



Convention on
Biological Diversity

PRESS RELEASE



UNEP WCMC

REGIONAL PROGRESS TOWARDS GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL TARGETS ASSESSED ON INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIODIVERSITY

22 May 2016, Cambridge, UK; Montreal, Canada; and Nairobi, Kenya – Today on the International Day for Biodiversity, a major series of four regional reports entitled *The State of Biodiversity – a mid-term review of progress towards the Strategic Plan*, have been launched.

The four reports, one each for Africa, Asia and the Pacific, West Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean were initiated by UNEP Division of Environmental Law and Conventions in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and prepared by the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC). The reports offer a regional perspective of the Convention's 2014 publication *Global Biodiversity Outlook-4 (GBO-4)*.

Using a similar approach and method of analysis to that of GBO-4, each of the regional State of Biodiversity reports contains a summary of progress towards a set of 20 global environment-related goals known as the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, followed by a detailed target by target analysis and a summary of opportunities and recommendations for policy and decision makers.

The reports' key findings are that all regions are making good progress on Target 11 (protected areas), Target 16 (ratifying the Nagoya Protocol), Target 17 (the adoption of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) as policy instruments) and on Targets 18 and 19 (traditional knowledge respected, and knowledge shared, improved and applied). However, no region is making progress on Target 6 (sustainable management of marine resources), Target 8 (reduction of pollution), Target 10 (reduction of pressures on vulnerable ecosystems) and Target 14 (ecosystem and essential services safeguarded).

A further key finding is that the suite of responses to regional pressures on biodiversity varies from one region to another. Some focus on capacity building while others are testing approaches, such as, payment for ecosystem services, expansion of protected area networks, and ecosystem service valuation.

For example, the Africa report shows that while freshwater ecosystems are under pressure and forest decline and degradation continues, many countries are using investment in ecosystem service valuation and REDD+ to help achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Many countries have already achieved the component of Target 11 on protected areas related to the area under protection. Eleven out of 20 Targets



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are ‘on track’ or progressing towards achievements and eight show no significant progress or movement away from achievement.

The West Asia report shows that biodiversity and ecosystem services information in the region is limited and water scarcity, worsened by climate change, are a real threat to biodiversity. However, there has been considerable investment in building capacity and policymaking in the region over the past five years. While there were insufficient data to assess progress on four of the targets, eight out of 20 show signs of progress towards achievement and eight show ‘no significant progress’ or movement away towards achievement.

In Asia and the Pacific, the report highlights the pressures caused by unsustainable wildlife trade due to growth in demand and the devastating impact that invasive alien species can have on oceanic islands. Nonetheless, protected area networks have grown and voluntary certification schemes are showing modest growth. Although 13 out of 20 Targets show ‘no significant progress’ or movement away towards achievement, six are ‘on track’ or progressing towards achievement.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, the role of rapid economic growth in driving agricultural expansion and intensification, urbanization, infrastructure expansion and increasing pressure on natural resources has been noted. Despite this, the region has developed considerable capacity and expertise in a variety of conservation responses including the development of payment for ecosystem services schemes and ecotourism. Six out of 20 Targets show ‘no significant progress’ or movement away towards achievement while 13 are ‘on track’ or progressing towards achievement.

The work will support dialogue with regional partners and stakeholders by clearly communicating each region’s progress towards achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and stimulating discussions about collaborative actions that maximise opportunities to achieve the global goals of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity by 2020.

Note to editors

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Publications can be downloaded using the following links:

- The State of Biodiversity in Africa – a mid-term review of progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets
<http://wcmc.io/State-of-Biodiversity-Africa>
 - The State of Biodiversity in West Asia – a mid-term review of progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets
<http://wcmc.io/State-of-Biodiversity-WestAsia>
 - The State of Biodiversity in Asia and the Pacific – a mid-term review of progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets
<http://wcmc.io/State-of-Biodiversity-AsiaPacific>
- The State of Biodiversity in Latin America and the Caribbean – a mid-term review of progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets
<http://wcmc.io/State-of-Biodiversity-LatinAmericaAndCaribbean>

About UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre

UNEP-WCMC is a world leader in biodiversity knowledge. We work with a global network of scientists and policymakers to place biodiversity at the heart of decision-making. We pride ourselves on delivering and improving access to high quality information and analyses, to help our partners make enlightened choices for people and the planet.

www.unep-wcmc.org

About the Convention on Biological Diversity

Opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, and entering into force in December 1993, the Convention on Biological Diversity is an international treaty for the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of the components of biodiversity and the equitable sharing of the benefits derived from the use of genetic resources. With 196 Parties up to now, the Convention has near universal participation among countries. The Convention seeks to address all threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services, including threats from climate change, through scientific assessments, the development of tools, incentives and processes, the transfer of technologies and good practices and the full and active involvement of relevant stakeholders including indigenous and local communities, youth, NGOs, women and the business community. The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing are supplementary agreements to the Convention. The Cartagena Protocol, which entered into force on 11 September 2003, seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology. To date, 170 Parties have ratified the Cartagena Protocol. The Nagoya Protocol aims at sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources in a fair and equitable way, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies. It entered into force on 12 October 2014 and to date has been ratified so far by 75 Parties. For more information visit: www.cbd.int. For additional information, please contact: David Ainsworth on +1 514 287 7025 or at david.ainsworth@cbd.int; or Johan Hedlund on +1 514 287 6670 or at johan.hedlund@cbd.int.

About UNEP Division of Environmental Law and Conventions

The Division of Environmental Law & Conventions (DEL/C) is the lead Division charged with carrying out the functions of UNEP that involve support for the development and implementation of environmental law including environmental conventions and governance.

