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National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans: Natural Catalysts for Accelerating Action on Sustainable Development Goals



The data in this report comes from the actions included in 60 National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). These NBSAPs have all been submitted to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity after 2010, and all are from countries eligible to receive funding from the Global Environmental Facility. This is a living document, which will be updated periodically as more NBSAPs are submitted. The data behind this report are available upon request, by contacting Jamison.ervin@undp.org.

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Introduction

In 2010, the Conference of Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) agreed to an ambitious set of 20 targets, called the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, as part of their commitment to the CBD Strategic Plan. One of the Targets (Target 17) called for each country to revise its National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (NBSAP) in accordance with the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. From 2010 to November 2016, virtually all countries have revised, or are currently completing the revision of, their NBSAP. As of November 2016, 123 countries (76 of them eligible for official development assistance) have submitted post-2010 NBSAPs. At the same time, the world agreed to an ambitious set of 17 Goals and 169 Targets in 2015, called the Sustainable Development Goals.

The absence of a widely accepted taxonomy for describing NBSAP actions makes any systematic and cross-cutting analysis of NBSAPs difficult. Moreover, the collective contribution of specific NBSAP actions to Sustainable Development Goals has not yet been studied. The purpose of this analysis is to systematically understand the breadth and depth of actions proposed across all NBSAPs, to propose a common framework for analysis, and to understand the relationship between NBSAPs and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The unit of analysis in this study is an action – a statement regarding a country’s intention to undertake a specific act or set of activities. Actions typically include two parts: a thematic category (e.g., restoration, protection, sustainable use) and a generic action statement (e.g., develop a plan, conduct research, strengthen governance). Based on these two parameters, the researchers developed a two-part taxonomy that can be used to describe any action found within an NBSAP – a set of 16 thematic categories and 125 sub-categories, and a set of 24 generic actions, that together, can describe virtually any action found in any NBSAP. This study included more than 6,000 actions from 60 countries. Because this taxonomy was first developed in a bottom-up exercise, and then refined and revised over time, the result is that the categories and actions were able to be used to describe nearly all of the NBSAP actions included in this analysis.

The researchers tagged each of the actions in this analysis not only by the thematic categories and generic actions of this taxonomy, but also by the associated primary and secondary Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their associated targets (as well as by Aichi Biodiversity Targets). In doing so, the collective impact of the contribution of NBSAPs toward fulfilling the SDGs is beginning to emerge. The data from this analysis are far richer and more complex than this interim report can convey. However, it is clear from this preliminary analysis that the impact of NBSAP actions extends far beyond Goal 14 (Life Below Water) and Goal 15 (Life on Land). The NBSAP examples of actions provided under each of the categories illustrate how a single action can contribute to multiple goals. The actions included across all NBSAPs would, if fully implemented, catalyze progress in national food security, water security, livelihoods, economic growth, disaster risk reduction, health, gender and climate resilience, among other goals. Furthermore, because NBSAPs are adopted as policy instruments, they provide a ready pathway for fast implementation of national sustainable development goals.

Investing in biodiversity and ecosystems through NBSAP actions also ensures that no one is left behind in the implementation of the SDGs. Nature provides a safety net to billions of people around the world: 1.6 billion people depend on forests for jobs, livelihoods, food and fuel; one out of eight people depend on fisheries for their livelihoods; and more than 4 billion people depend on medicines derived from forests for their health. Investing in nature helps ensure that the most vulnerable people in society, especially the more than 800 million people living in poverty, have a durable safety net.

The recommendations included at the end of this report highlight the potential need for targeted support to countries to implement key thematic areas. The authors hope that this preliminary analysis will enable governments, and the organizations that support them, to focus their efforts on supporting those thematic areas that will have the most impact in accelerating progress in implementing NBSAP actions. They also hope this report will encourage donor organizations to consider supporting the implementation of NBSAP actions that have direct SDG outcomes.

With the exception of the summary analysis (which has its own key), the analysis used the key below.

Size of circles represents number of countries; shade of circle represents number of actions:

○ 1-3 countries; ○ 4-9 countries; ○ 10-18 countries; ○ 19-39 countries; ○ > 39 countries
○ 1-3 actions; ○ 4-9 actions; ○ 10-18 actions; ○ 19-39 actions; ○ >39 actions

TAXONOMY USED IN THE ANALYSIS OF NBSAP ACTIONS

THEMATIC CATEGORIES

The authors tagged all actions by the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, but also aggregated some of the targets into broader themes to facilitate efficient tagging and reporting. The following thematic categories were used in the analysis for this report.

