



Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.
GENERAL

CBD/SBI/3/INF/30
3 May 2021

ENGLISH ONLY

SUBSIDIARY BODY ON IMPLEMENTATION

Third meeting

Online, 16 May – 13 June 2021

Items 3 and 5 of the provisional agenda*

LESSONS FROM THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME, THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME AND UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME WORLD CONSERVATION MONITORING CENTER IN SUPPORTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR BIODIVERSITY 2011-2020 AND SUGGESTIONS FOR THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

Note by the Executive Secretary

1. The Executive Secretary is pleased to circulate herewith, for the information of participants in the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, an information document that includes some of the key lessons from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) in supporting implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. The document also includes some suggestions to inform the development and subsequent implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.
2. The attached information document is being circulated in the form and language in which it was received.

* CBD/SBI/3/1.



Lessons from UNDP, UNEP and UNEP-WCMC in supporting implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and suggestions for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

Executive Summary

This information document presents lessons learned from the joint work of UNDP, UNEP and UNEP-WCMC to support GEF-eligible Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in revision of their national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) and production of national reports to the CBD, during the period of 2011-2020. Based on these experiences, suggestions are offered for consideration by Parties for the effective design and implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

Key messages are:

- The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including the global Aichi Biodiversity Targets, provided a flexible framework that strongly guided national target setting. Yet, many components were challenging to operationalize and achieve on a national level. Designing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework to also function as a flexible framework for national action would be beneficial.
- The NBSAPs developed during the 2011-2020 period were generally overambitious and lacked prioritization. Governments often did not have sufficient financial resources and institutional capacity to implement, monitor, and report on all of their NBSAP commitments. Effective implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework will therefore require that ambition in outcomes is matched by ambition in the required means of implementation.
- Governments frequently lacked access to adequate quantitative and spatial information on biodiversity and ecosystem services, their uses and importance for society, and related drivers of change. Addressing this need will better position Parties to develop and implement effective biodiversity strategies, monitor and report progress to achieve them, and to make linkages to similar commitments under other multilateral environmental agreements.
- Ministries of environment typically prepared and implemented NBSAPs, with other governmental ministries having lower levels of engagement and ownership. When cross-ministry coordination did occur during NBSAP design and implementation and national reporting, it led to increased positive biodiversity outcomes. There remains considerable potential to build on such mainstreaming successes during the next decade.

- Access to an extensive suite of capacity-building and peer learning opportunities in multiple languages supported Parties in their efforts to produce high quality and data-driven NBSAPs and national reports. Free, web-based, knowledge management platforms such as the [UN Biodiversity Lab](https://unbiodiversitylab.org/)¹ and the [NBSAP Forum](https://nbsapforum.net/)² also provided significant technical support to Parties. Maintaining continued access to these types of tools will help accelerate implementation of the new global biodiversity framework.
- Some Parties faced challenges when using official templates and online tools for national reporting due to lack of capacity and/or connectivity. There is an opportunity to improve the CBD Secretariat's online reporting system by minimizing the technical and linguistic issues that limit Parties from systematically using these resources to develop and submit their reports.

Suggestions for consideration in the **design of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework** include:

- Establishing global targets and indicators that can be commonly used for national target setting, implementation, and reporting.
- Providing flexible guidance for use of the framework to support national policy development and implementation, including any future revision of NBSAPs, to advance national efforts to support achievement of global biodiversity goals and targets.
- Adopting terms and concepts with consideration for how they can be communicated to and understood by a non-specialist audience.

Suggestions for consideration in terms of **monitoring** to assess progress in implementation and **national reporting** to communicate these efforts:

- Developing the format and guidance for NBSAP revision and the Seventh National Report (7NR) alongside the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, to allow Parties sufficient time to prepare and implement these policy mechanisms.
- Revising the structure of NBSAP and national reporting templates to clarify the types of information and metrics that should be reported to avoid confusion, duplication, inconsistency, and gaps in reporting effort.
- Allowing Parties to focus their reporting efforts on the national targets in their NBSAPs, and providing guidance on how to find geospatial and qualitative data on related global targets and indicators.
- Improving the CBD Secretariat's online reporting system by minimizing the technical and language issues that limit Parties from systematically using this tool to develop and submit their reports.
- Considering the benefits of enhancing existing web-based technical tools such as the UN Biodiversity Lab and the [Biodiversity Indicators Partnership](https://www.bipindicators.net/)³, which successfully supported Parties to begin addressing data gaps to improve decision making in the last decade, while also identifying the new types of capacity building methods that are needed.

¹ <https://unbiodiversitylab.org/>

² <https://nbsapforum.net/>

³ <https://www.bipindicators.net/>

- Supporting the development and use of spatial data on biodiversity to design NBSAP strategies and actions, such as where to protect, restore, manage, and monitor nature with limited resources.
- Strengthening national monitoring systems to include the full scope of measures required to deliver and report on national contributions towards the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

Suggestions for consideration in terms of **means of implementation** to enable a successful implementation of the framework:

- Promoting increased access to resources to strengthen national, regional, and global biodiversity information and data management systems, so that Parties can more systematically monitor, and communicate indicators using spatial and non-spatial biodiversity data for all related multilateral environmental agreements and other intergovernmental processes.
- Strengthening capacity to design and implement monitoring systems that support investments in action across related multilateral agreements such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Investing in the development and implementation of financing solutions for biodiversity as foundational to the successful achievement of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

This document concludes with information on how UNDP, UNEP and UNEP-WCMC could support national implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework in the area of NBSAP revision, national reporting, synergies with related multilateral agreements, biodiversity mainstreaming, spatial data availability and use, national ecosystem assessments, natural capital accounting, biodiversity indicators and information systems, and financing biodiversity.

