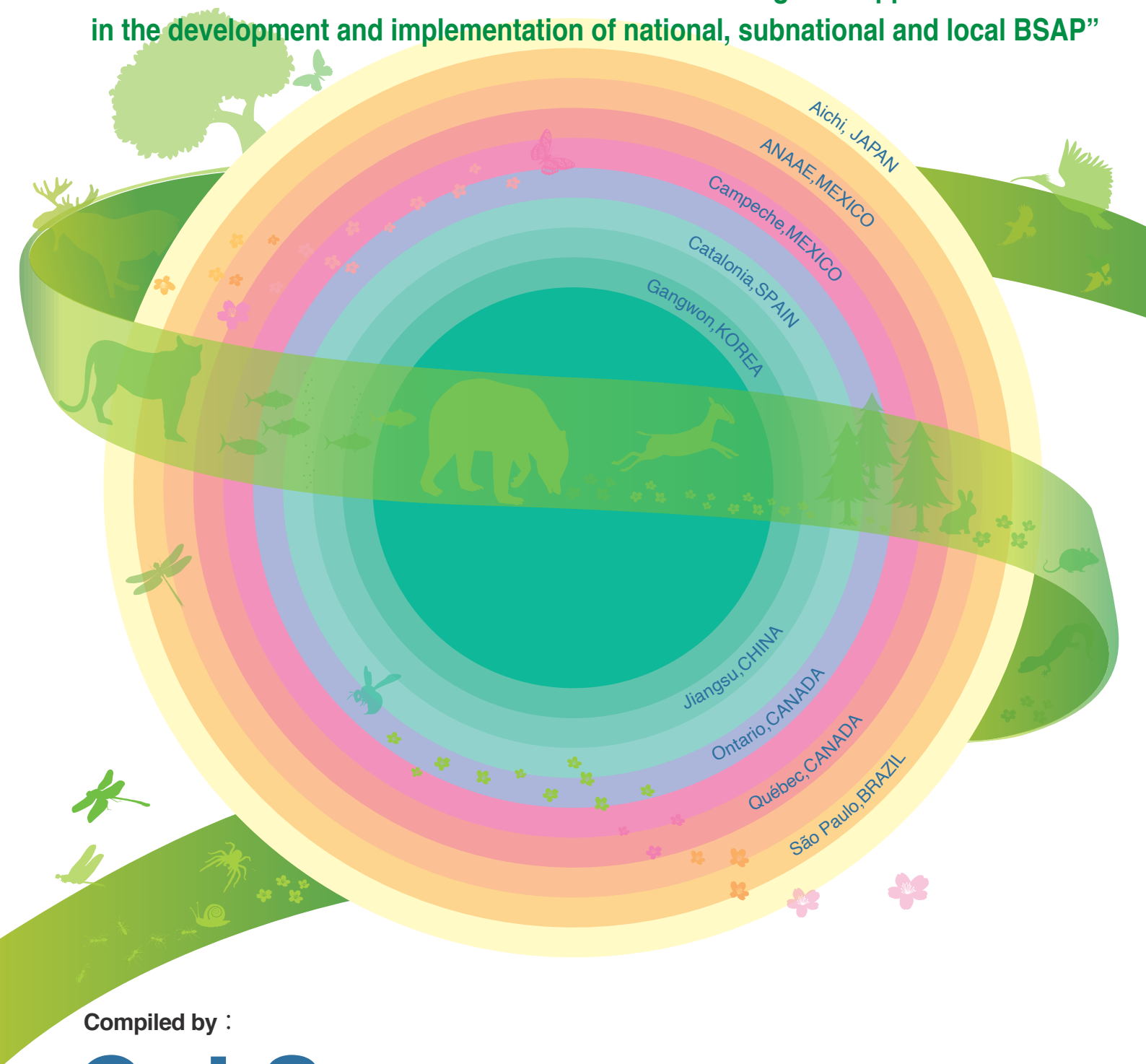


Subnational Governments' Experiences of Vertical Integration

with reference to the use of the “Guidelines for an integrated approach in the development and implementation of national, subnational and local BSAP”



Compiled by :

GoLS

(Group of Leading Subnational Governments toward Aichi Biodiversity Targets)

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Introduction

This report details efforts by the members of the Group of Leading Subnational Governments toward Aichi Biodiversity Targets (GoLS) in accordance with the 13 Guidelines established by the “Guidelines for an integrated approach in the development and implementation of national, subnational and local biodiversity strategy and action plans”, compiled by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and ICLEI Cities Biodiversity Center in 2017 with the support of Japan Biodiversity Fund. The descriptions are styled in Q&A format, which we expect to be easier to read.

Subnational governments are the first immediate level of government below the national, the Parties to the CBD. Subnational governments are responsible for implementing various measures taken by the Parties in accordance with the decisions of the Conferences of the Parties (COP), in cooperation with municipalities and other entities in each constituency, as well as for building cooperative relationships with various local actors, to make biodiversity conservation measures a reality. The relationships between subnational governments and national governments vary greatly, even among the members of the GoLS. However, they all share the common standing, being directly under the Parties and playing roles described above. The circumstances underlying each member's efforts are summarized at the beginning of each case study as "Fundamental Information".

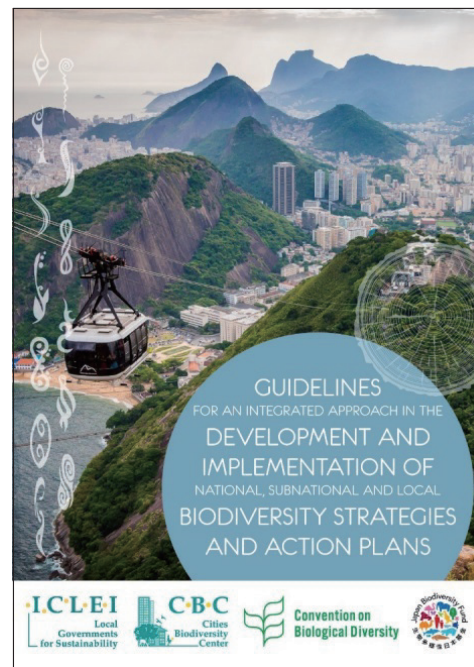
Subnational governments are quite large in terms of area, population, and jurisdiction. They also work over a wide range of spheres and it may not be easy to grasp the whole array of their activities. With this report, by describing our efforts in accordance with the Guidelines, we were able to present an overview of each member's efforts and to compare them with each other. This will provide an opportunity to put the range of subnational governments' responsibilities and actions into perspective and to gain new insights.

The CBD post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework is currently under consideration, and how subnational governments and local authorities can work together with their counterparts, as well as the contributions they can make are key elements toward an effective implementation of the new Framework. The 13 Guidelines could provide a practical framework for future international discussions on vertical integration.

This report is made possible through the voluntary collaboration between subnational governments forged since COP 10. Networks among subnational governments are now fusing in layers and spreading across the world, creating global wisdom, sharing and deepening a mutual understanding between different regions and cultures, and advocating to the meetings of the Parties to the CBD. This subnational linkage level is one of the outcomes of the CBD

and should be greatly respected and strengthened. Descriptions for the case studies below were provided by each member of GoLS and reflect their reality. These descriptions are not necessarily uniform between case studies but the addition of color coding intends to facilitate comparison between case studies. Some members reported collaborative initiatives between national and subnational governments or nation-led initiatives taken on their territories, which are shown in **PURPLE letters**. Other initiatives are highlighted in **BLUE letters**. Some guiding questions are relevant to plural approaches according to the reality of each member. This might suggest some of the approaches could be merged or simplified.

Initiatives described in each report highlight “what works on the ground”. However, initiatives not specifically mentioned here were sometimes considered but could not be carried out due to a lack of resource or capacities. In this context, the 13 guidelines could pave the way for future improvements by subnational governments and their partners.



The Guideline by ICLEI & CBD

<https://cbc.iclei.org/project/bsap-guidelines/>

Introduction

Reference: The Thirteen Guidelines

Thirteen action areas and guidelines established to advance the integration and coordination of vertical strategic planning and implementation, and cooperation among the various levels of authority for the successful implementation of the Global Biodiversity Goals and National Strategies. Specific approaches and activities may be applied to one or more of the 13. For States Parties and subnational governments, they can serve as an objective measure of their position. It should be noted, however, that these guidelines do not encompass the policy areas of subnational governments.

A. Specifying and institutionalizing collaboration and coordination in policy and strategy: The role of subnational and local authorities can be set out and reported on in policy and strategy documents and reports related to biodiversity, including NBSAPs and National Reports.

B. Clarifying mandates, institutional roles and responsibilities: Roles and responsibilities of subnational and local authorities on biodiversity can also be established through basic legal frameworks at all levels of governance, as well as norms, regulations and corporate strategies and policies for public agencies and bodies.

C. Establishing institutional coordination and cooperation mechanisms and forums: Whether or not the roles of different levels of government are codified in formal documents, subnational implementation can be strengthened through appropriately designed councils, agencies, permanent or regular consultative bodies and even informal forums.

D. Coordinating strategies to ensure alignment with NBSAP and Aichi Biodiversity Targets: Each level of government can define appropriate strategy and action aligned to relevant guidance of the CBD, such as its programmes of work and cross-cutting issues, its tools and guidelines, its COP decisions and its Strategic Plan and Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

E. Planning for action together: When Parties plan their national strategies and action plans in coordination with subnational and local authorities or their representative bodies, institutional capacity is built for coordination. Agreeing on indicators appropriate to the different levels can help to coordinate decision-making between all levels.

F. Cooperating on programmes and projects: Mainstreaming biodiversity into the planning of sectoral programmes and projects, particularly those with potential biodiversity impacts, and cooperation among sectoral agencies at the operational level, offers indirect yet effective opportunities for joint implementation of NBSAPs.

G. Cooperation across political borders: Because ecosystems and nature do not follow political borders, cooperation between national, subnational and local authorities on common assets such as wetlands, river basins

and forests, or protection of migratory or charismatic species is necessary for managing and reducing the ecological footprint impact across borders and effective coordination of trans-boundary actions in achieving NBSAP targets.

H. Facilitating consultation and participation: Independent of other aspects of coordination and collaboration, actions by national authorities to ensure consultation and involvement of subnational and local authorities, or their representative bodies, will encourage and support implementation at all levels.

I. Financial support and incentives: Very often, subnational and local authorities do not have access to dedicated financial resources to work on biodiversity, and even less to coordinate with other levels of government. National governments are encouraged to identify funding avenues and incentives towards supporting subnational and local authorities in the implementation of NBSAPs. Financial support and incentives provide a direct and effective way to ensure coordination and collaboration at all levels.

J. Technical support and non-financial incentives: The provision of technical support and other non-financial forms of recognition (awards, competitions, acknowledgement through media or visibility, etc.) by national authorities or other relevant organizations also facilitates action by subnational or local authorities for biodiversity.

K. Capacity building and sharing lessons learned: Many Parties and their national authorities already offer web-based or in-person training opportunities, or compilations of effective practices, for subnational and local authorities on the implementation of NBSAPs, whether of their own production or by contracting appropriate institutions or bodies.

L. Cooperation on science, information, monitoring and evaluation: Effective NBSAPs and related plans or programmes require a solid scientific base of data in order to define goals and targets, and to develop a system for monitoring and evaluating their implementation. Subnational and local authorities often possess valuable information and can contribute with scientific and technical data. With a common scientific basis, vertical coordination is naturally easier and more effective.

M. Communication and awareness raising: Coordination across levels of government in implementing NBSAPs requires specific messaging, joint positioning and production of communication materials, so that all levels of government are represented, with their concerns and contribution acknowledged.

Vertical Integration in the Development and Implementation of BSAP in Aichi / Japan

Fundamental information on the subnational autonomy system

There are 47 prefectures under the central government in Japan. The number of municipalities in each prefecture ranges from 15 to 179 (average of 37). Subnational autonomy is guaranteed by the Constitution of Japan, while specific details are decided by national laws, such as the Local Autonomy Act. Until Japan was unified in the latter half of the 19th century, the prefectures originally existed as the amalgamation of several han, which were traditional independent nations in Japan.. Prefectures usually encompass basins of major rivers, most of which provide water supply to populated cities, and encompass daily living areas for most residents.

Therefore, municipalities provide the services necessary for the everyday life of residents, and prefectures provides public services such as land and water management, major roads, marine ports and airports, environment control, promotion of industry, and secondary education.

Autonomy legislative power is granted to the extent that does not contradict national laws and to areas not covered by national law. The local government is allowed to legislate on imprisonment or fines to a certain extent.

Generally speaking, the budgets of subnational or local governments depend on their own tax income. However, some subnational or local governments with less income than average are provided with an adjusted budget from the central government. Since Aichi Prefecture has a large income, it has received very small adjusted budget for a long time.

Vertical Integration development and implementation of BSAP in case of Aichi/Japan

Q1: How do Japanese central government and subnational governments share the mandates on biodiversity conservation?

(Relevant to Guideline B: “Clarifying mandates, institutional roles and responsibility”)

The **Basic Act on Biodiversity of Japan**¹ (hereinafter, “the Basic Act”) defines the mandates of the central government and subnational governments. According to the Basic Act, in principle, the central government establishes fundamental policies, after which the subnational and local governments apply the policies on their present lands and seas. In the case of some very important places or species, the central government takes actions by itself.

The Basic Act also defines the obligation of subnational and

local governments (prefectures and municipalities) to make efforts to develop their BSAP based on the national BSAP.

1. http://www.japaneselawtranslation.go.jp/law/detail_main?re=&vm=2&id=1950

Q2: What are the specific methods to transfer and modify the national policies into the subnational and local governments’ policies?

(Relevant to Guideline A: “Specifying and institutionalizing collaboration and coordination in policy and strategy” and Guideline D: “Coordinating strategies to ensure alignment with Strategy Plan 2011-2020 and ABTs”)

The current **national BSAP of Japan (2012-2020)** which was revised in 2012, to meet Aichi Biodiversity Targets, expects the subnational and local governments to adapt the national policies; in particular; to establish a collaborative network with various stakeholders in the regions, and to promote environmental education. National BSAP sets the goal of having all 47 prefectures develop their BSAP by 2020.

A tool to promote this target is the **“Guidelines to develop subnational and local BSAP,”** which provide necessary information in a compact form. While the first edition, published in 2009, was exclusively theoretical, the second edition published in 2014, contains a variety of methods developed in the communities, making it a more practical guide. Unfortunately, the guidelines are only available in a Japanese language version.² The table of contents is shown in the box below.

