

March 2013



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Food and
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COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Item 2.3 of the Provisional Agenda

Fourteenth Regular Session

Rome, 15 – 19 April 2013

DRAFT GUIDELINES FOR THE PREPARATION OF COUNTRY REPORTS CONTRIBUTING TO THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

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Appendix I – Preliminary guidance for the content of Country Reports

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The genetic resources that constitute biodiversity for food and agriculture are among the most valuable assets that a country possesses. The mandate of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission) covers all components of biodiversity for food and agriculture. To implement its broad work programme and to achieve its objectives through a planned and staged approach, the Commission adopted the Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW).¹ One of the main milestones of the MYPOW is the presentation of the first report on *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture* (the SoWBFA Report) to the Commission's Sixteenth Regular Session.

2. At its Thirteenth Regular Session, the Commission considered a concept note prepared to facilitate discussion on the preparation of the SoWBFA Report.² Commission Members provided comments on the concept note to the Secretary of the Commission, and invited other countries and international organizations also to review and provide comments on the concept note.³ The inputs received from countries, international organizations and others have been taken into account in preparing CGRFA-14/13/3 and this Information Document.

3. This Information Document provides draft Guidelines for the preparation of Country Reports contributing to the SoWBFA Report. It presents an overall approach and a set of objectives that can guide the preparation of Country Reports, the scope and structure that can be used, and an appropriate timeline and process for their preparation. An Appendix presents preliminary guidance for the content of Country Reports. These draft proposals will be reviewed through further consultations with countries and relevant experts prior to their finalization and circulation to countries. The finalized Guidelines will be completed with specific questions and lists of topics that will guide countries in identifying and providing the information needed.

II. OVERALL APPROACH AND OBJECTIVES

4. Biodiversity for food and agriculture includes the biological diversity present in agricultural, pastoral, forest and aquatic production systems or of importance to them: the variety and variability of animals, plants and micro-organisms at the genetic, species and ecosystem levels that sustain the structure, functions and processes of production systems. This diversity has been managed or influenced by farmers, pastoralists, forest dwellers and fisherfolk over many hundreds of generations and reflects the diversity of both human activities and natural processes. Biodiversity for food and agriculture includes both the diversity of aquatic, animal, forestry and plant genetic resources (described in the different sector state of the world reports) and the diversity of other components of biodiversity of importance to production and use (not included in the different sector reports) referred to as associated biodiversity in this document.⁴

5. In its consideration of the preparation of the SoWBFA Report, the Commission highlighted the importance of examining a number of issues in assessing the status and trends of biodiversity for food and agriculture including: components of biodiversity for food and agriculture not covered by the different Sector Reports; the state and capacity to manage biodiversity for food and agriculture; the essential roles of ecosystem services and their importance in relation to achieving sustainable

¹ CGRFA-11/07/Report, paragraphs 88–94.

² CGRFA-13/11/Inf. 23.

³ CGRFA-13/11/Report, paragraph 110.

⁴ Associated biodiversity includes:

- Micro-organisms (including bacteria, viruses, fungi and protists) such as mycorrhizae, soil microbes and planktonic microbes;
- Invertebrates (including insects, spiders, worms and all other invertebrates that affect crop, animal, fish and forest production as pests, predators or in other ways) such as pollinators and soil invertebrates;
- Vertebrates (including amphibians, reptiles, and non-domesticated birds and mammals);
- Wild plant species in and around production areas such as hedge plants, weeds and species present in riparian corridors.

agriculture and food security and nutrition; the implementation of the ecosystem approach in agricultural systems; and, climate change together with other cross-cutting issues.

