

SYNERGIES BETWEEN CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND BIODIVERSITY

Annie Cung

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

NAP Expo 2016

13 July 2016



Convention on
Biological Diversity

National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (NBSAPs)

- Main instrument for the implementation of the CBD at the national level
- To date, a total of **185 of 196** (94%) Parties have developed NBSAPs
- The CBD requires countries to prepare a national biodiversity strategy (or equivalent instrument) and to ensure that this strategy is mainstreamed into the planning and activities of all those sectors whose activities can have an impact (positive and negative) on biodiversity.



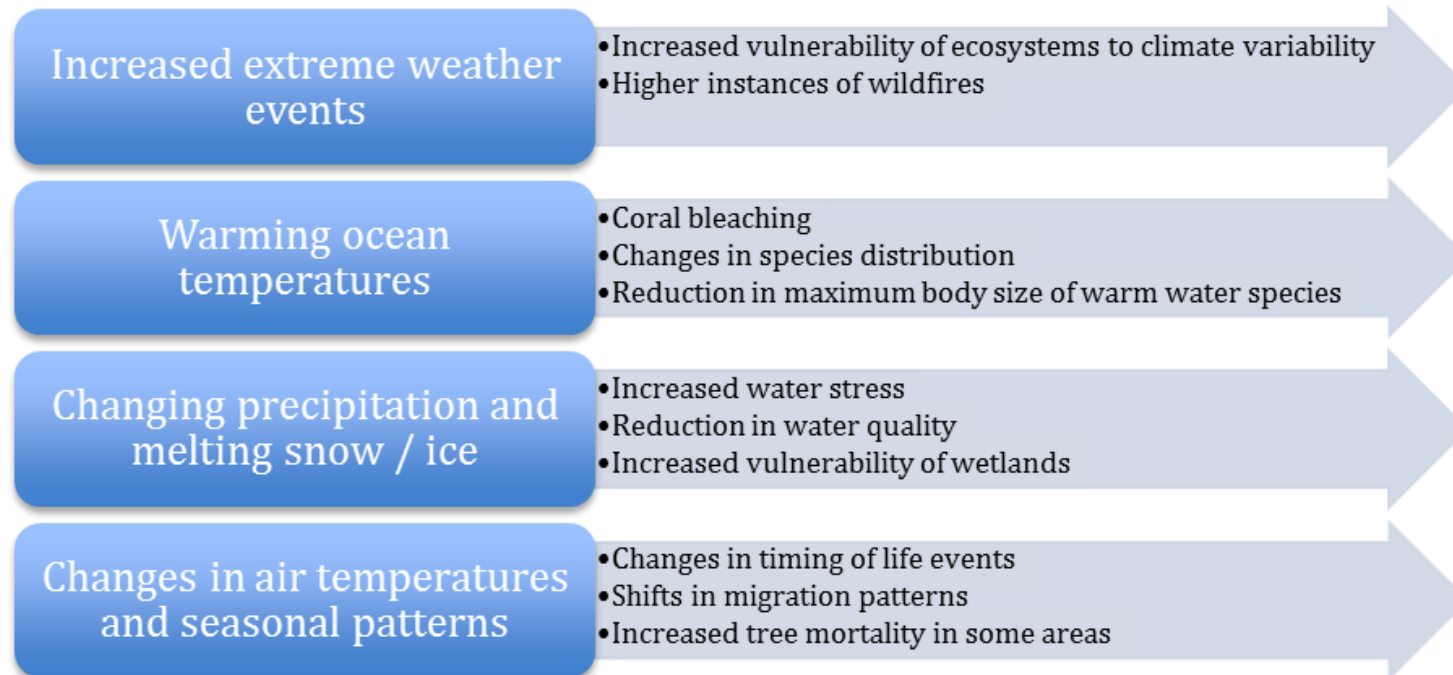
Convention on
Biological Diversity

Introduction

- The National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) processes contain many common approaches, such as stakeholder engagement, knowledge management, and assessments of status and trends.
- NAPs and NBSAPs overlap in many ways with regard to assessing and addressing the impacts of climate change on ecosystem services, livelihoods and development.
- Processes providing opportunities for synergies: mainstreaming, ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation, and vulnerability and impact assessments.

