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### ANALYSIS OF THE CONTRIBUTION OF TARGETS ESTABLISHED BY PARTIES AND PROGRESS TOWARDS THE AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS

*Note by the Executive Secretary*

#### I. BACKGROUND

1. In adopting the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity invited Parties to establish their own national targets, using the Strategic Plan as a flexible framework, taking into account national needs and priorities, while also bearing in mind national contributions to the achievement of the global Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Parties were also urged to review, and as appropriate update and revise, their national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs), in line with the Strategic Plan and the guidance adopted in [decision IX/9](#), including by integrating their national targets into their NBSAPs, adopted as a policy instrument.
2. In its [decision XIII/1](#), the Conference of the Parties urged those Parties that had not yet done so to update and implement their national or regional biodiversity strategies and action plans as soon as possible, in keeping with [decision XI/2](#). Further information on the update and analysis of national biodiversity strategies and action plans received after the adoption of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 is contained in document CBD/SBI/3/2/Add.1.
3. In adopting the Strategic Plan, the Conference of the Parties ([decision X/2](#)) also noted the need to keep its implementation under review. The national reports are a main source of information for doing this. In decisions [XIII/27](#) and [14/1](#) the Conference of the Parties encouraged Parties to submit their sixth national report by 31 December 2018. Further, in [recommendation 23/1](#), the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice urged Parties that had not yet done so to submit their sixth national reports to the Executive Secretary. By 26 March 2020, 156 sixth national reports had been received.
4. In [decision 14/1](#) the Conference of the Parties also requested the Executive Secretary to continue to update the analysis of progress towards the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity-2011-2020 on the basis of information contained in the sixth national reports, and to make the updated analysis available for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its third meeting.
5. In response to the decisions above, the Secretariat has, in the present document,<sup>1</sup> prepared an analysis of the national targets established by Parties in their national biodiversity strategies and action

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\* CBD/SBI/3/1.

<sup>1</sup> A draft of this document was made available for peer review. The document has been revised considering the comments received as well as the additional national reports received.

plans and undertaken an assessment of the progress towards the national targets and Aichi Biodiversity Targets that Parties have reported on through their sixth national reports.<sup>2</sup>

## II. METHODOLOGY

### A. National biodiversity strategies and action plans

6. In total, 167 revised or updated NBSAPs were considered in this assessment.<sup>3</sup> Each of the NBSAPs was reviewed and national targets or similar commitments were mapped to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.<sup>4</sup> About half of the Parties that had provided updated NBSAPs had mapped their national targets (or similar commitments) to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets either directly in their NBSAP or in their national reports. Where this mapping was done by Parties, it was used in this assessment. In those cases where this mapping was not done, the Secretariat classified each national target according to the Aichi Biodiversity Target to which it was most directly related. In situations where a national target was related to several Aichi Biodiversity Targets, this was also considered in the assessment by classifying the national target against multiple Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The national targets or similar commitments (such as national priorities, strategies, objectives or projects) were then assessed against the scope and level of ambition set out in the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Further, any associated actions, sub-targets, or biome-specific or ecosystem-specific targets related to the national target were also considered. The targets and similar commitments in each NBSAP were then classified into one of six categories:<sup>5</sup>

(a) *National target surpasses the scope and/or level of ambition of the Aichi Target* – This category indicates that the national target or similar commitment is more ambitious than the Aichi Biodiversity Target. This could be because the target has higher quantitative thresholds or contains commitments which surpass those set out in the Aichi Target;

(b) *National target is commensurate with the Aichi Target* – This category indicates that the national target or similar commitment is broadly equivalent in scope and level of ambition to the Aichi Target;

(c) *National target is less ambitious than the Aichi Target or does not address all of its elements* – This category indicates that the national target has a lower threshold for certain issues or does not clearly address all elements of the Aichi Target;

(d) *National target is significantly less ambitious than the Aichi Target* – This category indicates that the national target has a significantly lower threshold for most issues addressed by the Aichi Biodiversity Target and/or is very general;

(e) *National target is not clearly linked to the Aichi Target*. Some national targets have been mapped to Aichi Biodiversity Targets through a Party's NBSAP or national report. In cases where it is not clear how a national target is linked to Aichi Biodiversity Target this category is used;

(f) *No national target* – The NBSAP did not contain a target or similar commitment related to the Aichi Biodiversity Target.

7. It is important to note that this assessment was conducted considering the scope and level of ambition of the national target against that of the Aichi Target. It did not consider the national circumstances of a country. Therefore, some targets which when compared to the Aichi Target are lower than the Aichi Target may nonetheless be ambitious in the light of a country's starting point. For this

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<sup>2</sup> This analysis builds on earlier analyses contained in [UNEP/CBD/COP/13/8/Add.2/Rev.1](#), [CBD/SBI/2/2/Add.2](#) and [CBD/COP/14/5/Add.2](#), which were prepared on the basis of information provided through the fifth national reports.

<sup>3</sup> The NBSAPs considered in this assessment are accessible from <https://www.cbd.int/nbsap/>. Two NBSAPs (Latvia and Portugal) were not analysed as they were not available in an official language of the United Nations.

<sup>4</sup> A comprehensive list of national targets, including targets contained in earlier NBSAPs as well as those reported in the fifth national reports, is available at <https://www.cbd.int/nbsap/targets/default.shtml>. Further information underpinning the analysis presented in the present document is accessible from <https://www.cbd.int/doc/nr/assessment-table-2018-09-21-en.pdf>.

<sup>5</sup> In this assessment, for ease of readability, the categories in paragraphs 6(c), (d) and (e) have been combined. However, in figure 1, all categories are shown.

reason, this assessment cannot be used to draw comparisons among countries but, rather, only to inform a discussion on global progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

## **B. Sixth national reports**

8. A total of 156 sixth national reports were reviewed in this analysis.<sup>6</sup> The guidelines for the sixth national reports requested Parties to assess progress towards the attainment of their national targets<sup>7</sup> using the categories below. This information was then tabulated by the Secretariat to undertake the analysis presented in section II. If Parties submitted their national report using the online reporting tool for the sixth national reports the information was directly extracted from it. If Parties submitted their national reports as a document the information was extracted by the Secretariat.

9. The format for the sixth national report requested Parties, for each of the national targets, to link it to one or several Aichi Biodiversity Targets.<sup>8</sup> In this assessment, the national target was considered for all Aichi Biodiversity Targets to which it was linked. As a result, progress towards some national targets may be considered in this assessment more than once. The guidelines for the sixth national reports also allowed Parties to link multiple national targets to a single Aichi Target.<sup>9</sup> In these situations, the average of the reported progress was used, giving equal weight to all of the national targets.<sup>10</sup>

10. The five categories used in this assessment, consistent with those used in the sixth national report guidelines, the fourth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*<sup>11</sup> and earlier assessments of the fifth national reports, are:

(a) *On track to exceed target* – A target with this assessment indicates that national actions taken will allow for the criteria/thresholds established by the Aichi Target to be exceeded. In the case of those targets with quantitative elements this would mean that the identified threshold will be surpassed. In the case of qualitative targets, this would mean the different actions or conditions to be met have been or are projected to be surpassed;

(b) *On track to achieve target* – This category indicates that the actions which have been taken and the current status of the issues addressed by the Aichi Target suggest that the target will be met by the target deadline;

(c) *Progress towards target but at an insufficient rate* – This category indicates that progress towards the attainment of the Aichi Target has been made since it was established. The progress could take the form of actions being taken or actual improvements in the status of the issues being addressed. However, while this category indicates an improving situation, the progress that has been made will be insufficient for the target to be met by the deadline;

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<sup>6</sup> A total of 16 Parties did not provide assessments of progress towards their national targets or to the Aichi Targets as set out in the guidelines for the sixth national reports. As such these reports could not be considered in this assessment. On average, 123 Parties (ranging between 102 and 137) provided assessments related to each Aichi Biodiversity Target.

<sup>7</sup> The sixth national report format also allowed Parties to report against the Aichi Biodiversity Targets instead of national targets. Generally, Parties that had not yet adopted national targets took this approach. However, 17 Parties with national targets also chose instead to report against the Aichi Targets. Further, some countries indicated in their NBSAPs that they had adopted the Aichi Biodiversity Targets as national targets.

<sup>8</sup> The format of the sixth national reports allowed Parties to indicate for each national target the “Main related Aichi Biodiversity Targets” and the “Other related Aichi Biodiversity Targets”. In this assessment only the “Main related Aichi Biodiversity Target” was considered. Similarly, Parties could link their national target to an entire Aichi Biodiversity Target or to one or several components of it. In this assessment if a national target was linked to one or several components of an Aichi Biodiversity Target it was considered as being relevant to the entire Aichi Biodiversity Target and reflected in the analysis in section II.