Table of contents

1. Introduction	6
2. Lessons learned from the development of NBSAPs and National Reports to the CBD during the period 2011-2020	7
2.1 Placing NBSAPs within a global framework.....	7
2.2 Building capacity to implement NBSAPs	7
2.3 Incorporating quantitative and spatial information in NBSAPs and national reports	8
2.4 Mainstreaming NBSAPs and broadening their ownership across sectors	9
2.5 Building technical capacity to revise and implement NBSAPs	10
2.6 Improving the consistency of national reports to the CBD	10
3. Options to inform the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.....	12
3.1 Design of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework	12
3.2 Planning for national implementation	12
3.3 Monitoring progress made in implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and reporting on progress made.....	12
3.4 Means of implementation to enable the successful and effective implementation of the framework..	14
4. Suggestions for spatial information development for implementing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework	15
5. Areas of support for national implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework by UNDP, UNEP and UNEP-WCMC.....	16
5.1 NBSAPs revision and implementation.....	16
5.2 UN Biodiversity Lab spatial data and tools.....	16
5.3 Biodiversity monitoring, indicator development and a ‘target tracker’ visualization platform	17
5.4 Data Reporting Tool for MEAs.....	18
5.5 Systematic conservation planning.....	18
5.6 National ecosystem assessments.....	19
5.7 Natural capital accounting	19
5.8 Biodiversity Finance	19
5.9 Learning for Nature	20
Annex 1: Guidelines, templates and tools to support Parties to develop post-2010 NBSAPs	21
Annex 2: Guidelines, templates and tools to support Parties to develop Sixth National Reports to the CBD...	23

1. Introduction

From 2011 to 2020, GEF-eligible Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) received a series of technical and financial support packages to revise their post-2010 NBSAPs, and to prepare their Fourth (4NR), Fifth (5NR), and Sixth National Reports (6NR). The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and UNEP-WCMC⁴ co-executed this support. Through these projects, 128 Parties received technical support to revise their country's NBSAP, and 137 Parties were supported to prepare and submit their 6NR, with a similar number being supported to produce their 4NR and 5NR.

This information document summarizes experiences and lessons by UNDP, UNEP and UNEP-WCMC from these projects. Suggestions are also offered for consideration in the design and future implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including suggestions of areas where these agencies could continue to provide technical tools and support to Parties to implement the framework.

UNDP, UNEP, and UNEP-WCMC co-developed this document using a range of information sources, including interviews with individuals responsible for national project implementation from a globally distributed sample of the countries we served during the past decade. For example, in January 2020, UNEP-WCMC surveyed 15 national agencies to understand their experience with NBSAP revision and implementation during the period 2011-2020⁵. UNDP conducted similar surveys upon NBSAP and 6NR project closure. UNDP additionally completed a needs assessment in 2017 with over 60 Parties to assess the extent to which they had the capacity to utilize geospatial data to support the development and implementation of their commitments to achieving the Strategic Plan in that decade. The same year, UNDP analysed 109 post-2010 NBSAPs and 145 5NRs from GEF-eligible countries to assess the extent to which they utilised geospatial data to support developing, implementing and/or monitoring their commitments to the CBD. In 2020, UNDP updated this assessment to reflect trends in using spatial data for biodiversity monitoring during the 6NR period. Additionally, during implementation of the 6NR project, UNDP maintained regular contact with senior beneficiaries from nine countries to systematically improve the technical support provided to CBD Parties⁶. In 2020, UNEP conducted a survey and a subsequent analysis of the 73 6NRs submitted with its support. Terminal project evaluations for the NBSAP, 4NR, 5NR, and 6NR projects by independent evaluators also yielded important information from interviews with stakeholders responsible for project implementation.

⁴ UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre

⁵ During the survey carried out in January 2020, UNEP-WCMC corresponded with persons responsible for the revision and implementation of NBSAPs in fifteen countries: Bolivia, Cambodia, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Greece, Guyana, Liberia, Mexico, Myanmar, Panama, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa and Spain.

⁶ UNDP Senior Beneficiaries during the Global 6NR Project included: Algeria, Bhutan, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Peru, and Sri Lanka.

2. Lessons learned from the development of NBSAPs and National Reports to the CBD during the period 2011-2020

2.1 Placing NBSAPs within a global framework

The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, provided a flexible framework that strongly guided national target setting. Yet, many components were challenging to operationalize and achieve on a national level. Designing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework to also function as a flexible framework for national action would be beneficial.

The structure and content of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 served as a flexible framework that guided Parties during NBSAP revision and target setting, as intended in COP [decision X/2](#)⁷. During their NBSAP revision process, countries frequently adapted the vision and mission of the Strategic Plan to develop their national vision and mission statements. The structure of NBSAPs typically included four to six strategic goals, based on the five strategic goals in the globally agreed Strategic Plan. The twenty Aichi Biodiversity Targets strongly guided the creation of national targets, with some national targets contributing to more than one Aichi Biodiversity Target. A few countries added new subjects to their targets, such as a gender perspective in decision-making. The relationships between targets rarely appeared to be considered in NBSAP design, implementation, and monitoring.

Some Parties considered the wording and concepts in the Strategic Plan too complicated to communicate to a non-specialist audience, which can limit the mainstreaming of biodiversity across sectors.

2.2 Building capacity to implement NBSAPs

The NBSAPs developed during the period 2011-2020 were generally overambitious and lacked prioritization of their targets and actions. Governments often did not have the financial resources and institutional capacity to implement, monitor, and report on a large number of NBSAP actions.