Overview of the links between biodiversity and climate change

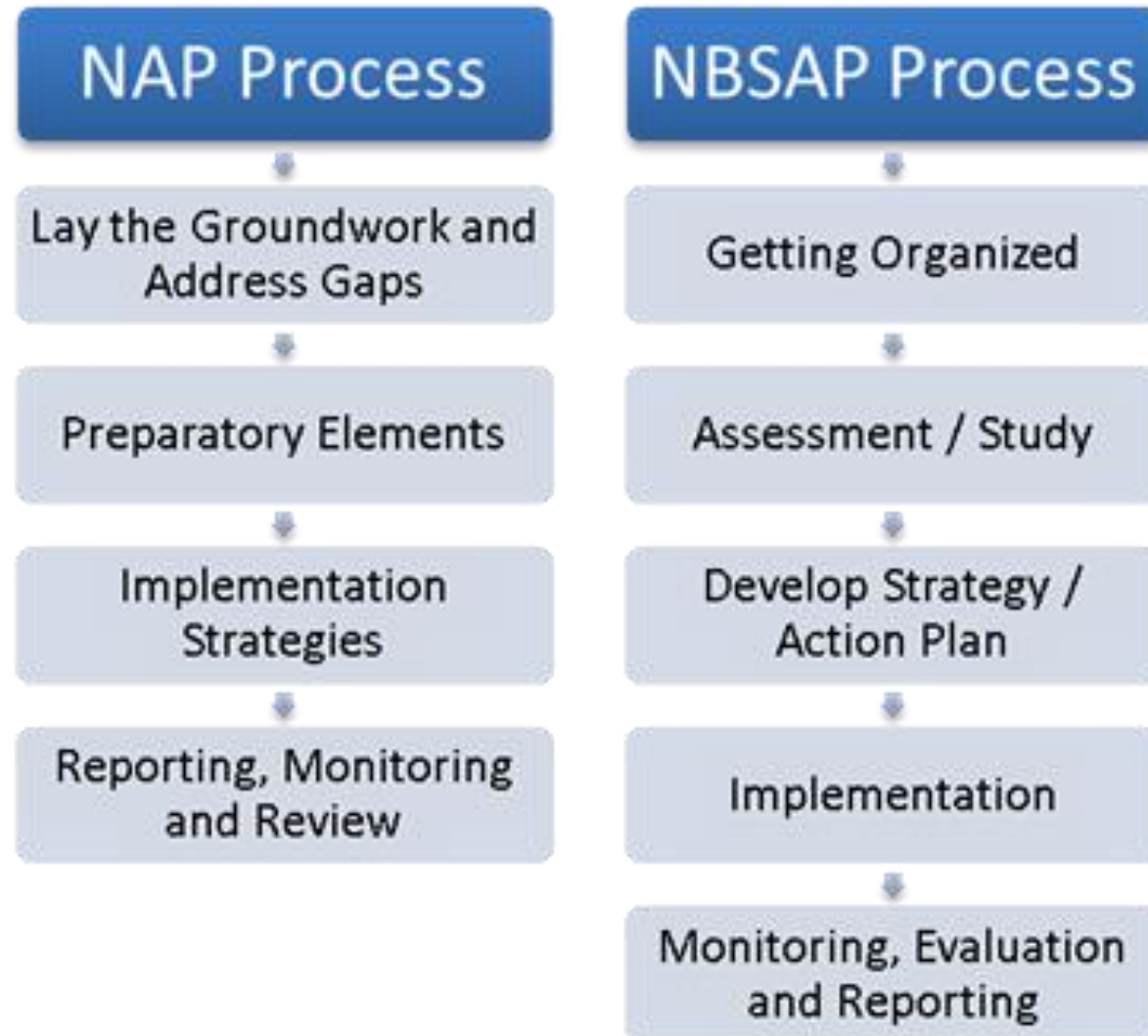
- Impacts of climate change on biodiversity and ecosystem services
- Role of biodiversity and ecosystems in adaptation and mitigation (ecosystem-based approaches)
- Potential impacts of adaptation measures on biodiversity



