



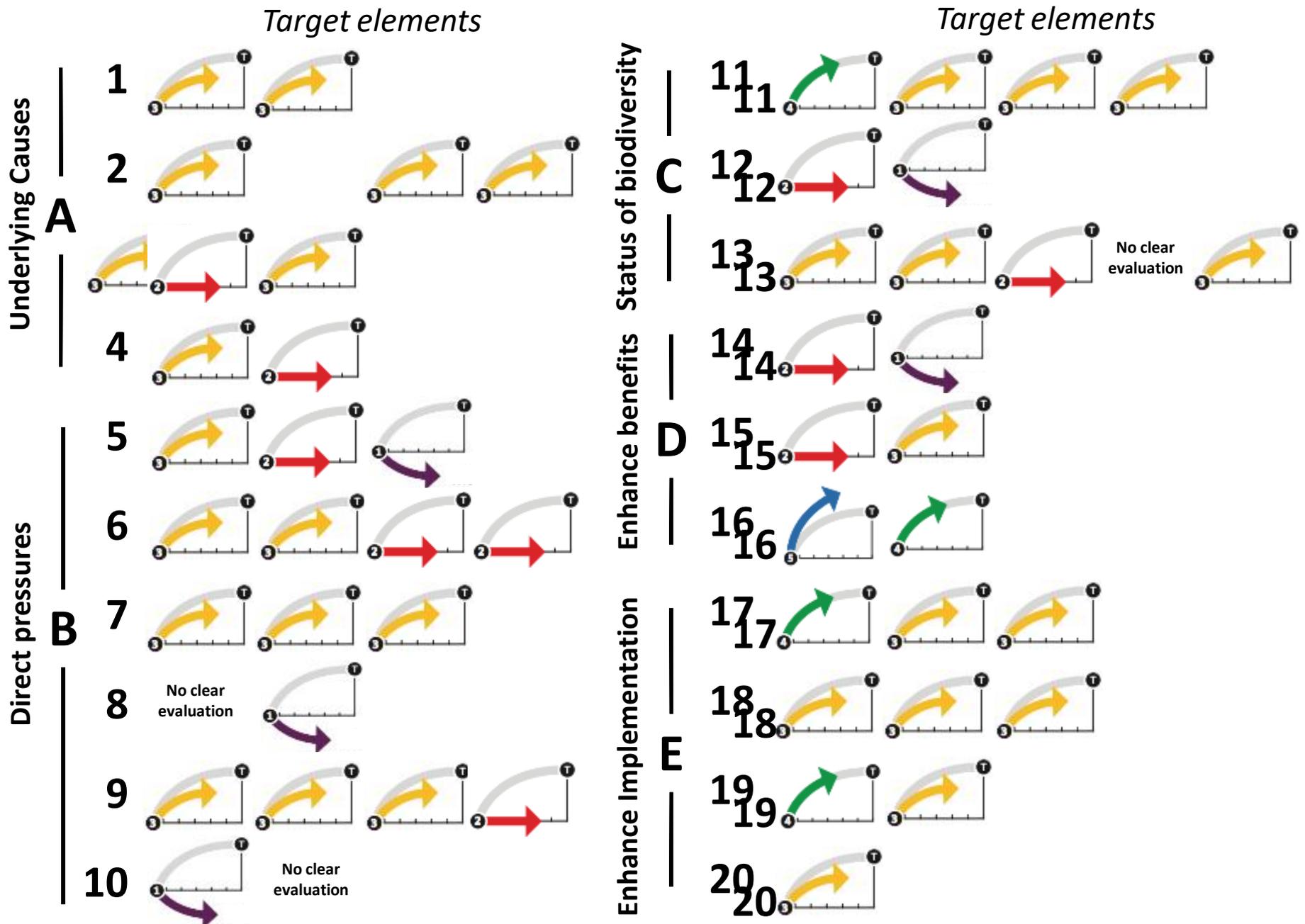
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How far is implementation of the CBD and the Aichi targets? Lessons learned from NBSAPs.

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Seminar on Rethinking Biodiversity Governance, 14 September 2017

Overview of the “Dashboard” for the Aichi Targets



Social sciences needed to achieve the Aichi Targets

Global Biodiversity Outlook 4:

‘Key potential actions that could accelerate progress towards this goal, if more widely applied’ (Goal A).

‘

‘Better use of the social sciences, including an understanding of the social, economic and cultural drivers motivating behaviour and their interplay, in order to improve the design of communication and engagement campaigns and of relevant policies.....’