The central government and some subnational/local

Chapter 1 What is the regional BSAP
1. Why is regional BSAP needed?
2. Biodiversity, the necessity
3. What Items to describe in regional BSAP

Chapter 2 Process for developing BSAP
1. Overall process
2. Elements of BSAP
3. Updating

Chapter 3 Concept when developing BSAP
1. Fundamental concept
2. Analyzing current situations and barriers
3. How to set goals and targets
4. Developing and systematizing policy
5. Establishing mechanisms for implementation and checking progress
Reference

governments established the **Network of Local Governments for Biodiversity (NLGB)** in 2011. It aims to promote the exchange of information among governmental entities. The founding members were prefectures of Aichi, Kanagawa, and etc. The governor of Aichi served as the Chairperson of the network, in the first year and the fourth year from the founding. NLGB has been holding a national-wide forum every year and conveying the opinions of the members in accordance of requests of the central government.

2. https://www.env.go.jp/nature/biodic/lbsap/lbsap_mat01.pdf

Q3: Regarding the expectation for subnational and local governments to develop a collaboration network, what steps is Aichi taking to create a network?

(Relevant to Guideline C: “Establishing institutional coordination and cooperation mechanisms and forums” and Guideline E: “Planning for action together”)

As the background of promoting local actions, the effort of central government to establish the **Japan Committee for UN Decade on Biodiversity (UNDB-J)** in 2011 was very important. UNDB-J is a very broad organization consisting of academics, cultural figures, economic organizations, agriculture, forestry and fisheries organizations, travel industry organizations, NGOs, youth organizations, local government organizations, and relevant ministries and agencies including the Ministry of the Environment. The UNDB-J is led by the Chairperson of Keidanren. This is a strong background for business sectors to consider biodiversity as a matter essential to their business activities.



Among the efforts of Aichi Prefecture for biodiversity, **Ecosystem Network Councils** are the flagship projects which lead cross-sectoral cooperation among regional stakeholders. Each council consists of academic institution, NPOs, private companies, agricultural organizations and local governments. The council composition works as a platform to create collaboration. In many cases, academic experts assume leadership roles and private companies provide spaces for biotopes. Recently, collaborations produced by the councils cover conservation of natural sites or anti invasive species activities. The chairpersons of the councils are appointed as members of the Prefectural Committee on Ecosystem Network. Aichi also holds a prefecture-wide exchange forum

among the members of the councils once a year.



Ecosystem Network Councils Covering the Whole Territory

Q4: Could you introduce the mechanism to promote collaborative activities, especially highlighting financial support or incentives?

(Relevant to Guideline F: “Cooperating on programs and projects” and Guideline I: “Financial support and incentives”)

In order to promote collaborative activities, platform bodies and budgets for the activities are needed.

The central government of Japan provides **subsidies for developing and implementing collaborative programs led by municipalities**. Unfortunately, this system has not been used much in Aichi, because the subsidies only cover half of the cost.

In Aichi, the ecosystem network councils are the platform of collaborations, many of which could be fully supported by the **“Aichi Greenery Fund”** built on Aichi’s special greenery tax. Every prefectural taxpayer is charged 500 yens per year. This fund is spent to maintain resilient forests and to create urban green space or biotopes.



A biotope built with the help of Aichi Greenery Fund

Q5: How has Aichi developed cooperative relationship beyond political borders?

(Relevant to Guideline G: “Cooperation across political borders”)

As mentioned above (Q2), Aichi has been working through the NLGB, to develop a network of subnational and local governments in Japan, and also working with subnational governments abroad. Both of these activities have the support

of the Japanese government. These collaborations provide an opportunity to share experiences and develop biodiversity conservations efforts.

Cooperation with neighboring subnational governments is a good opportunity for concrete collaborations. An **association for the Kiso Sansen**, one of Japan's largest rivers, has been established by Ministry of Land, Infrastructure



Itasenpara Bitterling (*Acheilognathus longipinnis*), one of the endangered species protected by the association for the Kiso Sansen.

and Transport, Ministry of Environment, two prefectures including Aichi, municipalities locating along the river, NPOs and academic experts. The association is implementing a collaborative programs for the conservation of the river ecosystem. Several programs are being held under this collaboration, one of which involves high school students who raise endangered fish. These efforts are only possible through vertical collaborative relationships.

Q6: By the way, how are the consultation and participation on BSAPs carried out, at national and subnational level? (Relevant to Guideline H: “Facilitating consultation and participation”)

The current **national BSAP** of Japan was developed through a **wide range of consultation** with many academic experts, representatives of various stakeholders including subnational/local governments, and the other ministries of the central government. Regarding the implementation of the national BSAP, the **NLGB** is a member of **UNDB-J**, the platform for the promotion of the national BSAP. However, there seems to be potential for realizing even closer consultation and participation of subnational/local governments.

The current BSAP of Aichi was developed through insufficient consultation with civil society and municipalities, which has caused some difficulty in implementation. This needs to be considered when updating the BSAP.

Q7: How about technical support and non-financial incentives related to the implementation of BSAPs in Japan? (Relevant to Guideline J: “Technical support and non-financial incentives”)

The **Biodiversity Center of Japan (Biodic)**³ and the **National Institute for Environment Studies (NIES)**⁴ are national centers for science and technology on biodiversity in Japan. Biodic conducts basic research and monitoring on vegetation, distribution of plants and animals, rivers and lakes, tidal flats, coral reefs, etc. through-out Japan. Such fundamental data is

indispensable for developing and implementing BSAPs. NIES conducts more specialized research, including technology and analysis. For example, NIES researchers have been giving hands-on advice for Aichi's effort to combat some invasive alien ants (Browsing Ant, Argentine Ant and Fire Ant).

It is essential to understand the habitat status of organisms at the prefectural level. In Aichi, with full **cooperation of local academics and amateur researchers** (mainly high school science teachers), we have published and distributed **Red Data Book/List** of animals and plants, **Blue Data Book** (list of alien species) and **Green Data Book** (list of all animals and plants recorded in Aichi).

3.http://www.biodic.go.jp/index_e.html
4.<http://www.nies.go.jp/>

Q8: How is cooperation on capacity building and sharing lessons learned carried out at national and subnational levels? (Relevant to Guideline K: “Capacity building and sharing lessons learned”)

The central government of Japan regularly holds several **capacity building programs** for the officials of subnational/local governments. These one-week programs are a good opportunity to communicate with officials of other subnational/local governments. Aichi has been holding **workshops for municipalities on hunting control, alien species, BSAP etc.** In Japan, capacity building is mainly carried out by the education sector or private sector. There are some important private certification systems on biodiversity skills. Generally speaking, capacity building and sharing



A meeting of EPOC



Green Data Book

lessons learned might be an area worthy of further consideration.

Some organizations in the business sector are conducting intensive research on actions which should be taken by private companies. The “Guidelines” compiled by the association of electrical and electronic industry are very practical and could be used as references by many other fields of industry. The Environment Partnership Organizing Club (EPOC) is formed by major companies with their headquarters in and around Aichi, and is researching the actions to be taken by private companies.

Q9: How about the cooperation on science, information, and monitoring/evaluation to support decision-making on BSAP? (Relevant to Guideline L: “Cooperation on science, information and monitoring and evaluation”)

Aichi's BSAP defines 32 numerical targets, which are examined once a year by the **Prefectural Committee on Biodiversity Strategy**. The committee mainly consists of academic professionals from various scientific fields. The opinions of the committee are considered by the prefectural government. Aichi is fulfilling a leading role in this process, building networks with researchers and other administrative bodies/institutes. However, many academic professionals working with Aichi are cooperating with the central government, and the branch of the national government is collaborating with prefectures. Therefore, it can be said that Aichi is collaborating indirectly with the central government.

Q10: How are efforts on CEPA carried out at national and subnational levels? (Relevant to Guideline M: “Communication and awareness raising”)

In Japan, the word “biodiversity” has become widely used in publications and broadcasting since COP10. News on biodiversity, such as discoveries of new species or new invasion by new alien species, is often highlighted, and most TV programs on wildlife are very popular. Currently, the **official curriculum guidelines in schools** include “biodiversity” as a concept to be taught in elementary, junior high and high schools. Therefore, “biodiversity” has become a very common word. Nevertheless, there is insufficient understanding for the importance and crisis implied by the word. Indeed, there is still a lack of recognition in Japanese society for the meaning of “biodiversity.”

Many of the activities in Aichi **aimed at raising awareness** for biodiversity are **experience-based activities held on-site**. Examples include nature observation and taking plant samples, and sometimes catching animals or eliminating invasive alien species (IAS). Such activities are popular with both children and adults, and simultaneously serve an

educational and conservational purpose. There is a need to increase the number of participants in these activities.

The nation-wide UNDB-J has been working on tools for children like “**Recommended Books**”, “**My Action Declaration**,” events and awareness-raising tools, and also working to utilize these tools at botanical and zoological garden. UNDB-J also has been working on **certification for**



The activity for tackling against invasive alien species

good collaborative practices.

Fostering communication and raising awareness is a very tough challenge in Japan. The central government of Japan, UNDB-J, Aichi Prefecture, and Nagoya City held a **joint event for raising awareness** at the beginning of 2020. The event aimed to summarize the achievements since COP10 and show them to participants in the most easy-to-understand format possible.

Q11: Could you mention any plans or ideas of Aichi for post-2020? How could the “Guidelines” help your plans/ideas with the further development and implementation of the BSAP?

Currently, Aichi is planning to develop new BSAP for post-2020. The thirteen “Guidelines” indicate the points of view requiring further consideration. Descriptions, case-studies, and suggestions accompanying each Guideline provide useful hints for further development and enable identification of the strengths and weaknesses of initiatives. For example, Guideline H: “Facilitating consultation and participation” seems to indicate points the weaknesses in past efforts. Similarly, it is possible that Guideline K: “Capacity building and sharing lessons learned” and M: “Communication and awareness raising” may indicate the points requiring further consideration in the future. That is why Aichi recognize these “Guidelines” as being very helpful for planning initiatives at various levels of governments, and as being useful as a common tool between governments. If possible, the “Guidelines” should be used as a reference in Japan to assist in the development of more effective BSAPs.



Vertical Integration in the Development and Implementation of BSAP in Campeche / Mexico

Fundamental information on the subnational autonomy system

Mexico adopted the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in 1992, which is an international agreement for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, composed of three main objectives:

The conservation of biological diversity

The sustainable use of the components of biological diversity

The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits derived from the use of genetic resources



Within the framework of this agreement, Mexico has acquired various commitments such as the development of diagnoses and the generation of national strategies and action plans (Article 6 of the CBD), as essential public policy instruments for the planning and proper management of natural heritage.

At the national level, the National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (CONABIO), published in 1998 the first national biodiversity study: The Biological Diversity of Mexico, Country Study (in Spanish La diversidad Biológica de México, Estudio de País)¹, which contains the description of the biological diversity of Mexico, its importance for the national economy, the wide range of factors that threaten it and the instruments of environmental policy and management for its conservation and management.

The first National Strategy on Biodiversity of Mexico (ENBM)² was published in 2000; In this, the basic guidelines and participation actions of the Mexican society sectors were established with the purpose of fulfilling the three objectives of the CBD.

Later in 2016, after a four-year review and update process, the **National Strategy on Biodiversity in Mexico and the 2016-2030 Action Plan (ENBIOMEX)** was published (in Spanish la Estrategia Nacional sobre biodiversidad en México y

Plan de Acción 2016-2030 (ENBioMex)³, a new guide document that identifies the main elements to know, conserve, restore and sustainably manage biodiversity and the services it provides in the short, medium and long term.

In large part of the actions identified (70%) for the fulfillment of ENBioMex, the active participation of subnational and local governments is involved, reaffirming Mexico's commitment to work at all levels of government, academia, organizations of the civil society and the private sector, to coordinate, align and implement actions aimed at the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

At the local level, since 2002, **CONABIO collaborates with state governments** and various sectors of society, promoting the initiative of the State Biodiversity Strategies (BSE)⁴, in order to contribute to improving local capacities (human and institutional) of planning and management of biological resources in the federal entities of the country and support the fulfillment of the commitments that Mexico has acquired before the CBD.

Biodiversity policies in the state of Campeche are implemented through the Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in the state of Campeche (ECUSBIOCAM), its process is described below:

1.<https://www.biodiversidad.gob.mx/publicaciones/librosDig/pdf/divBiolMexEPais1.pdf>

2.http://www.conabio.gob.mx/conocimiento/estrategia_nacional/doctos/pdf/ENB.pdf

3.<https://www.biodiversidad.gob.mx/enbiomex/>

4.<https://www.biodiversidad.gob.mx/region/EEB>

Phase I. Approach. 2006-2008.

The states of Campeche, Chiapas, Oaxaca, Quintana Roo and Yucatán in the South-Southeast Region, committed themselves by signing the **“Declaration of Mérida”** to prepare their corresponding State Studies and State Biodiversity Strategies. On March 24, 2008, the Commitment Letter was signed between the State Government, CONABIO, Autonomous University of Campeche (UAC), the Institute of Ecology, Fisheries and Oceanography of the Gulf of Mexico (EPOMEX) and College of the Southern Border (ECOSUR). Subsequently, on May 30 of the same year, the Interinstitutional Agreement was signed with the state environmental authority, EPOMEX and ECOSUR.

Phase II. Diagnosis and Planning. 2007-2016

The Institute of Fisheries and Oceanographic Ecology of the Gulf of Mexico (EPOMEX) and the College of the Southern Border (ECOSUR) coordinated the preparation of the State Study, through various workshops and meetings with different members of the academy, government and non-governmental



organizations. In 2010, the book **Biodiversity in Campeche: State Study**⁵ was published, consisting of 11 sections and 125 contributions, with the participation of 128 authors from more than 30 institutions.

Between 2012 and 2016, the **Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity of the State of**



Campeche⁶ was developed and published. The Strategy has a vision to 2030 and includes an alignment with Aichi Biodiversity Targets, six strategic axes, 23 lines of action and 94 actions focused on the conservation, restoration of ecosystems and recovery of populations of endangered species, the use and sustainable use of biodiversity, as well as prevention and attention to the factors that put pressure on it.

5.<https://www.biodiversidad.gob.mx/region/EEB/estudios.html#campeche>

6.<https://www.biodiversidad.gob.mx/region/EEB/estrategias.html#campeche>

Phase III. Implementation

2017-2018.

The Secretariat of the Environment Biodiversity and Climate Change of the State of Campeche (SEMABICC) leads the work of its implementation, through different participation mechanisms. The Technical Advisory Council of Wildlife of the State of Campeche takes up the commitments of the Strategy and follows up on its implementation, the Council is made up of 45 counselors representing the government, the productive sectors, civil society organizations, universities and centers of investigation. There are 3 people (Technicians) who coordinate the implementation with the Technical Council.

Vertical Integration development and implementation of BSAP in case of Campeche/Mexico

Q1: How do Mexican central government and subnational governments share the mandates on biodiversity conservation?