- **AWARENESS AND KNOWLEDGE** (e.g., education, awareness campaigns, research, traditional knowledge; related to Aichi Biodiversity Target 1, 18 and 19)
- **MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY INTO DEVELOPMENT PLANNING** (e.g., poverty plans, national development planning, spatial planning; related to Aichi Biodiversity Target 2 and 20)
- **MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY INTO KEY SECTORS** (tourism, energy, extractives; related to Aichi Biodiversity Target 4)
- **SUSTAINABLE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES** (agriculture, forestry, fisheries, rangelands, wildlife, water; actions related to Aichi Biodiversity Targets 5, 6 and 7)
- **POLLUTION, BIOSAFETY AND INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES** (e.g., industrial pollution, living modified organisms, genetically modified organisms, terrestrial invasive species; actions related to Aichi Biodiversity Targets 8, 9 and 10)
- **PROTECTION** (protected areas, connectivity, genetic diversity, species protection; actions related to Aichi Biodiversity Targets 11, 12 and 13)
- **RESTORATION** (restoration of ecosystems, restoration of ecosystem services, restoration of species, restoration for climate resilience and adaptation; actions related to Aichi Biodiversity Targets 14 and 15)
- **ACCESS AND BENEFITS SHARING** (e.g., ABS clearinghouse, contractual arrangements; actions related to Aichi Biodiversity Target 16)

GENERIC ACTIONS

The authors used the following categories of generic actions, which were developed and refined through a bottom-up review of the NBSAP actions, to tag each of the actions included in this report.

INFORM

- Conduct research
- Conduct assessments
- Develop maps and inventories

FORMULATE

- Develop plans
- Develop policies
- Align and mainstream sectoral plans and policies
- Develop targets and indicators
- Develop guidelines

EMPOWER

- Consult with stakeholders
- Advocate and promote change
- Promote education and awareness
- Conduct trainings and build skills

EXECUTE

- Coordinate with others
- Enforce laws and policies
- Improve and diversify governance
- Develop pilot programs
- Implement actions on the ground

ENABLE

- Build infrastructure
- Create mechanisms
- Mobilize resources

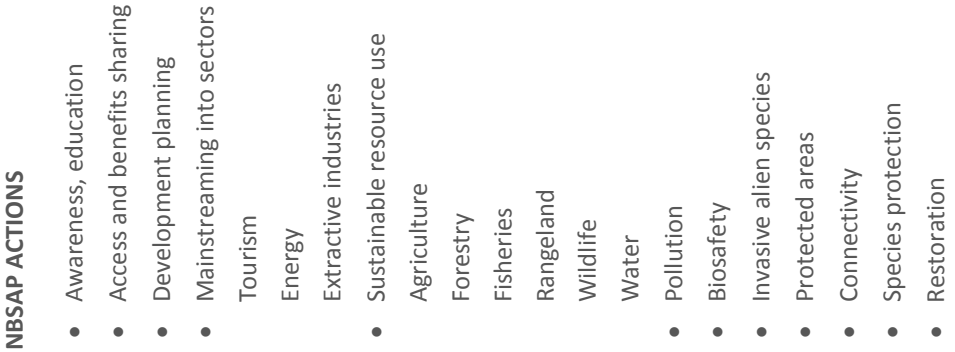
EVALUATE

- Monitor results
- Develop data systems
- Report and communicate results

ALL OTHER ACTIONS

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

Summary analysis of 6063 actions, and their primary and secondary contributions to Sustainable Development Goals



NBSAP ACTIONS

- INFORM (research, assessments)
- FORMULATE (plans, policies, targets)
- EMPOWER (consult, capacity, advocacy)
- EXECUTE (enforce, improve, act)
- ENABLE (build, create, mobilize)
- EVALUATE (monitor, report)
- ALL OTHER ACTIONS

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

- 1. NO POVERTY
- 2. ZERO HUNGER
- 3. GOOD HEALTH AND WELLBEING
- 4. QUALITY EDUCATION
- 5. GENDER EQUALITY
- 6. CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION
- 7. AFFORDABLE CLEAN ENERGY
- 8. DECENT WORK AND GROWTH
- 9. INDUSTRY, INNOVATION
- 10. REDUCED INEQUALITIES
- 11. SUSTAINABLE CITIES
- 12. CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION
- 13. CLIMATE ACTION
- 14. LIFE BELOW WATER
- 15. LIFE ON LAND
- 16. PEACE, JUSTICE
- 17. PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

KEY 1-10 actions 11 – 50 actions 51 – 100 actions 101- 350 actions >350 actions

ACTIONS ON AWARENESS, KNOWLEDGE, AND ACCESS AND BENEFITS SHARING

1052 actions on biodiversity awareness, and 189 actions on access and benefits sharing