During the past decade the implementation of the strategies and actions that were defined in NBSAPs was limited in many cases. Reasons included inadequate institutional capacity, insufficient financial resources, lack of political will, and changes of government priorities. NBSAP actions tended to be overambitious and not realistic when compared with the resources available for their implementation. Multi-sectoral leadership and coordination mechanisms helped integrate biodiversity into the plans of other ministries, which led to more successful mainstreaming of NBSAP implementation.

The UNDP [Biodiversity Finance Initiative](#)⁸ found that many revised NBSAPs do not have financing plans for their implementation. Those developing countries that produced financing plans for their NBSAPs reported that these plans were difficult to operationalize. This was due to a huge gap between the identified costs and the national and international financial resources available. Also, for many countries, the actions in their NBSAPs were not prioritized, and so it was difficult to make decisions on the allocation of limited funds.

⁷ <https://www.cbd.int/decision/cop/?id=12268>

⁸ <https://www.biodiversityfinance.net/>

2.3 Incorporating quantitative and spatial information in NBSAPs and national reports

Governments frequently lacked access to adequate quantitative and spatial information on biodiversity and ecosystem services, their uses and importance for society, and related drivers of change. Addressing this need will better position Parties to develop and implement effective biodiversity strategies, monitor and report progress to achieve them, and to make linkages to similar commitments under other multilateral environmental agreements.

Many NBSAP revisions and national reporting activities were conducted with insufficient information on biodiversity status and trends, its uses and importance for society, and drivers of change. NBSAPs usually included indicators for tracking the implementation of NBSAP actions. However, Parties much less frequently used indicators to monitor the impact of these actions on the state of biodiversity. During periods of the development of national reporting, data for many indicators did not exist or was not accessible.

Based on the information gathered, environmental ministries identified four common challenges to accessing and using quantitative and spatial data to track indicators, as well as develop, implement, and monitor strategies and actions⁹:

- Limited data access due to data being stored across multiple ministries, data being held by external data providers, and data being governed by complicated data sharing agreements.
- Inaccuracy of accessible data because of low spatial resolutions, incompatible formats, and inappropriate time coverages.
- A need for environmental ministries to nationally validate global data sources before they can be used for official decision-making purposes.
- Limited access to the technology needed to process spatial data, as well as low technical capacity to apply the results to develop and implement biodiversity policy.

A UNDP analysis of NBSAPs and 5NRs found an average of only four maps in these documents, including a map of the country's political boundary. The maps were typically not designed for decision-making on the design and implementation of conservation actions. To help overcome this gap, our institutions challenged GEF-eligible Parties to double the number of maps in their 6NR compared to their 5NR, and offered a range of capacity building support to do so. We released the [UN Biodiversity Lab](#)¹⁰ (UNBL) in 2018, to give policymakers access to over 100 of the world's best datasets on nature, climate, and sustainable development. The UNBL is a free, open-source environment that does not require any previous GIS experience. Users of the UNBL can also upload and analyse national and global sources of data together, to better understand national progress for the ABTs. As a result, the use of spatial data increased 150% from the 5NR to the 6NR period for GEF-eligible Parties.

UNEP-WCMC and UNDP both worked with Parties to determine options to overcome these limitations. The [UNEP-GEF Connect project](#)¹¹, executed by UNEP-WCMC, supported a national biodiversity information landscape review in Ghana, Mozambique and Uganda. This determined what data is available

⁹ The full report can be accessed in the document Nature is Counting on Us (<https://rb.gy/htw5b1>)

¹⁰ <https://unbiodiversitylab.org/>

¹¹ <https://www.connectbiodiversity.com/>

and in what format, where is it housed, and who is the custodian. The project also raised awareness of national data sharing legislation that could benefit NBSAP revision and national reports processes.

UNDP pioneered a process that applied systematic conservation planning methods to identify Essential Life Support Areas (ELSAs) in Costa Rica, Colombia, Kazakhstan, Peru and Uganda, with additional pilot projects now taking place in Cambodia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Haiti, and South Africa. Working together across government ministries, stakeholders used spatial data and analyses to determine land areas that together conserve critical biodiversity while also providing humans with essential ecosystem services, such as carbon storage, food, freshwater provisioning, and disaster risk reduction. Each country also developed a spatially explicit baseline of biodiversity data; created a prioritized list of areas for protection, restoration and sustainable management; and developed the data needed for regular and replicable monitoring and reporting to the CBD. These projects developed tools that effectively build technical capacity across the globe, and consideration should be given to the feasibility of their replication during the next decade to overcome current gaps.

2.4 Mainstreaming NBSAPs and broadening their ownership across sectors

The ministry of the environment typically prepared and implemented a country's NBSAP, with other governmental ministries agencies having lower levels of involvement, and ultimately, ownership. When cross-ministry coordination did occur during NBSAP design and implementation, it led to increased positive biodiversity outcomes. These mainstreaming successes should be expanded during the next decade.

Outside of a ministry of environment, most other government ministries had low levels of ownership and implementation of targets, strategies, and actions included in NBSAPs. According to a 2018 [UNEP report](#)¹², biodiversity mainstreaming “has been difficult to put into practice at the national level,” with historically poor correlation between NBSAPs and sectoral or cross-sectoral policies. The report however underscored the importance of biodiversity mainstreaming in achieving both Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Adoption of an NBSAP at the highest government level, such as by a cabinet or president, was considered to lead to enhanced engagement by additional ministries. Few countries designed their NBSAP explicitly as a policy mechanism to support implementation of other multilateral environmental agreements or instruments such as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the Convention on Migratory Species, or the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular its nature-based Sustainable Development Goals. Yet, some Parties determined that designating lead ministries for specific targets led to stronger cross-government coordination during NBSAP design and implementation. There is considerable potential to strengthen cooperation and collaboration and alignment across national policies relating to nature, and to more effectively coordinate their implementation across ministries, as well as the collection and use of related data and indicators.