<sup>9</sup> A total of 17 Parties reported progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets directly. For the purpose of this assessment, these assessments were considered in the same way as assessments towards national targets. As a result, for some Aichi Targets there are more assessments than there are NBSAPs with associated national targets. For example, 98 NBSAPs contain targets related to Aichi Biodiversity Target 3 but because some Parties without national targets have assessed progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets there are 108 assessments of progress related to this Aichi Biodiversity Target.

<sup>10</sup> To do this, the assessment categories used in the sixth national reports were assigned to a 1-to-5 scale. The average of the assessments was then taken and rounded to the closest whole number.

<sup>11</sup> See figure 21.2 in the [fourth edition of the \*Global Biodiversity Outlook\*](#).

(d) *No significant change* – This category indicates that since the Aichi Target was set there has been either no significant progress towards its attainment or no significant decline. Assessments with this category imply that no significant actions to reach the target have been taken or are planned for the near future and that the overall status of the issues being addressed by the target have neither improved nor deteriorated;

(e) *Moving away from target* – This category indicates that the issues the Aichi Target is seeking to address are deteriorating. This could be because no actions have been taken or the actions that have been taken have been ineffective. It could also be because pressures are increasing or due to other changes to national circumstance.

11. The range of approaches that Parties have taken in setting their national biodiversity targets and in reporting on progress towards them creates several challenges in undertaking an analysis of this information. Some Parties have set process-related targets, some have set outcome-oriented targets, and some have used a combination of the two. This has necessitated different approaches at the national level in evaluating progress. These varying national approaches are not necessarily comparable. Further, Parties have mapped their national targets to the Aichi Targets in different ways and based on different information. For example, some have established one national target for each of the Aichi Targets while others have set multiple national targets for one Aichi Target. Similarly, some countries have set national targets which relate to multiple Aichi Targets. An additional challenge is that some Parties have not included national targets in their NBSAPs but referenced them in their national reports, while other Parties have assessed progress in their national reports against national targets which are different from those in their national biodiversity strategies and action plans. Further, as noted in footnote 9, some Parties have chosen to report against the Aichi Targets rather than towards their national biodiversity targets and some have reported against the Aichi Targets as they have not developed distinct national targets. Combining assessment of national targets and Aichi Targets may be problematic. However, the available information suggests that this is not likely to be a major limitation.<sup>12</sup>

12. The different approaches in reporting and national target setting make the type of analysis presented here challenging to undertake in a systematic manner. Further, it is important to note that this assessment did not consider the national circumstances of a country. Therefore, some targets which are not currently on track to be met may have nonetheless seen improvement given the starting point of the country. For these reasons the information presented in this analysis should not be used to draw comparisons among countries but, rather, only to inform a discussion on global progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

### **III. ANALYSIS OF NATIONAL TARGETS AND OF PROGRESS TOWARDS THE AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS**

*Target 1 – 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*

13. A total of 146 NBSAPs (87%) contain targets related to Aichi Biodiversity Target 1. Less than a third (32%) of these targets are equal to the scope and level of ambition set out in Aichi Target 1. Target 1 is among those showing the closest alignment to the national targets in the NBSAPs. However, more than two thirds (68%) of Parties have set national targets which are lower in ambition than the Aichi Target or which do not address all its elements. Most targets appear to focus on increasing awareness of biodiversity. There are comparatively fewer national targets which address making people aware of the actions they can take to conserve biodiversity.

14. A total of 125 Parties have assessed progress towards their national targets related to Aichi Biodiversity Target 1 while 15 Parties did not report on their progress or indicated that their level of

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<sup>12</sup> When the information from the 17 Parties reporting directly against the Aichi Biodiversity Targets is excluded from the analysis the results do not change very much, with the percentage points varying by up to only 1% in most cases, and 2% in only 12 of the 100 combinations of targets and assessment categories. Further, there is no change in the proportion of those Parties which have national targets similar to (or better than) the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and which are on track to meet or exceeded.

progress is unknown. Of the Parties which have assessed progress, half report that they are on track to reach (49%) or exceed (1%) their national targets. Less than half of Parties have made progress towards their targets but not at a rate that will allow them to meet the target (46%). Few Parties (4%) report that they are making no progress towards the target and none have reported they are moving away from reaching the target. Of the Parties which have assessed progress, less than a quarter (23%) have national targets similar to Aichi Biodiversity Target 1 which are on track to be met.

15. Commonly reported actions to achieve national targets related to Aichi Biodiversity Target 1 were the convening of workshops, stakeholder meetings, organizing biodiversity exhibitions, organizing field trips and site visits and other similar awareness-raising activities. Some national reports also noted the inclusion of biodiversity, including information on its values and the actions needed to conserve it, in school curricula at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels.<sup>13</sup> Other examples of actions taken include the use of media<sup>14</sup> (such as radio, television, movies, social media platforms and print media) to raise awareness of biodiversity; providing training on biodiversity to stakeholders, including farmers and fisher people and policymaker; and the creation of biodiversity information centres. However, despite these actions many national reports still note a lack of biodiversity awareness. Some of the challenges noted in reaching national targets related to Aichi Biodiversity Target 1 were the difficulties in reaching all people, including those residing in remote or distant communities; a general lack of knowledge of how to conserve biodiversity; and a lack of understanding of the links between biodiversity and other societal challenges, including the need to address climate change.

*Target 2 – 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*

16. A total of 141 NBSAPs (84%) contain targets related to Aichi Biodiversity Target 2. Of these targets, few (7%) match the scope and level of ambition set out in Aichi Target 2 or exceed it (1%). The large majority (92%) are lower than the Aichi Target or do not address all its elements. Of the targets set, relatively few address the integration of biodiversity values into national and local planning processes, national accounting or reporting processes. The national targets that have been established largely focus on the integration of biodiversity values into national development strategies and poverty reduction strategies. Further, many of the targets set relate to the issue of policy coherence and/or the integration of biodiversity into decision-making generally.

17. A total of 124 Parties have assessed progress towards their national targets related to Aichi Biodiversity Target 2 while 16 Parties did not report on their progress or indicated that their level of progress is unknown. Of the Parties that have assessed progress more than a third are on track to reach (35%) or exceed (2%) their national targets. More than half (55%) have made progress towards their targets but not at a rate that will allow them to meet the target. Few Parties report that they are making no progress (6%) towards the target or are moving away from reaching it (2%). Of the Parties which have assessed progress, few (6%) have national targets similar to Aichi Biodiversity Target 2 which are on track to be met.

18. Commonly reported actions to reach national targets associated with Aichi Biodiversity Target 2 were the modification or adoption of legislation and regulations, and efforts to incorporate biodiversity values and considerations into sectoral policies, including policies related to development, forestry,

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<sup>13</sup> For example, the United Arab Emirates created a “sustainable universities” initiative to seek the views of students on sustainability issues and to raise awareness.

<sup>14</sup> For example, Belize reported on the creation of a radio drama series on marine protected areas and sustainable fishing. A survey of listeners found that many reported learning about fisheries regulations, responsible fishing, marine protected areas and no take zones from the programme. Denmark reported on the development of applications to involve the public in the collection of species survey data. Similarly, Mexico reported on the use of applications to promote knowledge of biodiversity through citizen science. The project was designed to both gather biodiversity information and raise awareness.

agriculture, fisheries, and energy.<sup>15</sup> Some Parties also reported on the publication of studies on the status of biodiversity to help inform decision-making; building capacity to undertake surveys and studies related to natural capital accounting; creating investment funds which account for the value of natural resources; the development of tools, guidelines and methodologies to support institutions in decision-making; and improved enforcement of existing policies. Some of the reported challenges to reaching this target were the challenge of implementing regulatory frameworks and translating these to regional and local-level actions, the lack of mainstreaming, and the difficulty of incorporating estimates of the financial costs of biodiversity loss and environmental degradation into the financial plans of other sectors.

*Target 3 – 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 socioeconomic conditions*

19. A total of 98 NBSAPs (59%) contain targets related to Aichi Biodiversity Target 3. About a fifth of these targets (20%) are similar in scope and level of ambition to Aichi Target 3 or surpass it (1%). The majority of targets (79%) have a lower level of ambition than the Aichi Target or do not address all of its elements. Many of these targets are general in nature and refer to incentives and subsidies broadly without specifying the removal of harmful incentives or the development of positive ones. This Aichi Target is among those with the lowest level of alignment with national targets contained in the NBSAPs.

20. A total of 108 Parties have assessed progress towards their national targets related to Aichi Biodiversity Target 3 while 32 Parties did not report on their progress or indicated that their level of progress is unknown. Of the Parties which have assessed progress, less than a third are on track to reach (31%) or exceed (1%) their national targets. More than half (54%) of Parties have made progress towards their targets but not at a rate that will allow them to meet the target. Several Parties (13%) report that they are making no progress towards the target and a small number (1%) are moving away from reaching the target. Of the Parties which have assessed progress, few (7%) have national targets similar to Aichi Biodiversity Target 3 which are on track to be met.