6. A unique feature of the SoWBFA Report will be its concern with an ecosystem approach and the analysis and description of the state of ecosystem function and services in production systems. This will require an integrated approach that includes information not only from the different sectors but also information on associated biodiversity. The inclusion of information on associated biodiversity and the use of an integrated approach will also contribute to the description of the state of sustainability and sustainable intensification in production systems. Information on the current state of key ecosystem regulating and supporting services will therefore be an important aspect of the reporting process and may be the appropriate entry point for describing the situation with respect to associated biodiversity. In finalizing the Guidelines, a reference list of the most appropriate regulating and supporting services will be developed on the basis of the most updated literature in order to facilitate the reporting.

7. Country Reports will constitute a key input to the preparation of the first report on the SoWBFA. Country Reports will complement sector reports, providing information on biodiversity for food and agriculture not covered in these. They will also provide information essential to the analysis of ecosystem function and services and sustainability where an integrative rather than sectoral approach is needed to provide a full understanding of status and trends. Country Reports will also allow analysis of synergies and trade-offs at country level. Thematic studies will provide additional information where they provide the most appropriate means of compiling and presenting information.

8. Country Reports, and the activities that contribute to their preparation, can fulfill a number of important functions that will strengthen national, regional and global planning to improve the maintenance and use of biodiversity for food and agriculture. These Guidelines, including its annexed preliminary guidance, have been designed to support these functions, namely to:

- a) Assist countries to undertake a strategic assessment of the overall state of their biodiversity for food and agriculture and of the state of its conservation and use;
- b) Allow countries to explore the ways in which the contribution of biodiversity for food and agriculture to human wellbeing, environmental health and sustainability can be improved in ways that reflect the need for integrated approaches;
- c) Provide a common framework for countries to report on the state of their biodiversity for food and agriculture, on conservation, development and sustainable use activities, needs and priorities;
- d) Enable countries to identify their specific differences and highlight their priority needs, while securing a common basis from which to enable FAO to prepare the first SoWBFA Report.

III. SCOPE, STRUCTURE AND CONTENT

9. The scope of these Guidelines is to assist Country Reports to provide information complementary to sector reports that will allow the SoWBFA Report to address the following questions:

1. What is the current status of biodiversity conservation and its use for food security and nutrition, ecosystem functioning and sustainability?
2. What trends can be identified in the conservation and use of biodiversity for food and agriculture and in the effects of major drivers of change?
3. How can conservation and use of biodiversity for food and agriculture be improved and its contributions to food and nutrition security, ecosystem functioning, sustainability and improving the livelihoods of farmers, pastoralists, forest dwellers and fisher folk be enhanced?

10. The Guidelines will help countries to provide information on ecosystem perspectives; the state of ecosystem functions, the provision of ecosystem services and the implementation of the ecosystem approach. They will also assist countries to report on the use of biodiversity for food and agriculture for food security and nutrition, rural livelihoods, sustainability and sustainable intensification, sustainable use of genetic resources and the resilience of production systems. In this way, the Guidelines assist countries to describe the multiple functions of biodiversity for food and agriculture in production systems and its multiple values to producers and users.

11. An analysis of the different ways in which biodiversity for food and agriculture is used and supports cultural, social and economic values of rural communities and indigenous peoples will be an important aspect of the SoWBFA Report and of Country Reports. The Country Report should therefore take full account of these aspects in terms of the involvement of the widest range of stakeholders and the information provided. In this respect, as an example, in assessing progress and identifying future actions, it is recommended that the scope of activities includes actions being taken by the public, private and nongovernmental sectors, and takes account of gender perspectives, and the needs, priorities and perspectives of indigenous peoples and rural communities.

12. Since this is the first report ever to be prepared on SoWBFA, it is likely to present major challenges with respect to the availability and completeness of some of the information required. However, the SoWBFA Report will provide a baseline analysis of the state of knowledge. Incompleteness and gaps in available information should be clearly identified and acknowledged and used to help future assessments. In compiling information for their Reports countries should state clearly where information is not available on specific subject areas.