NBSAPs - CBD Article 6

'Each Contracting Party shall, in accordance with its particular conditions and capabilities: (a) Develop national strategies, plans or programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity or adapt for this purpose existing strategies, plans or programmes which shall reflect, inter alia, the measures set out in this Convention relevant to the Contracting Party concerned; and (b) Integrate, as far as possible and as appropriate, the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies.'

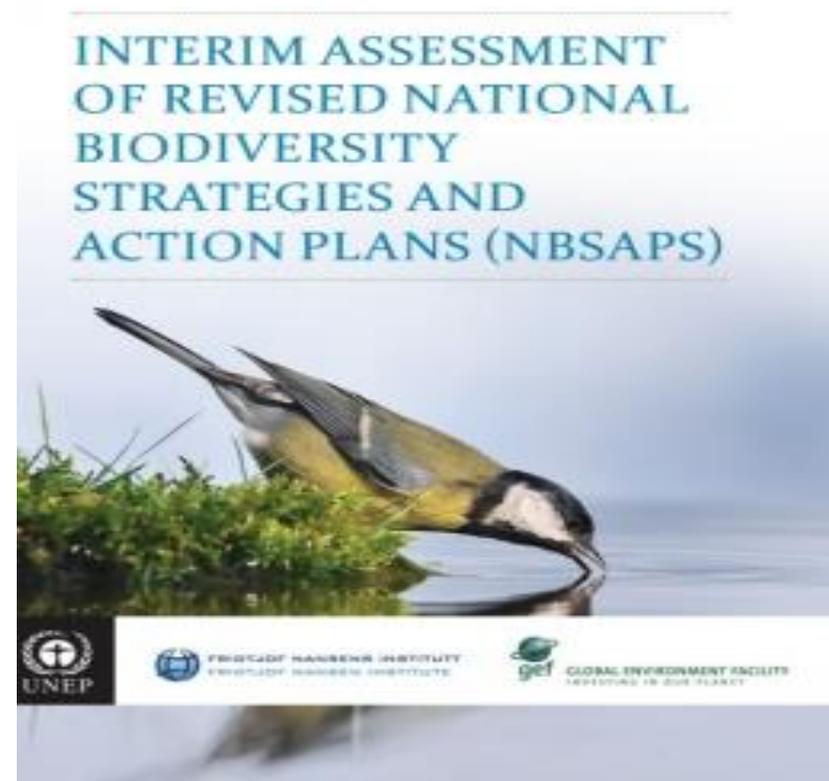
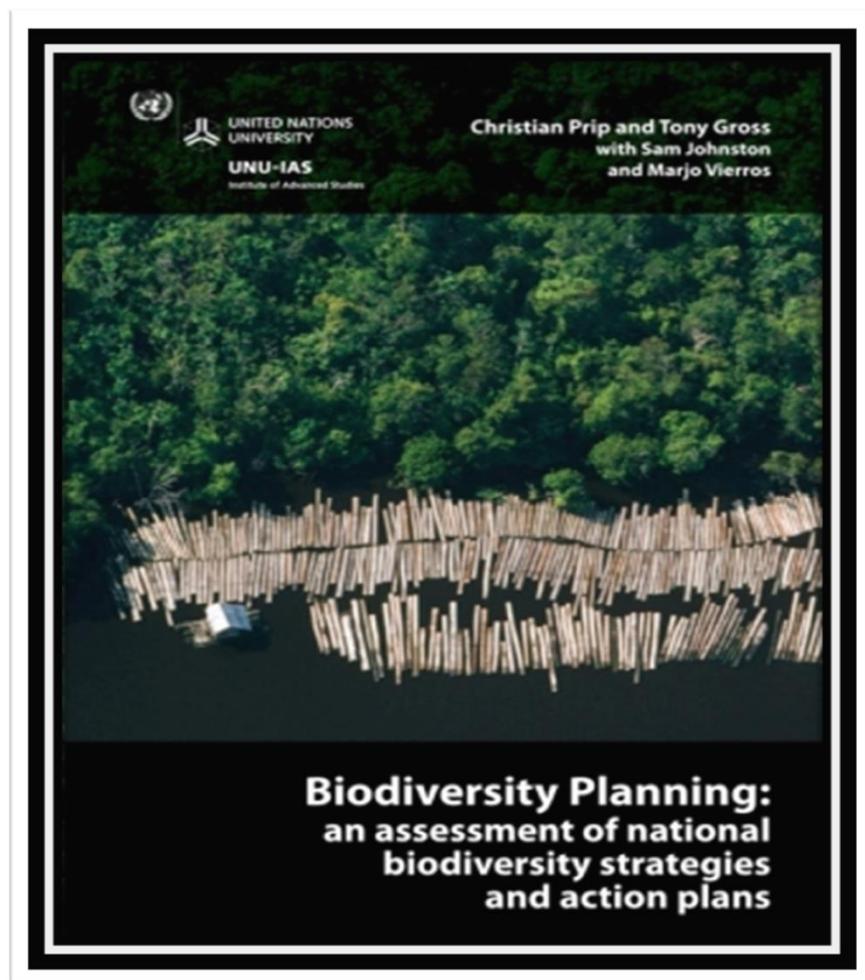
- NBSAPs reveal readiness to meet implementation and achievement of targets.