21. With regard to the elimination or reform of harmful subsidies, Parties commonly reported on efforts to revise licensing processes, including for hunting, fishing and felling; phasing out subsidies for pesticides and fossil fuels; and efforts to identify potential harmful subsidies. With regard to the development of positive incentives, reported actions included reducing taxes on renewable energy, promoting payment for ecosystem services offset schemes, instating various certification and compensation schemes<sup>16</sup> to incentivize things such as sustainable ecotourism, landscape conservation, and the adoption of more efficient technologies (some of these actions are also relevant to the attainment of Aichi Biodiversity Target 20). Some Parties also reported on efforts to encourage local land management, the provision of compensation for the reduction of harmful activities, and actions to recognize indigenous and local land use rights. Some Parties also reported taking action to deny government support to certain types of detrimental behaviours or activities.<sup>17</sup> Reported challenges to reaching this target were limited capacity, funding and legislative action; vested interests in maintaining current incentive schemes; and difficulties in upscaling pilot projects.

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<sup>15</sup> For example, Namibia has applied integrated land use planning at the regional level as a cross-sectoral and integrative decision-making process to facilitate the allocation of land to uses that provide the greatest sustainable benefit. In Finland, since 2018, the Ministry of Finance requires that each ministry's budget proposal reflects considerations related to sustainable development.

<sup>16</sup> For example, Guatemala's forestry incentive programme provides grants to beneficiaries who participate in projects addressing reforestation and natural forest management activities.

<sup>17</sup> For example, in Mexico an interministerial coordination platform was developed, using spatial data, to identify areas that cannot receive government support as it may result in losses in forest cover.

*Target 4 – 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*

22. A total of 128 NBSAPs (77%) contain targets related to Aichi Biodiversity Target 4. Less than a fifth (16%) of targets are similar in scope and ambition to the Aichi Target. The majority of targets (84%) have a lower level of ambition than the Aichi Target or do not cover all of its elements. Of the targets that have been set, few refer to keeping the impact of the use of natural resources within safe ecological limits. Most of the targets set refer to sustainable use generally and do not specifically address sustainable production and consumption.

23. A total of 119 Parties have assessed progress towards their national targets related to Aichi Biodiversity Target 4 while 21 Parties did not report on their progress or indicated that their level of progress is unknown. Of the Parties assessing progress, more than a third of Parties are on track to reach (34%) or exceed (2%) their national targets. About half (51%) of Parties have made progress towards their targets but not at a rate that will allow them to be met. Several Parties (11%) report that they are making no progress towards their targets and a few (2%) are moving away from reaching them. Of the Parties which have assessed their progress, a tenth (10%) have national targets similar to Aichi Biodiversity Target 4 which are on track to be met.

24. Parties commonly report efforts in relation to specific sectors, such as agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, and mining.<sup>18</sup> Actions that have been reported include developing sector-specific sustainability plans and regulatory measures, the promotion of green product labelling, corporate social responsibility practices and reporting, and promoting certification measures. Some Parties also referred to actions related to the expansion and support for organic farming practices, the development of biodiversity friendly criteria in public procurement and the promotion of strategies to address waste. Actions related to the development of capacity to assess ecological limits as a means of informing policy decisions as well providing support to small and medium enterprises for sustainable development were also noted. Commonly reported challenges to reaching this target were a lack of funding and capacity to upscale activities and the limited involvement of industries and non-environmental ministries and agencies in plans and projects.

*Target 5 – 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*

25. A total of 132 (79%) NBSAPs contain targets related to Aichi Biodiversity Target 5. Of these targets, less than a tenth (8%) have a similar scope and level of ambition to Aichi Target 5; a few (1%) are more ambitious. The large majority of targets (91%) have a lower level of ambition than the Aichi Target or do not explicitly address all of its elements. Most of the targets refer to reducing habitat loss in natural environments generally. Most of the national targets that reference specific habitats refer to forests. Mangroves, coral reefs, rivers, rangeland and marine environments are also mentioned, but to a much lesser extent. Few national targets specify the extent by which the rate of habitat loss is to be reduced and few explicitly refer to habitat degradation or fragmentation.

26. A total of 127 Parties have assessed progress towards their national targets related to Aichi Biodiversity Target 5 while 13 Parties did not report on their progress or indicated that their level of progress is unknown. Of the Parties which have assessed progress, more than a quarter of Parties are on track to reach (28%) or exceed (1%) their national targets. More than half (56%) of Parties have made progress towards their targets but not at a rate that will allow them to be met. Several Parties (13%) report that they are making no progress towards the target and few (2%) are moving away from it. Of the Parties which have assessed progress, few (4%) have national targets similar to Aichi Biodiversity Target 5 which are on track to be met.

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<sup>18</sup> For example, different government ministries in the Republic of Korea host and operate the BNBPP, a group with 30 domestic companies to identify best practices, establish guidelines for companies and provide training on implementing multilateral environmental agreements.

27. Parties reported taking various actions to reach their national targets associated with Aichi Biodiversity Target 5. These actions often reflect national priorities and circumstances. For example, some Parties had an emphasis on addressing desertification while others focused on issues related to forests, such as reforestation and restoration. Commonly reported actions to reduce habitat loss were the establishment of protected areas, the planting of trees and other vegetation, and the identification of priority areas for conservation. Parties also referred to actions to promote sustainable resource and habitat management,<sup>19</sup> actions to better recognize land tenure and incentivize sustainable management, and efforts to increase the understanding of the value of ecosystems. Some Parties also referred to their use of integrated land use planning; the development of guidelines, for example on issues related to fire management strategies and restoration; the promotion of agri-environmental approaches to habitat management; and the promotion of interdepartmental and inter-institutional cooperation. Parties also reported on actions they are taking to address degradation and fragmentation, including establishing protected area buffer zones, undertaking restoration, developing green corridors, and promoting ecosystem connectivity.

*Target 6 – 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*

28. A total of 106 NBSAPs (63%) contained targets related to Aichi Biodiversity Target 6. About a tenth (13%) of these targets are similar to the level of ambition and scope set out in the Aichi Target. The majority of targets (87%) are lower than the Aichi Target or do not address all of its elements. This Aichi Target is one of the targets with the lowest number of NBSAPs which contain comparable targets. In most cases, the target is applied to marine fisheries. However, some landlocked countries have also set targets related to Aichi Target 6, suggesting that these national targets would apply to inland waters fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants. Of the targets set, the majority focus on issues related to ensuring that fish stocks are managed and harvested sustainably. By comparison, relatively few targets address issues related to avoiding overfishing, developing recovery plans for depleted species, ensuring that fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened or vulnerable ecosystems, and keeping the impacts of fisheries within safe ecological limits.

29. A total of 113 Parties have assessed progress towards their national targets related to Aichi Biodiversity Target 6 while 27 Parties did not report on their progress or indicated that their level of progress is unknown. Of the Parties which have assessed progress, more than a third are on track to reach (35%) or exceed (2%) them. Less than half (47%) of Parties have made progress towards their targets but not at a rate that will allow them to be met. Several Parties (15%) report that they are making no progress towards the target and few (2%) are moving away from reaching the target. Of the Parties which have assessed progress, few (7%) have national targets similar to Aichi Biodiversity Target 6 which are on track to be met.

30. Reported actions to reach this target generally focused on issues related to better assessment of fish stocks and the development of regulatory measures, including issues related to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, fishing practices and equipment, as well as better monitoring of fishing vessels and by-catch.<sup>20</sup> Actions related to ensuring the health of fish stocks, including regulations on fish size, seasonal or periodic fishing bans, the establishment of marine protected areas and the restoration of fish

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<sup>19</sup> For example, in Thailand authorities are working with communities in forested areas to alleviate poverty, improve well-being, and provide alternative means of income in an attempt to reduce deforestation. In Ireland, the Aran LIFE project aims to assist farmers to reverse negative habitat trends and improve the conservation status of 35% of priority habitats. The Solomon Islands have institutionalized Community Based Resource Management under the Fisheries Management Act in 2015 to render coastal fisheries more sustainable. This approach recognizes the role of land and sea owners to develop management rules and enforce them.

<sup>20</sup> For example, the European Union adopted landing obligations, which as of January 2019 prevent certain fish from being discarded at sea.



habitat were also noted. Some national reports also refer to actions related to the promotion and support of community ownership and management of fisheries.<sup>21</sup>

*Target 7 – By 2020, areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity*

31. A total of 136 NBSAPs (81%) contain targets related to Aichi Biodiversity Target 7. Of these targets, about a tenth (13%) are equal to the overall scope and level of ambition set out in the Aichi Target. The majority (88%) are lower than the Aichi Target or only address some of its elements. Comparatively few of the national targets related to this Aichi Target address issues associated with aquaculture. Further, many of the national targets are related to sustainable management generally and do not specify agriculture or forestry.