INFORM

- Conduct research
- Conduct assessments
- Develop maps & inventories

FORMULATE

- Develop plans
- Develop policies
- Align plans & policies
- Develop targets & indicators
- Develop guidelines

EMPOWER

- Consult stakeholders
- Advocate for change
- Improve awareness
- Improve skills

EXECUTE

- Coordinate with others
- Enforce laws & policies
- Improve governance
- Develop pilot programs
- Implement actions

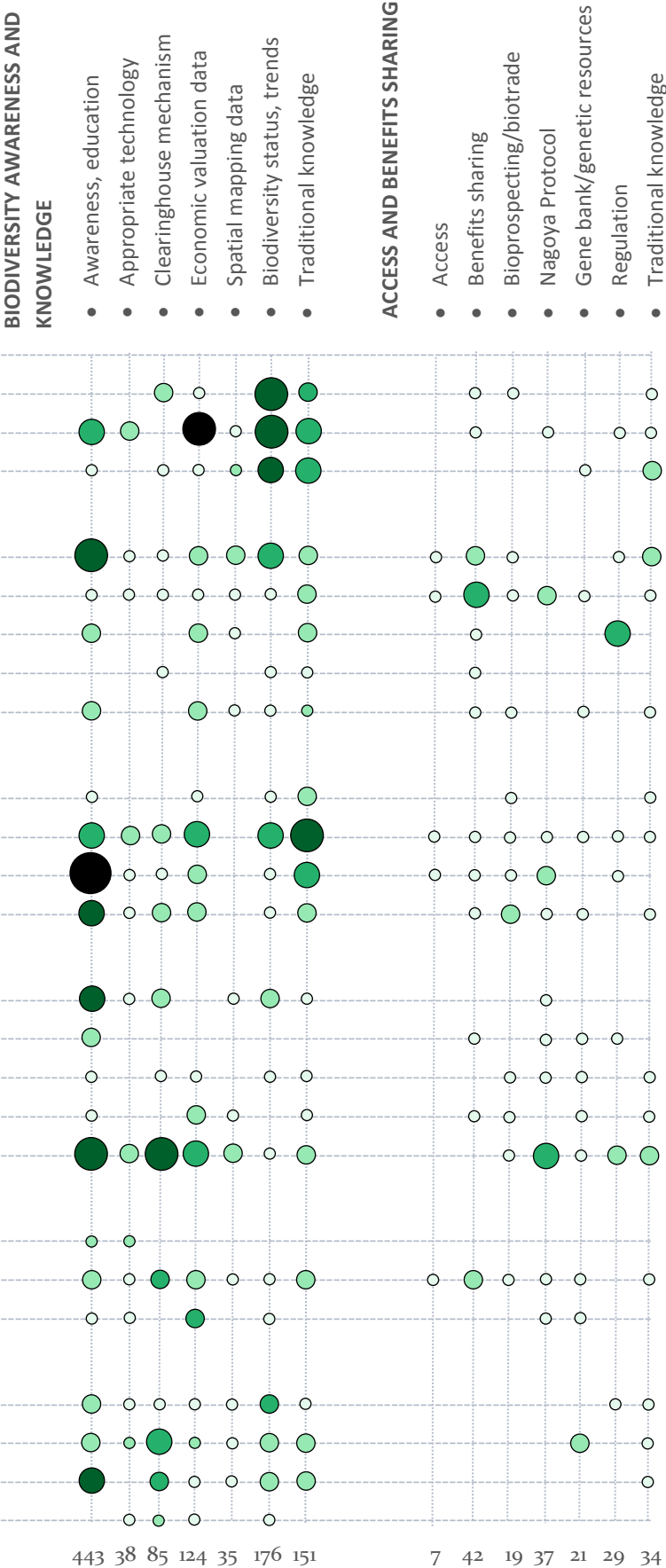
ENABLE

- Build infrastructure
- Create mechanisms
- Mobilize resources

EVALUATE

- Monitor results
- Develop data systems
- Report results

ALL OTHER ACTIONS



CONTRIBUTION OF AWARENESS AND ABS ACTIONS TO THE GLOBAL GOALS

BOTSWANA

In order to preserve traditional knowledge, promote climate resilience, protected genetic diversity and foster healthy communities, Botswana is establishing community and indigenous medicinal gardens in each ecoregion.



GEORGIA

Georgia is preparing an updated informational and educational materials on biosafety and agrobiodiversity for farmer's extension centers and providing access to regularly updated information to all farmers, with an emphasis on gender equality.



