

UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework

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Joint Nature Conservation Committee

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Information about this publication is available from:

Joint Nature Conservation Committee
Monkstone House
City Road
Peterborough PE1 1JY
Telephone: 01733 562626
Website: jncc.defra.gov.uk

or

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Nobel House
17 Smith Square
London SW1P 3JR
Telephone 020 7238 6000
Website: www.defra.gov.uk

This document is also available on the Joint Nature Conservation Committee website at <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-6189>.

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UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework

Foreword

As the international community prepares to come together again in Rio de Janeiro to discuss future global challenges, there is also an opportunity to reflect on the past progress since the establishment of the Convention on Biological Diversity in 1992. Following the first meeting in Rio in 1994, the UK produced its first national biodiversity action plan. In 2002 world leaders agreed in Johannesburg on the urgent need to reduce the rate of loss of biodiversity by 2010, and in 2007 they recognised the need to take action to mitigate the impacts of climate change following the 2005 Millennium Ecosystem Assessment.

Globally we fell short of reaching the 2010 target to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss, but it was an important driver for conservation action, including in the UK where we saw improvements in the populations of widespread bats and breeding woodland birds, in the condition of protected sites and in the area of land managed under environmental schemes.

In Nagoya, Japan, in Autumn 2010 the 192 parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity renewed their commitment to take action to halt the alarming global declines of biodiversity and to ensure that by 2020 our natural environment is resilient and can continue to provide the ecosystem services that are essential for life.

More recently, in 2011, the UK National Ecosystem Assessment, the first of its kind in the world, is providing us with an analysis of the value of the UK's natural environment by taking account of the economic, health and social benefits we get from nature. We have now embarked on a new programme of work to develop and disseminate this understanding. It will examine not only the economic value of our biodiversity and ecosystems, but also how we can better understand and capture the other ways that they are valuable in the decisions we make.

In different parts of the UK, as we develop our own strategies to respond to the challenges the Nagoya Agreement, we remain united in our intention to safeguard biodiversity across the UK and in our Overseas Territories and will continue to work together to ensure that we meet our international obligations.

This post-2010 framework document sets out our common purpose and shared priorities to address those challenges. Now we need to press ahead with following it through. There is urgency about our determination to end the decline in biodiversity in the UK. Globally, we intend to instil that same urgency in our dealings with other countries. Failure is not an option.



RICHARD BENYON MP

Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Natural Environment and Fisheries, Defra

STEWART STEVENSON MSP

Minister for Environment and Climate Change
Scottish Government

JOHN GRIFFITHS AM

Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development
Welsh Government

ALEX ATWOOD MLA

Minister of Environment
Northern Ireland Executive

1. Introduction and Scope

Since the publication in 2007 of *Conserving Biodiversity – the UK approach*, the context in which the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is implemented in the UK has changed. Strategic thinking in all the four countries (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales) has pursued a direction away from a piecemeal approach dealing with different aspects of biodiversity and the environment separately, towards a new focus on managing the environment as a whole, with the true economic and societal value of nature properly acknowledged and taken into account in decision-making in all relevant sectors.

International drivers have also changed. In October 2010, 192 governments and the European Union came together in Nagoya, Aichi Province, Japan, to reach an historic agreement to take action to halt the alarming global declines of biodiversity. The resulting *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020*, with its 5 strategic goals and 20 new global ‘Aichi’ targets (see Annex 1), sets a new global vision and direction.

This UK Biodiversity Framework is designed to identify the activities needed to galvanise and complement country strategies, in pursuit of the Aichi targets. As such it is an important framework that is owned, governed and implemented by the four countries, assisted by Defra and JNCC in their UK co-ordination capacities. Although differing in details and approach, the four UK countries have published strategies which promote the same principles and address the same global targets: joining-up our approach to biodiversity across sectors; and identifying, valuing and protecting our ‘Natural Capital’ to protect national well-being now and in the future.

The framework includes the UK Overseas Territories (OTs). This is because although primary responsibility for biodiversity conservation and wider environmental management has been devolved to the Territory governments, the UK government retains some responsibility for external relations and international treaties.