32. A total of 125 Parties have assessed progress towards their national targets related to Aichi Biodiversity Target 7 while 15 Parties did not report on their progress or indicated that their level of progress is unknown. Of the Parties which have assessed progress, more than a third are on track to reach (36%) or exceed (1%) their national targets. More than half (55%) of Parties have made progress towards their targets but not at a rate that will allow them to be met. A few Parties (6%) report that they are making no progress towards the target and few (2%) are moving away from reaching the target. Of the Parties which have assessed progress, few (8%) have national targets similar to Aichi Biodiversity Target 7 which are on track to be met.

33. Parties have reported that they have taken various actions in relation to making agriculture more sustainable. These include promoting sustainable soil management, the rehabilitation and restoration of degraded habitats, promoting research on crop efficiency and resilience, support and promotion of organic agriculture and agroforestry, encouraging agricultural diversification, and improved watershed management.<sup>22</sup> With regard to agricultural inputs, some national reports noted actions to promote and subsidize the use of climate-resilient crops, incentives to incorporate modern agriculture practices into agricultural systems, the promotion of improved irrigation techniques, encouraging lower fertilizer use, and the improvement of ex situ conservation and seed banks.

34. With regard to the sustainable management of forests, noted actions included the decentralization of forest management,<sup>23</sup> improving forest governance frameworks and capacity-building, promoting restoration, encouraging forest certification, and updating and reviewing forestry licences. Some reports also noted actions related to compensating or incentivizing landowners to not cut forests and to promote silvicultural practices that also help with poverty alleviation.

35. In relation to aquaculture, some national reports noted actions to improve the management of aquaculture through technological innovations and modernization. Others noted the promotion of certification schemes and environmental standards.<sup>24</sup> Generally, much less attention was given to aquaculture than to issues associated with forestry and agriculture.

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<sup>21</sup> For example, Cambodia has promoted the establishment of community fisheries to improve sustainable management. A total of 516 community fisheries have been created with a total of 332,168 members (35% of which are women) from 475 households.

<sup>22</sup> For example, Chile's Wine, Climate Change, and Biodiversity Program (Programa Vino, Cambio Climático y Biodiversidad) is an initiative to integrate biodiversity conservation criteria in wine growing. In 2018, there were 20 vineyards (100,000 hectares) managed under biodiversity-friendly standards. As part of the programme, every vineyard protects 4.6 hectares of native vegetation for every hectare of grapes planted. The total area protected under the initiative is 26,499 hectares, representing 11.4% of the sclerophyll forest in the country's Mediterranean region.

<sup>23</sup> For example, Cuba's integrated tree farms programme (Programa de Fincas Forestales Integrales) was developed with 1,342 tree farms. This programme has resulted in increased forest cover and thus contributed to the conservation of watersheds, has increased productivity by integrating agroforestry and agropastoral activities, and has provided employment to rural people.

<sup>24</sup> For example, Guyana is working on a number of sustainable measures in aquaculture, including promoting the use of local fish species for aquaculture to reduce risk of introducing invasive alien species, and promoting the conversion of seafood processing by-products, such as heads, organs and trimmings, for use as feed for aquaculture.

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

36. A total of 116 NBSAPs (69%) contained targets related to Aichi Biodiversity Target 8. Of these targets, about a fifth (19%) are similar to the scope and level of ambition of Aichi Target 8. However, the majority (81%) are lower than the Aichi Target or do not cover all of its elements. In the national targets there is generally a greater focus on reducing pollution than on reducing excess nutrients.

37. A total of 112 Parties have assessed progress towards their national targets related to Aichi Biodiversity Target 8 while 28 Parties did not report on their progress or indicated that their level of progress is unknown. Of the Parties which have assessed progress, more than fifth are on track to reach (21%) or exceed (1%) their national targets. More than half (62%) of Parties have made progress towards their targets but not at a rate that will allow them to be met. Some Parties (14%) report that they are making no progress towards the target and few (3%) are moving away from reaching the target. Of the Parties which have assessed progress, few (3%) have national targets similar to Aichi Biodiversity Target 8 which are on track to be met.

38. Parties report in their sixth national reports that they are taking a range of actions to address issues related to pollution. These include regulatory approaches, setting up monitoring systems and standards, and promoting the development and improvement of infrastructure to improve waste management.<sup>25</sup> With regard to nutrients, commonly reported policies were the regulation of fertilizer use, monitoring agricultural runoff and placing caps on nitrogen use. With regard to plastic pollution, commonly reported actions were bans on certain types of plastics (about 20% of national reports referred to this type of action), awareness campaigns and community clean-up events. Some reports also referred to increased efforts related to recycling.

*Target 9 – 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*

39. A total of 140 NBSAPs (84%) contained targets related to Aichi Biodiversity 9. More than a quarter of these targets are similar to (26%) or exceed (1%) the level of ambition and scope set out in the Aichi Target. About three quarters (74%) of targets are lower than the Aichi Target or do not address all of its elements. Many of the targets set by Parties are broad and refer to the control of invasive alien species generally. This Aichi Target is among those with the highest level of alignment between the national targets and the Aichi Target. However, many of the national targets do not consider issues associated with the identification and prioritization of pathways for the introduction of invasive alien species.

40. A total of 128 Parties have assessed progress towards their national targets related to Aichi Biodiversity Target 9 while 12 Parties did not report on their progress or indicated that their level of progress is unknown. Of the Parties assessing progress, more than a quarter are on track to reach (24%) or exceed (2%) their national targets. More than half (55%) of Parties have made progress towards their targets but not at a rate that will allow them to be met. Less than a fifth of Parties (18%) report that they are making no progress towards the target or are moving away from reaching it (1%). Of the Parties which have assessed progress, few (10%) have national targets similar to Aichi Biodiversity Target 9 which are on track to be met.

41. Parties report that they have taken various actions to address Aichi Biodiversity 9. These include the creation and implementation of legal frameworks for monitoring, controlling, and eradicating invasive alien species, including rules and regulations related to import and export, measures to control and manage ballast water, establishment of national guidelines for management and control of invasive alien species, and the establishment of phytosanitary and zoosanitary checkpoints at national points of entry.

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<sup>25</sup> For example, the toxic substance elimination programme of Panama, led by the Ministry of Health, has removed more than 325 tons of obsolete pesticides and contaminated soil from circulation. In China, several compensation agreements between provincial governments along river systems allow jurisdictions downstream to receive compensation for substandard surface water quality, which in turn incentivizes upstream jurisdictions to improve surface water quality.

Further, Parties commonly reported on the development and implementation of strategies related to biosecurity (including quarantine facilities, border control and inspection, early warning systems and rapid response systems), awareness-raising strategies (including the development of information portals and websites, training programmes and community events) as well as strategies of interregional collaboration. Further, about a quarter of Parties report that they are taking actions to identify and prioritize introduction pathways. Commonly reported on pathways were shipping, horticulture, trade, aquaculture, transportation, forestry, and urbanization. Some reports also refer to undertaking research related to invasive alien species, the creation and updating of inventories of invasive alien species, undertaking awareness-raising activities, reflecting the eradication and control of invasive alien species in the management of protected areas, and the creation of specialist committees to assess and track progress in combating invasive alien species.<sup>26</sup> The national reports also identified a number of challenges related to this Aichi Target, including the limited amount of resources to implement measures, the lack of knowledge and information on invasive alien species, the lack of up-to-date invasive alien species inventories, the lack of necessary legal frameworks and controls at points of entry and a lack of awareness among policymakers and the general public.

*Target 10 – 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*

42. A total of 94 NBSAPs (56%) contain targets related to Aichi Biodiversity Target 10. More than a quarter (26%) of these national targets are similar to the scope and level of ambition set out in the Aichi Target or exceed it (1%). About three quarters (74%) of targets have a lower level of ambition than the Aichi Target or do not address all of its elements. This Aichi Target is among those with the smallest number of NBSAPs containing comparable targets. The established national targets are, for the most part, general, and few explicitly refer to coral reefs or other specific ecosystems vulnerable to climate change.

43. A total of 100 Parties have assessed progress towards their national targets related to Aichi Biodiversity Target 10 while 40 Parties did not report on their progress or indicated that their level of progress is unknown. Of the Parties which have assessed progress, more than a quarter are on track to reach (26%) or exceed (3%) their national targets. More than half (56%) of Parties have made progress towards their targets but not at a rate that will allow them to be met. Some Parties (13%) report that they are making no progress towards the target and few (2%) are moving away from reaching the target. Of the Parties which have assessed progress, few (5%) have national targets similar to Aichi Biodiversity Target 10 which are on track to be met.