(Relevant to Guideline B: “Clarifying mandates, institutional roles and responsibility”)

In Mexico, in 2017, a proposal for a General Biodiversity Law

was presented but has not been approved to date, so the issue of biodiversity in the country is addressed in accordance with the **General Wildlife Law** and the **General Law of Ecological Balance and Environmental Protection**.

These laws confer on the local governments, various attributions in the matter and in the case of the Government of Campeche there are a **State Law on Wildlife** and **State Law of Ecological Balance and Environmental Protection** that



regulate the issue, and in July 2019 the organic law of the administration was modified state and creates the **Ministry of Environment Biodiversity and Climate Change (SEMABICC)** which is responsible for the implementation of the Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in the State of Campeche (ECUSBIOCAM).

Q2: How are the specific methods to transfer and modify the national policies into the subnational and local governments' policies?

(Relevant to Guideline A: “Specifying and institutionalizing collaboration and coordination in policy and strategy” and Guideline D: “Coordinating Strategies to ensure alignment with Strategy Plan 2011-2020 and ABTs”)

It is carried out through the **State Biodiversity Strategies** that aim to:

Overall objective

To improve the planning and execution capacities of the federative entities with respect to the management of biological resources, through the development of tools for decision-making and participatory planning.

Specific objectives

- Facilitate the scientific, cultural and political exchange concerning biodiversity at different scales, within the framework of the CBD.

- Have studies, strategies and action plans at an appropriate (state) scale that allow the orderly and responsible management of biological resources.

- Promote the establishment of state commissions on biodiversity, as institutions with functions similar to CONABIO, created by the State Executive.



- Integrate and harmonize conservation and sustainable use initiatives.
- Promote that the strategies developed are instrumented and promote the integration of biodiversity in the different areas of government and sectors of society.

Q3: Regarding the expectation for subnational and local governments to develop the collaboration network in the territories, how Campeche is acting to make it real on the ground?

(Relevant to Guideline C: “Establishing institutional coordination and cooperation mechanisms and forums” and Guideline E: “Planning for action together”)

Campeche is implementing its biodiversity strategy (ECUSBIOCAM), through a **Technical Advisory Council for Wildlife** of the State of Campeche, the Council is made up of 45 councilors representing government, the productive sectors, civil society organizations, universities and Research centers and to comply with the proposed lines of action 5 Technical Committees were integrated (1.- Conservation and exploitation, 2.- Environmental education and training, 3.- Governance (Legislation and Management), 4.- Research, 5.- Evaluation and monitoring) which are responsible for the implementation through the strategic axes of ECUSBIOCAM: a) Strengthening of capacities; b) Prevention and attention to threats; c) Conservation, restoration of ecosystems and recovery of populations of threatened species; d) Sustainable use; e) Environmental education and culture; f) Legal framework and law enforcement (inspection and surveillance); and g) Generation of knowledge and scientific information.

Commitments from CBD and support bodies adopting in Mexico, are disseminated between subnational and local governments by the **National Coordination of SBSAP in National Biodiversity Commission**. This entity is in charge to report, integrate and interchange the activities and outcomes at all government levels. National Coordination conducts all the activities between national and subnational governments, harmonizing the NSBAP and SBSAPs in Mexico.

Furthermore, there are **Advisory Councils of National and Natural Protected Areas**: Biosphere Reserve of Petenes, Biosphere Reserve of Calakmul; and Flora and Fauna Protected Area of Laguna of Términos. These Councils establish, manage and evaluate the projects and activities according to Plan of Action yearly. They include representatives of government, social leaders from communities into Protected Areas, civil society organizations, universities and research centers.

Also, SEMABICC and Autonomous University of Campeche coordinate the **State Committee for Conservation and Protection of Sea Turtles in Campeche**, which includes members from productive sectors, NGOs managing diverse sea turtle camps, higher education institutes and research centers. They contribute to develop the lines of action into SBSAP, related to conservation, environmental education, evaluation

and monitoring sea turtle species such as Hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys Imbricata*) and Green sea turtle (*Chelonia Mydas*).

Q4: Could you introduce any experiences to promote collaborative activities in Campeche?

(Relevant to Guideline F: “Cooperating on programs and projects” and Guideline G: “Cooperation across political borders”)

Since 2018 in Campeche, SEMABICC has conducted and developed a project for **Monitoring of Biodiversity in State Protected Areas of Balam Kú and Balam Kin**, terrestrial mammals, birds, crocodiles and felines were monitored in public-private coordination, where regional universities, NGOs,



state government and community representatives were working on monitoring population and life conditions in the ecosystems. A successful coordination between state government and higher education institution has been through the **State Program for Monitoring and Preservation of Sea Turtle**, one of the most impactful programs on a continuous basis for more than 40 years, releasing only in the last nesting season a million of baby sea turtles. The State Program is coordinated by State Committee for Conservation and Protection of Sea Turtles in Campeche and the federal government funds some activities of sea turtle camps into Natural Protected Areas.

Q5: By the way, how are the consultation and participation on BSAPs carried out, at national and subnational level?

(Relevant to Guideline H: “Facilitating consultation and participation”)

The following has been done for the construction of the national biodiversity strategy:

1. **Review meetings.** Six workshops were organized for the review of the base documents and about 120 participants attended.
2. **National enrichment workshops.**
3. **Gender mainstreaming workshop.**
4. **Public consultation online.**

In the case of the **state biodiversity strategy** of the State of



Campeche: five **participatory workshops** were held to identify the priorities and points of view of the different sectors of society in relation to the problem of biodiversity loss in the entity, propose actions regarding knowledge, conservation and use, as well as establishing responsibilities and deadlines for compliance with them.

Q6: How about technical support and non-financial incentives to the implementation of BSAPs in Campeche?

(Relevant to Guideline J: “Technical support and non-financial incentives”)

Monitoring of jaguar specie in biological corridor from Flora and Fauna Protected Area of Laguna of Términos to Biosphere Reserve of Calakmul, and **beyond of our state border** with Quintana Roo and Tabasco States, is one of the most ambitious programs in the southern of Mexico. State Government with the financial and technical support of Juárez Autonomous University of Tabasco (UJAT) and Panthera international NGO dedicated to preserve feline species, have developed monitoring activities in strategic places into State Protected Areas of Balam Kú and Balam Kin. As a result, they have identified 20 jaguars, demonstrating the specie as healthy indicator of ecosystem. The financial support was possible through the equipment donations such as trap cameras, batteries and accessories and technical support to operate by government and academic staff.

Q7: How are the cooperation on capacity building and sharing lessons learned carried out at national and subnational level?

(Relevant to Guideline K: “Capacity building and sharing lessons learned”)

On June 2019, a **Regional forum about environmental management units in conservation of biodiversity** was held in Campeche, which brought together authorities from federal, state and local government with researchers, technical experts and private owners of environmental management units (UMA by Spanish acronym) in a platform to information exchange and promote next steps to enhance the management of biodiversity through this legal approach. Workshops, seminars, business tables and exhibitions were conducted with the support of Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Mexico, the main entity to promote the conservation and rational use of biodiversity. The participants and authorities committed to develop lines of action to contribute to NSBAP and SNSAPs to boost the conservation in this public-private mechanism and set market and economic conditions for private owners.

Q8: How about the cooperation on science, information and monitoring and evaluation to support decision-making on BSAP?

(Relevant to Guideline L: “Cooperation on science, information

and monitoring and evaluation”)

Also, the Technical advisory council for wildlife promotes and disseminates technical and science information about priority or endangered species, serving as a discussion mechanism and providing **tools to decision makers and authorities**. The participation of Research centers and universities facilitate the information exchange and updating research.

Q9: How are the effort on CEPA carried out at national and subnational level?

(Relevant to Guideline M: “Communication and awareness raising”)

State government staff and university technicians have developed **community workshops within Program of State Protected Areas** of Balam Kú and Balam Kin, to strengthen the local knowledge about the conservation and protection of priority and indicator species. They work with schools and surveillance committees in communities to develop **communication and monitoring plans** to reinforce the government activities. NGOs contribute to disseminate conservation and wise use activities about endangered species. Awareness raising through **community events** within of State Program for Monitoring and Preservation of Sea Turtle is one of the main objective **in the sea turtle camps**. Each nesting season several sea turtle camps organize activities with basic education schools to release turtles and conducting informative talks explaining about life cycle of species. Also, volunteers are welcome from local universities to work as social service or beginning career.

Q10: Could you mention any plans or ideas of Campeche for post-2020? How could the “Guidelines” help your plans/ideas with the further development and implementation of the BSAP?

The Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in the State of Campeche (ECUSBIOCAM), sets a horizon to the year 2030 and in 2020 an evaluation of the progress in its implementation will be carried out so we consider that the “Guidelines” as Institutional coordination and cooperation, communication and awareness are of great importance to make the necessary adjustments and modifications to comply with the objectives and achieve the proposed vision.

Vertical Integration in the Development and Implementation of BSAP in Catalonia / Spain

Fundamental information on the subnational autonomy system

The Catalan Statute of Autonomy entered into force on 9 August 2006 and it defines the Catalan political institutions, its powers and its relations with Spain. The Statute defines the Generalitat as the institutional system in which Catalonia's self-government is politically organized. The Generalitat is made up of the Parliament, the Presidency of the Generalitat and the Government.

The territorial organization of the State is laid down in Section VIII of the Spanish Constitution which governs the distribution of power between the State and the Autonomous Communities. To be precise, the powers of the Generalitat of Catalonia are provided for in the fourth section of the Statute of Autonomy. The distribution of powers relies on central administration adopting basic decisions and regional administration the development and execution of policies.

General administration is complemented by a public sector for the efficient provision of services. This activity is carried out not only by the institutions mentioned previously, but also by public bodies subject to private law and business created within the autonomous administration. An administrative public sector composed by ministries and entities of the Generalitat, the administrative autonomous entities and a business public sector that includes the commercial and financial autonomous entities, and Generalitat public corporations which includes bodies, mercantile companies, consortia and foundations.

According to the Law 7/1985, regulating the rules of local government local entities consist of municipalities and provinces but also counties, vegueries, associations of municipalities and metropolitan areas. The Spanish Constitution has opted in favour of state model base on the principle of territorial decentralization and recognition of the autonomy of Autonomous Communities' and municipalities. The Constitution though does not specify a list of fields of which municipalities can assume powers to develop these recognized autonomy.

The Catalan Statute guarantees municipalities a core set of powers of their own which shall be exercised by them with full autonomy, subject only to controls of constitutionality and legality. The local governments of Catalonia have in all cases

their own powers in the organization and provision of basic services to the community; regulation of safety conditions for activities organized in public spaces and venues, and coordination of the various bodies and forces present in the municipality through the Security Board; the regulation of the establishment of authorizations and promotions for all types of economic activity; town planning; regulation, management and supervision of activities and uses that take place on beaches, rivers, lakes and mountains; or the formulation and management of policies for the protection of the environment and sustainable development.

Art. 26 of the law regulating the rules of local government, establishes that municipalities over 50.000 inhabitants should protect the environment. However, art. 28 also provides that municipalities can carry out complementary activities under the power of other public administrations.

Vertical Integration development and implementation of BSAP in case of Catalonia/Spain

Q1: How do Spain central government and subnational governments share the mandates on biodiversity conservation?

(Relevant to Guideline B: "Clarifying mandates, institutional roles and responsibility")

National and regional governments mandates through the distribution of powers distinguishing between exclusive, shared and executive powers.

Exclusive powers. The Generalitat has the absolute right to full legislative, regulatory and executive powers in such important areas as agriculture, stockbreeding and forestry use, water of internal basins, associations and foundations, organization of saving banks, consumer affairs, cooperatives, commerce, friendly societies for social purposes, culture, Catalan civil law, sport and leisure, housing, transport, youth, language, town and country planning and urban development.

Shared powers. There exist certain areas where state and autonomous authority converge, either as joint holders of power or through the distribution of actions to be exercised in the development of a particular power. In such cases, the State governs the establishment of the bases or principles of the area and the Autonomous Community takes responsibility for its legislative development, being able to fix its own policies

or ambitious targets. This is the case in the field of education, health, the regime of expropriation and contracts, the control of credit, banking and insurance, stock markets and trading centres, mining and energy, protection of the environment, fisheries, industry, the planning of economic activity, agriculture and livestock farming, internal trade and defence of consumer rights.

Executive powers where the Generalitat merely executes state legislation, being able to lay down rules of execution of the state regulations. It exercises these functions in fields such as the hydraulic public domain, the laws governing prison, employment, intellectual and industrial property rights.

The Generalitat has the authority to enact, apply and implement European Union rules when these affect its powers, under the terms established in Title V of the Catalan Statute.

Art. 149.1 of the **Spanish Constitution** spells out that the State holds exclusive competence over the following matters ...

xxiii) basic legislation on environmental protection, without prejudice to the powers of the Autonomous Communities to establish additional protective measures; basic legislation on woodlands, forestry, and livestock trails;

Art. 149.3 Matters not expressly assigned to the State by virtue of the present Constitution may fall under the jurisdiction of the Autonomous Communities by virtue of their respective Statutes.

Art. 46 of the **Catalan Statute** spells out that

1.The public authorities shall ensure the protection of the environment through the adoption of public policies based on sustainable development and on collective and inter-generational solidarity.

2.Environmental policies shall be particularly addressed to the reduction of different types of pollution, to establishing standards and minimum protection levels, outlining measures for the correction of environmental damage, the sensible use of natural resources, prevention and control of erosion and of activities that alter the atmospheric and climatic pattern, and respect for the principles of environmental protection, conservation of natural resources, responsibility, ecological control, and recycling and reuse of goods and products.

3.The public authorities shall create conditions for the preservation of nature and biodiversity, promote the integration of environmental objectives into sectoral policies, and establish conditions in which all individuals can enjoy the natural heritage and landscape.

4.The public authorities shall ensure economic and territorial cohesion by applying policies that ensure a special treatment for mountain zones, protection of the landscape and the coastline, the promotion of agriculture, livestock farming and

forestry, and a balanced distribution of productive sectors, services of general interest and communication networks throughout the territory.

5. The public authorities shall provide citizens with environmental information and encourage education in values concerning the preservation and improvement of the environment as a common heritage.

(...)

Art. 144. THE ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL AREAS AND METEOROLOGY

The Generalitat has shared power over the environment, and power to establish additional protection rules. This shared power includes in any case:

a.Establishment and regulation of the instruments of environmental planning and the proceedings for processing and approving these instruments.

b.Establishment and regulation of environmental sustainability, tax and research measures.

c.Regulation of natural resources, flora and fauna, biodiversity and marine and aquatic environment, except when for the purpose of preserving sea fish stocks.

d.Regulation of prevention in the production of containers and packing throughout their lifecycle, from creation to conversion into waste material.

e.Regulation of prevention and correction of the generation of waste material originating in or destined for Catalonia, and its management, movement and final disposal.

f.Regulation of prevention, control, correction, recovery and compensation of soil and subsoil pollution.