2. A common purpose

The purpose of this UK Biodiversity Framework is to set a broad enabling structure for action across the UK between now and 2020:

- i. To set out a shared vision and priorities for UK-scale activities, in a framework jointly owned by the four countries, and to which their own strategies will contribute.
- ii. To identify priority work at a UK level which will be needed to help deliver the Aichi targets and the EU Biodiversity Strategy.
- iii. To facilitate the aggregation and collation of information on activity and outcomes across all countries of the UK, where the four countries agree this will bring benefits compared to individual country work.
- iv. To streamline governance arrangements for UK-scale activity.

The vision for the CBD’s *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020* is:

‘By 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people’.

Whilst biodiversity and the natural environment are devolved responsibilities for England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, the UK government is responsible for certain international obligations. There are also many activities which benefit from a joined-up UK approach. Such UK-scale co-ordination and action requires contributions from many

sources, including Defra, other government departments, devolved administrations, country conservation bodies, and JNCC. It can be grouped into four categories:

- ***International/European context***
Here the aim is to ensure devolved implementation takes account of how national activities relate to international and European commitments, and to enable influence of, and support to, international and European negotiations through devolved best practice and policies. The international role also includes significant elements which are reserved rather than devolved functions, and where there is added value in undertaking work at a UK-scale, such as the licensing regime for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), and resource mobilisation and other support for developing countries and Overseas Territories.
- ***Facilitating and contributing to common country approaches and solutions***
Where there are clear benefits to a degree of commonality, UK co-ordination is often required. Benefits are usually associated with meeting European and international commitments, but can also arise when a degree of common understanding assists communication and enables delivery at local levels. Understanding what the ecosystem approach means in each country and identifying principles around implementing an ecosystem approach that are common in all countries of the UK is one example. Other examples include issues associated with access to (and benefits from) genetic resources, and the consideration of natural capital within UK accounting systems.
- ***Evidence provision***
Many monitoring, surveillance and biological recording schemes are undertaken at a UK scale because of the significant economies of scale, the organisation of volunteers, and the need for consistency in the evidence required for reporting UK commitments under European Directives and Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). These UK-scale activities will deliver data and evidence to meet national requirements, and ensure that the overarching portfolio of monitoring and recording activities meets all requirements and obligations. This work is brought together under the UK Terrestrial and Freshwater Biodiversity Surveillance and Monitoring Strategy and contributes to the broader UK Environmental Observation Framework (EOF).

Research is another major source of evidence. It is undertaken primarily through funding from the UK Research Councils, other research institutions, NGOs, and government Research and Development (R&D) programmes. In many cases research questions will be similar, and research results will be widely transferable across the UK and Europe. There are therefore significant advantages in co-ordinating research and enabling the best researchers to contribute at UK and wider scales. Several existing mechanisms contribute to co-ordination, including the UK Biodiversity Research Advisory Group (BRAG) and Living With Environmental Change (LWEC).

We are committed to the principle of sharing data, evidence and analysis across the UK for the added value it brings. Examples include: the National Biodiversity Network (NBN); the UK National Ecosystem Assessment (NEA); Charting Progress 2 – the State of the UK Seas; and the Marine Environmental Data and Information Network (MEDIN).

- ***Reporting***
The ability to report on how the UK and the devolved administrations are implementing international obligations (both for Multilateral Environmental Agreements and European Directives), in a transparent, evidence-based way, is a key UK-scale

requirement. Effective reporting requires the aggregation, integration and synthesis of information from all four countries.

Shared assessment frameworks and indicators are essential components for flexible and efficient UK- and country-level reporting.

2.1 England

The Natural Environment White Paper *The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature*, published in 2011, recognises that a healthy, properly functioning natural environment is the foundation of sustained economic growth, prospering communities and personal well-being. It aims to mainstream the value of nature across our society, including across government departments.

Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services, published in 2011, shortly after the White Paper, has as its mission to halt overall biodiversity loss, support healthy well-functioning ecosystems, and establish coherent ecological networks, with more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people.