44. Among the actions reported by Parties to reach their national targets are the adoption of national policy instruments focused on the health of coral reef systems and the sustainable use of the services they provide,<sup>27</sup> actions to reduce pollution, including from plastics and excess nutrients, the promotion of restoration and conservation of vulnerable ecosystems in national policies and plans, and supporting research and capacity-building. Commonly reported challenges to reaching this target were the lack of capacity and funding as well as the challenge of upscaling pilot projects to the national level.

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<sup>26</sup> For example, Malaysia has taken several actions related to invasive alien species, including compiling a list of invasive alien species, undertaking baseline studies to enhance monitoring, putting in place a biosecurity plan for the palm oil industry in 2018, and enacting the Malaysian Quarantine and Inspection Services Act to enforce quarantine regulations at entry points.

<sup>27</sup> For example, the Maldives has established 61 marine protected areas to protect coral reefs, sensitive and biologically and ecologically significant areas have been identified, a coral reef monitoring framework has been established, and waste management plans are being developed for all islands to address unregulated dumping on beaches. In Ghana, the Coastal Sustainable Landscapes Project is addressing deforestation in coastal zones, including by restoring mangroves and coastal forests, and encouraging agroforestry practices, in order to mitigate the impacts of climate change on these habitats.

*Target 11 – 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 landscapes and seascapes*

45. A total of 150 NBSAPs (90%) contain targets related to Aichi Biodiversity Target 11. Of these targets, over a tenth (13%) are similar to the scope and level of ambition set out in the Aichi Biodiversity Target and some (2%) were more ambitious. More than four fifths (85%) of the targets are lower than the Aichi Target or do not address all of its elements. Many of the targets focus on the improvement of protected areas generally. The greatest emphasis is on expanding the size of the terrestrial protected areas estate. There was slightly less attention to the creation of marine protected areas. The more qualitative elements of the Aichi Target (ecological representativity, management effectiveness, protecting particularly important areas and interconnectedness) were also not as well covered by the national targets.

46. A total of 134 Parties have assessed progress towards their national targets related to Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 while 6 Parties did not report on their progress or indicated that their level of progress is unknown. Of the Parties which have assessed progress, more than half are on track to reach (43%) or exceed (9%) their national targets. Less than half (41%) have made progress towards their targets but not at a rate that will allow them to be met. A few Parties (6%) report that they are making no progress towards the target or that they are moving away from reaching the target (1%). Of the Parties which have assessed progress, more than a tenth (12%) have national targets similar to Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 which are on track to be met.

47. The information in the national reports suggests that most of the emphasis has been on increasing the size of the protected area estate. By comparison, there is less information provided on actions to address the qualitative elements of the Aichi Target. Commonly reported actions included the creation or expansion of protected areas, the development of buffer zones, converting private reserves into formal protected areas, providing support for community-based conservation areas and providing formal recognition of indigenous and community conserved areas. These actions were generally noted in relation to terrestrial protected areas. By comparison, there was less emphasis on marine protected areas.

48. Parties also reported on actions and measures to improve the representativeness of protected areas, including identifying important areas for conservation, and on identifying areas of relevance to multiple processes, such as those of the Ramsar Convention and of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Some Parties also reported on efforts to create protected areas in underrepresented habitats.

49. With regard to management effectiveness, commonly reported actions were increased surveillance efforts, the development and implementation of management plans, the decentralization of protected areas management, and the use of the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) and other emerging tools and indices. Parties also noted efforts to include national and local stakeholders in protected areas management, efforts to formally recognize indigenous and community conserved areas, development of legal frameworks for protected areas, developing and improving databases related to protected areas, putting in place penalties for infringing on protected areas, reflecting protected areas in development policies, undertaking of economic valuations, and increasing funding.

50. With regard to the integration of protected areas into the wider landscape and seascape, reported actions included the creation of green and ecological corridors, creating protected areas in strategic locations, efforts to restore fragmented and degraded habitats that could serve as corridors, developing strategies to improve connectivity, efforts to improve the coordination and management of protected areas spanning several countries, the development of corridor management plans, and creating urban green areas.<sup>28</sup>

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<sup>28</sup> For example, in Japan, the creation of special green conservation areas was promoted on the basis of the Urban Green Space Conservation Act, and on the Act for the Conservation of Suburban Green Zones in the National Capital Region.

51. Parties also reported on a number of challenges to reaching this target, including complex land tenure systems, land tenure uncertainties, a bias towards creating protected areas in remote areas rather than on representativity, a greater focus on terrestrial protected areas, a limited recognition of the ecosystem approach in protected areas management, the lack of management effectiveness assessment systems, limited coordination between national agencies, the lack of protected areas management and development plans, limited monitoring and surveillance systems, and a lack of financial and human resources. Additional information regarding Aichi Target 11 is provided in CBD/SBSTTA/24/6.

*Target 12 – 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*

52. A total of 143 NBSAPs (86%) contain targets related to Aichi Biodiversity Target 12. About a fifth of these targets (21%) have a similar scope and level of ambition to what is set out in Aichi Biodiversity Target 12. The majority of targets (79%) are either lower than the Aichi Target or do not cover all of its elements. The national targets that have been set focus equally on preventing extinctions and improving the conservation status of threatened species.

53. A total of 126 Parties have assessed progress towards their national targets related to Aichi Biodiversity Target 12 while 14 Parties did not report on their progress or indicated that their level of progress is unknown. Of the Parties which have assessed progress, more than a third are on track to reach (36%) or exceed (2%) their national targets. More than half (52%) have made progress towards their targets but not at a rate that will allow them to be met. Several Parties (10%) report that they are making no progress towards the target and or that they are moving away from the target (1%). Of the reporting Parties, less than a tenth (7%) have national targets similar to Aichi Biodiversity Target 12 which are on track to be met.

54. Most Parties report that they have taken actions to document and monitor the status of threatened species as well as note efforts to further expand monitoring systems. Some Parties also note that they are also taking action to reach this target through their involvement with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Some Parties also refer to the development and implementation of species-specific recovery programmes.<sup>29</sup> These tend to be in relation to keystone or culturally important species. Some Parties also referenced efforts related to ecosystem restoration, community-based conservation, and breeding programmes. Parties also noted several challenges related to the achievement of this target, including the lack of funding, limited resources and capacity, and a lack of attention to aquatic species.

*Target 13 — By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socioeconomically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity*

55. A total of 124 NBSAPs (74%) contain targets related to Aichi Biodiversity Target 13. Of these targets, about a fifth had a scope and level of ambition similar to Aichi Target (18%) or were more ambitious (1%). The majority of targets (81%) are either lower than the Aichi Target or do not address all of its elements. Most of the national targets refer to the conservation of genetic diversity generally. Few of the targets refer to specific elements of the target. In particular, the issues of conserving the genetic diversity of wild relatives and socioeconomically and culturally valuable species, and the development of strategies to minimize genetic erosion, are not generally reflected in the targets set by Parties.

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<sup>29</sup> For example, in Antigua and Barbuda the population of the Antigua Racer, a critically endangered endemic snake, was increased after the removal of rats, and populations of the Golden Talinum - once thought to be extinct - increased after habitat restoration activities. In El Salvador, the Sea Turtle Conservation Plan was implemented to allow community projects to establish hatcheries and release hatchlings. Similarly, in Mexico, population recovery programmes for species at risk such as the Mexican wolf (*Canis lupus baileyi*), the California condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*), the Sonora pronghorn (*Antilocarpa americana*), the Bighorn Sheep (*Ovis canadensis mexicana*) and nine species of sea turtles have been put in place and are showing success.

56. A total of 121 Parties have assessed progress towards their national targets related to Aichi Biodiversity Target 13 while 19 did not report on their progress or indicated that their level of progress is unknown. Of the Parties assessing progress, more than a third of the national targets are on track to be met (30%) or exceeded (5%). Less than half (49%) have made progress towards their targets but not at a rate that will allow them to be met. Less than a fifth of Parties (17%) report that they are making no progress towards the target. Of the reporting Parties, few (8%) have national targets similar to Aichi Biodiversity Target 13 which are on track to be met.

57. Commonly reported actions in the national reports were the creation and further development of gene banks, botanical gardens, germplasm plots, breeding facilities and research universities. Some Parties also reported on actions to preserve animal breeds through breeding facilities, protections associated with national heritage recognitions, and incentivizing farmers to maintain local breeds.<sup>30</sup> Parties also indicate that they are taking actions to conserve valuable crop species, including those used in medicines; to reintroduce neglected crops; and to provide training to farmers on issues associated with commercialization, development, and food security. Some of the noted challenges to reaching this target were biases in what plant and crop species are the focus of conservation programmes, and a lack of financial and human resources to carry out conservation efforts.

