

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES  
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



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ELEMENTS FOR A MODULAR REPORTING AGAINST THE AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS

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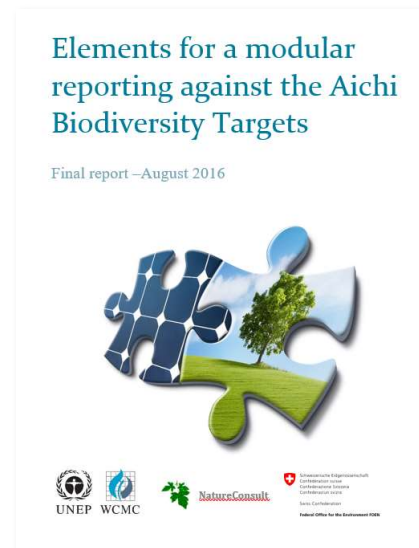
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## Elements for a modular reporting against the Aichi Biodiversity Targets

*A project prepared by UNEP-WCMC and NatureConsult for the Federal Office for the Environment FOEN*

*A key objective of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) up to 2020 is to evaluate their contribution to and the progress towards achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. As a number of national reports are due before 2019, opportunity exists to draw on information collected through various Agreements.*

*The project “Elements for a modular reporting against the Aichi Biodiversity Targets” explores the potential of common use of national data submitted under Agreements and recommends a modular approach to future national reporting in order to increase information coherence and to reduce the national reporting burden.*



### The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 – an opportunity for aligning national reporting among MEAs ...

- The endorsement of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 as the global framework for biodiversity conservation until 2020 provides a unique opportunity for aligning all reporting and assessment processes related to biodiversity so that they will effectively contribute to the final assessment of progress against the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in 2020.
- Providing a comprehensive assessment that clearly draws on reports to all existing conventions and assessment processes of relevance to biodiversity, has the potential to raise the profile of the conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable use of its components, and to showcase the role of each of the different conventions and processes in a coherent manner.

### ... and reduce the reporting burden by using a modular approach

- Review of a range of the key reporting and assessment processes shows that a significant amount of information will be available from them that can be used to inform the final review of the Strategic Plan and assessment of progress in achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.
- Avoiding duplication of efforts and decreasing the reporting burden of countries can be achieved through modular reporting. The aim of modular reporting is to be able to easily draw on different reporting processes and to facilitate information management. It is not to create additional reporting obligations. Instead a modular reporting approach needs to replace existing approaches.

## Example – the contributions of CITES reporting to the assessment of the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Target 12

The target is that *“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”*.

CITES reports include relevant information for the assessment of the target, e.g. in the **CITES Implementation Reports** where Parties report on ‘*reviews of whether species would benefit from listing on the CITES Appendices*’, on ‘*data which shows that the conservation status of naturally occurring species in the country listed on the CITES Appendices has stabilized or improved*’, ‘*if annual export quotas has set at levels which will ensure sustainable production and consumption*’ and ‘*any bilateral and/or multilateral agreements for co-management of shared species*’. **CITES Annual Reports** contribute information on ‘*seizures in illegal wildlife trade*’ and in the **CITES Reports on Wildlife Trade** on ‘*Import/export statistics of wildlife trade*’.

## Benefits of modular reporting

- Well-designed information management systems, reporting formats and guidelines, as well as increased efforts to share the information among Secretariats, will contribute to decreasing the reporting burden by avoiding multiple submissions of the one and same information.
- An integrated approach to reporting can lead to more integrated approaches in addressing biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national levels.
- Modular reporting can influence the development of a post-2020 global biodiversity framework and tools and processes related to the 2030 sustainable development agenda and the SDGs, by introducing a more integrated approach.

## Modular reporting – the way forward

- The linkage to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets should be indicated in each reporting process that can be drawn upon for assessment of progress in their achievement.
- The uptake of the modular reporting approach should be considered by MEAs in order to foster and facilitate the reuse of information provided by Parties.
- The current Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 will end in 2020. Review and monitoring of its successor instrument should prominently take into account all developments related to streamlining of reporting across the different intergovernmental processes.
- Technical tools such as online reporting systems can facilitate reporting and streamlining of reporting, e.g. through the development of a single interface for reporting at the national level. They should however not drive them.
- The alignment of reporting templates to streamline reporting could be supported by the Biodiversity Liaison Group.

## Where to find the project documents

The report *“Elements for a modular reporting against the Aichi Biodiversity targets”*, example modules as well as the mapping of the content of national reports with the Aichi Biodiversity Targets is hosted on the Swiss Clearing-House Mechanism:



Swiss Information System Biodiversity (SIB)

[www.sib.admin.ch](http://www.sib.admin.ch)