13. Country Reports should follow the structure of the SoWBFA Report as presented in CGRFA-14/13/3 Appendix 1, which includes the following Chapters:

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: Drivers and change

Chapter 3: The current status and trends of biodiversity for food and agriculture

Chapter 4: The state of use of biodiversity for food and agriculture

Chapter 5: The state of interventions in the conservation and use of biodiversity for food and agriculture

Chapter 6: Future agendas for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture: helping to secure the multiple benefits of agriculture

IV. PREPARATION OF COUNTRY REPORTS

14. There are major differences between countries with respect to the nature, conservation and use of biodiversity for food and agriculture that will be reflected in the Country Reports. However, a common framework for preparing Country Reports is essential to enable regional and global synthesis. Preparation of Country Reports should therefore follow as closely as possible the structure provided in these Guidelines although not all aspects of the reports call for complete uniformity.

15. The Guidelines can help ensure that preparation of Country Report is done in a way that allows past, current and future trends to be examined. It is assumed that looking back about 10 years and forward 10 years will provide a useful perspective on where the country was, where it is now and where it is going in respect to biodiversity for food and agriculture.

16. A number of relevant sources of information exist that may be of use to countries in preparing their reports. These include reports provided to international processes such as the CBD, the Ramsar Convention and others; information supplied to international assessments or information systems such as those on agro-ecological zones (the FAO Global Agro-ecological Zone classification), the state of land and water (SOLAW) as well as to the sector processes. Information gathered through relevant regional processes can also be used for the preparation of the report.

17. While each country will decide on the specific content and main issues to be addressed in its Country Report, in general, each section and chapter should:
- a) Provide an analysis of trends and indicate changes, over the past 10 years where feasible;
 - b) Identify the main challenges and opportunities;
 - c) Provide clearly stated strategic directions of needs and priorities to achieve the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture. This should include both immediate actions and long-term planning needs;
 - d) Where available, provide information to assist in the development and/or consolidation of thematic studies that are being undertaken as part of preparing the SoWBFA Report.

V. TIMELINE AND PROCESS

18. The overall process for preparing the first SoWBFA Report, as presented in document CGRFA-14/13/3, establishes that a letter will be sent to request countries to identify National Focal Points for the preparatory process for Country Reports by November 2013 and that the Guidelines will be finalized and made available to countries by that same time. Country Reports should be finalized and submitted by the end of 2014.

19. The following steps are recommended in undertaking preparation of the Country Report, using a participatory approach:

- a) Each participating country should appoint a National Focal Point for the preparation of the Country Report who will also be the contact between the country and FAO. This should be done by November 2013.
- b) Countries may decide to establish a national committee to oversee preparation of the Country Report. In such cases, the national committee should consist of as many representative stakeholders as practical, include those from different sectors and those able to support analysis of associated biodiversity, meet frequently to review progress and consult with key stakeholders. It should be noted that the timetable allows a total of about 13 months for the preparation of Country Reports.
- c) The National Focal Point can establish working groups to compile data and information for specific sections of the Country Report, or to write specific chapters of the Country Report. Each member of the working group should receive a copy of the finalized Guidelines.
- d) The National Focal Point should prepare a first draft of the entire Country Report and coordinate a consultative process for stakeholder review.
- e) The National Focal Point should finalize the Country Report following the stakeholder review, and submit it to FAO by the end of 2014 in order to be used as an input to the SoWBFA Report.
- f) If countries are unable to submit final Country Reports by the set deadline, preliminary reports of findings should be provided to FAO to contribute to the identification of global priorities for inclusion in the first SoWBFA Report.

20. Subject to the availability of financial resources, FAO will provide technical support to assist with the preparation of Country Reports if requested.

21. Regional meetings are planned in 2016 for the National Focal Points to gather regional perspectives on gaps and needs as an important input to the SoWBFA Report. FAO will also encourage the involvement of all international stakeholders in country support.

22. The final Country Report must be in one of the official languages of FAO (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish) and be submitted as an official government document.