Aichi 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’



Earlier assessment of NBSAPs



Major focus points of the post 2010 NBSAP assessment

- NBSAP preparation process and adoption as a policy instrument;
- Biodiversity mainstreaming in NBSAPs;
- NBSAPs as a tool for implementation of other biodiversity related conventions;
- Developing and developed country NBSAPs;
- Legal preparedness – especially in relation to mainstreaming;
- Resource mobilization.

Assessed 115 post Nagoya NBSAPs submitted up to September 2016. (Now there are 147).

Used information gathered by the CBD Secretariat but went beyond and provided a closer analysis and discussion.

NBSAP preparation process

- Many 1st generation NBSAPs had broad participatory, bottom-up processes;
- 2nd generation seem to put less emphasis on the process – apparently narrow and short top-down processes;
- Little information about their effect for the final outcome.



NBSAP 'ownership'

Assumption:

Biodiversity planning needs to be a political give and take process across sectors and interests to achieve mainstreaming.

- 1st generation NBSAPs were technical rather than political!
- A majority of 2nd generation NBSAPs have been adopted 'only' by the Minister/Ministry of Environment or equivalent.
- Often unclear whether NBSAPs are politically 'owned'. A (large) minority have been adopted on government/cabinet/head of state level. Very few were adopted by Parliaments (Norway). A number are yet to be politically endorsed.
- Some are explicit that they provide 'guidance' rather than policy.
- Most NBSAPs do not provide for a coordination/implementation mechanism – others include targets on their establishment.



NBSAPs and mainstreaming

- Mainstreaming is not new in the CBD!
 - but the Aichi targets and the SDGs have created further impetus.
 - Mainstreaming is prominently reflected in nearly all NBSAPs!
- Reciprocal alignment with cross-sectoral plans and policies is well established.
- Sectoral plans and policies? Nearly all NBSAPs address forestry, fishery and agriculture. Fewer address tourism and even fewer mining, energy and infrastructure.
- SDGs? Not reflected in the NBSAPs (timing).



Some country examples

- Mainstreaming is an overall objective in most NBSAPS. Examples:

Myanmar mission:

- *By 2020, biodiversity is valued, effectively conserved, sustainably used, and appropriately mainstreamed to ensure the continuous flow of ecosystem goods and services for the economic, environmental and social wellbeing of the present and future generations.*

Tanzania mission:

- *Take effective action to reduce biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation, and long-term ecosystems functioning is ensured in order that by 2020 Tanzania's rich biodiversity is secured and contribution of biodiversity and other ecosystem services to the well-being and economic prosperity of the people is guaranteed, through capacity building, knowledge management, funding and mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society, and involvement of all stakeholders*

Guyana vision:

- *By 2030, biodiversity is sustainably utilized, managed and mainstreamed into all sectors contributing to the advancement of Guyana's bio-security, and socio-economic and low carbon development*



Mainstreaming beyond the overall objectives?

- Most often broad and aspirational reflections – little about what is needed to operationalize mainstreaming in terms of institutions and legal frameworks.
- Some include targets to review policies and legislation relevant for mainstreaming to collect baseline data.
- Mainstreaming is at a very initial stage in many countries.
- Mainstreaming goals and targets may not always have been coordinated at political level.
- The ultimate mainstreaming approach from some 1st NBSAPs – the NBSAP as a compilation of sectoral plans – have not been repeated.
- ‘Vertical mainstreaming’ – the devolution of power to local authorities and communities – have received notable more attention in post-2020 NBSAPs.



The Ecosystem Services Approach

- - acknowledged in most NBSAPs (biodiversity and ecosystem services treated on an equal footing),
- but not much reflection beyond general, aspirational statements,
- A minority provides for valuation of ecosystem services. A smaller minority report that valuation has already been carried out. Very little action in light of valuation.



Why legal approaches to mainstreaming?