Benefits of promoting synergies

- Contributes to meeting international obligations
- Facilitates efficient use of human, technical and financial resources
- Ensure that NAPs do not select activities that will negatively impact biodiversity and ecosystems, thus reducing resilience and adaptive capacity in the face of climate change
- Reducing duplication and redundancy, and avoid the development of conflicting policies

Ways to link NAPs and NBSAPs



A. Lay the ground work and address gaps

Stocktaking: identifying existing information on climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation

- Making use of existing biodiversity-related information available in NBSAPs: information on the status and trends of biodiversity – this usually includes an assessment of climate change threats.
 - E.g.: Tonga's NBSAP contains a section on potential risks from climate change and its link to increased natural disasters and impacts on the resilience of coastal ecosystems.
- Many countries maintain a database of biodiversity information through the CBD clearing house mechanism
 - E.g.: The national CHM for Uganda contains details and background material related to the NBSAP revision as well as a special section on links between biodiversity and climate change

B. Preparatory elements

Assessing climate vulnerabilities and identifying adaptation options

- Specific national-level assessments conducted as part of the NBSAP threat assessment process

Reviewing and appraising adaptation options

- Consider ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) options and their co-benefits
- Assess cost effectiveness of EbA



B. Preparatory elements, cont'd

Integrating adaptation into development and sectoral plans

- Since NBSAPs address the sustainable use of biodiversity, they engage those sectors that make regular use of biodiversity, including forestry, fisheries, agriculture, tourism, etc.
- Some NBSAPs include sectoral action plans
 - E.g. In France, NBSAP implementation is achieved through ten sectoral biodiversity action plans: natural heritage, agriculture, international, urban planning, transport infrastructure, the sea, overseas territories, forests, research, and tourism.
- Such integrated, multi-sector approaches provide management frameworks that may be well positioned to incorporate EbA into risk reduction strategies
 - E.g.: In Europe, the conservation and restoration of river floodplains has been adopted as an important response measure to increasing flooding events and droughts.

C. Implementation strategies

Promote coordination and synergy with other multilateral environmental agreements

- Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and Aichi Biodiversity Targets as a vehicle for synergies
 - Overarching framework on biodiversity, for the biodiversity-related conventions, and other MEAs and partners
 - Climate change related targets

