

SUBMISSION BY THE CBD SECRETARIAT
ON FEATURES OF NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTIONS
30 SEPTEMBER 2016

LINKAGES BETWEEN PARTIES' ECOSYSTEM-BASED MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION CONTRIBUTION AND PARTIES'
NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS PLANS

I. Context: this submission is in response to the invitation by the APA to Parties and admitted observer organizations¹ to provide information, views and proposals on any work of the APA before each of its sessions.

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity would like to make a submission relating to following items on the APA agenda:

Item 3, "Further guidance in relation to the mitigation section of decision 1/CP.21 on:

- (a) features of nationally determined contributions, as specified in paragraph 26;
- (b) information to facilitate clarity, transparency and understanding of nationally determined contributions, as specified in paragraph 28; and
- (c) accounting for Parties' nationally determined contributions, as specified in paragraph 31";

Item 4, "Further guidance in relation to the adaptation communication, including, inter alia, as a component of nationally determined contributions, referred to in Article 7, paragraphs 10 and 11, of the Paris Agreement";

Item 6, "Matters relating to the global stocktake referred to in Article 14 of the Paris Agreement: (a) identification of the sources of input for the global stocktake";

For aspects of the submissions related to AFOLU, LULUCF or actions under Article 5 of the Paris Agreement (sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases, including forests) or other forms of ecosystem-based mitigation, Parties that are also a Party to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), should consider including in the mitigation section of the Nationally Determined Contribution should consider:

- a reference to how these contributions are articulated with and support the implementation of relevant aspects of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, as reflected in Parties' National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans;
- conservation and sustainable management of a wide variety of ecosystems, including forests, in order to avoid emissions from ecosystem degradation and to increase greenhouse gas sequestration. The Convention on Biological Diversity has developed a variety of tools and materials to assist Parties in this regard.²

For Parties that are also Party to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the adaptation section of Nationally Determined Contribution should consider for aspects related to ecosystem-based adaptation, and include, as appropriate:

- implementation of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation, and their integration in wider adaptation policy. The Convention on Biological Diversity has prepared a synthesis report on experiences with ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction that can assist Parties in this

¹ FCCC/APA/2016/L.3 paragraph 9

² Please see: <https://www.cbd.int/climate/> and <https://www.cbd.int/forest/>

regard;³

- a reference to how these contributions are articulated with and support the implementation of relevant aspects of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, as reflected in Parties' National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans.

For Parties that are also Party to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Nationally Determined Contribution should aim to minimize, and where possible avoid, negative impacts on biodiversity and biodiversity-based livelihoods.⁴

II. Rationale:

The achievement of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 – 2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, in particular Targets 5 and 15⁵ can contribute to, and support the implementation of national plans and commitments to mitigate climate change and adapt to its adverse effects.

The role of ecosystems in climate mitigation is considered in Article 5 of the Paris Agreement (action to conserve and enhance, as appropriate, sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases), and several Parties have made explicit in their NDC the extent to which their mitigation actions rely on the Land use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) sector.

Furthermore, Article 5 of the Paris Agreement, building on a series of decisions from the UNFCCC COPs⁶, sets up a mechanism whereby developing countries may receive payments for the results they have achieved to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of carbon stocks in developing countries (REDD+).

In the context of a report on progress under Aichi Targets 5 and 15, INDCs from 62 countries were reviewed for LULUCF and REDD+ objectives. Two countries made an explicit reference to the link between these targets and their NBSAPs.

- **Guatemala's** NDC notes that *"Among the relevant actions is the implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2012 - 2022, which allows for the integration of biodiversity in adaptation and mitigation to climate change and for the appreciation of ancestral knowledge of indigenous peoples, recognizing the cultural relevance of rural and indigenous economic models in adapting to climate change"*.
- **Myanmar's** NDC also makes reference to their NBSAP as a specific element under their contribution in the forest sector: *"In 2011, the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action-Plan was published as a complementary strategy to the [30-Year National Forestry] Master Plan, and it was here that the level of ambition of increasing Protected Area Systems to 10% of national land cover was made"*.
- In addition, without making an explicit reference to their NBSAP (the updated version of which is still to be adopted), **Mexico** mentions how their intended mitigation and adaptation contributions could support many elements of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity including ecological connectivity of protected areas, coastal protection and the protection of marine

³ Please see: <https://www.cbd.int/climate/>

⁴ Please see CBD COP decisions X/33 paragraphs 8 (u) to 8 (x), and IX/16 paragraph 1 (a)

⁵ **Aichi Target 5** indicates that: "By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced."