In summary, and in specially concerning biodiversity, the Spanish State has the power to issue basic legislation and the Government of Catalonia is responsible for the subsequent development of legislation and the implementation of biodiversity conservation policies.

Q2: How are the specific methods to transfer and modify the national policies into the subnational and local governments' policies?

(Relevant to Guideline A: "Specifying and institutionalizing collaboration and coordination in policy and strategy" and Guideline D: "Coordinating Strategies to ensure alignment with Strategy Plan 2011-2020 and ABTs")

Regional Governments in Spain take part in the definition of State policies through the **Conference of Presidents**, highest political body of cooperation between the Central and regionals administrations. The Conference of Presidents consists of the Prime Minister of the Spanish Government and the Presidents of the 17 Autonomous Communities. Likewise, other methods are the Sectoral Conferences which are related to a specific sector of the public activity, consists

of the incumbent Minister Regional Ministers and the cooperation agreements frequently used because they are appropriate and flexible means to address specific situations where is required to reach an agreement between both administrations.

The **Environment Sectoral Conference** has been set up for among other for Biodiversity. In addition, there are working groups to deal with specific topic such us the infringements of EU law or specific concerns like the reintroduction of species.

Q3: Regarding the expectation for subnational and local governments to develop the collaboration network in the territories, how Catalonia is acting to make it real on the ground?

(Relevant to Guideline C: “Establishing institutional coordination and cooperation mechanisms and forums” and Guideline E: “Planning for action together”)

Collaboration with Environmental Third Sector

On 2011 the Department of Territory and Sustainability (DTES) promoted the first **Environmental Third Sector support Plan 2011-2014**. The Plan identified the main actions aimed to strength people and entities of the environmental third sector, improve society and other sectors qualification and recognition, networking, increase transparency, ownership and participation and seek innovation to develop high quality and social impact projects. This Plan was updated for the period 2015-2018 but with less actions and resources.

The Plan had a monitoring Commission which collaborated with its implementation and evaluated the execution of its actions. The Commission was composed of 19 members: first, second and third level agents and public Administration, and it was aimed to be a permanent area of collaboration and dialogue between entities and public administration.

In 2018 DTES decided not to develop a new Plan but it continues supporting the environmental third sector in other ways:¹

- Advanced Grants
- Monthly electronic newsletter
- Marketplaces organization

Two success projects resulting from this Plan are the **Tandem project** and the consolidation of the support to the Catalan **Nature Conservation Network (NCN)**:

The DTES and EMAS’ Club (a Catalan non-governmental organization of companies registered in the EMAS) have developed a project to promote win-win collaboration between

private companies and nonprofit entities to build up innovative nature and social value environmental projects.² The DTES supports the Catalan **Nature Conservation Network**, a not-for-profit organization made up of over 157 associations, public administration, private companies, universities and research centers. NCN fosters land stewardship and environmental volunteering as a conservation strategy for the natural, cultural and landscape resources and values of Catalonia.

- 1.http://mediambient.gencat.cat/es/05_ambits_dactuacio/educacio_i_sostenibilitat/tercer_sector_ambiental/index.html
- 2.<http://tandem.cat/>

Collaboration with sectoral policies

In 2017 the Government of Catalonia promoted the **maritime co-management Board of Natura 2000 site ES5120015 Litoral del Baix Empordà**. This Board is a permanent space of participation between citizens and Administration to protect and improve the site, align socioeconomic activities and uses and facilitate cooperation among all actors that are represented in the marine protected site.

Constituent bodies of the Board are:

- Civil society entities
- Blue economy and marine activities
- Scientific community
- Public Administration

On July 2018 Catalonia approved its **BSAP (ESNATURA)**. This Strategy is the framework document which will guide the government of Catalonia’s nature conservation work until 2030 and it also has an action line that is specifically designed to achieve mainstreaming biodiversity in agricultural, forestry and other economic sectors:

Action line 34*: Create an **Action and Coordination Board** between the administration responsible for conservation of the natural heritage and biodiversity, the agricultural and forestry administration and the private sector.

The objectives of the Board are:

- Establish consensual management guidelines for biodiversity conservation in the agricultural and forestry planning tools.
- Define monitoring indicators and standardized criteria for private owners and land managers.
- Establish a permanent forum for dialogue to ensure the information flow and knowledge exchange.³



Figure 1. Natural Heritage and Biodiversity Strategy of Catalonia 2030

3.http://mediambient.gencat.cat/es/05_ambits_dactuacio/patrimoni_natural/estrategia-catalana-del-patrimoni-natural-i-la-biodiversitat/

Collaboration with research centers

To strength public Administration and research centers collaboration, the government of Catalonia promoted the **Prismatic platform** which is coordinated by the Centre for Ecological Research and Forestry Applications (CREAF). Prismatic is a digital platform which collects natural heritage and biodiversity scientific knowledge generated by research centers and other entities. This platform is designed to generate dialogue between environmental managers and scientists.⁴

4.<http://www.prisma-tic.cat/>

Q4: Could you introduce the mechanism to promote collaborative activities, especially highlighting financial support or incentives?

(Relevant to Guideline F: “Cooperating on programs and projects” and Guideline I: “Financial support and incentives”)

The **Government of Spain provides grants to the environmental third sector** and other non-governmental entities to develop activities of social interest in the protection of the environment. **Biodiversity foundation** also summons the grants to develop activities in the field of biodiversity, climate change and sustainable development.⁵

Furthermore, the **Government of Catalonia provides every year subsidies** to promote collaborative activities related to biodiversity conservation and environmental education, such as:

- 1) Grants for actions in protected natural areas
- 2) Subsidies for promotion and consolidation of land stewardship in natural areas of Catalonia
- 3) Subsidies for investment in the socioeconomic influence zone of Aiguestortes and Estany de Sant Maurici national park.⁶
- 4) Subsidies for education and environmental awareness projects⁷

5.<https://www.miteco.gob.es/es/biodiversidad/ayudas-y-sbvenciones/>

6.<http://cejfe.gencat.cat/es/tramits/tramits-temes/Subvencions-per-financar-inversions-al-parc-nacional-dAigueestortes-i-Estany-de-Sant-Maurici?category=772e57bc-a82c-11e3-a972-000c29052e2c>

7.http://mediambient.gencat.cat/ca/05_ambits_dactuacio/educacio_i_sostenibilitat/tercer_sector_ambiental/ajuts_projectes_edu_sensibilizacio_ambiental/

Q5. How does Catalonia develop co-operation on ecosystems

beyond its borders? (Relevant to Guideline G: “Cooperation across political borders”).

From July 2016 to March 2019 many entities of Pyrenees (National Parks, Regional Natural Parks, Natural Parks, Nature Reserves, etc.) have initiate the **Interreg POCTEFA GREEN project**. This project is about transnational cooperation between natural areas of Pyrenees. Spanish, Andorran and French members that share similar challenges like conservation, management and valuing Pyrenees meet to share knowledge, experiences and good practices and to enhance the collaboration between them.

On August 2018, Catalonia, Andorra and France signed the creation of the **Three Nations Pyrenean Park**, a common identity mark to improve the management and promotion of one of the largest Europe’s transnational protected areas. The Three Nations Pyrenean Park has 158 municipalities (15 of Catalonia, 2 of Andorra and 141 of France) with more than 428.000 hectares; it’s the result of joining Alt Pirineu Natural Park, Pyrénées Ariégeoises Regional Natural Park (France) and Vall de Sorteny Natural Park and Valls del Comapedrosa Communal Natural Park (Andorra). Each signatory Park will provide material and personal resources to collaborate and progress in common actions. They will work to obtain enough funding to promote an action plan, through their own resources and European funds like Interreg POCTEFA, LIFE or FEDER.



Figure 2. Three Nations Pyrenean Park boundaries

Q6: How about technical support and non-financial incentives to the implementation of BSAPs in Spain? (Relevant to Guideline J: “Technical support and non-financial incentives”)

In 2011 the Government of Spain approved the **Strategic Plan for natural heritage and biodiversity 2011-2017**.⁸ This Plan developed what is defined in the Law 42/2007 of Natural Heritage and Biodiversity, by establishing objectives, actions and criteria to promote conservation, sustainable use and heritage restauration. Specifically, it had three actions to provide technical support for the implementation of the Plan:

Chapter VII. Cooperation, collaboration and coordination between administrations

A2. State Commission of Natural Heritage and Biodiversity.

This Commission was aimed to be the advisory and cooperation body between national and subnational administrations for the implementation of the Plan.

B1. Collaboration and coordination to elaborate and develop the Natural Heritage and Biodiversity Inventory. The **Natural Heritage and Biodiversity Inventory Committee** developed mechanisms to ensure the appropriate biodiversity knowledge transfer between administrations.

C1. Standardized and permanent monitoring of biodiversity conservation status and development of early alert efficient systems. State Commission developed **monitoring protocols** of habitat and species conservation status and an early alert efficient systems of biodiversity.

In the case of Catalonia, the **ESNATURA** also created a **monitoring Commission**, with consulting, monitoring and discussion functions. It comprises agents from the administration, advisory bodies, environmental entities, productive, agricultural and fishery sectors, rustic property, scientific and local communities.

With regard to scientific and technological support, we have the **Spanish National Research Council (CSIC)**, which is a State Agency for scientific research and technological development.⁹ CSIC currently has 120 research institutes distributed throughout the national territory. Furthermore, in Catalonia there are two research centers (Forest Science and Technology Centre of Catalonia and Ecological and Forestry Applications Research Centre) attached to the Administration and other research centers and freelance scientists that provide fundamental data for the implementation and development of BSAPs.

In terms of available environmental data, the Government of **Spain developed the Nature Databank**,¹⁰ which has been improved with the different components of the Natural Heritage and Biodiversity Inventory.¹¹ Another platform that provides information about species location is GBIF.ES,¹² in **Catalonia** we also have the **Biodiversity Databank**.¹³

Other platforms promoted by the Government of Catalonia to exchange species information are **ornitho.cat**¹⁴ and **Exocat**.¹⁵ For spatial data the **platform Hipermapa**¹⁶ and for scientific data the **Prismatic platform**.¹⁷

ESNATURA also has an action line that is specifically designed

to integrate the information available on a common platform, disseminate it and make it accessible:

Action line 7*. Establish a natural heritage observatory focused on information and knowledge.

- 8.<https://www.boe.es/boe/dias/2011/09/30/pdfs/BOE-A-2011-15363.pdf>
- 9.<https://www.csic.es/en>
- 10.<https://www.miteco.gob.es/es/biodiversidad/servicios/banco-datos-naturaleza/default.aspx>
- 11.<https://www.boe.es/eli/es/rd/2011/04/20/556/con>
- 12.<https://www.gbif.es/>
- 13.<http://biodiver.bio.ub.es/biocat/index.jsp>
- 14.https://www.ornitho.cat/index.php?m_id=1&lang=en
- 15.<http://www.creaf.cat/exocat>
- 16.http://territori.gencat.cat/ca/01_departament/12_cartografia_i_toponimia/hipermapa/
- 17.www.prisma-tic.cat/

Q7: By the way, how are the consultation and participation on BSAPs carried out, at national and subnational level?

(Relevant to Guideline H: “Facilitating consultation and participation”)

The Government of Spain created a **National Committee for Natural Heritage and Biodiversity** as an advisory and cooperation body between the State and the Autonomous Communities. In the Committee there are different working groups of specific subjects like natural areas, alien species and others. Even so, when the national BSAP was carried out, the Government of Spain did not take into account the different regions of Spain.

In the case of Catalonia, consultation and participation related to **ESNATURA** had two processes: **internal and public participation**. Internal participation was addressed to the different departments of the Government and it was created the **Monitoring Technical Commission of the Environment and Sustainability Secretary** to discuss the document during its periodic meetings. Public participation was addressed to scientific and environmental consultant, entities, local administrations and companies and it took place in two modalities: on-site and virtual.¹⁸

18.http://mediambient.gencat.cat/es/05_ambits_dactuacio/patrimoni_natural/estrategia-catalana-del-patrimoni-natural-i-la-biodiversitat/el-proces-participatiu-per-elaborar-lestrategia/index.html

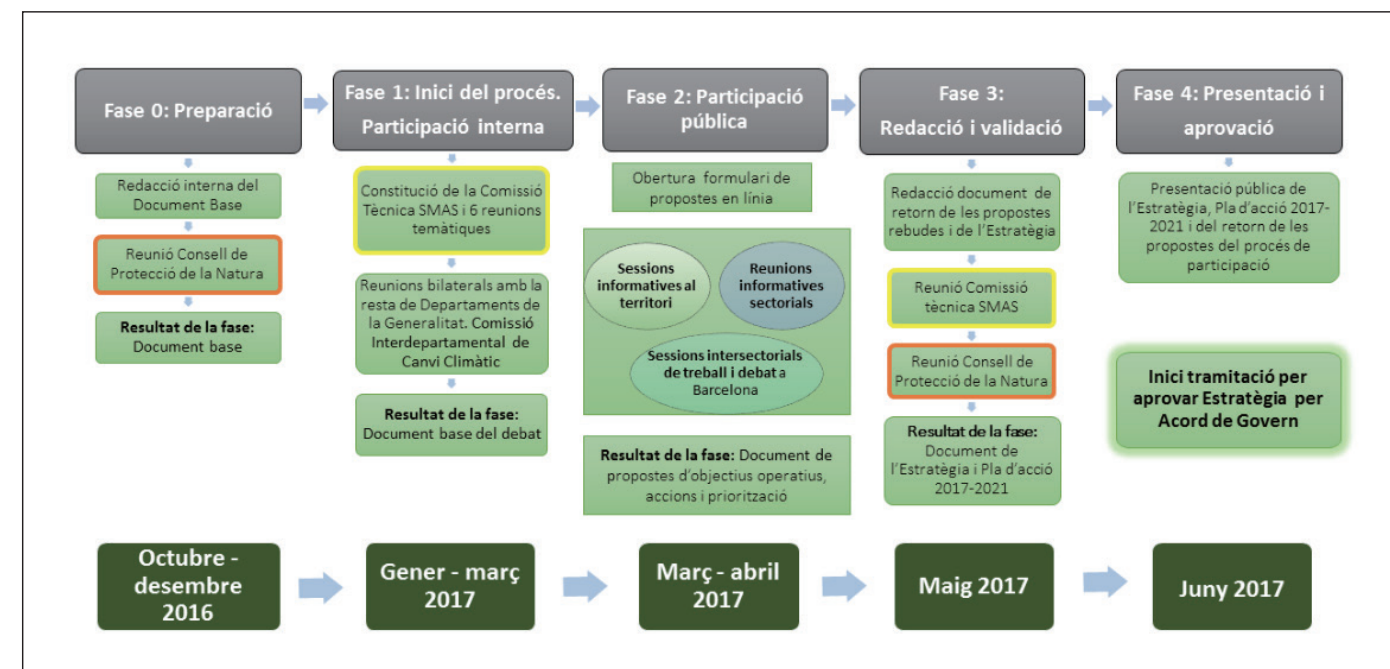


Figure 3: Participation process of ESNATURA

Q8: How are the cooperation on capacity building and sharing lessons learned carried out at national and subnational level?