MADAGASCAR

In order to maintain ecosystems and promote sustainable livelihoods, Madagascar is encouraging research activities on genetic resources, and is establishing traceability systems for the benefit of all, especially local communities.



TUVALU

Tuvalu is conducting training programs on ecosystem management, thereby promoting food security, ensuring sustainable livelihoods, empowering individuals, and protecting biodiversity.



SEYCHELLES

Seychelles is collating information and mapping of spatial information on biodiversity, thereby allowing for improved policy decisions for the protection of biodiversity and the sustainable consumption of natural resources.



EGYPT

Egypt is conducting an economic valuation of the country's biodiversity and ecosystems services according to international standards in order to promote sustainable consumption and the responsible use of natural resources.



SERBIA

In order to ensure fair and equitable access to information and to sustain genetic diversity, Serbia is establishing a biosafety clearinghouse mechanism with a web portal.



CONGO

The Congo is educating women and young people about sustainable production and consumption of endangered species in order to promote awareness of biodiversity values, equitable access to information, and species protection.



MALDIVES

In order to improve food security and prevent loss of biodiversity, the Maldives is establishing regional and international collaboration with seed gene banks for safeguarding local genetic diversity.



ACTIONS TO MAINSTREAM BIODIVERSITY INTO DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

1693 actions on mainstreaming biodiversity into development planning in **59** countries

POLICIES AND PLANS

- NBSAP
- EIA and SEA frameworks
- National reporting
- National biodiversity
- Global conventions
- Gender
- Development plans
- Poverty plans
- Climate plans
- Disaster plans
- Water security plans
- Food security plans
- Land-use plans
- Watershed/basin plans
- Coastal plans
- Spatial plans
- Economic valuation
- Incentives
- Green accounting
- Resource mobilization
- Governance

INFORM

- Conduct research
- Conduct assessments
- Develop maps & inventories

FORMULATE

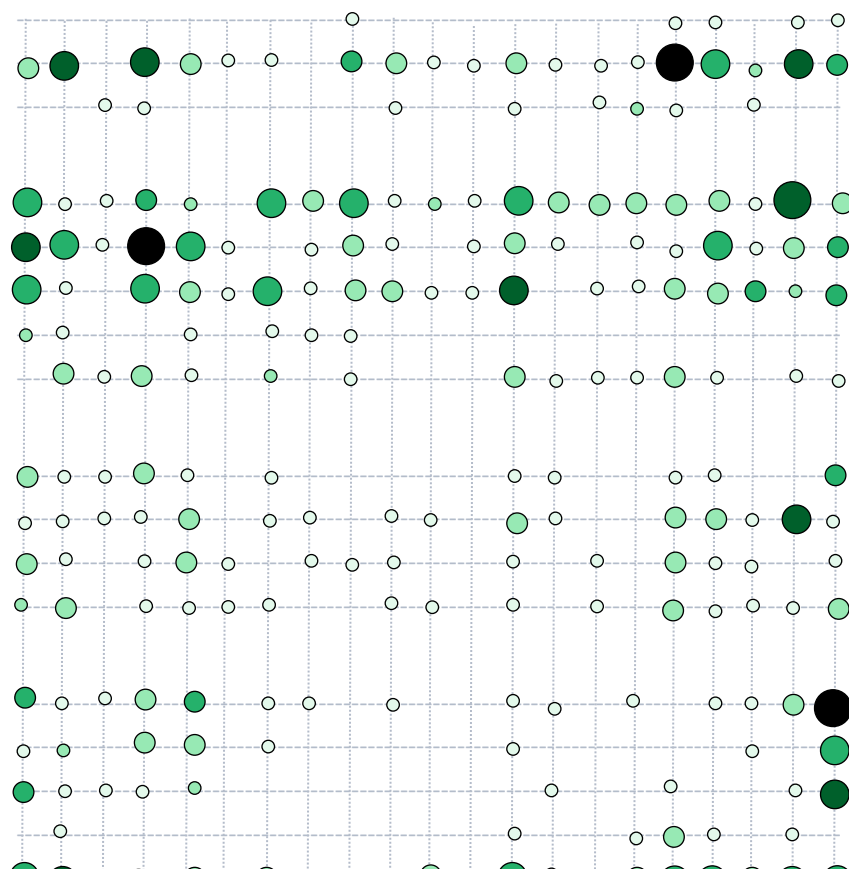
- Develop plans
- Develop policies
- Align plans & policies
- Develop targets & indicators
- Develop guidelines

EMPOWER

- Consult stakeholders
- Advocate for change
- Improve awareness
- Improve skills

EXECUTE

- Coordinate with others
- Enforce laws & policies
- Improve governance
- Develop pilot programs



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