a subnational BSAP.
- ☐ Yes. It is unconnected to the NBSAP.
- ☐ Yes. It is poorly connected- Only a few elements are built on the NBSAP.
- ☐ Yes. It is well integrated and aligned with the NBSAP.
- ☐ Other.

Subnational biodiversity priorities are not included.

- Please elaborate on your answer. E.g. Which key priorities are included and which are not? Which local priorities would you like to see reflected in the NBSAP?**



