



**Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations**



**The International Treaty
ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

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NOTIFICATION

National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and Synergies among biodiversity-related Conventions

Dear Madam/Sir,

As part of the ongoing cooperation between the secretariats of the International Treaty and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), I have the pleasure to bring to your attention the notification recently issued by the Executive Director of the UNEP in respect of the ongoing revision of the national biodiversity strategy and action plans and the UNEP project on coherence and synergy in implementing the global biodiversity-related conventions.

Your attention is also drawn to Notification [PL 40/31 NCP GB6-001 NBSAPs](#), previously issued pursuant to Governing Body Resolution 6/2013, which is also relevant to this issue.

Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurance of my highest consideration.

Shakeel Bhatti
Secretary of the Governing Body
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources
for Food and Agriculture



Sir/Madam,

I have the honour to draw your attention to the approaching deadline for achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Target 17, ***"By 2015 each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan"***.

As you will recall, Decision X/2 of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture, Japan, in October 2010 adopted The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) should be an instrument for the implementation of all biodiversity-related conventions. In adopting the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) invited Parties to take into account potential synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions. Subsequently, the cluster of biodiversity-related Conventions explicitly encouraged their national focal points to engage in their country's NBSAPs revision process, or called upon their State Parties to ensure that convention specific issues are fully considered (see the respective notifications, resolutions and decisions - CITES (2011) Notification No. 2011/021, CMS (2005) UNEP/CMS/Resolution 8.18, ITPGRFA (2013) Notification PL 40/31 NCP GB6 NBSAPs, WHC (2012) Committee Decisions: 37 COM 5A. and Ramsar (2012) Resolution X1.6).

To date, approximately 25% of the Parties have submitted copies of their post-2010 NBSAPs to the CBD Secretariat. Therefore, some 75% of Parties have not yet submitted their NBSAPs, although in many cases the revision will be well advanced. However, if your country is still in the process of finalizing its post-2010 NBSAPs, I wish to encourage you to take action to ensure that your country's NBSAPs is included as an instrument for the implementation of all biodiversity-related conventions.

Guidance on integrating convention-specific issues into NBSAPs has been provided for their Parties by both the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)- please refer to the following publications:

CITES (2011) Contributing to the development, review, updating and revision of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans- A Draft Guide for CITES Parties (www.cites.org/eng/notif/2011/E026A.pdf), and

CMS Secretariat and Prip, C (2011) Guidelines on the integration on migratory species into National Biodiversity Strategies and Actions Plans (www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/27_guidelines_nbsap_e_O.pdf).

I am pleased to invite you to take advantage of the recently published UNEP ***Sourcebook of Opportunities for Enhancing Cooperation among the Biodiversity-related Conventions at National and Regional Level***, which provides a wide range of case studies of cooperation among national focal points, agencies responsible for implementing the Conventions and other stakeholders. The UNEP Sourcebook published in May 2015 has been developed through a broad consultative process that began in October 2013. It is one of the

outputs from the UNEP project on improving the effectiveness of and cooperation among biodiversity-related conventions, and exploring opportunities for further synergies, funded by the European Union and the Government of Switzerland.

The aim of the Sourcebook is to provide national focal points of the biodiversity-related Conventions and other stakeholders working on these Conventions with options to achieve enhanced implementation of the Conventions through strengthening cooperation, based on the experience of their counterparts in other countries. The Sourcebook may be downloaded from: <http://www.unep.org/delc/Publications/tabid/54417/Default.aspx>

One of the six thematic sections of the Sourcebook specifically focuses on the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and NBSAPs. This section not only outlines the benefits of using the NBSAPs revision process to implement conventions coherently (including enhanced implementation of MEAs, avoidance of duplication of work and high-level support), but also provides a lot of inspiring examples on how to ensure that issues related to each of the biodiversity-related conventions as well as the issue of cooperation among the Conventions, is reflected in the resulting NBSAPs.

Finally, it is also worth recognising that one of the key lessons identified in the UNEP Sourcebook is that increased cooperation amongst the national focal points to the biodiversity-related conventions, and relevant ministerial departments and agencies, should become part of a wider strategy to mainstream NBSAPs development and implementation with other relevant sectors impacting on biodiversity- as well as to respond effectively to the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Achim Steiner
Executive Director