The FAO contact for preparation of Country Reports is:

Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
Secretary's office

Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN – FAO
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome, Italy
Fax: +39 0657054981
Email: CGRFA-SOWBFA@fao.org

APPENDIX I

PRELIMINARY GUIDANCE FOR THE CONTENT OF COUNTRY REPORTS

1. Introduction

The Country Report is intended not only to support the assessment of the State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture but also to be a strategic tool to help guide the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources in the country. Country Reports will complement available sector country reports and should, as far as possible:

- Provide an analysis of the current status of biodiversity for food and agriculture and of trends and changes over the past 10 years;
- Describe the main driving forces affecting biodiversity for food and agriculture as a whole, and particularly associated biodiversity, the nature of the impacts, positive and negative, and the actions taken to manage or influence these;
- Identify new and emerging issues and the main challenges and opportunities to achieving goals in relation to the conservation, use and management of biodiversity for food and agriculture. Where possible, solutions to issues should be provided;
- Provide strategic directions and conclusions aimed at the national level, and at the regional and global levels, that enable priority setting at all levels.

The topics or questions listed below are in many cases indicative and reflect the main subject areas or topics that the SoWBFA Report will cover and the kinds of information that will be needed. The finalized Guidelines distributed to countries will be supported by additional information to help structure the responses, specify more precisely the information required and ensure comparability between countries in their responses. Countries need not repeat information contained in country reports on animal, aquatic, forest or plant genetic resources unless this helps to describe aspects of integration, inter-linkages, synergies and trade-offs. The preparation of Country Reports should help to stimulate discussion and analysis and assist countries to identify strategic directions that address priorities and needs.

2. The content of the Country Report: indicative questions and specific topics

Executive Summary

Country Reports should contain an executive summary of 2-3 pages, which highlights the main findings of the analysis and provides an overview of key issues, challenges and existing capacity to address the issues and challenges. The summary should indicate trends and driving forces and present an overview of the proposed strategic directions for future actions at the national, regional and global levels.

Chapter 1

Introduction to the Country and to the role of biodiversity for food and agriculture

The main objective of this Chapter is to present an overview that allows a person who is unfamiliar with the country to understand the conditions and help the reader appreciate the context for the Country Report. Detailed information should be provided in subsequent Chapters. Countries may wish to consider developing the Introduction after completing the main body of the Country Report.

Countries may wish to use or refer to information contained in the reports prepared for plant, animal, forest and aquatic genetic resources in their introductory section as part of providing an integrated overview of all aspects of biodiversity for food and agriculture and of its contribution to food security and nutrition ecosystem functions and services and sustainability.

It is recommended that the introduction provides:

1. Basic information on the size and location of the country: its main physiographic and climatic features, human population and trends, the overall nature and characteristics of the economy, including the forest, agricultural and aquatic sectors, and of their importance for the national economy.
2. A brief profile of the rural sector, including a comparative assessment of the relative importance of different crop, animal, forest and aquatic production systems in terms of economic value, area, dependence of people and nature of enterprises (small-scale, subsistence, migratory, intensive production, plantations etc.), land tenure systems, roles and relative importance of local, national and international enterprises.
3. A description of recent trends that are common to all aspects of biodiversity for food and agriculture and the main reasons for observed changes.
4. Information on relevant national strategies or plans (development plans, strategies to cope with climate change, land planning etc.).
5. An assessment of the current situation with respect to food security and nutrition and the ecosystem health and sustainability of production systems: an evaluation of the current and potential contributions of the genetic resources that constitute biodiversity for food and agriculture to these different objectives.
6. An analysis of the major similarities, differences, synergies and trade offs between sectors and between the different sectors and associated biodiversity.
7. A map of the country, marking the places and regions mentioned in the Country Report if necessary.
8. A description of the process that was followed in preparing the Country Report, providing the names (with affiliations and addresses) of the participants in an annex.