- Mainstreaming is about transformative changes in values, decision-making and practices. Requires political buy-in from those involved and legal frameworks to hold them accountable.
- Legal frameworks can set principles and safeguards, clear roles and responsibilities.
- Legal frameworks provide for enforcement.
- Preparation of legal frameworks provide an opportunity to raise awareness about the value of biodiversity – Ideally the NBSAP preparation should constitute this process.



NBSAP application of legal approaches to mainstreaming

- All in all revised NBSAPs more than 1st generation take legal approaches into account.
- Insufficient legal tools and/or weak enforcement of these tools are often mentioned as an impediment for implementing 1st generation NBSAPs.
- Two approaches for addressing legal tools:
 - 1) Direct commitments in NBSAPs to take legal action in specific areas;
 - 2) Call for subsequent gap analysis of the existing legal frameworks to assess the need for legal reforms.
- Many NBSAPs call for consolidated biodiversity laws.
- Still, relatively little reflection on how to translate mainstreaming into legal tools.



Specific legal approaches to mainstreaming

- Impact assessment (EIA and SEA) – the most applied legal tool for mainstreaming;
- Spatial planning – an area based management tool for mainstreaming and application of the Ecosystem Approach, but addressed by few NBSAPs:
- Economic instruments – recognized as important, but few reflections of what is needed in legal terms;
- Land reforms to strengthen smallholder tenure rights – a number of NBSAPs provide for legal reforms.
- Devolution of power to local authorities (vertical mainstreaming) – a number of NBSAPs provide for legal reforms.



National targets

- CBD Secretariat: Less than 50% include targets equivalent to the Aichi Targets.
- Targets that address direct causes of biodiversity loss and 'traditional nature conservation measures are much more frequent than those addressing indirect causes and mainstreaming.
- CBD Secretariat: National targets are generally less ambitious than equivalent Aichi Targets. Targets and assessment of national reports reveal that the Aichi Targets will not be met with the current effort.



NBSAPs as a tool for implementation of other biodiversity related conventions

- The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 – 2020 has been acknowledged as a universal framework for action. Governing bodies of other biodiversity related conventions have endorsed the plan.
- Two of the conventions (CITES and CMS) have developed guidance on how to use NBSAPs as an implementing tool.
- UNEP has invested a lot of resources in promoting synergies between the conventions.
- In that light, the attention to synergistic implementation is very scarce in NBSAPs.



NBSAPs and the third CBD objective

- Equitable sharing of benefits and the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol prominently reflected, but in a broader context than the CBD concept ‘genetic resources’.



NBSAPs in developing and developed countries

Different trends:

- Developing countries:

Generally 'Aichi consistent- with goal, target actions and indicators. Adopted at low political level.

Developed countries

Generally 'broad' and unbound by the CBD with less use of targets and more building on countries' existing nature conservation policies. Adopted at high political level.

Resource mobilization

- Lack of resources is identified as a major constraint to implementation in evaluation of 1st NBSAPs.
- A minority of NBSAPs include resource mobilisation strategies.
- More include targets to develop such strategies.
- Many NBSAPs include cost estimates for actions.
- Developing countries declare themselves highly dependant of external funding, but also acknowledge the need for providing resources from their own budget.
- Mainstreaming as a means for ‘innovative funding’ is hardly addressed.



Some conclusions

- 2nd generation NBSAPs are much more targeted than first generation.
- They have more focus on mainstreaming.
- They address to a larger extent the need for legal reforms.



But.....

- They often seem to have not been prepared in a very participatory process.
- They are often not endorsed by the government (only the responsible minister or ministry).
- Their targets on mainstreaming are often in general and aspirational terms without specification on how they could be operationalised.
- They are not specific about what legal requirements are needed – postpone considerations on this.
- Thus, many of them can hardly be described as policy tools.
- Generally they are on the right track, but at a very early stage and behind schedule in terms of reaching the Aichi targets.



Some issues for researchers and policy-makers

- Evaluation of post 2020 NBSAP processes.
- Based on lessons from NBSAPs – what type of targets do we need for post 2020?
 - more or less repeating Aichi targets?
 - policy tool targets (like addressing the underlying causes, mainstreaming, production and consumption patterns, removing harmful incentives, valuation etc) or mainly targets on improving the state of biodiversity?
 - Balance between an anthropocentric and a ecocentric approach? Does the first approach overshadow the latter?
 - How to best complement SDGs 14 and 15?
 - Better alignment between biodiversity and climate change policies?
- Assessing implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (will be included in the post 2020 SP).