2.2 Northern Ireland

The *Northern Ireland Biodiversity Strategy* was published in 2002, with a goal to have the highest quality environment in the UK, with conservation of biological diversity fully integrated into policy making, in order to support the health of Northern Ireland's citizens, its wildlife and its economy. Work towards a revised and updated strategy is now underway.

2.3 Scotland

Scotland's Biodiversity: It's in Your Hands – A strategy for the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity in Scotland was published in 2004. A 25-year strategy to conserve and enhance biodiversity in Scotland, it covered species and habitats; people, integration and co-ordination; landscapes and ecosystems, and knowledge. An updated biodiversity strategy is planned for early 2013.

The land use strategy for Scotland (*Getting the best from our land – A land use strategy for Scotland*), published in 2011, is also relevant. Its objectives are for land-based businesses working with nature; responsible stewardship of Scotland's natural resources; and urban and rural communities better connected to the land.

2.4 Wales

In December 2011, the Welsh Government decided to bring together the Natural Environment Framework and Single Environment Body into a combined programme known collectively as 'Living Wales'. The Green Paper, *Sustaining A Living Wales* was launched on 30 January 2012. This outlines proposed changes to the governance and delivery of the management and regulation of the environment in Wales, based on the ecosystem approach, with a strong focus on sustainable land and marine management. The Green Paper consultation ran from Monday 30 January 2012 until Thursday 31 May 2012.

2.5 European Union

In May 2011, the European Commission published an EU-level Biodiversity Strategy, with a headline target of: '*halting the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020, and restoring them in so far as feasible, while stepping up the EU contribution to averting global biodiversity loss*'. It has six priority targets (see Annex 2).

The new EU Biodiversity Strategy (EUBS) aims to provide better focus and includes only 'priority' actions. The Environment Council adopted *Conclusions on the EU Strategy* on 21

June 2011, which endorsed the Strategy and highlighted that its targets were instrumental to meeting the 2020 headline biodiversity target, but that further discussions on actions were needed. The subsequent Environment Council on 19 December 2011 adopted Council Conclusions which highlighted key areas of work for implementation, and agreed to the establishment of a common implementation framework to underpin the strategy and a framework for monitoring and reporting on implementation. The six implementation themes cover:

- full implementation of EU nature legislation to protect biodiversity;
- better protection for ecosystems, and more use of green infrastructure (GI);
- more sustainable agriculture and forestry;
- better management of fish stocks;
- tighter controls on invasive alien species;
- a bigger EU contribution to averting global biodiversity loss.

2.6 Overseas Territories

Most UK Overseas Territories (OTs) and Crown Dependencies have Environment Charters that address biodiversity issues. The UK government's strategy (*United Kingdom Overseas Territories Biodiversity Strategy*) aims to enable the UK and Overseas Territories governments to meet their international obligations for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the UK OTs. The delivery of the Aichi targets in UK OTs will be supported by the UK government via the implementation of this strategy.

The nature of the work to implement the strategy will be to:

- i. provide advice;
- ii. support capacity building, evidence gathering and research; and,
- iii. assist Overseas Territories to access appropriate funding mechanisms.

This work will contribute to addressing most, if not all, of the Aichi targets within the Overseas Territories.

2.7 Governance

The Four Countries' Biodiversity Group is the lead governance body for the UK Biodiversity Framework. This group provides a forum to take forward substantive and policy-development issues common to all four countries of the UK in order to respond effectively to UK commitments made at Nagoya in 2010. Members of the wider UK biodiversity partnership continue to play a key role through their involvement in a number of subgroups, including: the JNCC/NGO stakeholder group, the UK Biodiversity Indicators Steering Group (BISG), and the UK Biodiversity Research Advisory Group (BRAG), each of which may establish 'task and finish' groups as required. The Terrestrial and Freshwater Biodiversity Surveillance Strategy Implementation Group (TFBSSIG) also reports to the Four Countries' Biodiversity Group.

3. Shared priorities

A major commitment by Parties to the CBD is to produce a National Biodiversity Strategy and/or Action Plan (NBSAP), and this is very much at the heart of the new *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020* (CBD, 2010). The UK has shown leadership through successive biodiversity strategies which take a devolved, integrated, ecosystem approach to the implementation of activities needed to address biodiversity loss.