12

https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/25656/post2010_NBSAP_Assessment.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

2.5 Building technical capacity to revise and implement NBSAPs

Access to an extensive suite of capacity building and peer learning opportunities in multiple languages supported Parties in their efforts to produce high quality and data-driven NBSAPs and national reports. Maintaining continued access to free, web-based, knowledge management platforms such as the UN Biodiversity Lab, the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership website, and the NBSAP Forum could help accelerate implementation of the new global biodiversity framework.

Parties expressed high appreciation for the technical support provided to support NBSAP revision and reporting, including technical guidelines and assistance, review mechanisms, web-based tools, templates, and webinar and workshop series' in multiple languages. However, a significant number of Parties, especially in Africa and in the Pacific, often experience a persistent lack of internet connectivity, which limits the benefits of resources that can only be accessed virtually. For these reasons, Parties also highly valued the skills development and peer-to-peer exchange of in-person training, technical assistance, and regional workshops provided. An extensive library of self-paced online courses, with live and recorded webinars, also provided low cost and effective knowledge sharing tools. Links to the platforms that provided these resources can be found in Annex 1. Parties also appreciated having concrete examples, outlines, and templates that they could draw from and model.

Free, web-based, knowledge management platforms such as the UN Biodiversity Lab, NBSAP Forum, and the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership website and dashboard should be maintained. Efforts to implement the new global biodiversity framework could be expedited by providing continued access to these tools.

2.6 Improving the consistency of national reports to the CBD

While the importance of periodic national reporting to the CBD is recognized by Parties some of them faced challenges when using CBD templates and online tools due to lack of capacity and/or connectivity. There is an opportunity to improve the CBD Secretariat's online reporting system by minimizing the technical and linguistic issues that limit Parties from systematically using these resources to develop and submit their reports.

In accordance with COP [decision XIII/27](#)¹³, the online tool for preparing and submitting national reports was accessible on the CBD Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM) in the six official languages of the United Nations. Parties understood the importance of using an online tool to submit their 6NR, yet some struggled with low internet bandwidth and limited internet access. Particularly in West Africa, countries submitted their reports using the Word template included in the Resource Manual as an alternative to the online tool. Despite efforts to make the online reporting process as seamless as possible, some Parties found the online format difficult to use and repetitive, and many of them faced challenges with the translated pages. They struggled with CHM access and authorizations, and had difficulties with creating sharable drafts and uploading attachments. Consequently, some countries submitted an adapted version of the reporting format, such as by changing the sequence of chapters.

The unit of reporting was left open to interpretation in CBD guidance on development of 6NR. Therefore, Parties may have reported on the implementation of NBSAP targets, or on progress to achieve high-level

¹³ <https://www.cbd.int/decisions/cop/?m=cop-13>

groupings of NBSAP actions, or on new general themes such as forestry, marine environment, or sustainable development. Without a common metric of evaluation, it was challenging to understand the impacts of CBD and NBSAP implementation across the globe. Parties provided this feedback during regional technical workshops, and the problem was also evidenced in technical reviews of draft national reports. As such, several Parties requested a streamlined format that addresses these topics in a simpler way. Some countries found that national reports to the CBD were useful to support implementation of their NBSAPs and others did not.

3. Options to inform the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

Building on the experience of UNDP, UNEP, and UNEP-WCMC in supporting national implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, the following suggestions are offered for consideration in the development and subsequent implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The span of the issues captured is organized around some of the key areas under which deliberations are being structured.

3.1 Design of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

- Provide guidance on how each target seeks to support the achievement of other targets, and promote these relationships as necessary for successful implementation of the framework.
- Choose all the terms and concepts in the framework with careful consideration of how they can be communicated and understood by a non-specialist audience.
- Promote the mainstreaming of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework across all sectors and key governmental agencies to ensure its effective implementation at the national level, and ensure their full involvement from the initial stages of the framework's development through its implementation, including the development of goals and targets.
- Identify clear linkages to the strategic plans of other multilateral environmental agreements and other intergovernmental processes, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, UNFCCC, UNCCD, CITES, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, and the Convention on Migratory Species.
- Seek ways to attract high-level political and public support during development and implementation of the framework, and to encourage cross-sectoral ownership.
- Create a robust communication strategy to promote cross-sectoral engagement during post-2020 NBSAP revision and implementation.

3.2 Planning for national implementation

- Provide guidance and flexibility for mainstreaming and alignment of national targets to national planning processes, taking into account emerging issues such as the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Enhance or establish clear roles for greater responsibility and transparency of relevant stakeholders at all levels for effective NBSAP implementation.

3.3 Monitoring progress made in implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and reporting on progress made

With respect to **monitoring**:

- Promote strengthening of national biodiversity information and monitoring systems as an integral part of the global framework, while maintaining flexibility to different national circumstances and needs.

- Support the maintenance and development of tools that help Parties to monitor and visualize progress in achieving national targets using common indicators that can be represented using standard formats, including with access to validated sources of globally available data and indicators, such as those provided by the UN Biodiversity Lab and the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership.
- Consider the creation of a common taxonomy of NBSAP actions against which standard indicators can be tracked using commonly available spatial datasets.
- Further build national capacity to implement systematic conservation planning methods using spatial data and tools to improve decision-making and monitoring of actions that protect, manage, and restore biodiversity in areas that also provide humans with essential ecosystem services (ELSAs).
- Consider the adoption of common methods for monitoring and reporting on the contribution of indigenous peoples and local communities, youth and women, in protecting, managing and restoring biodiversity.
- Integrate gender-specific indicators and disaggregate relevant indicators by sex to embed a gender perspective throughout the monitoring framework. Data should be disaggregated by sex for all indicators that relate to people.
- Consider the selection of indicators for global targets that are also suitable for use at the national level, which may include a set of core or headline indicators to assist common reporting and assessment.