Aichi Target 15 indicates that: "By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification."

⁶ Notably UNFCCC Decision 1/CP.16, UN Doc. FCCC/CP/2010/7/Add.1, as well as UNFCCC decisions 9/CP.19, 10/CP.19, 11/CP.19, 12/CP.19, 13/CP.19, 14/CP.19 and 15/CP.19.

ecosystems, as well as the integral management of water and the protection of species from the negative impacts of climate change.


- Conversely, some of the countries reviewed (**Nepal, Laos**), had made an explicit reference to their REDD+ objectives in their NBSAP (see Annex 1).

Moreover, several Parties were found to have quantitative targets for ecosystem-based mitigation and adaptation in their NDCs as well as quantitative targets for ecosystem restoration under their NBSAP (see Annex 1). In some cases, the way in which these quantitative targets are articulated is unclear, and there is a risk that Parties may set themselves concurrent objectives that may not be fully compatible in their implementation.

The guidance proposed could help Parties to further reflect on the necessary coherence between these concurrent national objectives taken under the UNFCCC and CBD, respectively. As such, it would ensure consistency in the implementation of national commitments and enhance synergies at the global level in advancing the objectives of the Rio Conventions.

Annex 1 – Country examples of quantitative ecosystem-based nationally determined contributions and national biodiversity targets with regards to the restoration of ecosystems

Selected countries	Quantitative area-based nationally determined contribution in the AFOLU or LULUCF sectors under the UNFCCC	Other quantitative nationally determined contribution in the AFOLU or LULUCF sectors under the UNFCCC	Revised NBSAP (post Nagoya)	National target under Aichi Target 15, with an emphasis on the quantitative elements, where present
Brazil	Restoring and reforesting 12 million hectares of forests by 2030	In the Brazilian Amazonia, zero illegal deforestation by 2030 and compensating for greenhouse gas emissions from legal suppression of vegetation by 2030		Preliminary national target from 5 th National Report : <i>“By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced through conservation and restoration actions, including restoration of at least 15% of degraded ecosystems, prioritizing the most degraded biomes, hydrographic regions and ecoregions, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.”</i>
Guatemala	Restore 1,200,000 of forest landscapes	-	✓	<i>“By 2022, 15% of biological diversity and its ecosystem services will have been restored, improving its capacity of adaptation to climate change and contributing to reduce socio-environmental vulnerability.”</i> [unofficial translation from Spanish]
China	40 million ha increase in forest cover by 2030 as compared to 2005	1.3 billion cubic meter increase in forest stock volume as compared to 2005	-	Preliminary national target from 5 th National Report: <i>“- By 2020, forest areas will be increased by 52,000 km2 over that in 2010, and forest reserves net increased by 1.1 billion km2 over that in 2010, and forest carbon sinks by 416 million tons.</i> <i>- By 2020, the total areas of control of degraded grasslands will exceed 1.65 million km2, with grassland habitats obviously restored and grassland productivity significantly enhanced.</i> <i>- By 2020, the aquatic environment and ecology will be gradually restored.”</i>
Lao People's Democratic Republic	70% forest cover by 2020 and maintain this through 2030 (National Forest Strategy) (Conditional target)	-	-	Preliminary national target from 5 th National Report: <i>“Efforts are in place to restore forest lands and forest regeneration is listed as one of the main REDD+ activities to be implemented as part of the Carbon Fund Emission Reduction Programme.</i> <i>Efforts have been made to restore 444 ha of forests, with another 1,000 ha of forest to be restored by 2019 (BCC Project – ADB).”</i>

Nepal	40% of the total area of the country under forests	-		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>“Replicating and expanding the successful leasehold forestry model in feasible areas. At least 5,000 hectares additional degraded forests to be covered by 2020.</i> - <i>Implementation of PES and REDD+ where feasible. This, among other, include [...] developing and implementing safeguards against possible negative effects of REDD+ implementation on biodiversity. At least 5 percent of the forest ecosystems to come under REDD+ implementation by 2020.</i> - <i>Controlling encroachment and eutrophication in at least 10 major wetlands and restoring at least 5 major degraded wetlands by 2020.</i> - <i>Designing and implementation of ecosystem based adaptation programmes in the mountains. By 2020, at least 10,000 hectares degraded mountain ecosystems to be restored through participatory approach.”</i>
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