The 20 Aichi targets of the Strategic Plan are divided amongst five strategic goals, which are comprehensive and cover traditional nature conservation work, of which the UK has such a strong heritage, as well as newer areas where the UK continues to take a lead. Basing the

UK framework on the goals helps to align collective efforts throughout the UK with international requirements. The key actions which need to have a UK dimension are shown below for each goal, with a note of the main synergies with the EU Biodiversity Strategy. More details about the targets and the EU Biodiversity Strategy are provided in Annexes 1 and 2.

All Parties to the CBD are required to report on the progress of updating their NBSAPs at the Eleventh Conference of Parties (COP11) to the CBD at Hyderabad, India in October 2012, and subsequently in the 5th and 6th National Reports, to be submitted in 2014 and 2019 respectively.

STRATEGIC GOAL A: Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society.

This goal includes targets for public awareness, integrating biodiversity values, improving incentives and sustainable production and use.

At a UK scale, key activities will include:

- Using knowledge and evidence from across the UK as well as internationally, to identify, measure and integrate biodiversity values in accounting systems, business and other sectors. This is covered by commitment 35 of the Natural Environment White Paper¹ which deals with UK accounting systems, and commitment 44² which aims to increase businesses understanding of how to benefit from green goods and services.
- Linking work at EU- and country-levels to reform incentives and so improve benefits to biodiversity, using and sharing evidence and knowledge from all levels.
- Improving and sharing knowledge, and maintaining an overview, of the global impact on biodiversity of the UK's consumption of resources. This will include helping businesses to understand their impact on natural capital as outlined in Natural Environment White Paper commitments 40³ and 41⁴.

All four countries are well advanced in much of the work needed for this goal, such as awareness-raising, and incentives including planning policies, land-use schemes and use of local resources. Additional UK-scale activities focus on sharing of best practice and information, particularly around the reform of incentives, and in building values into national UK accounting systems, business and other sectors.

This goal is strongly supported by the EU Biodiversity Strategy, with the lead variously shared by the Commission and Member States.

¹ NEWP Commitment 35: We will put natural capital at the heart of Government accounting. We will work with the Office of National Statistics to fully include natural capital in the UK Environmental Accounts, with early changes by 2013. In 2012 we will publish a roadmap for further improvements up to 2020.

² NEWP Commitment 44: The Government will set up a business-led Ecosystem Markets Task Force to review the opportunities for UK business from expanding green goods, services, products, investment vehicles and markets which value and protect nature's services. It will report back to Government in 2012/13, through the Green Economy Council. [40]

³ NEWP Commitment 40: The Government will support a new international coalition of businesses and business organisations to follow up on the "TEEB for Business" report. The TEEB for Business coalition will catalyse and coordinate action by helping participating businesses from the UK and elsewhere, to understand and address their environmental impacts. [37]

⁴ NEWP Commitment 41: We will work with business to consider how voluntary approaches could work on key products or natural assets, learning from existing voluntary deals on other environmental issues. [38]

STRATEGIC GOAL B: Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use.

This goal includes targets on habitat loss, sustainable fisheries and land use, pollution, invasive alien species, and ecosystems particularly vulnerable to climate change.

At a UK scale, key activities will include:

- Action at all levels to specify limits, set up instruments, and devise and implement appropriate policies, to ensure that the impacts of fisheries are within safe ecological limits.
- Improving the targeting of EU direct payments for environmental public goods including in agriculture and forestry.
- Influencing EU policy and sharing best practice.
- Gathering and assessing evidence, and developing tools and methods to understand the impacts of pollution.
- Addressing issues caused by invasive alien species, including evidence and policies.
- Developing a robust evidence base from which marine, terrestrial, and freshwater habitats which are vulnerable to climate change can be identified, including those which may need special management to increase their resilience to change and facilitate adaptation.

Despite the long-standing expertise and many successful examples in the UK countries of controlling habitat loss and managing land, there are major new challenges posed by climate change, more integrated ecosystem approaches, and enabling of local communities. The practical solutions to issues such as habitat management, fisheries, pollution, invasive aliens and habitats vulnerable to climate change will be implemented at a country level, but there are important UK-scale activities to collate evidence, co-ordinate the sharing of best practice, and to link with EU and International requirements and work.