With respect to **reporting**:

- Allow Parties sufficient time to prepare national reports and implement national biodiversity monitoring systems by synchronizing the release of templates, guidance, and resources in line with COP decisions and deadlines.
- Revise the structure of NBSAP and national reporting templates to clarify the types of information and metrics that should be reported to avoid confusion, duplications, inconsistencies, and gaps in reporting efforts. Avoid duplication of the information being requested between sections.
- Allow Parties to focus their reporting efforts on the national targets in their NBSAPs and provide pathways on how to find geospatial and qualitative data on related global targets and indicators.
- Use the national reporting process as a means to promote synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements, including by identifying common reporting needs.
- Improve the CBD online reporting system by reducing technical issues that limit access and use, including by providing accurate reporting templates in each language, to reduce the linguistic issues that limit Parties from systematically using this tool to develop and submit their reports.
- Confirm the timing, process and templates for national reporting sufficiently far ahead of reporting deadlines to facilitate not only preparation of reports but also access to the necessary resources for their development (linked to section 3.4 below).

3.4 Means of implementation to enable the successful and effective implementation of the framework

- Recognize the need to identify, develop, and implement finance solutions for biodiversity as foundational to the successful achievement of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and to ensure that these finance solutions are based on evidence-based assessments of the most effective pathways to achieve national targets, strategies, and actions for biodiversity.
- Support Parties to use tools that help Parties to monitor and visualize progress to achieve national targets using indicators in formats that are suitable for national reporting and for informing the implementation of NBSAPs.
- Ensure that sufficient capacity is available to support Parties to obtain sufficient quantitative data to implement the new global biodiversity framework. This can include:
 - development and maintenance of national biodiversity baselines using spatial data;
 - coordinated collection and management of indicator data using reliable information systems;
 - validation of critical global spatial data sets to fill national gaps in spatial data availability; and
 - use of qualitative assessments to fill data gaps.
- Promote access to the types of technical support that Parties need to develop, implement, and monitor data-driven biodiversity planning and reporting processes.

4. Suggestions for spatial information development for implementing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

Whilst technology is revolutionizing our ability to map nature, there is still a large gap in how widely this spatial information is being used in national biodiversity decision-making and reporting. Without support to access and utilize spatial data and tools, many Parties will remain challenged to effectively plan, implement their actions, and report on their progress for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

The development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework is an opportunity to promote strengthened monitoring and reporting through the use of spatial data, and the suggestions below address this aim. During the development of the framework and the identification and design of implementation mechanisms, Parties may want to consider the following:

- Enhancing national mechanisms for collecting, managing and sharing spatial biodiversity data, including the ability to track changes over time.
- Developing indicators at both national and global levels to monitor spatially explicit, measurable changes in the status of biodiversity at regular and meaningful intervals.
- Providing training on how to use the best available global spatial data to address information gaps at the national level, and encouraging and facilitating national validation of these sources.
- Building capacity to use spatial data and tools to apply robust scientific methods, such as those related to systematic conservation planning, to support the setting of national targets and actions to achieve them, and to monitor effectiveness of implementation.
- Generating high-level government support for comprehensive access to and use of national spatial data layers, for NBSAP decision-making and building stakeholder support.
- Developing automated reporting systems for national targets and indicators using globally available remote-sensing data.

International agencies and organizations can support the use of spatial data in implementing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework by:

- Working with global data providers and relevant national ministries, departments and agencies to validate global and regional datasets for official national use where this is necessary.
- Supporting global data providers to provide updates of critical datasets for the duration of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.
- Developing mechanisms to work with indigenous peoples and local communities to capture and spatialize biodiversity data, working to maintain and protect their ownership and traditional knowledge. For example, by building on the work under the global ICCA Registry.
- Demonstrating, through capacity development activities, the importance of using spatial data for biodiversity strategy production, monitoring and reporting.
- Providing access to spatial tools such as UN Biodiversity Lab to support the development of national targets based on data-driven analysis, to identify where to implement measures to achieve targets, and to monitor progress.

- Supporting Parties to use spatial data and tools to visualize, plan, and monitor ongoing progress to achieve national targets and actions, and to revise NBSAPs accordingly.
- Using spatial data to help identify synergies in action across the CBD, UNFCCC, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and other multilateral environmental agreements.

5. Areas of support for national implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework by UNDP, UNEP and UNEP-WCMC

The lessons learned presented above derive from the experience of UNDP, UNEP and UNEP-WCMC in supporting Parties implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. UNDP, UNEP, and UNEP-WCMC are committed to building on their technical collaboration during the past decade to scale-up support also with additional partners for the successful development and implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Subject to available resources, collaboration to support Parties to the CBD is offered in a range of areas, including:

5.1 NBSAPs revision and implementation

Parties will have differing requirements and objectives for any revisions of NBSAPs in order to address the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Aspects of this work that may require support include:

- interpretation of global targets for national target setting and action planning;
- developing national data, indicators and assessments for use in NBSAP revision and progress reporting;
- identifying common targets across the biodiversity-related and other conventions;
- supporting the use of spatial analyses and tools to identify where and how to most effectively develop and implement strategies and actions;
- implementing the CBD long-term approach to mainstreaming, which is being developed for adoption at COP 15; and
- developing finance plans for NBSAP implementation
- approaches for stakeholder engagement across government and society for the development of NBSAP revisions.