Chapter 2

Drivers and change

This Chapter seeks to provide an assessment of the ways in which major drivers of change are affecting the extent and distribution of biodiversity for food and agriculture. Since the sector reports provide information for each sector independently it would be useful to focus on:

- The overall effect of different drivers on biodiversity for food and agriculture;
- The specific effects of different drivers on components of associated biodiversity (e.g. soil organisms, pollinators) and on rural landscape features important to associated biodiversity (e.g. hedges, living fences, ponds, riparian pathways, field margins);
- Marked differences in the effects of drivers on sector genetic resources or associated biodiversity.

Chapter 2 should, as far as possible, include information on the following topics:

1. The effect of different drivers of change on numbers and distribution of rural populations and on production practices and (to the extent known) the consequential effect of these on biodiversity for food and agriculture.

2. The magnitude, nature and effect of changes in land use involving forest and agricultural land and of land degradation and the specific effect of different drivers on these changes.
3. The effect of climate change on biodiversity for food and agriculture over the last 20-40 years.
4. The effect on biodiversity for food and agriculture of changes in consumption, use of rural products and the patterns and nature of trade in biodiversity for food and agriculture related products.
5. The differences, interactions and trade-offs between different sectors and between sectors and associated biodiversity with respect to the effects of different drivers of change.

The Country Report should include information or reference to any specific studies that have been carried out that relate observed changes in the amount or distribution of biodiversity for food and agriculture in the country to different drivers.

Chapter 3

The Current Status and trends of biodiversity for food and agriculture

The main objective of this chapter is to describe the current status of biodiversity for food and agriculture in the country, including associated biodiversity, and to identify current trends. The chapter should also indicate current gaps and future needs and priorities. Where possible, countries should identify interventions required to support maintenance of associated biodiversity and indicate whether action is required at local, national, regional or global levels.

The status and trends of associated biodiversity may best be reported in relation to specific ecosystem functions or services such as pest and disease management, pollination or soil quality. Information on the following topics would be of value in the Country Report:

- The state of diversity between and (where any information exists) within species with respect to associated biodiversity;
- The importance of the different components of associated biodiversity in relation to specific ecosystem services;
- The main factors influencing the state of genetic diversity with an emphasis on threatened and endangered species and resources;
- The state of activities and of the development of technologies that are providing information on the status of biodiversity for food and agriculture;
- Major gaps in the information available with suggestions on how these might be overcome together with needs and priorities for improving knowledge of status and trends of biodiversity for food and agriculture.

It is proposed that information on the following topics be included in this chapter.

Status and trends

1. The country's main productive ecosystems (including crop, pastoral, rangeland, forest and aquatic). Where possible, the FAO Global Agro-Ecological Zone (GAEZ) classification and other globally developed approaches should be used such as the FAO Report on the State of Land and Water Resources.⁵ Countries may wish to use the classification in providing information on the different topics identified in this and subsequent Chapters.
2. The information that is available on associated biodiversity either with respect to specific ecosystem functions or (where available) classes of organisms. This would include reporting on any relevant studies that have been undertaken and describing currently available sources of information.

⁵ <http://www.fao.org/nr/gaez/en/#>

3. Ongoing studies or monitoring activities that can provide information on the extent and distribution of inter- or intra-specific diversity of associated biodiversity in relation to ecosystem function. Information systems that have been established or are planned should also be reported.
4. The main associated biodiversity species that are actively managed or identified for environmental services in the country, e.g. species used for improving soil quality, for pollination and other regulating or supporting services. Available information on inter- or intra-specific diversity of these resources should also be included.
5. Evidence of any synergies, linkages, complementarities or trade offs with respect to the status and trends of different components of biodiversity for food and agriculture.

Threats and erosion

1. Production systems, and species or populations of associated biodiversity that are considered as at risk in the country together with an estimate of the magnitude and a description of the nature of the threat.
2. The methods currently used to assess genetic erosion of associated biodiversity.
3. Any evidence that loss of associated biodiversity has limited ecosystem functions or services or increased production system vulnerability. Information on specific situations where this is believed to be the case should also be provided.