Parts of this goal, especially for habitat loss, fisheries and invasive species, are strongly supported by the EU Biodiversity Strategy, with the lead variously shared by the Commission and Member States.

STRATEGIC GOAL C: To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity.

This goal includes targets for protected areas, and for conservation of wild and domesticated species.

At a UK scale, key activities include:

- Review of practices and policies in the UK, to check if efforts to maintain genetic diversity of useful and valuable species need to be increased and if so, how this could be resourced.
- Provision of information to support the identification and listing of threatened species through the quinquennial review of schedules 5 and 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, quality assurance of UK species red lists, and the provision of access to information on the changes in distribution of species.
- Maintenance of guidelines for the selection of SSSIs and ASSIs.
- Maintenance of guidelines and standards for the assessment of the condition of species and habitat features on protected areas.
- Identification, designation, management and monitoring of protected areas in offshore UK marine waters.

All protection and management of sites and species takes place at a country level with the exception of protected areas in offshore UK marine waters. Each country has a list of species afforded legislative protection that is regularly updated.

The EU will have an important role via the EU Biodiversity Strategy and through the completion of the *Natura 2000* network and its financing.

STRATEGIC GOAL D: Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystems.

This goal includes targets for maintaining and restoring ecosystem services, and for benefit-sharing.

At a UK scale, key activities will include:

- Building and applying the evidence base to implement the ecosystem approach and support ecosystem assessments.
- Facilitating the sharing of best practice, and providing the European and UK context in relation to innovative approaches to planning and resources as part of developments in the EU on climate change adaptation and green infrastructure (GI).
- Researching options for UK implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization, and contributing to the Commission's work on the EU implementation of the Protocol.

All of the work to develop pilot projects and then roll out best practice, including restoration techniques, will be carried out within the countries and led at that level. The UK-scale activity focuses on the sharing of best practice and, when required, the co-ordination of common approaches and principles that help the development of common assessment frameworks.

This goal is strongly supported by the EU Biodiversity Strategy, with the lead variously shared by the Commission and Member States.

STRATEGIC GOAL E: Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building.

This goal includes targets for national strategies, participation of indigenous and local communities, improving knowledge, technologies, and mobilisation of financial resources. The establishment of the Intergovernmental Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) will potentially provide great improvements to the availability and quality of knowledge at global and regional scales, and the UK Darwin Initiative will continue to provide essential financial resources for important biodiversity work on the ground in developing countries and Overseas Territories.

At a UK scale, key activities will include:

- Collaborative work between the countries to share information about the international context.
- Reporting progress towards achievement of the CBD targets and to other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (e.g. CITES, CBD, Ramsar, CMS). This includes the development of coherent indicator frameworks at UK- and country-scales, and linkage to assessment and indicator frameworks at EU- and global-scales.
- Improving and sharing knowledge and science at a UK-, European- and global-level, including establishment and implementation of the Intergovernmental Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), supporting the development of the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF), contributing to the Group on Earth Observations-Biodiversity Observation Network (GEO-BON), and prioritising and promoting relevant research and developing practical advice and tools.

- Gathering evidence and contributing to negotiations, mainly at EU- and global-scales, with regard to the mobilisation of resources for biodiversity, including innovative financial mechanisms.
- Support to developing countries to develop their own strategies and implementation plans, for example through the Global Environment Facility (GEF), research and development investments through vehicles such as the Darwin Initiative, and capacity building.

Nearly all the work of planning strategies and actions, involving local communities and allocating domestic resources, is carried out within the countries. The countries also have a major role in developing and using the science and knowledge base. UK-scale activities focus on EU- and global-scale knowledge exchange, assessment and reporting activities, and the mobilisation of resources.

4. Conclusion

In this document, we have set out our common purpose and shared priorities in meeting the challenges set in Nagoya. But we also recognise that the world is changing at a faster pace now than ever before. As new drivers come into play and new evidence emerges, we are committed to reviewing our plans both individually and collectively through the Four Countries' Biodiversity Group, to ensure that they remain fit for purpose.