(Relevant to Guideline K: “Capacity building and sharing lessons learned”)

The central government of **Spain holds sometimes capacity building conferences**, but not too often. They announce them in their webpage:¹⁹

At subnational level, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Food elaborates every year the **technological transfer annual Plan**. This Plan develops capacity building and sharing lessons sessions all over the year in Catalonia. To define its sessions the Ministry collaborates with more than 100 entities that are related to agricultural sector, livestock, agricultural industry, forestry, environment and fishery of Catalonia.²⁰

19.<https://www.miteco.gob.es/es/biodiversidad/formacion/default.aspx>

20.http://agricultura.gencat.cat/ca/ambits/formacio-innovacio/dar-transferencia-tecnologica/dar_patt/dar_presentacio/

Q9: How about the cooperation on science, information and monitoring and evaluation to support decision-making on BSAP?

(Relevant to Guideline L: “Cooperation on science, information and monitoring and evaluation”)

The Government of Spain does not coordinate in the monitoring and evaluation of the national BSAP with other regions of Spain.

In the case of Catalonia, the Area 1 of ESNATURA is about knowledge, information and monitoring of the natural heritage. Research centers of Catalonia will fulfill the objectives of this area by providing information and knowledge about the components of the natural heritage and their conservation status.

At the end of 2020, the Government of Catalonia published the first **report on the state of nature in Catalonia 2020**.²¹ This assessment has been made by the collaboration of more than 40 reference entities in the study of nature and has been based on data and scientific evidence collected by thousands of volunteers of the territory. This report will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the actions defined in ESNATURA.

The **ESNATURA** also created a **monitoring Commission**, with consulting, monitoring and discussion functions. It comprises agents from the administration, advisory bodies, environmental entities, productive, agricultural and fishery sectors, rustic property, scientific and local communities. The main functions of the Commission are:

- Annual monitoring of the progress achieved with the development of the Strategy
- Participate in the annual actions program to achieve Strategy's objectives
- Participate in the quadrennial review of the operative objectives and action lines

21.http://mediambient.gencat.cat/web/.content/home/ambits_dactuacio/patrimoni_natural/sistemes_dinformacio/observatori-patrimoni-natural-biodiversitat/informe/estatgeneraldebiobiodiversitacatalunya-2020.pdf

Q10: How are the effort on CEPA carried out at national and subnational level?

(Relevant to Guideline M: “Communication and awareness raising”)

The Government of Spain has the **National Center of Environmental Education (CENEAM)**. This Center was created in 1987 and its main fields of work are:

- Collection and dissemination of environmental education information
- Design and development of awareness and citizens' involvement programs
- Elaboration of educational material and expositions
- Organization and support to seminars and forums
- Development and execution of environmental training actions
- Cooperation with other public and private entities to promote environmental education.²²

The Government of Catalonia has defined in its **Strategy actions to raise communication and awareness. Area 6** is about society engagement; specifically the strategic objective 6.1 is to raise people's awareness of natural heritage and biodiversity. This strategic objective has 4 action lines:

- Program actions to heighten social awareness of biodiversity and monitor social perception of nature conservation
- Raise the awareness and increase the training of nature users (priority)
- Review educational resources on natural heritage
- Devote particular attention to the training of specific groups

The strategic objective 6.2 is to increase individual and collective participation in conservation of the natural heritage and biodiversity. Specifically, there are two actions lines of this strategic objective aimed to increase communication and awareness raising:

- Introduce nature conservation as a Community Service in schools
- Encourage volunteering for nature conservation (priority)

Moreover, there are other forms to boost education centers that include sustainability education;

-**Schools towards Network Sustainability (ESenRED)**. It's a national network of sustainable education centers promoted by public administrations.²³

-**Catalonia network of schools for Sustainability (XESC)**. It's a network of education centers that develop education programs for sustainability.²⁴

-**Green Schools** of the Government of Catalonia. This program is aimed to support education centers of

Catalonia that want to innovate and include actions for sustainability in their education program.²⁵

In September 2018 the Government of Catalonia approved the **Strategic Plan of environmental education and volunteer in natural parks** of Catalonia for the period 2019-2022. This Plan is aimed to program key actions in a coordinated manner and common vision between all natural parks.²⁶

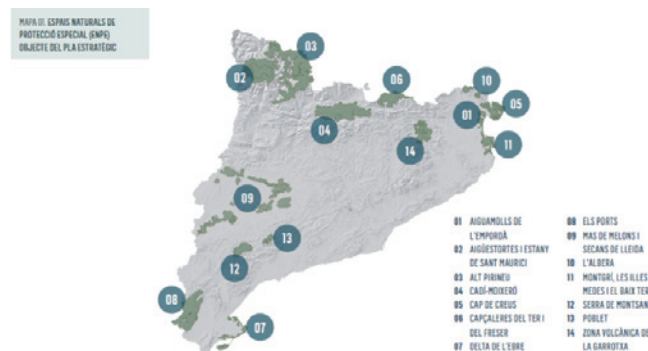


Figure 4. Natural parks subject to the Strategic Plan

Furthermore, due to the relevance of environmental entities in environmental and sustainable education, the Government of Catalonia **finances environmental education projects** carried out by these entities.²⁷

Apart from that, one of the primary goals of the Government is to make known the actions of nature conservation that it is carrying on and promote **citizen involvement**.²⁸

22.<https://www.miteco.gob.es/es/ceneam/quienes-somos/>

23.<https://esenred.blogspot.com/>

24.<http://escolesxesc.cat/>

25.http://mediambient.gencat.cat/es/05_ambits_dactuacio/educacio_i_sostenibilitat/educacio_per_a_la_sostenibilitat/escoles_verdes/el_programa_escoles_verdes/index.html

26.http://mediambient.gencat.cat/web/content/home/ambits_dactuacio/educacio_i_sostenibilitat/edu-i-voluntariat-parcs-naturals/PlaEstrategic_EA-VA_ENPE_Resum.pdf

27.http://mediambient.gencat.cat/ca/05_ambits_dactuacio/educacio_i_sostenibilitat/tercer_sector_ambiental/ajuts_projectes_edu_sensibilizacio_ambiental/

28.http://mediambient.gencat.cat/es/05_ambits_dactuacio/educacio_i_sostenibilitat/campanyes_i_exposicions/index.html

Q11: Could you mention any plans or ideas of Catalonia for post-2020? How could the “Guidelines” help your plans/ideas with the further development and implementation of the BSAP?

ESNATURA is the framework document which will guide the government of Catalonia's nature conservation work until 2030. The ultimate objective is to halt natural heritage degradation and biodiversity loss in Catalonia, while guaranteeing its sustainable use and ensuring provision of the ecosystem services upon which we depend

The Strategy's objectives and action lines are linked to six areas,

which are defined by six guiding principles:

- Area 1. Knowledge, information and monitoring of the natural heritage
- Area 2. Conservation of the components of the natural heritage in the context of global change
- Area 3. Territorial model
- Area 4. Integration of natural heritage in sectoral policies
- Area 5. Administrative organization, legal framework and taxation
- Area 6. Society engagement

For each area we have defined strategic objectives (16), each strategic objective has its own operational objectives (30) and each operational objective has its own action lines (85). A system of 78 indicators is used to monitor and evaluate the Strategy, and also to check compliance with the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the United Nations Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 in Catalonia.



Figure 5. Areas, objectives and action lines of ESNATURA

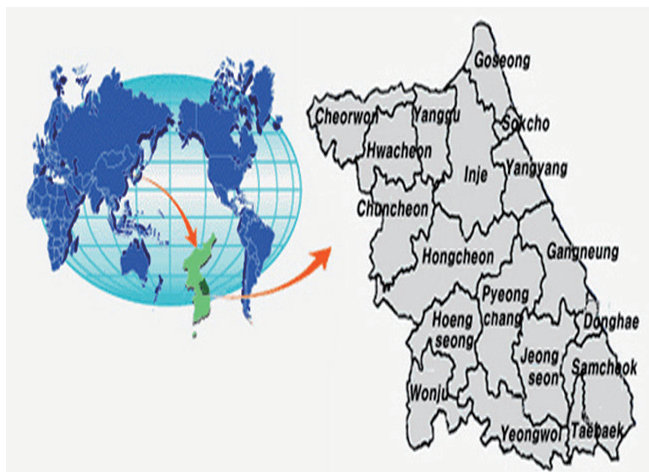
The Guidelines can help us during the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the ESNATURA. Every four years the Government of Catalonia will propose a quadrennial plan with a selection of the actions lines to be developed during this period. Each year, selected action lines will be specified in executive actions and the Strategy will be assessed by its system of indicators.

Vertical Integration in the Development and Implementation of BSAP in Gangwon / Korea

Fundamental information on the subnational autonomy system

There are 17 subnational governments (provinces including Gangwon and metropolitan cities) and 226 local governments (Cities, Counties, Districts) in Korea. Each subnational government has an average of 13 local governments (18 local governments in Gangwon). The subnational autonomy is guaranteed by the national constitution, and the details are determined by national laws (such as Local Autonomy Act). The law is enacted by the central government, and subnational and local governments can enact ordinances within the laws and regulations.

Subnational governments, such as Gangwon, develop action plans of 5, 10 or 20-year periods based on the laws or ordinances to implement policies that correspond to the central government's policies and conform to local situations, carry out projects directly or indirectly by authorizing to local governments as well as serving as a liaison and coordination



between the central government and local governments.

Local governments provide administrative services for daily life that are directly linked with residents and promote related projects such as environment, health, welfare, and infrastructure construction.

The budget for promoting related projects in the subnational and local governments depends on local tax revenues and national subsidies, and the subnational and local governments with low local tax revenues are heavily dependent on the national budget support.

Vertical integration development and implementation of BSAP: The case of Gangwon

Q1: How do central government and subnational governments share biodiversity conservation mandates? (Relevant to Guideline B: "Clarifying mandates, institutional roles, and responsibility")

Mandates of central and subnational governments are defined by **'Act On The Conservation And Use Of Biological Diversity'**. The law contains that the central government establishes NBSAP, the central and subnational governments shall have the duty to prepare measures under the basic principle of the Act. Accordingly, Subnational governments establish BSAP in line with NBSAP and local situations. The law does not impose a special duty on the establishment of BSAP for subnational governments, but the central government has recommended subnational governments the establishment of BSAP for the effective implementation of NBSAP.

Q2: What are the specific methods used to transfer and modify national policies into subnational and local government policies? (Relevant to Guideline A: "specifying and institutionalizing collaboration and coordination in policy and strategy" and Guideline D: "Coordinating Strategies to ensure alignment with the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan and ABTs")

The central government released the 1st NBSAP in 1997 and has now established the **4th NBSAP (2019~2023)**. The 4th NBSAP focuses on the development and operation of education and public relations programs to promote biodiversity awareness and aims to develop all 17 subnational governments BSAP by 2023. Currently, 9 subnational governments have established BSAP. Gangwon released the 1st BSAP (2015-2020) in 2014 and has a plan to develop the 2nd BSAP (2021 ~ 2025) in 2020. To develop the BSAP of all 17 subnational governments by 2023, the central government has a plan to develop a **new Guideline** and organize and operate a **council to support the establishment of BSAP in 2020**. The 1st Guideline, which includes the process for establishing BSAP and how the central government supports the subnational government, was already established in 2014, but the revised new Guideline will be offered and helpful to develop BSAP for subnational governments.

Q3: Regarding the expectation for subnational and local governments to develop the collaborative network within their boundaries, in what way is Gangwon acting to turn

expectations into on-the-ground reality?

(Relevant to Guideline C: "Establishing institutional coordination and cooperation mechanisms and forums" and Guideline E: "Planning for action together")

After the CBD COP12, Awareness of biodiversity has been enhanced in Korea and Gangwon has tried to create a relevant institutional coordinative network. In the first half of 2019 Gangwon, with the approval of the Gangwon provincial council succeed to insert a provision into the 'Ordinance On Natural Environmental Conservation' for the establishment of the **'Biodiversity Center for Gangwon'** that oversees all aspects of biodiversity issues. Once the Center is established, it is expected to form regional networks in the future to effectively coordinate the overall project on biodiversity in Gangwon and promote various related projects.

Recognizing the enhancing awareness of biodiversity with CBD COP12, Subnational governments in Korea decided to hold annually **'Biodiversity Forum'** to share biodiversity policies and exchange best practices. The first forum was held in Gangwon, 2015, and it has been held once a year by moving cities throughout the nation. Besides, Gangwon designated October 16 as **'Gangwon Biodiversity Day'** to let residents know the natural environment such as rich biodiversity and its importance. A **cooperative workshop with 18 local governments** was held in October 2019 and will be held continuously to share information and gather better idea with local governments.

Q4: Could you describe the mechanism to promote collaborative activities, with special focus on funding and/or incentives?

(Relevant to Guideline F: "Co-operating on programs and projects" and Guideline I: "Financial support and incentives")

The central government of Korea develops **many projects** to implement NBSAP and **subsidizes subnational and local governments**, related institutions and the private sector to carry out projects. For example, Subnational and local governments could receive 50-70% of the project cost as a national subsidy if they submit specific plans and are approved by the central government.

Meanwhile, There is a system called **'Cooperation Fund for Conservation of Ecosystem'** in Korea. When a business operator propels a development, subnational governments charge the 'Cooperation Fund for Conservation of Ecosystem' like a tax in proportion to the amount of environmental damage and uses of land and The fund is supported for environmental restoration projects. In particular, if the business operator who paid the 'Cooperation Fund for Conservation of Ecosystem' proceed the environmental conservation project, the part of the paid 'Cooperation Fund for Conservation of Ecosystem' (less than 50%) is returned.

This system encourages developers to pursue environmental conservation projects.

Q5: How does Gangwon develop co-operation on ecosystems beyond its borders?

(Relevant to Guideline G: "Cooperation across political borders")

Since 1997, **Gangwon Province of Korea, Tottori Prefecture of Japan, Jilin Province of China, Maritime Province of Russia and Tuv Province of Mongolia have met annually** to share information and enhance cooperation in various fields such as economy, environment, transportation, and culture. In particular biodiversity, biodiversity, and environmental issues interested in each country have been discussed at the 'Environmental Council' as a subcommittee of the conference every year.