5.2 UN Biodiversity Lab spatial data and tools

UNDP, UNEP and the CBD Secretariat collaborate to administer the UN Biodiversity Lab, an online spatial platform that supports policymakers to develop data-driven biodiversity and sustainable development solutions. The platform hosts over 130 of the world's best spatial datasets on nature, climate, and sustainable development in a free, open-source environment that does not require any previous GIS experience. Users can also upload national spatial data in secure national workspaces, visualize global and national data together, run basic analyses, and create maps.

In September 2021, a new version of UN Biodiversity Lab will be released in English, French, Spanish, and Russian, based on feedback received from Parties. UN Biodiversity Lab 2.0 could be used by Parties to access and use spatial data and tools for many purposes:

- Revising and implementing NBSAPs in response to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.
- Developing spatially explicit, national baselines of biodiversity data.
- Augmenting national data gaps with the best available global spatial data, and validating these sources.
- Monitoring spatially explicit measurable changes in the status of nature at regular and meaningful intervals using global and national indicators.
- Improving strategies and actions, or analyzing and reporting progress to implement NBASPs.
- Identifying synergies and monitoring the integration of biodiversity-based strategies and actions into sustainable development plans and poverty eradication strategies, as called for in CBD Conference of Parties [decision 14/1](#), as well as related multilateral agreements.
- Applying systematic conservation planning methods to set national targets, identify and implement actions to achieve them, and monitor their effectiveness.
- Supporting more automated CBD monitoring and reporting, similar to existing processes under UNCCD, using near real-time spatial data on biodiversity and ecosystem service conditions and trends.
- Recognizing and drawing on biodiversity data from indigenous peoples and local communities while maintaining and protecting their ownership and traditional knowledge.

5.3 Biodiversity monitoring, indicator development and a ‘target tracker’ visualization platform

It is anticipated that the monitoring framework for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework will necessitate strengthened capacity and resources for biodiversity monitoring at the national level. This is an area where UNDP, UNEP, and UNEP-WCMC can offer support in collaboration with additional partners, for example through the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership ([BIP](#)), to bring extensive experience providing technical support on the development and use of biodiversity indicators at the national and global level.

Support could be provided to develop more comprehensive and systematic national biodiversity monitoring and data management systems that facilitate the reporting and review of national contributions towards the ambitions of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. This could include the development, adaptation and use of appropriate indicators and their monitoring over time, applying spatial data to inform conservation decisions, and integrating the perspectives of indigenous peoples and local communities, and women, into monitoring and reporting efforts.

Specific examples include work by UNDP with international data providers and governments to identify gaps in national data and indicators, and to develop processes to validate global indicators to support robust reporting at the national level. In particular, new dynamic datasets on ecological integrity and land use land cover as well as associated metrics (all available through UN Biodiversity Lab) can enhance national indicator development and monitoring. UNEP-WCMC is developing a ‘target tracker’ online data

visualization platform, to display progress towards the post-2020 goals and targets at global, regional and national levels. The intention is that it will enable users to quickly and clearly see national and global progress towards targets, and has the potential to be maintained as an ongoing updated source of progress, based on reported information from Parties and other inputs. The platform is being developed with input from national users and the providers of indicators, and will be extensively tested.

5.4 Data Reporting Tool for MEAs

UNEP is developing and testing a [Data Reporting Tool for MEAs](#)¹⁴ (DaRT). This tool provides Parties to MEAs with a private and secure working space to organize, share, and maintain information, data and knowledge across conventions and across reporting purposes. The aim is to provide a single national working space for reporting to MEAs, which facilitates the re-use of information in the spirit of “enter once, re-use several times”. This tool is intended to help relieve the reporting burden across conventions and foster communication and cooperation across ministries.

5.5 Systematic conservation planning

Support is being provided by UNDP, UNEP, and UNEP-WCMC to Parties to apply the principles of systematic conservation planning at national and subnational scales during the development and implementation of NBSAPs and national reporting strategies, and opportunities to provide technical support to national organizations will continue.

For example, UNDP is pioneering a process that supports Parties to use spatially-based conservation planning tools to design more effective nature-based strategies and actions to achieve CBD targets and similar targets in related national environmental, climate, and development plans. To do this, UNDP is supporting governments to identify ‘Essential Life Support Areas’ (ELSAs), which are locations where the protection, management, and restoration can conserve biodiversity and safeguard essential ecosystem services, such as carbon storage, food, freshwater provisioning, and disaster risk reduction. Policy makers, biodiversity experts, and data scientists across sectors collaborate using data to create a ‘map of hope’ that shows where protection, restoration, and management of biodiversity can most efficiently help a country meet national targets. This science-based consultative process helps policymakers break through silos to make strategic, cross-sectoral plans to safeguard nature.

The ELSA concept was co-created with governments in Costa Rica, Colombia, Kazakhstan, Peru, and Uganda, and is now expanding to Cambodia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Haiti, and South Africa, among several other countries. Using the UN Biodiversity Lab, each country also developed a spatially explicit baseline of biodiversity data; created a prioritized list of areas for protection, restoration and sustainable management; and developed the data needed for regular and replicable monitoring and reporting to the CBD. The ELSA process can be scaled up to support all GEF-eligible Parties to efficiently implement the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and global mapping efforts are already underway.

¹⁴ <https://dart.informea.org/>

5.6 National ecosystem assessments

UNDP, UNEP-WCMC and UNESCO work together to support the development of national ecosystem assessments, and their subsequent use. The resources for this work can be found on the [Sub-global Assessment Network](#)¹⁵ website and the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services portal, known as [BesNet](#)¹⁶.