Disaster and response

1. Information on the ways in which biodiversity for food and agriculture is known to help mitigate natural or human-made disasters.
2. The existence of any risk analysis of potential threats from natural or human-made disasters to the genetic resources of biodiversity for food and agriculture.

Future Needs and priorities

1. Priorities for describing and monitoring the state of diversity of biodiversity for food and agriculture, particularly with respect to associated biodiversity.
2. Priorities for assessing genetic erosion or the threats from natural or human-made disasters
3. Capacity building needs with respect to assessing status and trends of associated biodiversity.
4. Priorities with respect to developing a fuller knowledge of the roles and values of associated biodiversity.

Chapter 4

The state of use of biodiversity for food and agriculture

The aim of this Chapter is to provide available information on the use of biodiversity for food and agriculture in the country in ways that complement the information provided in sector reports. The emphasis should be on the use of associated biodiversity and on the integrated use of all biodiversity for food and agriculture. "Use" includes practices that support the contribution of biodiversity for food and agriculture to production, food security and nutrition, ecosystem regulating and supporting services, sustainability, and resilience in different production systems. Interventions, including policies and actions that support the conservation and use of biodiversity for food and agriculture, should be reported in Chapter 5. In this Chapter countries should also report the extent to which ecosystem approaches have been adopted in relation to the use of biodiversity for food and agriculture and management of production systems.

It may be convenient to structure Chapter 4 of the Country Report as follows:

- The current status of use of biodiversity for food and agriculture and its contribution to food and nutrition security and of biodiversity for food and agriculture and rural poverty reduction;
- The contribution of biodiversity for food and agriculture to specific supporting and regulating ecosystem services;
- The contribution of biodiversity for food and agriculture to sustainability, resilience and to sustainable intensification;
- The state of the sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture;
- The status of application of the ecosystem approach.

It is proposed that information on the following topics be included in this chapter.

Food security and nutrition, rural poverty alleviation

1. Information available on production practices that support the use of associated biodiversity to improve food security and nutrition or alleviate rural poverty (with specific regard to food production, diversification to support nutrition, or income generation).
2. Information available on production practices that support the use of biodiversity for food and agriculture as a whole to improve food security and nutrition or alleviate rural poverty.

Ecosystem function and the provision of ecosystem services

1. Information available on production practices that support the contribution of biodiversity for food and agriculture to the provision of ecosystem services and ecosystem function with particular reference to associated biodiversity maintenance and use. These include the contribution of biodiversity for food and agriculture to:
 - Integrated pest, parasite and disease-vector management and other biocontrol practices;
 - Pollination;
 - Soil improvement practices;
 - Organic or other agricultural practices regarded as sustaining biodiversity for food and agriculture;
 - Diversification of production systems;
 - Support for actions that enhance associated biodiversity (maintenance of corridors for wildlife, maintenance of field margins etc.).
2. Specific information, reports or other documentation on situations where there is evidence on the contribution of biodiversity for food and agriculture to ecosystem function or the provision of ecosystem services, together with information on the areas and production systems involved.
3. The nature and extent of problems caused by inappropriate production practices that reduce the provision of ecosystem services. These might include:
 - Nutrient pollution;
 - Pesticide, herbicide and veterinary drug overuse;
 - Inappropriate water management;
 - Soil degradation;
 - Over-grazing.
4. The approximate area or proportion of production systems affected by different inappropriate production practices and the extent and sources of information available.
5. Specific information, reports or other documentation on situations where there is evidence that lack of biodiversity for food and agriculture has limited ecosystem function or the provision of ecosystem services.

Sustainability and sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture

1. Information available on production practices that support or enhance the contribution of associated biodiversity or biodiversity for food and agriculture to sustainable production or sustainable intensification.
2. Information on recent studies that relate biodiversity for food and agriculture to sustainability or sustainable intensification.
3. Information available on production practices that support the sustainable use of associated biodiversity (e.g. actions that limit wild harvesting of associated biodiversity, that support maintenance or introduction of increased associated biodiversity into production systems such as controls on use of pesticides that affect pollinators or beneficial insects).
4. Information on recent studies on the sustainable use of associated biodiversity.