Also, as a member of The **Association of North East Asia Regional Governments (NEAR)**, Gangwon has participated in the NEAR Environmental Subcommittee every year and discussed biodiversity and climate change-related issues. From early 2000, Gangwon, Toyama Prefecture of Japan, Liaoning Province of China, and Maritime Province of Russia have investigated steadily marine biodiversity, garbage components on the beach, and yellow dust. And, one of the projects in an environmental subcommittee of NEAR, youth Environmental experience program is very popular among students.

Besides, Gangwon signed an **environmental agreement with Aichi Prefecture** in Japan to share environmental information and carry forward cooperation projects in 2017 and has been operating youth exchange programs from 2018.

Subnational and local governments in Korea used to develop **cooperative projects through MOUs** with related organizations when carrying out important projects. For instance, Gangwon recently has completed a Restoration project which restores the old provincial road on the Misiryeong pass, part of the Baekdudaegan mountain system (the major ecological axis of Korea) in cooperation with local governments, a national agency, and private organizations. For realizing the project, Gangwon, 2 local governments along the Misiryeong pass and the Korea National Parks Service had signed an MOU in 2017 and hold several advisory meetings with private organizations to gather opinions. It was finalized in 2019 and known as a representative model of eco-corridor and vegetation restoration in the national park area.

Besides, a **Restoration Center for Cloven-hoofed mammals** is under construction to cultivate and release cloven-hoofed mammals in the mountains of the whole country such as Long-tailed Goral and Manchurian sika, taking advantage of the natural environment of Gangwon which is 82% of forests. To achieve the project, one of the major projects in Gangwon we are developing a collaborative project with nearby local governments with habitats for endangered animals and

national agencies.

These collaborative activities not only lead to the more efficient implementation of national policies but also boost biodiversity with technical assistance by stakeholders.

Q6: What about technical support and non-financial incentives for implementing BSAPs in Gangwon?
(Relevant to Guideline J: “Technical support and non-financial incentives”)

There are ‘**National Institute of Biological Resources (NIBR)**’, ‘**National Institute of Ecology (NIE)**’, ‘**Korea Environment Institute (KEI)**’, etc. as the national institute for science and technology on biodiversity in Korea. NIBR provides nationwide data on biodiversity and high-income biomaterial technology and related expertise, which are used as raw materials for cosmetics and pharmaceuticals to revitalize the bioindustry linked with local incomes. The data is very helpful in researching the species of Gangwon. NIBR and Gangwon are collaborating to promote the research for the cultivation of high-income plant material. NIE conducts the development and operation of ecological education programs as well as the investigation of the nationwide natural environment and researching and the technical development on the restoration of ecosystems and endangered species. Gangwon is provided ongoing **consultation on the technology of cultivating and restoring cloven-hoofed mammals**, one of the important projects in Gangwon. KEI is researching and developing policies and technologies related to the environment, and participated in the greatest portion in developing the 1st BSAP of Gangwon and has advised the evaluation of the results.

Q7: How does BSAP consultation and participation work at the national and subnational levels?
(Relevant to Guideline H: “Facilitating consultation and participation”)

The **NBSAP was established through extensive consultations** with the ministries of the central government, academic experts, subnational governments and other stakeholders. Also, many experts who participated in the NBSAP used to participate in the establishment of BSAP for subnational governments. Thus, the BSAPs for subnational governments are very closely related to NBSAP. The 1st BSAP of Gangwon was highly connected with national policies by experts who participated in the establishment of NBSAP, but some challenges could not be implemented at the local level due to lack of reflecting opinions of citizens and local governments. The 2nd BSAP, will be developed in 2020, need to be more considered opinions of citizens and local governments very important.

Q8: How is cooperation on capacity-building and sharing lessons learned carried at the national and subnational levels?
(Relevant to Guideline K: “Capacity-building and sharing lessons learned”)

The **central government carries out capacity building programs** of three days, one week, one year-periods, etc. by ‘**National Institute of Environmental Human Resources Development (NIEHRD)**’. The curriculum has consisted of a wide range of information on the environment, including ecological restoration techniques, restoration processes of endangered species, and the introduction of new technologies of private companies. Also, the central government announced that the 4th NBSAP (2019~2033) released in 2018 set up biodiversity awareness and capacity building as the first goal of the strategy, and develop various educational programs and expert training courses.

Gangwon established the **Forest Science Research Institute** (1993) and the **Natural Environment Research Park (NERP, 2006)** as its affiliated organizations that conduct forest environment and research of forest ecosystem, investigation of the endangered species and operating various capacity-building programs for citizens, students, etc. “Monitoring Habitat of Firefly” for youth, one of the summer camp’s classes at the NERP is a great opportunity to raise awareness of endangered species. Also, Gangwon held a **workshop in October 2019 where local governments (18 cities and counties belonging to Gangwon) participated** to commemorate ‘Gangwon Biodiversity Day (10.16)’, share lessons learned and encourage capacity-building. It is planned to be held continuously in October every year.

Q9: What about cooperation in science, information, and monitoring and evaluation to support decision-making on BSAP?
(Relevant to Guideline L: “Cooperation on science, information and monitor and evaluation”)

To **evaluate the 1st BSAP**, Gangwon set up the **advisory group** on an ad hoc basis that participates experts of national and subnational institutes and related organizations such as ICLEI in 2017 and did the mid-term evaluation for the first time. As a result, about half of the 67 projects were implemented. The 2nd BSAP(2021 ~ 2025) will be developed with new targets that revised through the final assessment of the 1st BSAP in 2020 and reflected important features of local governments. As recognizing that a systematic evaluation method should be prepared for continuity and technical accuracy of evaluation

after mid-term evaluation of the 1st BSAP in 2017, **the new evaluation system that participates central government and related stakeholders will be considered significantly at the 2nd BSAP.**

Q10: How are the efforts on CEPA carried out at national and subnational levels?
(Relevant to Guideline M: “Communication and awareness-raising”)

Since Korea held the CBD COP12 in Pyeongchang, Gangwon, 2014, Awareness of biodiversity in Korea has been greatly enhanced. The central government has enhanced public relations by holding **events on ‘International Biodiversity Day (May 22)’ and ‘World Migratory Bird Day (2nd Saturday of May and October)’** annually. Various **videos on environmental issues** are produced and published on the website of the Ministry of Environment for all citizens to use for education and promotion. Moreover, to enhance public awareness about the importance of environmental conservation, the central government is promoting **education and promotion through TV and out education programs for youth** at the regional environmental education center.

Despite these efforts, the mainstream of biodiversity is still lacking. As mentioned above, the central government announced to develop various educational programs to raise awareness in the 4th NBSAP.

KBS, Korean public broadcaster and EBS, Korean education broadcaster have continued to **produce and broadcast documentaries** on wildlife, forests, wetlands, plants, and habitats. In particular, in 2018, Daeamsan Yongneup wetland (Korea's No. 1 Ramsar Wetland and Gangwon's No. 1 National Wetland) wetland which has a unique ecological environment (located in an altitude of 1200m) and rich biodiversity was broadcasted on KBS, and there were a lot of inquiries from people who wanted to visit. Subnational governments actively operate education programs on awareness of biodiversity for teenagers at the regional environmental education centers. There are **3 regional environmental education centers** in Gangwon and more than 50 thousand students have attended every year. Despite these efforts, the mainstreaming of biodiversity in various sectors is still insufficient. Therefore, as mentioned above, the central government has a plan to develop new educational programs to raise awareness. Gangwon will also develop a public relations program through the 2nd BSAP.



Daeamsan Yongneup wetland in Gangwon(KBS)



Wildlife in DMZ,Gangwon(EBS)

Q11: Could you mention any Gangwon post-2020 plans or ideas? How could the “Guidelines” help your plans/ideas with the further development and implementation of BSAP?

Gangwon has a plan to establish the 2nd BSAP in 2020 that reflects a new NBSAP released in 2018 and the special features of Gangwon. The 13 guidelines provide key points for what and how Gangwon should concern in developing new BSAP. Guideline H (Facilitation consultation and participation) and M (Capacity building and sharing lessons learned) are the most important things for 2nd BSAP. To develop the 2nd BSAP effectively, the case studies of “Guidelines” will be very useful to collect opinions of experts, local governments and citizens.



Vertical Integration in the Development and Implementation of BSAP in Jiangsu / China

Preface

The term biodiversity refers to the sum total of ecological complexity, formed by living things (animals, plants, and microorganisms) and the environment, and related diverse ecological processes. The diversity is manifested in three levels, namely, the ecological system, species, and genes. Biodiversity is considered highly important to the ecological environment as it can preserve water, change the climate, purify air, and sustain an ecological balance, thus, it is generally viewed as the foundation for the survival of humans, a strategic resource for sustained socioeconomic development, and a safeguard for bio-safety and food security. Following the topic of climate change, variety in ecosystem has been another focal point of environmental debate globally, hence drawing much attention from governments of all nations.



China is home to a vast reservoir of species that is endowed by its manifold ecological systems, thanks to its large land span, abundant natural resources, and complex geographical conditions and climates. As the cornerstone for the survival and development of human societies, the level of diversity ecologically is a key indicator for developing China's ecological civilization, because protecting it matters to the overall plan of national economic and social progress and the well-being of the current and future generations. China has been committed to the conservation of its species' diversity after signing the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) by establishing a distinct mechanism of policies and measures for securing biodiversity with legal mandates, coining the term of "protected land", applying a compensation system, and holding those accountable for causing ecological harm.

Jiangsu Province has been spearheading China in the preservation endeavor by finishing a background survey throughout its counties and setting up a big data platform on biodiversity that allows public participation, enabling itself to invent a signature model of conservation with massive amounts of background data and a research platform. This province expects to share its practices with professionals, home and abroad, on preserving diversity in species.

1. Background of Jiangsu on the Protection of Biodiversity

Historically and currently known as a land of abundance, Jiangsu is seat to waters of many types, plains, a long coastline, and lush flora, which lead to rich biodiversity as can be reflected in its plentiful wetlands, forests, and coastal shorelines. Such richness brings values to the province's ecology, economy, and scientific research. Situated to the East Coast of China, Jiangsu is an economic powerhouse that can generate over 10 percent of national GDP by leveraging 1 percent of land and 6 percent of population in China. This, however, also indicates Jiangsu is confronted with issues of scarcity of land, strained per capita environmental resources, heaviest per unit pollution, and largest commercialization rate of land, in comparison with other parts of China. These stress the need for prompt acts to preserve ecological diversity. Indeed, Jiangsu, in its efforts to promote biodiversity and secure the capacity of ecosystem services, is contributing to the national commitment to CBD and a biologically diverse and sustainable China.



2. Tasks and Measures for the Protection of Biodiversity

2.1. Formulating Strategic Policies at Top Level

The leadership of Jiangsu has placed strategic significance on preserving biodiversity by improving related policies, regulations, and programs, with the following policies currently in effect: Guidelines of Jiangsu Province on Building an Ecological Province, Decisions on Promoting Green Jiangsu Initiative, Action Plans of Jiangsu Province on Promoting Ecological Civilization Projects, Plans of Jiangsu Province on Developing Ecological Civilization, Opinions of Jiangsu Province on Intensifying Ecological Civilization Projects to Set a National Example for Sustainability, Plans of Jiangsu Province on the Protection of Ecological Redline Areas, and Strategies and Action Plans of Jiangsu Province on Protecting Biodiversity 2013-2030; regulations: Regulations of Jiangsu Province on Environmental Protection, Regulations of Jiangsu Province on the Protection of the Marine Environment, Regulations of Jiangsu Province on



Fisheries Administration, Regulations of Jiangsu Province on the Control of Water Pollution in Taihu Lake, Methods of Jiangsu Province for Implementing the Forestry Law of the People's Republic of China, Regulations of Jiangsu Province on Wildlife Protection, and Regulations of Jiangsu Province on Livestock and Poultry Breeding; and programs: Program of Jiangsu Province on the Protection of Aquatic Life in Key River Basins, and Program of Jiangsu Province on Establishing Priority Areas for the Protection of Biodiversity. As part of the move of Jiangsu to maintain its variety in species, a policy mechanism has come into shape, spurring the amendments of the Regulations of Jiangsu Province on Environmental Protection and the Regulations of Jiangsu Province on the Administration of City Landscaping and the formulation of regulations and policies on establishing nature reserves, protecting wild flora, conserving wetlands, controlling invasive alien species, administrating the entry and exit of species resources, initiating ecological compensations, and evaluating human impacts on biodiversity. These above-mentioned efforts have enabled top-level support in Jiangsu for greater biodiversity.

2.2. Creating Tasks for Protecting Biodiversity

2.2.1. Conduct background research across counties in Jiangsu

Supported by the Department of Ecology and Environment of Jiangsu Province, a province-wide background research on biodiversity took place in four prefecture cities (Nanjing, Changzhou, Nantong, and Yancheng) and 10 county-level regions (Yixing, Kunshan, Jurong, Gaoyou, Jiangyan, Xuyi, Sihong, Tongshan, Donghai, and Suzhou Industrial Park) in a bid to understand the level of diversity in the local eco-systems, land vascular plants, land vertebrates, land insects, and aquatic life. The research collected 70 percent of recorded species (1,425 species of land vascular plants, 382 land vertebrates, 1,401 land insects, and 1,380 aquatic life) among 13 prefecture cities in Jiangsu before the set-up of targets for the monitoring, protection, and accountability of areas and species that need much conservation effort, so as to bolster the capacity of the province for conserving and monitoring ecological diversity.

2.2.2. Establish the first fixed-point monitoring station for biodiversity

A network for monitoring biodiversity is established to strengthen capabilities of biodiversity conservation as it helps with tracking current states and changes of key populations in areas with the most intense human interference and evaluating the changes in diversity and ecological health.

2.2.3. Intensify in-situ protection

Jiangsu is seat to 31 nature reserves that cover a combined area of 535,800 ha, or 5.26 percent of the provincial total. Among them, three are reserves with national significance, two are wetlands with international significance, and another five are state-level wetlands. These reserves encompass over 90 percent of the entire eco-system of the province, offering protection to vulnerable or

endangered animals and plants in China, such as *Elaphurus davidianus*, *Grus japonensis*, *Parrotia persica*, and *Magnolia zenii*. Integrating over 60 percent the forest eco-systems and over half of the wetland eco-systems in Jiangsu, the Ecological Redline Areas (ERAs) will remain effective as they aim to resolve ecological issues, such as water and soil erosion and habitat fragmentation, and bolster eco-system services, with the Ecological Conservation Redlines (ECRs) underpinning areas with extremely significant ecological functions and those with extremely delicate ecological environments. The ERAs have included the Yangtze River, Taihu Lake, Luoma Lake, Gaoyou Lake, Shaobo Lake, Huaibei Mound, Jianghuai Watershed, Ningzhen Mountains, and Yili Mountains as major areas of water sources, for water and soil conservation, and for flood storage. Another constitution of the ERAs are the Coastal Wetland in North Jiangsu and the Hongze Lake Wetland as areas for maintaining biodiversity.