*Target 14 — 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*

58. A total of 110 NBSAPs (66%) contain targets related to Aichi Biodiversity Target 14. Of these targets, about a quarter (24%) were similar in scope and level of ambition to the Aichi Target. More than three quarters (76%) were lower than the Aichi Target or did not address all of its elements. Relatively few of the national targets explicitly referred to taking into account the needs of women, indigenous peoples and local communities and the poor and vulnerable. Target 14 is among the targets with the lowest number of NBSAPs with national targets having a similar level of scope and ambition.

59. A total of 118 Parties have assessed progress towards their national targets related to Aichi Biodiversity Target 14 while 22 Parties did not report on their progress or indicated that their level of progress is unknown. Of the Parties which have assessed progress, less than a third of national targets are on track to be met (27%) or exceeded (3%). More than half (61%) have made progress towards their targets but not at a rate that will allow them to be met. Few (7%) report that they are making no progress towards the target or are moving away from reaching the target (3%). Of the reporting Parties, few (7%) have national targets similar to Aichi Biodiversity Target 14 which are on track to be met.

60. In the national reports many Parties refer to the development of broad strategies aimed at reducing human pressure on the environment, support for sustainable production and consumption,<sup>31</sup> mainstreaming, the inclusion of a gender perspective in the development of biodiversity policies, and raising awareness of the importance of ecosystem services as being relevant to the attainment of this target. Several national reports also refer to support for research projects related to this Aichi Target, including on issues related to economic valuation. Some also noted that they have convened capacity-building workshops related to the issues addressed by Aichi Target 14. Reported challenges to reaching this target were a lack of funding for research, programmes and green infrastructure projects. Further information on gender-related issues are addressed in document CBD/SBI/3/2/Add.4.

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<sup>30</sup> For example, in Bosnia and Herzegovina various actions were taken to protect the genetic diversity of cattle breeds, including the adoption of a law on livestock breeding which recognized several indigenous species, breeds and varieties. Further, horse breeders who breed Bosnian Mountain Horses and Lipizzaners, among others, are entitled to incentives.

<sup>31</sup> For example, in Pakistan the Billion Trees Afforestation Project in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has contributed to the rehabilitation of degraded natural forests. In turn, this has helped recharge springs and increased the availability of drinking water for local communities. The project has also created thousands of green jobs for the rural poor and has increased the availability of fuelwood. The project will have a positive impact on women, who are responsible for collecting forage, fuelwood and who bring water from springs and wells.

*Target 15 — By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks have 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*

61. A total of 116 NBSAPs (69%) contain targets related to Aichi Biodiversity Target 15. Of these targets, about a fifth were similar in scope and level of ambition to the Aichi Target (18%) or exceeded it (3%). More than three quarters (78%) were lower or did not address all elements of the Aichi Target. The national targets that were set tended to have a greater focus on the restoration element of the target than on the element focusing on ecosystem resiliency and carbon stocks.

62. A total of 116 Parties have assessed progress towards their national targets related to Aichi Biodiversity 15 through their national reports while 24 Parties did not report on their progress or indicated that their level of progress is unknown. Of the Parties which have assessed progress, more than a third are on track to reach (33%) or exceed (3%) their national targets. More than half (55%) have made progress towards their targets but not at a rate that will allow them to be met. Nearly a tenth (9%) report that they are making no progress towards the target. Of the Parties which have assessed progress, few (6%) have national targets similar to Aichi Biodiversity Target 15 which are on track to be met.

63. Most of the reporting Parties reported on actions associated with restoration, including reforestation,<sup>32</sup> natural regeneration, the rehabilitation of heavily degraded sites, reflecting restoration in other strategies and plans, including national climate adaptation strategies, putting in place legal frameworks for restoration, and identifying and mapping priority areas for restoration. Parties also referenced actions aside from restoration, including the establishment of protected areas, the control of invasive alien species, increasing habitat connectivity, ex situ conservation and species reintroduction programmes, and payments for ecosystem services schemes. More generally the national reports also referred to promoting citizen engagement in restoration activities, promoting greater coordination in restoration activities, undertaking research, and promoting urban green infrastructure. By comparison, there was little information on issues related to resilience. Reported challenges to reaching this target include a lack of information and data on ecosystem health and quality and a lack of monitoring systems.

*Target 16 – By 2015, the Nagoya 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*

64. A total of 116 NBSAPs (69%) contain targets related to Aichi Biodiversity Target 16. About a quarter (28%) of these targets contained national targets or other commitments which were similar to the overall scope and level of ambition set out in Aichi Biodiversity Target 16. Almost three quarters (72%) were either lower than the Aichi Target or did not address all of its elements. Many of the targets that were set were general and referred to access and benefit-sharing (ABS) broadly and several did not make an explicit reference to the Nagoya Protocol. This Aichi Target is among those with the largest number of NBSAPs with associated national targets.

65. A total of 116 Parties have assessed progress towards their national targets related to Aichi Biodiversity 16 while 24 Parties did not assess progress or indicated that their level of progress is unknown. Of the Parties which assessed their progress, more than a third are on track to reach (38%) their national targets while a few (8%) reported that they were on track to be exceed it. More than half (44%) of Parties have made progress towards their targets but not at a rate that will allow them to be met. A few Parties (9%) report that they are making no progress towards the target or are moving away it (1%). Of the reporting Parties, more than a tenth (15%) have national targets similar to Aichi Biodiversity Target 16 which are on track to be met. Additional information regarding Aichi Target 16 is provided through the [ABS Clearing-House Mechanism](#).

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<sup>32</sup> For example, Nigeria, Chad, Mauritania and Senegal reported on the Great Green Wall, an African-led movement with the aim of growing an 8,000 km long forested area.

66. The national reports commonly note that actions are ongoing to implement the Nagoya Protocol at the national level, including efforts to modify or develop relevant legislation. Many reports also refer to undertaking workshops to build capacity and awareness related to the Nagoya Protocol.<sup>33</sup> Some reported challenges include limited resources to operationalize the Protocol and a lack of necessary legislation.

*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*

67. A total of 90 NBSAPs (54%) contain targets related to Aichi Biodiversity Target 17. This Aichi Target is among those with the lowest number of NBSAPs with related national targets or other commitments. This could be explained by the fact that because countries have developed or updated their NBSAP, they did not feel the need to reflect this Aichi Target in their NBSAP. Of the targets set, about a third (36%) are similar to the scope and level of ambition set out in Aichi Target 17. Almost three quarters (64%) are lower than the Aichi Target or do not cover all of its elements.

68. A total of 96 Parties have assessed progress towards their national targets related to Aichi Biodiversity 17 while 44 Parties did not report on their progress or indicated that their level of progress is unknown. Of the Parties which assessed their progress, more than half are on track to reach (42%) their national targets or exceed (13%) them. More than a third of Parties (36%) have made progress towards their targets but not at a rate that will allow them to be met. Few Parties (9%) report that they are making no progress towards the target. Of the Parties which have assessed progress, less than a third (28%) have national targets similar to Aichi Biodiversity Target 17 which are on track to be met. Additional information regarding Aichi Target 17 is provided in CBD/SBI/3/2/Add.1.

69. Most Parties have developed, updated or revised their NBSAPs since the adoption of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the focus is currently on implementing actions. Few Parties report on actions to adopt their NBSAPs as whole of government instruments.<sup>34</sup> Several Parties have reported on mainstreaming activities to support their implementation, such as through workshops, inter-agency cooperation and aligning their work with other sectoral strategies and action plans. Some Parties also refer to initiating regional and provincial-level biodiversity plans to more effectively translate the NBSAPs into local action. Commonly reported challenges to reaching this target were the lack of indicators to monitor the use of the NBSAP as a policy instrument, limited resources to implement NBSAPs and the fact that many NBSAPs were only recently adopted.

*Target 18 – 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*

70. A total of 112 NBSAPs (67%) contain national targets related to Aichi Biodiversity Target 18. Of these targets, about a fifth (21%) are similar to the scope and level of ambition set out in the Aichi Target. More than three quarters (79%) are lower than the Aichi Target or did not address all of its elements. Many of the targets that were set were general. The main focus of the national targets centred on respecting traditional knowledge, innovations and practices and the integration of these in the implementation of the Convention. By comparison, there was relatively less focus on ensuring the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities.

71. A total of 105 Parties have assessed progress towards their national targets related to Aichi Biodiversity 18 while 35 Parties did not report on their progress or indicated that their level of progress is unknown. Of the Parties which have assessed progress, more than a third are on track to reach (35%) their national targets or exceed (5%) them. More than half of Parties (52%) have made progress towards their targets but not at a rate that will allow them to be met. A few Parties (8%) report that they are making no

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<sup>33</sup> For example, Jamaica has undertaken a review of ABS agreements to examine ecological, social and economic impacts of different products and is currently collaborating with academic institutions to undertake studies related to the impacts of ABS agreements.