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Annex 1: CBD Strategic plan for biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Targets

STRATEGIC GOAL A ('mainstreaming'): Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society.

Target 1 – Awareness: By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.

Target 2 – Values/accounting: By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.

Target 3 – Incentives: By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio economic conditions.

Target 4 – Mainstreaming sustainable use: By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.

STRATEGIC GOAL B ('pressures'): Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use.

Target 5 – Habitat loss: 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.

Target 6 – 'Fisheries': By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits. **[Note:** Although the target does not say so, the technical documentation supporting the targets CBD 2011 suggests that this target applies to marine rather than freshwater harvesting, in that freshwaters are not once mentioned and a marine context is assumed.]

Target 7 – Sustainable land use: By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.

Target 8 – Pollution: By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity.

Target 9 – Invasive aliens: By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.

Target 10 – Climate Change impacts: By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning.

STRATEGIC GOAL C ('safeguarding'): To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity.

Target 11 – Protected areas: By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water [areas], and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected

systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscape and seascapes.

Target 12 – Threatened species: By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.

Target 13 – Domesticated species & wild relatives: By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.

STRATEGIC GOAL D ('benefits'): Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystems.

Target 14 – Ecosystem services: By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.

Target 15 – Restoration: 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.

Target 16 – Access to genetic resources: By 2015, the Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.

STRATEGIC GOAL E ('knowledge & capacity'): Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building.

Target 17 – NBSAPs: 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.

Target 18 – Local communities: By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.

Target 19 – Science base: By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.

Target 20 – Resources: By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan 2011-2020 from all sources and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resources needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.

Annex 2: EU Biodiversity Strategy (EUBS) targets

‘Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020’

2050 vision

‘By 2050, European Union biodiversity and the ecosystem services it provides – its natural capital – are protected, valued and appropriately restored for biodiversity’s intrinsic value and for their essential contribution to human wellbeing and economic prosperity, and so that catastrophic changes caused by the loss of biodiversity are avoided’.

2020 headline target

‘Halting the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020, and restoring them in so far as feasible, while stepping up the EU contribution to averting global biodiversity loss’.

Targets of the EUBS

There are six priority targets, with 20 accompanying actions (37 including sub-actions) listed in the annex to the strategy:

- 1 Fully implement the Birds and Habitats Directives (in order to achieve a measurable improvement in the status of protected habitats and species).
- 2 Maintain and restore ecosystems and their services (wherever possible, notably through establishing green infrastructure).
- 3 Increase the contribution of agriculture and forestry to maintaining and enhancing biodiversity (including reference to the opportunity presented by the reform of CAP).
- 4 Ensure the sustainable use of fisheries resources (through CFP reform, achieving Maximum Sustainable Yield by 2015 and Good Environmental Status under MSFD by 2020).
- 5 Combat invasive alien species (through control or eradication, and management to prevent introduction and establishment of new invasive species).
- 6 Help avert global biodiversity loss (through stepping up the EU’s contribution to concerted global action).

Annex 3: Acronyms

BISG: Biodiversity Indicators Steering Group
BRAG: Biodiversity Research Advisory Group
CBD: Convention on Biological Diversity
CAP: EU Common Agricultural Policy
CFP: EU Common Fisheries Policy
CITES: Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species
CMS: Convention on Migratory Species
Defra: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
EOF: UK Environmental Observation Framework
EUBS: European Union Biodiversity Strategy
GBIF: Global Biodiversity Information Facility
GEO-BON: – Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network
GI: Green Infrastructure
IPBES: Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
JNCC: Joint Nature Conservation Committee
MEA: Multilateral Environmental Agreements
MEDIN: Marine Environmental Data and Information Network
MSFD: Marine Strategy Framework Directive
NBN: National Biodiversity Network
NBSAP: National Biodiversity Strategy and/or Action Plan
NGO: non-government organisation
OT: Overseas territory
R&D: research and development
TFBSSIG: Terrestrial and Freshwater Biodiversity Surveillance Strategy Implementation Group
UKBAP: United Kingdom Biodiversity Action Plan