2.2.4 Strengthen off-site protection

All 13 cities in Jiangsu have put in place wildlife rescue centers, forming an initial network for the rescue of rare and endangered wild species. Animal zoos across Jiangsu have begun artificial breeding for vulnerable species, with the populations of Yangtze Finless Porpoise, *Grus japonensis*, and *Elaphurus davidianus* growing at top scales in China. Within the province, there are 30 conservation farms for livestock and poultry genetic resources, three protected areas for genetic resources, one national genetic stock for 25 local chicken breeds, one state-level genetic stock for 12 local waterfowl breeds, and one genetic stock for 3 strains of the Taihu Pig. Genetic resources stations have been established to preserve commercial breeds of fish in the lower reaches of the Yangtze River, fish, mussels, crayfish and prawns in lakes, marine crustaceans and fish, and aquatic plants. 28 nature reserves of germplasm resources were established.

2.2.5. Establish a database for biodiversity

With data collection and ingestion drawing completion, Jiangsu Database for Biodiversity has come into basic shape, offering a platform of information-sharing on preserving biodiversity resources and for other regions in their research on biodiversity.

2.2.6 Intensify the administration and regulations on bio-safety

To strengthen the investigation, monitoring, early warning and prevention and control of alien invasive species, Jiangsu has carried out basic investigation, bolstered research on the



prevention and control technology, and established a platform for environmental risk assessment and early warning. Concertedly, a comprehensive prevention and control program for alien invasive species has been in motion to reinforce prevention and control of *Alternanthera philoxeroides*, *Solidago canadensis*, and *Hyphantria cunea*, among others. Port quarantine has been strengthened, and an isolated testing ground and quarantine center for alien invasive species has been launched. Moreover, the province strengthened research on the testing and monitoring technology of the safety of genetically modified organisms.

2.2.7. Engage the public

Leveraging media tools, including the Internet, newspapers, television and radio, participants in biodiversity have publicized to government agencies, communities, enterprises and rural areas the importance of keeping manifold living creatures by carrying out relevant publicity activities in forms well received by the public, put biodiversity in the students' curriculum, and stepped up the publicity and education of biodiversity conservation, as part of the move to encourage the whole society to engage in biodiversity conservation. Jiangsu has held a large-scale public-interest activity on environmental protection themed "Ecological Jiangsu in Action", issued the Code of Conduct of Jiangsu Province on Ecological Civilization, and organized the activity of the Environmental Publicity Week across the province. In 2018, the animal and plant specimens independently collected and made by Jiangsu Provincial Academy of Environmental Science were unveiled at the International Summit of New Technology for Ecology and Environment, attracting the attention of many exhibitors and news media. At the International Summit of New Technology for Ecology and Environment 2019, the sand table of fixed sample plots in Longchi Mountain of Yixing was unveiled, and a seminar themed Biodiversity Conservation and Restoration was held. This is the first time biodiversity conservation has been introduced into the summit as an important part of new technology for ecology and environment. On May 22, 2019, the Department of Ecology and Environment of Jiangsu Province held a series of activities themed on Joint Efforts to Build a Community of Life on Earth in Xuzhou to commemorate the 26th International Day for Biological Diversity in order to raise the awareness of the whole society in participating in biodiversity conservation, advocating for a sustainable home on earth.

2.3. Launching special institutions for biodiversity conservation

The Jiangsu Biodiversity Conservation Commission was established to promote biodiversity conservation across the province. The Jiangsu Commission for Evaluation of National Nature Reserves was set up to coordinate the work on the development and management of nature reserves in the province. A provincial and municipal management mechanism for wildlife and wetland protection, composed of the provincial-level Jiangsu Wildlife Protection Station and Wetland Protection Station, and

corresponding management institutions for wildlife and wetland protection in Suzhou, Wuxi, Yangzhou, Yancheng, Taizhou, Huai'an, Changzhou, Lianyungang, and Suqian, was introduced. Such a mechanism ensured effective management of wildlife and wetland protection.

2.4. Establishing an institutional coordination mechanism

An institutional coordination mechanism was rolled out to ensure biodiversity at provincial, municipal and county levels, highlighting biodiversity conservation and enhancing implementation and assessment. Inter-agency coordination and cooperation were intensified, for instance, biodiversity was a key component in the formulation of development plans by government agencies on environmental protection, forestry, agriculture, inspection and quarantine, marine and fishery, traditional Chinese medicine, and urban development. Institutions for biodiversity protection and administration were improved through stronger capacities of protection at the community-level. At the same time, Jiangsu explored the community co-management model of nature reserves, and cracked down on unlawful and criminal acts against biodiversity and quarantined entry-exit biological species resources with coordinated efforts among different government agencies.



2.5. Establishing a multi-party participation mechanism

2.5.1. Industry-university-research cooperation

Studies on biodiversity conservation in Jiangsu were undertaken via diverse models, such as cooperating between universities and enterprises, to speed up the commercialization of research results. In 2017, Nanjing Agricultural University and Yixing Municipal People's Government signed a strategic cooperation agreement on biodiversity conservation research, with the focus on biodiversity conservation, evaluation and monitoring in Yixing. In 2018, Nanjing Institute of Environmental Sciences of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China, the Academy of Environmental Planning and Design of Nanjing University, and Xuyi County People's Government jointly signed a strategic cooperation agreement on biodiversity conservation, with the focus on biodiversity conservation, monitoring and evaluation in Xuyi. In 2019, Jiangsu Provincial Academy of Environmental Science, Quanshan District People's Government, Yunlonghu Resort Management Committee, and China University of Mining and Technology signed a framework agreement on cooperation in biodiversity conservation, according to which a research base for biodiversity conservation would be jointly established for inter-connectivity, sharing, application and development of the work on biodiversity conservation among the

government, universities, research institutes and management committees. Actors in Jiangsu are committed to conserving biodiversity and seeking new ways to that end via pragmatic actions.

2.5.2. Exchanges and cooperation of the local government alliance

In 2019, Jiangsu-Aichi Seminar on Nature and Biodiversity Conservation had discussions on the effects of policies and measures within Jiangsu, and shared cases of university students in Aichi of Japan. Supported by the Asian Division of the Foreign Affairs Office of Jiangsu Provincial People's Government, this event was incorporated into the framework of the China-Japan Youth Exchange Promotion Year 2019 with the authorization of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China.

2.6. Financial input

With the approval of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China and the CPC Jiangsu Provincial Committee and Jiangsu Provincial People's Government, financial inputs of Jiangsu for biodiversity conservation were enlarged through implementing special initiatives and granting subsidies, while addressing major concerns of ecology and environment in the province. The General Office of Jiangsu Provincial People's Government issued the Tentative Measures of Jiangsu Province for Transfer Payment of Ecological Compensation to make it clear that the provincial-level funds for transferring payment of ecological compensation would all be used for environmental protection, restoration and compensation in the ERAs. In response to the requirements of concentrating efforts on major events, all cities and counties (county-level cities) integrated relevant special funds, increased financial input at their respective level, and strengthened the protection and restoration of ecological red line areas. According to Notice on Appropriating Special Funds in 2019 for Ecological Protection and Restoration Projects of Mountains, Rivers, Forests, Fields, Lakes and Grasses jointly issued by Jiangsu Provincial Department of Finance, Jiangsu Provincial Department of Ecology and Environment, and Jiangsu Provincial Department of Natural Resources, RMB 600 million of provincial subsidies were appropriated to support the ecological protection and restoration projects of mountains, rivers, forests, fields, lakes and grasses in four pilot areas.

2.7. Training

Jiangsu values the grooming of talent for biodiversity conservation in ways of training professionals in the field and offering incentives to outstanding scientific and technological talent for performing related research. Professional education and training can be delivered in higher institutions of learning in which professionals in biosystematics can receive training each year. Management and technical staff in bio-diversity related institutes can join in workshops on the topic.

3. Future work on biodiversity

As biodiversity remains to be a priority, Jiangsu has made its ecological landscape constantly upgrading through a series of conservation initiatives. Its ecosystem is generally stable, notable progress has been made in supervision of nature reserves, and biodiversity conservation has been significantly improved. *Grus japonensis* and *Ciconia boyciana*, which are species under first-class national protection, *Luehdorfia chinensis*, which is a species under second-class national protection, and *Calidris pygmaea*, which is an IUCN-specified extremely endangered species, continue to dwell in a wider range of areas in Jiangsu. The populations of *Elaphurus davidianus* and *Hydropotes inermis* are also on a gradual rise. Such apex predators as *Aquila chrysaetos*, *Accipiter gentilis*, and *Prionailurus bengalensis* have been seen and recorded in many places in the province, which is an indicator that the eco-environment of Jiangsu is gradually recovering and the food chain is improving to become complete and stable. Remarkable achievements have been made in the work on protection.



Jiangsu commits itself to the following tasks in its future work on preserving ecological diversity:

- (1) comprehensively advance the legislative process of biodiversity in Jiangsu, and promote the formulation of the Regulations of Jiangsu Province on Biodiversity Protection;
- (2) implement relevant requirements of biodiversity protection and ecological security in the Environmental Protection Law of the People's Republic of China;
- (3) establish an evaluation system for eco-environmental quality with biodiversity at the core based on the local conditions of Jiangsu Province;
- (4) promote the scientific planning and control of ecological space in the province;
- (5) continue to improve the biodiversity observation network, and build the backbone for it in the province;
- (6) build a provincial real specimen database for biodiversity; and
- (7) continue to reinforce special initiatives and publicity activities on biodiversity conservation to raise the awareness of the whole society on the importance of biodiversity conservation.

Vertical Integration in the Development and Implementation of BSAP in Québec / Canada

Fundamental information on the subnational autonomy system

Québec is a Francophone province of the federated state of Canada. Its capital is Québec City and its largest city is Montréal. Located in the northeast of North America, Québec is the largest Canadian province by area, covering 1.7 million square kilometers, and is ranked second by population, with 8.4 million residents in 2018. In Canada, legislative, executive and judicial power is shared between the federal and provincial governments. Shared responsibilities between the levels of government are entrenched in the Canadian Constitution, with the federal government having responsibility, among other things, for cross-border matters as well as fisheries, navigation, federal lands and criminal law. Provincial governments, such as Québec, have exclusive and/or shared legislative powers in the spheres of education, health, justice, public security, land management, transportation, agriculture, natural resource management and the environment. Furthermore, the Canadian Constitution establishes that provincial governments have



exclusive jurisdiction over municipal institutions. Consequently, local and municipal affairs fall within provincial responsibility. Québec's municipal territorial organization is divided into two levels, local and supra-local. The local level of municipal organization consists of local municipalities and, in some cases, boroughs or agglomerations. All in all, there are 1,132 local municipalities in Quebec. The supra-local level comprises 87 regional county municipalities and 2 metropolitan communities (Québec City and Montréal).

Vertical integration development and implementation of BSAP: The case of Québec

Q1: How do central government and subnational governments

share biodiversity conservation mandates? (Relevant to Guideline B: "Clarifying mandates, institutional roles and responsibility")

Power sharing as laid out in the Canadian Constitution specifies that both orders of government may act with respect to the conservation of biodiversity. The Government of Canada ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in 1992 and adopted the Canadian Biodiversity Strategy in 1995. The Canadian Biodiversity Strategy recognizes provincial responsibilities and powers, and encourages provincial governments to pursue the strategic guidelines set out in the Strategy in accordance with their own policies, plans, priorities and financial capacity. However, the Strategy does not contain any obligations, legally-binding or otherwise, for provinces to take specific actions. In fact, given the breadth of their powers, provinces are in a position to implement their own biodiversity action plans while taking the federal government's Strategy and initiatives into account, where appropriate.

Since the Canadian Constitution recognizes provincial jurisdiction over areas that are essential for ensuring the conservation of biological diversity within their boundaries (i.e. land and natural resources management), the Government of Quebec made a **commitment by Order-in-Council in 1992** to abide by the principles and objectives of the CBD and implement it on its territory, taking into account its constitutional powers, priorities and timelines. The Government of Quebec acknowledges federal government initiatives, but develops and implements its own instruments for conserving biological diversity on its territory. In order to carry out its international commitments, the Government of Québec has set biodiversity conservation goals by means of two strategies and related actions plans, covering the period from 1996 to 2007. A review of the implementation of these strategies was also published in 2011. Then, in October 2013, the **Government Biological Diversity Guidelines** were published, constituting a first step along the path to achieving the objectives of the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets.



Q2: What are the specific methods used to transfer and modify national policies into subnational and local government policies?

(Relevant to Guideline A: "Specifying and institutionalizing collaboration and coordination in policy and strategy" and Guideline D: "Coordinating Strategies to ensure alignment with the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan and ABTs")

In 2015, the Federal Government released the 2020 Biodiversity Goals and Targets for Canada in response to the CDB's 2011-2020 Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and its global Aichi Biodiversity Targets. These Goals and Targets are not binding upon provincial and territorial governments. While the Government of Québec acknowledges this Canadian initiative, it intends to implement its own policy instruments such as the **Government Biological Diversity Guidelines** that were published in 2013.

Nevertheless, the Government of Quebec participates in **intergovernmental conferences** that cover a wide range of public policy areas that include biodiversity conservation. Within these intergovernmental forums, it works with other governments on various issues of common interest and promotes information sharing and best practices while defending its interests and ensuring that its jurisdictional authority is respected. The Government of Quebec also co-operates on specific issues where complementarity of government action is desirable, such as the conservation of biodiversity in the St. Lawrence River. Since 1988, the governments of Canada and Quebec have been working together with other partners to conserve, restore, protect and enhance the St. Lawrence River. Equally, and in the same spirit, a total of four five-year agreements have been signed since 1988 to coordinate governmental action **with respect to the St. Lawrence**. This **Canada-Quebec collaboration** has led to the achievement of many positive environmental results. More recently, the governments of Quebec and Canada have signed a joint working agreement meant to unify their efforts aimed at creating a network of marine protected areas in Quebec waters. The two governments have also agreed to co-operate on issues related to at-risk species, given that both governments have adopted laws to protect them.

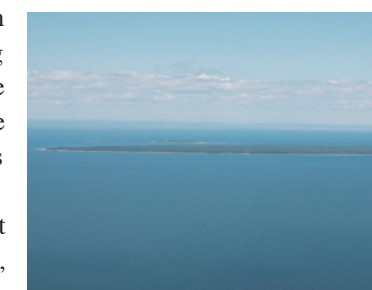
Q3: Regarding the expectation for subnational and local governments to develop the collaborative network within their boundaries, in what way is Québec acting to turn expectations into on-the-ground reality?