National ecosystem assessments provide countries with up-to-date and broadly-owned evidence on the status, drivers and importance of biodiversity and ecosystem services, links to human well-being, plausible futures, and response options. They also provide insights into gaps in our existing understanding of these issues. All of this information can be used in cross-sectoral national decision-making, including in response to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. National ecosystem assessments also provide an evidence base for mainstreaming biodiversity, ecosystems and their services into key economic sectors, such as agriculture, forestry, fisheries, tourism and water. Assessment processes can also help to build capacity at the national level, in particular using knowledge from multiple sources in national reporting, and foster science and policy dialogues.

5.7 Natural capital accounting

UNEP, UNEP-WCMC, and other partners have been supporting countries to develop natural capital accounts as a part of national statistical systems, via the System of Environmental Economic Accounting Ecosystem accounts (SEEA EA). This system provides a coherent framework for ecosystems and biodiversity to be integrated via National Accounts into economic planning processes across sectors and scales. The SEEA EA has recently been adopted as an international statistical standard. This provides an important opportunity for UNEP and other partners to support countries in coordinating their Ecosystem Accounting development with the production and use of information for NBSAP revision, implementation and reporting. The production of the SEEA EA with the national statistical offices can contribute to mainstreaming NBSAP goals across government sectors.

5.8 Biodiversity Finance

UNDP's [Biodiversity Finance Initiative](#)¹⁷ (BIOFIN) responds to the urgent global need to divert more finance from all possible sources towards global and national biodiversity targets. BIOFIN estimates that global annual public investment in biodiversity has increased from around USD 100 billion in 2008 to about USD 140 billion in 2017, with an average of USD 123 billion deployed annually over this period. However, estimates of global biodiversity funding needs are at USD 722–967 billion annually by 2030, with a current annual biodiversity finance gap of USD 598–824 billion per year by 2030. The overarching objective of BIOFIN is to deliver a new methodological framework, facilitating the identification, development and implementation of optimal and evidence-based finance plans and implementation of finance solutions under four main approaches: increase finance, realign expenditures, deliver better and avoid future costs. BIOFIN is coordinated by UNDP through a global team developing and updating the BIOFIN methodology, supporting its implementation in the countries, and developing capacities at the national and global levels

¹⁵ <http://www.ecosystemassessments.net/>

¹⁶ <https://www.besnet.world/>

¹⁷ <https://biodiversityfinance.net/>

on biodiversity finance. The BIOFIN methodology can help place finance at the foundation of the new global biodiversity framework.

[UNEP Finance Initiative](#)¹⁸ (UNEP FI) is a partnership between UNEP and the global financial sector, established alongside the 1992 Rio Earth Summit to harness the role of the financial sector in achieving environmental objectives. UNEP FI currently includes more than 350 banks, insurers and investors working collectively to catalyze institutional and systems change to align financing with the implementation of multilateral instruments such as the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. 227 banks representing USD 58 trillion in assets (about 40% of the global banking industry) committed to integrating sustainability in their operations and signed the Principles of Responsible Banking. Integration of nature-related risks into decision-making is essential and the work of UNEP FI can enable alignment of private sector financing with the needs for implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. UNDP and UNEP FI have co-convened the Taskforce on Nature-Related Financial Disclosures¹⁹ which will launch shortly during 2021. UNEP FI also co-convenes the Natural Capital Finance Alliance²⁰ and its ENCORE tool²¹, and host thematic initiatives such as the Sustainable Blue Economy Finance Principles, and industry-specific working groups such as PRB biodiversity which will release new guidance for banks to set science-based biodiversity targets.

5.9 Learning for Nature

UNDP's [Learning for Nature](#)²² e-learning programme connects biodiversity policymakers and practitioners to facilitate effective capacity-building and knowledge-sharing around the achieving the CBD's objectives and the Sustainable Development Goals. Bringing together over 25,000 users from 159 countries to engage in over 100 e-learning opportunities, Learning for Nature has proven to be an effective platform for promoting best practices and building long-lasting networks. Many of the capacity building modules developed during the NBSAP and 5NR and 6NR projects have a long-term home on this platform. Learning for Nature is fully equipped to respond to the capacity-building needs of Parties through a variety of training formats, from Massive Open Online Courses and self-paced modules to webinars and podcasts in English, French, Spanish, and Russian. UNDP welcomes the opportunity to shape Learning for Nature's catalogue of e-learning offerings in line with the priorities of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

¹⁸ <https://www.unepfi.org/>

¹⁹ The other Founding Partners of the Taskforce on Nature-Related Financial Disclosures are Global Canopy and WWF.

²⁰ <https://naturalcapital.finance/>

²¹ <https://www.unepfi.org/ecosystems/exploring-natural-capital-opportunities-risks-and-exposure-encore-tool/>

²² <https://www.learningfornature.org/>

Annex 1: Guidelines, templates and tools to support Parties to develop post-2010 NBSAPs

Between 2013 and 2016, UNDP, UNEP, UNEP-WCMC, and the CBD Secretariat worked together to help Parties to revise their post-2010 NBSAPs through the GEF-funded 'CBD 6NR Project'. To complement the [NBSAP guidance](#) developed by the CBD Secretariat and the Conference of the Parties, our agencies developed over 30 technical capacity building materials in English, French and Spanish. These materials were intended to support Parties to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Examples include:

- [NBSAP Journey](#): A visual resource guide on the steps needed to revise an NBSAP (UNDP)
- [NBSAP Peer Review Framework](#): A framework, in the form of a checklist, for voluntary review of revised NBSAPs (UNDP, UNEP-WCMC)
- [NBSAP YouTube Channel](#): An online collection of over 100 webinars in English, French, and Spanish that build technical capacity to address the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.
- Online tools:
 - [NBSAP Forum](#): A web-based, knowledge management and technical support platform that was launched in 2014 to assist countries find the information and support they need to develop and implement NBSAPs and national reports. It is moderated by UNDP and co-hosted with the CBD Secretariat and UNEP.
 - [UN Biodiversity Lab](#): An online spatial platform that supports policymakers to develop data-driven biodiversity and sustainable development solutions. The platform hosts over 130 of the world's best spatial datasets on nature, climate, and sustainable development in a free, open-source environment that does not require any previous GIS experience. Users can also upload national spatial data in secure national workspaces, visualize global and national data together, run basic analyses, and create maps.
 - [Biodiversity Indicators Dashboard](#): The BIP Dashboard is an interactive, user-friendly tool that was developed to allow exploration of progress in achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Users could download visualisations of indicator trends at multiple spatial scales and use them for national reporting (e.g. 6th National Reports to the Convention on Biological Diversity). The tool's dynamic map allows users to view and explore indicators for any part of the world.
- Online learning modules and massive open online courses:
 - [Applying resilience thinking to national biodiversity plans](#) (UNDP)
 - [Communicating the value of biodiversity](#) :(UNDP)
 - Greening Consumption Massive Open Online Course: Six week course focused on Aichi Biodiversity Target Four (sustainable production and consumption) (UNDP)
 - [Gender equality, women's empowerment and leadership in the context of national biodiversity planning and reporting](#) (UNDP)
 - Protected Areas System Design and Management Massive Open Online Course: Eight-week course focused on Aichi Biodiversity Target Eleven (UNDP)

- [Sustainable production and consumption](#) (UNDP)
- [Understanding resilience thinking](#) (UNDP)
- Technical guidance documents:
 - Elaboration of options for enhancing synergies among biodiversity related conventions (UNEP-WCMC)
 - Enhancing cooperation among the seven biodiversity related agreements and conventions at the national level using national biodiversity strategies and action plans (UNEP-WCMC)
 - Mainstreaming biodiversity: A guide to selecting strategic development targets (UNEP-WCMC)
 - Mapping biodiversity priorities: A practical, science-based approach to national biodiversity assessment and prioritisation to inform strategy and action planning (UNEP-WCMC)
 - NBSAPs: Natural Catalysts for Accelerating Action on Sustainable Development Goals (UNDP)
 - [NBSAP Gender Assessment](#): A gender analysis at the policy and site level to understand the extent to which gender is addressed in NBSAPs, and how can we more systematically integrate gender as a core component in national biodiversity strategies and actions (UNDP)
 - Protected Area Road Map: Protected Area Actions to Achieve Target 11 and Accelerate Progress on SDGs (UNDP)

Annex 2: Guidelines, templates and tools to support Parties to develop Sixth National Reports to the CBD

Between 2017 and 2020, UNDP, UNEP and the CBD Secretariat worked together to support 137 eligible countries to develop high quality, gender-responsive and data-driven Sixth National Reports (6NRs) to the CBD, through the GEF-funded 'CBD 6NR Project'. To do so, they developed a set of tools, guidelines and tailored assistance initiatives to meet the Parties' needs. Among them:

- **The Sixth National Report - Technical Reporting Guidance** ([EN](#) | [FR](#) | [SP](#)) provides technical guidance to compile the reports, covering all the required components and using global and national relevant indicators.
- The [Resource Manual](#), developed by the CBD Secretariat, provides guidance to Parties on the different sections of the 6NR format, and details about the different elements to include in the report.
- **The Sixth National Report - Data Tracking Tool** ([EN](#) | [FR](#) | [SP](#)), used by UNDP and UNEP and supported by the CBD Secretariat, follows the format of the CBD Online Reporting Tool and provides Parties with a simple working tool to enter and share relevant data with their project team and stakeholders. It also links the measures taken to achieve the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2022 with the UN Sustainable Development Goals and other multilateral environmental agreements.
- **The Sixth National Report - Technical Review Framework** ([EN](#) | [FR](#) | [SP](#)), used by UNDP and UNEP and supported by the CBD Secretariat, outlines the key elements that should be included in the 6NR. Following it helped ensure that each report was in alignment with the guidelines contained in annex to COP decision XIII/27 and related guidance. Parties that used it were able to share a draft 6NR to UNDP for final comments, improving the quality of the final report.
- **The Sixth National Report - Stakeholder Engagement** ([EN](#) | [FR](#) | [SP](#)) offers technical guidance on how to effectively engage stakeholders throughout the 6NR process, and how to ensure that stakeholder knowledge is incorporated during the 6NR development process and related follow-up measures.
- **The Sixth National Report Technical Webinar Series**, jointly developed throughout the 6NR project by UNDP, UNEP and the CBD Secretariat, included webinars on the 6NR technical tools, gender, involvement of stakeholders, spatial data, challenges in Small Island Developing States, and indicators, in English, French and Spanish.
- A series of more than 20 **global, regional and country-specific in person Capacity-building and Knowledge Sharing Workshops**, which allowed Parties to convene, jointly progress in their reporting process and exchange lessons learnt along the way.

Using the tools presented above, UNDP and UNEP teams, with support from UNEP-WCMC, were able to systematically review most of the sixth national reports produced by the countries participating in the project. This work allowed the teams to provide comments to Parties on the organisation of the report, the use of indicators, of spatial data and informative maps, mainstreaming gender, and validating the report through a participatory process with relevant stakeholders in the country. Based on the feedback from the countries, this exercise was extremely valuable for the Parties and significantly increased the quality of the reports.