Aspects of the ecosystem approach

Information on the extent of adoption of the ecosystem approach under the following headings:

1. The ways in which production system management decisions are made (involvement of different sectors of society, decentralization of decision making);
2. The procedures used in land use and production system decision-making that take account of ecosystem characteristics, structure and functionality;
3. Practices that take account of the importance of maintaining an appropriate balance between conservation and use (e.g. support for different types of farming or production practices, subsidies for maintenance of diversity etc.);
4. Actions that support maintenance of relevant scientific and traditional knowledge (information systems, support for maintenance of cultural heritage etc.);
5. Actions, policies and regulations that secure or limit indigenous peoples' activities, rights and protections with respect to the management of biodiversity for food and agriculture and the impact of these.
6. Information on the experiences from the adoption of the ecosystem approach and of any measurable outcomes

Future needs and priorities

Major needs and priorities for the adoption of practices aimed at improving the contribution of biodiversity for food and agriculture to:

- Food security and nutrition;
- Rural livelihoods;
- Ecosystem function and the provision of ecosystem services;
- Sustainability and resilience;
- Sustainable use;
- The ecosystem approach.

These are likely to include needs and priorities for specific activities, resources, capacity building, policies and regulations, information management and research.

Chapter 5

The state of interventions in the conservation and use of biodiversity for food and agriculture

The aim of this chapter is to describe the actions taken within a country that support the conservation of biodiversity for food and agriculture. These may be undertaken *ex situ* or *in situ* and include relevant systems, practices, policies and regulations. Since the different sector reports have described

the situation for plant, animal, forestry and aquatic genetic resources, the Country Report should focus associated biodiversity and on those elements of the country's conservation system that integrate activities across all sectors, are relevant to all sectors or support interlinkages between sectors. Countries should include their involvement in relevant regional or international activities. The following kinds of actions should be reported:

- National policies, legislation or regulations that support conservation of biodiversity for food and agriculture not specific to individual sectors and/or are relevant to associated biodiversity;
- National programmes and actions that support *in situ* or *ex situ* conservation of associated biodiversity;
- National actions that integrate or affect all sectors and associated biodiversity; evidence of synergies, interlinkages or trade-offs;
- Benefit sharing arrangements relevant to associated biodiversity;
- Available capacity and resources together with needs to support relevant conservation actions;
- Available knowledge and information management systems together with research gaps and needs;
- Involvement in relevant regional or international actions on conservation of associated biodiversity.

The following topics and questions are proposed as a guide to country reporting:

Policies

1. Policies, regulations, certification procedures or other mechanisms that enhance the contribution of associated biodiversity or all aspects of biodiversity for food and agriculture to food and security and nutrition and to rural livelihoods together with the approximate areas involved.
2. Policies, regulations, certification procedures or other mechanisms that enhance ecosystem function and the provision of ecosystem services together with the approximate areas involved.
3. Policies, regulations certification procedures or other mechanisms that support or enhance the contribution of associated biodiversity or of all biodiversity for food and agriculture to sustainable production.
4. Policies, regulations certification procedures or other mechanisms that support or limit the sustainable use of associated biodiversity (e.g. actions that limit wild harvesting of associated biodiversity, that support maintenance or introduction of increased associated biodiversity into production systems such as controls on use of pesticides that affect pollinators or beneficial insects).
5. Schemes to support producers maintain associated biodiversity or which provide overall support to the conservation of biodiversity for food and agriculture (e.g. relevant Payment for Environmental Services Schemes).
6. The existence of policies or plans that embed the use of biodiversity for food and agriculture into disaster management and response.
7. Policies and regulations that govern the exchange of associated biodiversity within the country or between countries.
8. Access and benefit sharing provisions relevant to associated biodiversity within the country or between countries.
9. Obstacles to the development of improved legislation that would protect associated biodiversity.

