



Unit 2 - Measures for Conservation and Sustainable Use

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Course: Introductory Course to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Book: Unit 2 - Measures for Conservation and Sustainable Use

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1. Development of national strategies, plans or programmes



In article 6, the Convention provides that parties shall develop national strategies, plans or programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and endeavour to integrate the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into relevant sectoral or cross- sectoral plans, programmes and policies.

National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (“NBSAPS”) have been developed by over 179 countries since the adoption of the Convention and have become the primary tool at the national level for its implementation.

Examples of processes to revise NBSAPs

Parties to the CBD are in the process of updating their NBSAPs in line with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, for example:

Japan

Japan's fifth NBSAP was finalized in September 2012. An inter-ministerial committee drafted the revised NBSAP and the Central Environmental Council conducted interviews with sectors including NGOs, businesses and local authorities. Local briefings and consultation meetings were also organized on this draft and public comments on the draft NBSAP were invited prior to it being finalized.

Suriname

Suriname's updated NBSAP was finalized in February 2013 and was based on the National Biodiversity Strategy finalized six years earlier. A variety of ministries were involved in the development of the NBSAP, including the Ministries of Labour, Technological Development and Environment, of Physical Planning, Land and Forest Management and of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries among others. Experts in different sectors were consulted on the relevance and feasibility of the proposed actions. Prior to finalizing the NBSAP a validation workshop was held.

Cameroon

As part of the process of revising its NBSAP, the country undertook country studies and stocktaking exercises which, among other things, analysed gaps between the previous NBSAP and the current situation in the country, identified the causes and consequences of biodiversity loss in Cameroon and explored the specific contributions that NGOs have made to biodiversity.

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (2014) Global Biodiversity Outlook 4.

2. Identification and monitoring

Identification of components of biological diversity and monitoring their conservation status is an important first step in the establishment of measures for conservation and sustainable use.

Article 7 of the Convention, therefore, requires parties to identify components of biodiversity important for conservation and sustainable use and to monitor the components so identified, paying particular attention to those requiring urgent conservation measures and those with potential for sustainable use. In addition, parties are required to identify and monitor processes and activities, which may have significant adverse impacts on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Annex I to the Convention contains indicative lists for the identification and monitoring of ecosystems, species, communities and genes and genomes of social, scientific and economic importance.

3. In-situ conservation

“In-situ conservation” is defined in article 2 as the conservation of ecosystems and natural habitats and the maintenance and recovery of viable populations of species in their natural surroundings.

The *in-situ* conservation commitments outlined in article 8 include, among others, the following:

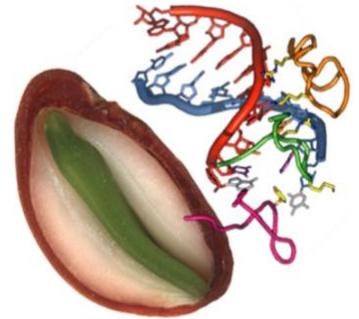
- The establishment of a system of protected areas;
- The development of guidelines for the selection, establishment and management of protected areas;
- The regulation or management of biological resources important for the conservation of biological diversity within or outside protected areas, with a view to ensuring their conservation and sustainable use;
- The promotion of the protection of ecosystems, natural habitats and the maintenance of viable populations of species in natural surroundings;
- Promotion of environmentally sound and sustainable development in areas adjacent to protected areas with a view to furthering the protection of these areas;
- The rehabilitation and restoration of degraded ecosystems and the recovery of threatened species;
- Management and control of risks associated with living modified organisms resulting from biotechnology;
- Prevention, control and eradication of alien invasive species;
- The respect, preservation and maintenance of traditional biodiversity-related knowledge; and,
- The development of appropriate legislative and regulatory frameworks.

4. Ex-situ conservation

Ex-situ conservation is defined as the conservation of components of biological diversity outside their natural habitats.

Article 9 specifies the main *ex-situ* conservation commitments, including:

- Adoption of measures for *ex-situ* conservation of components of biological diversity, preferably in the country of origin of such components;
- Establishment and maintenance of facilities for *ex-situ* conservation of and research on plants, animals and microorganisms;
- Adoption of measures for the recovery and rehabilitation of threatened species and for their reintroduction into their natural habitats;
- Regulation and management of collection of biological resources from natural habitats for *ex-situ* conservation; and,
- Cooperation in the provision of financial and other support for *ex-situ* conservation.



Graphic combining the magnified image of a seed with strands of DNA

5. Sustainable Use

Sustainable use is defined in article 2 of the Convention as “...the use of components of biological diversity in a way and at a rate that does not lead to the long-term decline of biological diversity, thereby maintaining its potential to meet the needs and aspirations of present and future generations.”

The main sustainable use commitments are outlined in article 10, including:

- Integrating consideration of the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources into national decision-making;
- Adopting measures relating to the use of biological resources to avoid or minimize adverse impacts on biological diversity;
- Protecting and encouraging customary use of biological resources in accordance with traditional cultural practices that are compatible with conservation or sustainable use requirements;
- Supporting local populations and implementing remedial action in degraded areas where biological diversity has been reduced; and
- Encouraging cooperation between governmental authorities and its private sector in developing methods for sustainable use of biological resources.