<sup>34</sup> For example, Mozambique aligned its NBSAP with its national five-year plan and its economic and social plan.



progress towards the target. Of the reporting Parties, less than a tenth (9%) have national targets similar to Aichi Biodiversity Target 18 which are on track to be met.

72. Actions commonly reported by Parties were efforts to better document traditional knowledge. Many of the national reports noted links between this Aichi Biodiversity Target and the Nagoya Protocol and refer to efforts to protect traditional knowledge and to ensure that indigenous peoples and local communities are fairly compensated for the use of their knowledge. Some national reports also referred to actions to improve the legal recognition of the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities.<sup>35</sup> A general challenge noted was the lack of resources for incorporating and reflecting traditional knowledge in issues related to conservation. Further information related to Aichi Biodiversity Target 18 is contained in document CBD/SBI/3/2/Add.3.

*Target 19 – 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*

73. A total of 140 NBSAPS (84%) contain targets related to Aichi Biodiversity Target 19. Aichi Target 19 is among those targets that have the highest number of NBSAPs with associated targets. More than a quarter of these targets are similar in scope and level of ambition to the Aichi Target (28%) or surpass it (1%). About three quarters (71%) are lower than the Aichi Target or do not address all of its elements. There are fewer targets which address the sharing of biodiversity information and technology and even fewer which cover issues associated with the application of biodiversity information.

74. A total of 120 Parties have assessed progress towards their national targets related to Aichi Biodiversity 19 while 20 Parties did not report on their progress or indicated that their level of progress is unknown. Of the Parties which have assessed progress, less than half (47%) are on track to reach their national targets or exceed (1%) them. Less than half of Parties (46%) have made progress towards their targets but not at a rate that will allow them to be met. A few Parties (7%) report that they are making no progress towards the target. Of the reporting Parties, less than a fifth (15%) have national targets similar to Aichi Biodiversity Target 19 which are on track to be met.

75. Many national reports referred to actions to promote education and training programmes on biodiversity, the development and promotion of scientific research programmes, undertaking species inventories, identifying key biodiversity areas and generally increasing the amount and quality of biodiversity information.<sup>36</sup> Some reports also refer to the development of national biodiversity databases and clearing-house mechanisms. Some national reports also refer to the preparation of publications as a means of generating information on biodiversity and making it accessible. Overall, the majority of actions appear to be related to the documentation and generation of knowledge on biodiversity, in particular in terrestrial ecosystems. By comparison, there appear to be fewer actions related to the generation of biodiversity-related information for aquatic environments and for sharing information and applying it in decision-making.

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<sup>35</sup> For example, in Zimbabwe, the CAMPFIRE project aims to give indigenous communities co-ownership of local natural resources, particularly wildlife, so that they can generate income by leasing trophy hunting concessions, harvesting resources, and tourism activities. Costa Rica has created a general mechanism for consultations with indigenous peoples (Mecanismo General de Consulta a Pueblos Indígenas).

<sup>36</sup> For example, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland established the Valuing Nature Programme, a five-year programme to build an interdisciplinary research community capable of working across the natural, biological and social sciences and the arts and humanities, and is also developing an environmental application as part of the European Union's Copernicus Programme, for open access imagery data gathered by the Sentinel satellites. South Sudan has initiated development of a National Biodiversity Database System (NBDS).

*Target 20 – By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 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 resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.*

76. A total of 125 NBSAPs (75%) contain national targets related to Aichi Biodiversity Target 20. About a quarter of these targets (26%) are similar to the scope and level of ambition set out in the Aichi Target, and one (1%) exceeds it. About three quarters (74%) are either lower than the Aichi Target or do not address all of its elements. The targets that are set tend to be general. Most do not refer to increasing resources from all sources, nor do they specify that resources should be increased substantially. Further, many of the targets that have been set also refer to non-financial resources, such as human resources.

77. A total of 119 Parties have assessed progress towards their national targets related to Aichi Biodiversity 20 while 21 Parties did not report on their progress or indicated that their level of progress is unknown. Of the Parties which have assessed progress, a third are on track to reach their national targets (30%) or exceed (3%) them. Half of Parties (50%) have made progress towards their targets but not at a rate that will allow them to be met. Less than a fifth of Parties (17%) report that they are making no progress towards the target. Of the Parties which have assessed progress, few (7%) have national targets similar to Aichi Biodiversity Target 20 which are on track to be met.

78. Many Parties refer to efforts to increase domestic biodiversity financing. Further, many reports note the importance of partnerships and programmes, including with the Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN). Some Parties refer to undertaking tax reforms and putting in place incentives to provide funding to biodiversity projects, such as putting in place a tourism tax to fund the operation of protected areas (some of these actions are also relevant to the attainment of Aichi Biodiversity Target 3). Funding from foreign sources is typically delivered on a project basis.<sup>37</sup> However, some Parties have organized partnerships and funding mechanisms to provide more sustained funding. Despite the actions that have been taken, the availability of resources is frequently identified as a challenge to implementation. The fragmentation of funding and the lack of holistic funding strategies have also been noted as a challenge by some Parties. For example, some reviews done by Parties have found that allocated budgets for biodiversity have gone underspent. Additional information regarding Aichi Target 20, including information on the resource mobilization targets adopted through decision XII/3, is provided in CBD/SBI/3/5/Add.2

#### IV. CONCLUSIONS

79. The majority of NBSAPs considered in this assessment contain targets related to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. However, for some Aichi Targets, such as Targets 3, 6, 10 and 14, there were many NBSAPs without associated national targets<sup>38</sup> or commitments. Aichi Biodiversity Targets 1, 9, 16, 17, 19 and 20 were the Aichi Targets with the greatest number of similar national targets (see figure 1). However, even in these cases, the number of NBSAPs with targets having or exceeding the scope and level of ambition of an Aichi Targets was on average just over a fifth (22%). Overall, the majority of national targets and/or commitments contained in the NBSAPs were lower than the Aichi Targets or did not address all of the elements of the Aichi Target. Generally, the national targets that have been set to date are more general than the Aichi Targets. Many Parties have set targets which refer to multiple Aichi Targets. These conclusions are consistent with the analyses made available during the first and second

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<sup>37</sup> For example, South Africa has established a Green Fund to support green initiatives to put the country on a low carbon, resource efficient, and climate-resilient path and in 2017 the city of Cape Town auctioned its inaugural R1 billion green bond to fund projects regarding adaptation and mitigation.

<sup>38</sup> As noted above, there were relatively few national targets related to Aichi Biodiversity Target 17 as well. However, this is likely because the preparation of an NBSAP reduced the need to have a national target on this issue.

meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation<sup>39</sup> and the thirteenth and fourteenth meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.<sup>40</sup>

80. The information in the national reports suggests that on average more than a third of all national targets are on track to be met (34%) (ranging from 21% for Aichi Target 8 to 49% for Aichi Target 1) or exceeded (3%) (ranging from 1% for Aichi Targets 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, and 19 to 12% for Aichi Biodiversity Target 17) (see figure 2). However, of the reporting Parties, on average, only a tenth (10%) of the national target that are similar to an Aichi Biodiversity Target are on track to be met (ranging from 3% for Aichi Biodiversity Target 8 to 27% for Aichi Biodiversity Target 17). On average for about half of the national targets (51%) (ranging from 37% for Aichi Target 17 to 62% for Aichi Target 8) progress is being made but not at a rate that will allow them to be met. Further, on average, about a tenth of national targets have no significant progress (11%) (ranging from 4% for Aichi Target 1 to 18% for Aichi Target 9) or are moving in the wrong direction (1%) (ranging from 0% for Aichi Targets 1, 13, 15, 17, 18, 19 and 20 to 3% for Aichi Targets 8 and 14). Most progress appears to have been made towards the national targets related to Aichi Biodiversity Targets 1, 11, 16, 17 and 19. By comparison, much less progress appears to have been made towards the national targets related to Aichi Biodiversity Targets 5, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14 and 20.