National programmes, capacity and actions

1. The arrangements that exist at national level to support the conservation of associated biodiversity (e.g. national programmes, responsibilities given to specific institutions, numbers and types of institutions involved, management plans, networks or stakeholder forums).
2. Actions, organizations or procedures that integrate or oversee the conservation of biodiversity for food and agriculture as a whole (this may include national strategies, committees, stakeholder forums, networks, information systems or other relevant collaborating or cross-sectoral actions)
3. Details of any *ex situ* collections for associated biodiversity. Such collections might include fungal culture collections or type collections of bacteria or viruses.
4. The contribution of civil society groups to the maintenance of associated biodiversity or biodiversity for food and agriculture as a whole.
5. The numbers, areas, agroecological and socio-cultural characteristics of any areas that have been accorded some kind of protection or recognition by virtue of their contribution to production. These may include national parks, International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative (IPSI) or Globally Important Agricultural Systems (GIAHS) designated areas, identified buffer zones around UNESCO Man and Biosphere reserves or relevant Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas . Indicate the nature of recognition given.

Information management

1. National information systems that maintain information on associated biodiversity.
2. Linkages between sector information systems at national level.
3. Information systems that support maintenance of traditional knowledge on associated biodiversity.

Awareness, education, knowledge, and research

1. The state of public awareness of the importance of biodiversity for food and agriculture in the country. Any ongoing public awareness programmes or planned actions that complement work relevant to the different sectors should also be reported.
2. Training programmes or elements of programmes (targeted short courses, university degree elements, post graduate training) that deal with the conservation of associated biodiversity or the contribution of biodiversity for food and agriculture to food and nutrition security, ecosystem function and sustainability. List institutions, courses and approximate numbers of students taking different types of courses.
3. Research programmes that support the conservation of associated biodiversity or adopt an integrated approach to the maintenance and use of biodiversity for food and agriculture. List numbers of institutions involved, approximate availability of resources. References to any relevant publications from the last 10 years should also be provided.
4. Major knowledge gaps with respect to conservation and use of associated biodiversity that have been identified and any plans that exist to address these.

International and regional collaboration

1. Regional or international initiatives in which the country is involved that are concerned with the conservation or use of associated biodiversity.

Constraints, gaps, limitations and future actions

1. The main constraints that exist to the improved conservation of associated biodiversity and those actions that should have highest priority nationally, regionally or internationally.

2. The main constraints that limit the development of integrated programmes to support improved conservation and use of biodiversity for food and agriculture. What new actions have highest priority nationally, regionally or internationally?

Chapter 6

Future agendas for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture: helping to secure the multiple benefits of agriculture

The preparation of Country Reports should support the development of future programmes of action as well as contributing to internationally agreed objectives and targets such as the UN Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and relevant Aichi Targets. This Chapter should seek to describe relevant plans or programmes that have already been developed and to identify their major priorities for future action. This will be of major importance in developing the planned chapter on this subject in the SoWBFA Report and assist countries in their own planning.

This part of the Country Report should build on the results presented in earlier Chapters and provide an integrated overview with, where possible, clear priorities for country, regional or global actions. Countries may wish to take full advantage of their different sector reports to identify an overall perspective. Specific topics that should be considered include:

- Ways of strengthening the contribution of biodiversity for food and agriculture (and especially associated biodiversity) to food security and nutrition, rural livelihoods, ecosystem function and the provision of ecosystem services, and sustainability and resilience;
- Improving recognition and support for stakeholder involvement including taking account of gender perspectives and strengthening recognition of the role of rural communities and indigenous peoples;
- Strengthening institutions concerned with maintenance and use of biodiversity for food and agriculture;
- Strengthening policies and legal frameworks;
- Addressing gaps in knowledge and identifying research needs;
- Improving information management;
- Developing ways of monitoring the state of biodiversity for food and agriculture.