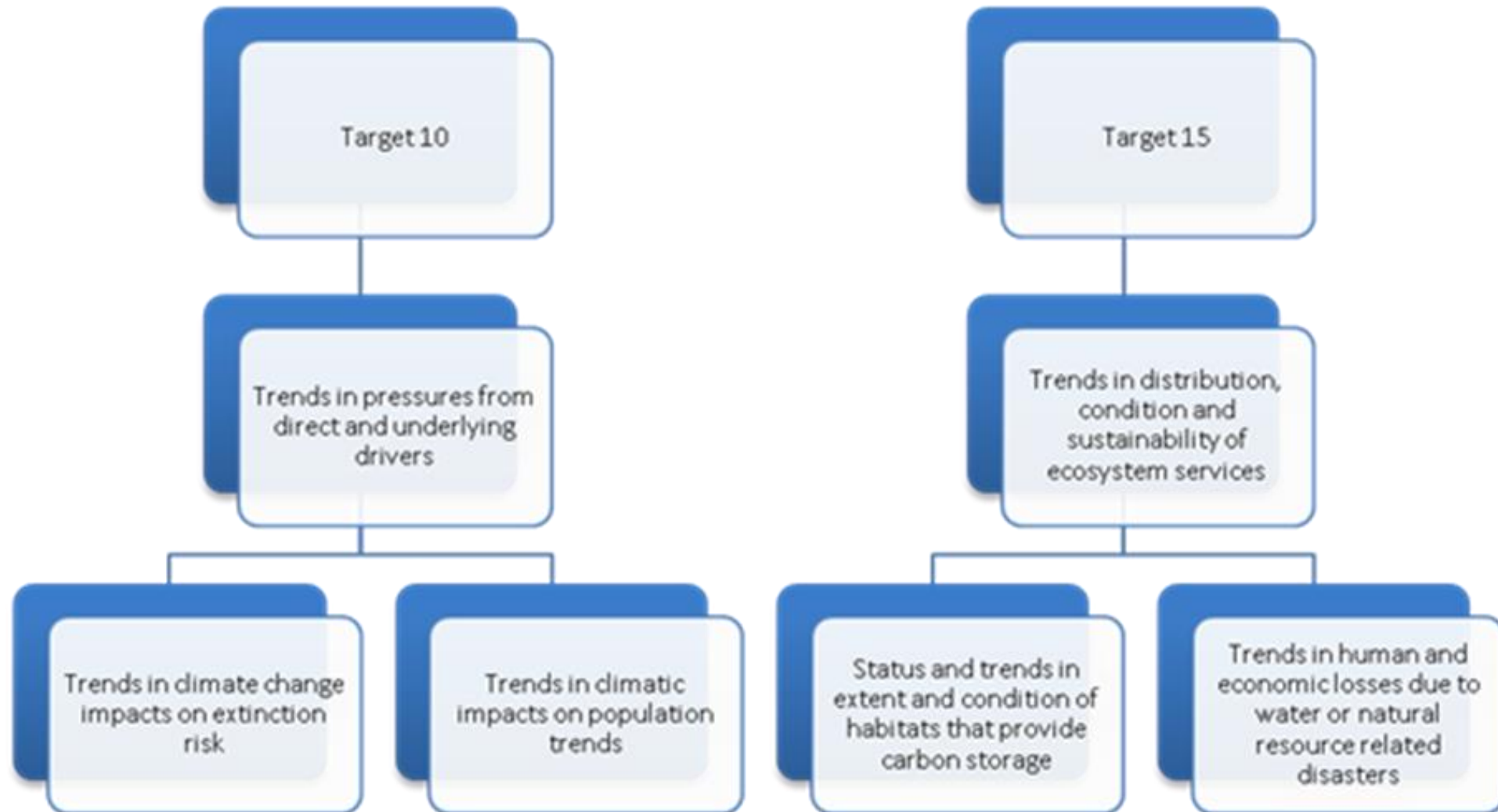


Minimize the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification.



Conservation and restoration of degraded ecosystems to enhance ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.

Indicators developed by CBD and Biodiversity Indicator Partnership



Experiences and case studies

South Africa

- To avoid overlap and ensure consistency, NBSAP is linked to Climate Change Response Strategy and National Action Programme to Combat Land Degradation and Alleviate Rural Poverty.
- Includes activities such as ecosystem-based approaches for drought management.



Colombia

- NAP identifies vulnerable socio-ecological systems and analyzes impacts of climate change in combination with other drivers of loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services
- Promotes EbA measures such as the rehabilitation of wetlands to reduce risks of flooding and drought

Additional resources

Available on NAP Central webpage as supplementary material:

- **CBD:** Promoting synergies in addressing biodiversity and climate change adaptation issues: *linking national adaptation plans and national biodiversity strategies and action plans*
- **CI and IUCN:** Tool for integration of ecosystems into climate change adaptation planning processes

Others:

- NBSAPs: <https://www.cbd.int/nbsap/>
- **CBD:** Synthesis report on experiences with EbA
- **UNEP:** EBA Decision Support Framework: *Ecosystem-based Adaptation Guidance, Moving from Principles to Practice*
- **WWF:** Operational Framework for Ecosystem-based Adaptation: *Implementing and Mainstreaming Ecosystem-based Adaptation Responses in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region*

Conclusion

- Identify common tasks such ecosystem vulnerability assessment
- Strengthen mechanisms to gather, store and disseminate information
- There are examples of successful inter-agency collaboration:
 - Regular meetings among staff from different agencies
 - Establishments of issue-based working groups
 - Assignment of shared responsibilities for overlapping issues
- Collaboration between CBD and UNFCCC

Focal Points as a starting point



Thank you!

- Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
- www.cbd.int
- annie.cung@cbd.int



Convention on
Biological Diversity