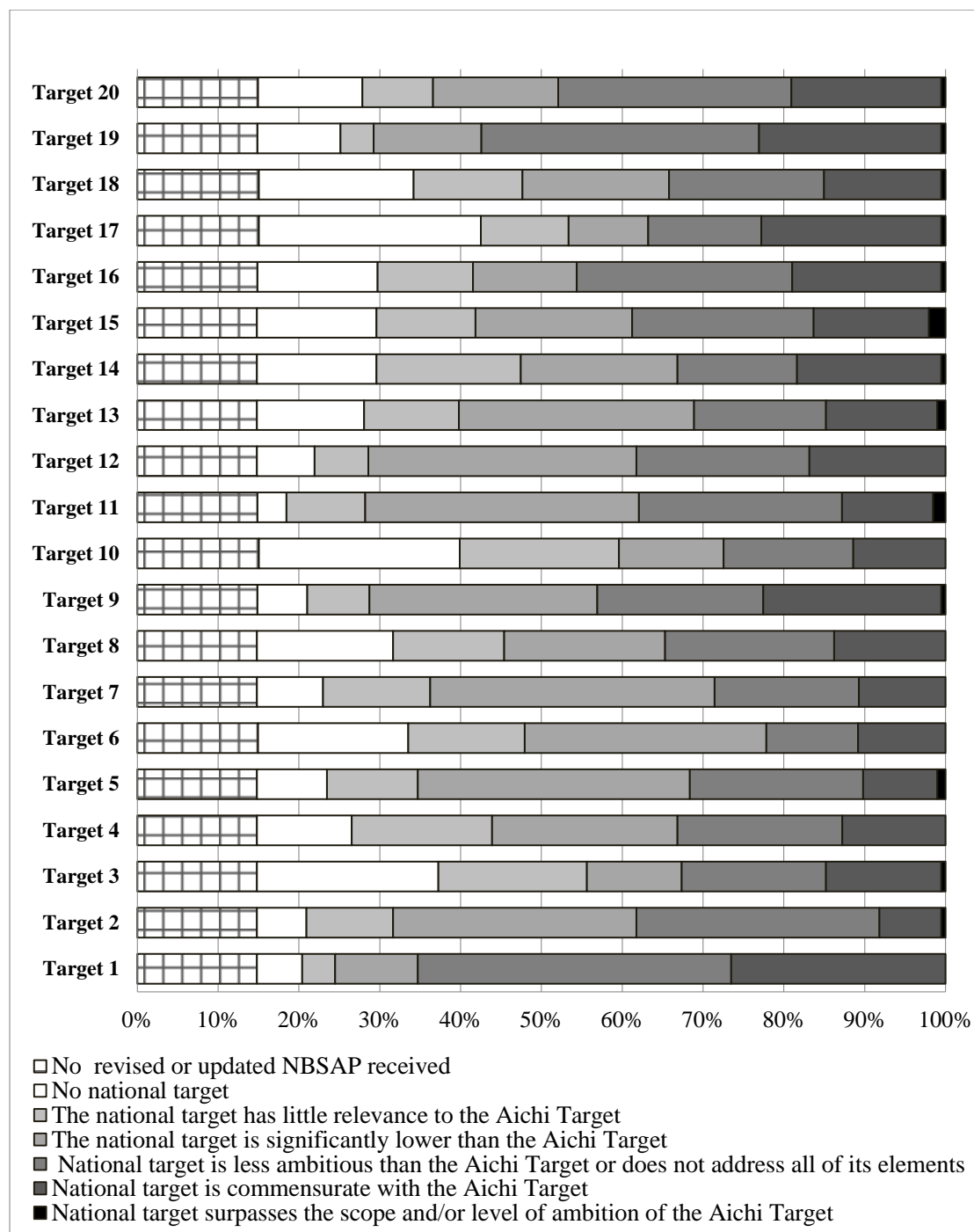
81. As noted above in paragraphs 7, 11 and 12, the assessment undertaken in this document has several limitations stemming from the different approaches Parties have taken in setting national targets and in reporting against them. These limitations should be considered in the development of monitoring and reporting processes related to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (see agenda item 9 of the present meeting). Nevertheless, the NBSAPs and the national reports, two complementary sources of information, indicate that efforts have been made to translate the Aichi Biodiversity Targets into national commitments, and national actions have been taken to reach the Aichi Targets, but that these commitments and efforts have been insufficient to reach the level of ambition set out in the Aichi Targets. Thus, the assessment suggests that, in the aggregate, gaps exist in relation to the level of ambition of the national targets set to reach the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, as well as in the efforts to reach these. The information from this analysis is broadly consistent with the information presented in the fourth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*, which concluded that, while progress is being made towards the achievement of all targets, progress is not sufficient to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. It is also consistent with the global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, which observed that “the implementation of policy responses and actions to conserve nature and manage it more sustainably has progressed, yielding positive outcomes relative to scenarios of no intervention, but progress is not sufficient to stem the direct and indirect drivers of nature deterioration. It is therefore likely that most of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets for 2020 will be missed.”

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<sup>39</sup> [UNEP/CBD/SBI/1/2/Add.2](#) and [UNEP/CBD/SBI/2/2/Add.2](#).

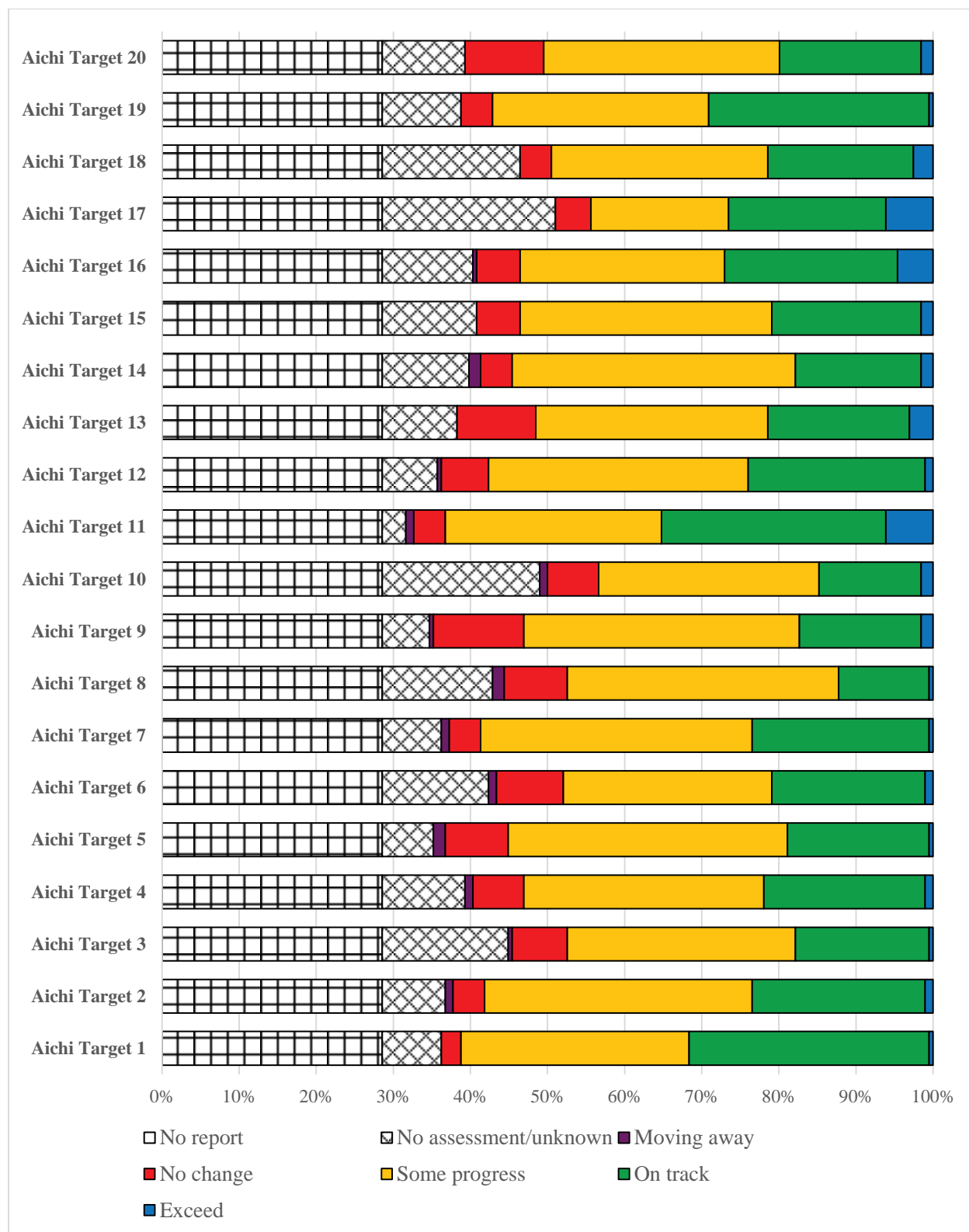
<sup>40</sup> [UNEP/CBD/COP/13/8/Add.2/Rev.1](#) and [CBD/COP/14/5/Add.2](#).

Figure 1. Assessment of the alignment of the national targets and other commitments contained in the revised and updated NBSAPs to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets



Note: The shaded bars indicate the proportion of NBSAPs containing national targets or commitments in each category. The darker the shade, the more closely aligned the national targets are to the Aichi Target. All 196 Parties are represented in each row.

Figure 2. Assessment of progress towards each of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets based on progress towards associated national targets as reported in the sixth national reports



Note: The coloured bars indicate the proportion of targets assessed as being in each category. All 196 Parties are represented in each row.