(Relevant to Guideline C: "Establishing institutional coordination and cooperation mechanisms and forums" and Guideline E: "Planning for action together")

Since provincial governments have exclusive jurisdiction over municipalities, it is the responsibility of the Government of Quebec to ensure the participation and collaboration of

municipal actors in policies regarding the conservation of biodiversity, especially considering the extensive responsibilities that municipalities have over land use planning. In order to identify the issues facing local municipalities, regional county municipalities and metropolitan communities, the government adopts **policy guidelines** after a process of consultation. They are the means by which the government's concerns are conveyed, as well as a tool **for dialogue between the government and municipal entities on land use planning issues**, including biodiversity conservation, the creation of a regional park system, and the protection of vegetation and forest cover.

With respect to the integrated management of water resources at the watershed level, the Government of Quebec places great importance on the role of local municipalities. This form of management takes into account both local and regional issues, and is based on an ecosystem approach to watershed-based water management. The main actor in this form of water management is the **Watershed Agency**. This type of organization is composed of representatives of all stakeholders concerned by water issues in a watershed, and includes regional county municipalities, local municipalities, users, environmental groups and private citizens. Watershed agencies are in fact consultation and planning round tables. Their primary mandate is to develop a water master plan that lays out a watershed portrait and a diagnosis of the relevant issues, applicable guidelines and objectives, as well as an action plan for implementation by each stakeholder, including local municipalities. The water master plan must be approved by Quebec's Minister for the Environment and the Fight against Climate Change, who is also empowered to define the fundamental integrated and shared water resource management guidelines. By moving towards integrated water management at the watershed level, the Government of Quebec is aiming for greater cooperation and accountability among the various water stakeholders and the population at large with respect to the collective resource that water and aquatic ecosystems constitute.



Québec is also the first province in Canada to have adopted a wetlands conservation act. The **Act regarding the conservation of wetlands and bodies of water**, unanimously adopted in 2017 by the National Assembly of Québec, reforms the legislative framework that oversee wetlands and bodies of water to modernize measures that are designed to ensure their conservation. The proposed amendments affect, among other things, regional land development planning and integrated water resource planning and management, recognizing the important role played by watershed agencies and municipalities as



frontline sustainable development actors that try to balance the needs of development and conservation in their areas. In 2019, the Government of Québec thus granted CAD \$8.5 million to regional county municipalities to enable them to develop their first regional wetland and watershed plans. The regional plan is a planning tool that determines the action needed to sustain the various benefits provided to local communities by wetlands and bodies of water. These plans will also help in furthering the “no net loss” principle in these sensitive ecosystems in Québec.

Finally, regarding the **St. Lawrence River, permanent and independent regional round tables** are tasked with assisting the various regional stakeholders involved in managing resources and uses relating to their section of the river. Similar in structure to the watershed agencies, they promote co-operation among regional stakeholders and contribute to the development, adoption, implementation and monitoring of regional integrated plans.

Q4: Could you describe the mechanism used to promote collaborative activities, with special focus on funding and/or incentives?

(Relevant to Guideline F: “Co-operating on programs and projects” and Guideline I: “Financial support and incentives”)

Aware that local collaborative projects need supplementary implementation financial resources to conserve biological diversity, the Government of Quebec has established **funding programs to support partner organizations**. For example, recurring technical and financial support is provided to support organizations involved in integrated water management. In 2018, CAD \$30 million in funding over three years was provided to watershed agencies for updating water master plans and to coordinate and monitor their implementation. Additionally, in 2018, the Government of Quebec unveiled its Québec **Water Strategy Action Plan**, which established a regional support program for water issues. This program allocates CAD \$1 million annually for the implementation of local collaborative projects. Any non-governmental stakeholder may submit a project under this program.

Building on their past achievements, the governments of Quebec and Canada are continuing and expanding their collaboration under the **2011–2026 St. Lawrence Action Plan**, which combines the efforts of a record number of 18 ministries of both the provincial and federal governments. Significant investments made under the plan enable activities that, among other things, aim to reduce pollution, raise awareness and involve communities and conserve, rehabilitate and develop habitats for wildlife and plants. Over the 2016–2021 timespan, the Government of Quebec plans to invest a total of CAD \$22.3 million in this initiative. Part of the funding will be used to set up a financial assistance program to support community projects

aimed at conserving and improving the St. Lawrence ecosystem. Any non-governmental and non-profit organization located in Quebec can submit a project under this program. A total of 66 projects were implemented between 2011 and 2016, led by 44 different organizations. For instance, a large-scale campaign on the accumulation of plastic waste in the St. Lawrence Gulf and Estuary was funded in order to raise awareness to civil society, academia, decision-makers and tourism companies about this issue. Another project’s aim is to improve nesting habitats for species in decline, while yet another seeks the conservation of edible shoreline plant diversity.

In 1984, the Government of Québec created the **Fondation de la Faune du Québec (Québec Wildlife Foundation)**, whose purpose was to mitigate the substantial loss of wetlands and fight aquatic and land habitat degradation. The Foundation is an organization whose core funding comes from the government, but it has also developed a variety of fundraising mechanisms and business partnerships that target individuals, companies of all sizes, private foundations, and government departments and agencies. Knowing that it cannot achieve success by operating alone throughout the territory of the province, the Foundation has, over the years, entered partnership agreements as a key element of its actions. For instance, this has resulted in the mobilization of various local stakeholders for concerted action to carry out wildlife projects. The Foundation subsidizes some 400 projects yearly, with programs targeting the protection and improvement of terrestrial and aquatic wildlife habitats, contributing to the recovery of threatened and vulnerable wildlife species, enhancing agricultural biodiversity, controlling invasive plants and encouraging private woodlot owners’ commitment to protecting and enhancing wildlife habitats.

Q5: How does Québec develop co-operation on ecosystems beyond its borders?

(Relevant to Guideline G: “Cooperation across political borders”)

The Government of Quebec participates in various co-operative initiatives with other governments. For instance, since 1973, the New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers, including the Premier of Québec, have met annually (with the exception of 1991, 1992, 1996 and 2004) to share ideas and advance common interests. The **New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers' Annual Conference** has successfully taken initiatives in the areas of trade, energy, economic development, environment, oceans, forestry, agriculture, fisheries, transportation, information technology and tourism. Additionally, in 2016, a resolution was adopted on ecological connectivity, adaptation to climate change and biodiversity conservation. The signatories recognized the importance of ecological connectivity in the adaptability and resilience of our region’s ecosystem, biodiversity, and human communities in the face of climate change, and acknowledged



the need to work across landscapes and borders to advance efforts to restore and maintain ecological connectivity. They also encouraged land use planning entities at all levels, especially municipalities and local authorities, to incorporate habitat connectivity objectives in their land use planning and policies, which is an example of mainstreaming biodiversity at the local level.

The **Conference of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers** provides another example of Québec’s cooperation on biodiversity beyond its borders. The Conference brings together the chief executives of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Ontario, Pennsylvania, Québec and Wisconsin, who work as equal partners to further the protection of the world’s largest system of surface fresh water, among other goals. It builds upon over 30 years of work to encourage and facilitate environmentally responsible economic development. In 2013, aware of the threats that Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) represent for the St. Lawrence ecosystems, the Parties renewed their commitment to work together through an AIS Task Force to prevent their introduction, facilitate coordinated detection and response actions and minimize their harmful effects. As of 2019, all ten member states and provinces have signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Regional Cooperative Enforcement Operations, which is an essential tool that empowers law enforcement officials to act on AIS and other wildlife offenses. The MOU also facilitates information sharing and cross-jurisdictional investigations and aims to combat the illegal possession, sale and transport of invasive alien species such as the Asian carp.

Q6: What about technical support and non-financial incentives for implementing BSAPs in Québec?

(Relevant to Guideline J: “Technical support and non-financial incentives”)

The **Fondation de la Faune du Québec (Québec Wildlife Foundation)** offers technical support (including information and mentoring) to organizations interested in taking tangible steps to protect wildlife habitats. It provides valuable assistance in the planning, completion and follow-up phases of projects, and enables training sessions and workshops. Some practical guidebooks are also available to help partner organizations and individuals develop and carry their initiatives and projects to completion.

Goals and priorities based on objective considerations are needed in order to optimize biodiversity conservation efforts within Quebec's territory. In this context, the Government of Quebec established the **Natural Heritage Data Center of Québec** in 1988. Its mandate is to collect, record, analyze and disseminate information on biodiversity, particularly the most important elements and occurrences in terms of conservation.

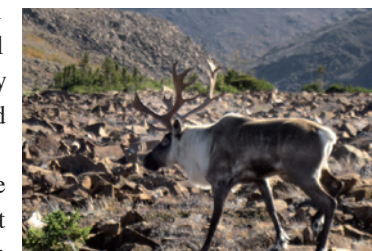
The Center partners with various strategic organizations that share the same objectives in order to promote the creation of opportunities for synergy and facilitate improved consultation in the field of conservation. Currently, its database includes more than 23,000 occurrences that relate mostly to species at risk, including 636 plants and 153 animals. The data is used to set conservation priorities and develop recovery plans, but the information is also useful in conducting environmental impact assessments, applying protection measures, carrying out research projects, revising of zoning regulations and forest planning.

Q7: How does BSAP consultation and participation work at the national and subnational levels?

(Relevant to Guideline H: “Facilitating consultation and participation”)

The development of the **2013 Governmental Guidelines on Biological Diversity is the result of consultation among several of Québec’s government ministries and civil society actors**. Focus groups were held with representatives from industry, environmental organizations, academia, municipal and regional organizations and the **Government of Canada**. The proposed approach was founded on three fundamental issues that are captured under the three inseparable dimensions of sustainable development: living environments (environmental), lifestyles (social) and living standards (economic).

Regarding its commitment to establishing a **network of protected areas** that are representative of Québec’s overall biological diversity, the Government of Québec applies a **transparent public participation process at all stages leading to the creation or expansion of a protected area**. It encourages participation by all major stakeholders, organizations and indigenous and local communities concerned by the strategy on protected areas. A public consultation may also be held by an independent public hearing bureau before permanent protection status is awarded to a given targeted area. This public participation process allowed the Government of Québec to reach the CBD’s Aichi Biodiversity Target 11. Indeed, as of January 1, 2021, Québec protected areas now cover 17.03% of its land and fresh water (257 000 km²), which represents a total area protected larger than the UK.



Q8: How is cooperation on capacity-building and sharing lessons learned carried out at the national and subnational levels?

(Relevant to Guideline K: “Capacity-building and sharing lessons learned”)



In regard to the integrated management of the St. Lawrence River, a process was established to ensure coordination among the different stakeholders, namely governmental and non-governmental representatives who have responsibilities or interests connected with the management of the resources and uses of the St. Lawrence. This process involves the organization of a **regular Forum on the St. Lawrence and regional round tables**. The Forum's general objective is to pool stakeholder concerns, expertise, tools, resources, and potential solutions in order to encourage co-operation on St. Lawrence issues. Specific objectives are developed at each Forum, depending on the chosen theme. A **similar event** is held each year for all the **Watershed Agencies** and stakeholders involved in water issues.



With respect to wildlife habitats, the **Fondation de la Faune du Québec establishes partnerships and supports mentoring organizations** by offering technical support to that increases the capacity to respond to wildlife issues. In regard to Invasive Alien Species, the *Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques* (Quebec's Ministry of the Environment and the Fight against climate change) developed the **Sentinelle detection tool**, which consists of a mobile application and a web-based mapping system. It provides access to reports on the most serious invasive plant and animal species of concern. In addition to consulting records, the application increases the capacities of individuals and organizations to recognize invasive plant and animal species and submit their observations. In this context, **Sentinelle** also provides a **guidebook** that lists the main criteria for identifying monitored invasive alien species. The Government of Québec departments responsible for flora and wildlife must approve the information received before publishing reports on the application.



Q9: What about cooperation on science, information and monitoring and evaluation to support decision-making on BSAP?
(Relevant to Guideline L: "Cooperation on science, information and monitoring and evaluation")

Considering that several ministries are involved in biodiversity

conservation, a **Steering Committee on Biological Diversity**, composed of associate deputy ministers, was created in 2013. One of its responsibilities is to facilitate inter-ministerial cooperation, coordination and participation in the implementation of projects that address common or cross-cutting issues such as knowledge acquisition, ecosystem conservation, and awareness.

With respect to monitoring protected areas, a **Register** has been developed by the Government of Québec to provide, among other things, a common framework for collecting, processing and publishing data on protected areas, as well as a unique, integrated protected area reference base for Quebec. Today, Quebec has a network of protected areas that includes 32 different legal and/or administrative designations. These protected areas form a network of more than 4,780 sites and cover a wide spectrum, going from ecological reserves to national parks, biodiversity and aquatic reserves, wildlife habitats, national wildlife areas to natural environments on private conservation lands. These protected areas are administered by various government bodies, legal entities or individuals. Science-based cooperation between these bodies is therefore essential to ensure continued biodiversity conservation on these protected sites.



There are also several examples of data collection and monitoring networks in Québec that help in supporting decision-making on BSAP. The **Natural Heritage Data Center of Québec** is another example of science-based cooperative approach to collect and monitor information on biodiversity, including threatened, and vulnerable plant and wildlife species as well as those likely to be designated. Moreover, because the climate is changing, development is intensifying and species are migrating or adjusting their range, it becomes increasingly important to monitor ecosystems to identify changes in animal and plant communities. Therefore, the Government of Québec, through the involvement of the *Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs* (Ministry of Forests, Wildlife and Parks) and the *Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques*, is working to implement a **national biodiversity monitoring program**. The primary objective of the program is to identify short, medium and long-term changes in habitats, communities and populations. This monitoring is intended to help anticipate certain changes and assess their impact. It also aims to improve the integration and sharing of information about natural environments. Numerous partnerships with universities, local governments and indigenous communities have been established to help with data collection.



Q10: How are the efforts on CEPA carried out at national and subnational levels?
(Relevant to Guideline M: "Communication and awareness raising")

When the **Government Biological Diversity Guidelines** were adopted in 2013, an inter-ministerial working group on the Aichi Targets was mandated to produce a portrait of current government actions relating to the targets in order to identify potential gaps and suggest, where appropriate, complementary action. An initial government consultation took place covered the years 2011–2015 and listed all actions implemented during that period for 18 Aichi Targets in 17 Government of Québec ministries and other official bodies. Many of these actions (54 in all) were aimed at awareness, education and the communication of Québec's major biodiversity challenges. One of the objectives of the governmental Guidelines was to raise awareness to, inform and educate civil society on the importance of preserving biological diversity and the value of ecological services. The Government of Québec effectively recognized that current lifestyles meant that a large part of the population had progressively less contact with nature, and that this situation could lead to negative consequences for children's development as well as a lack of environmental ethics among the population.

For example, the *Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques* has a **youth website called Le Coin de Rafale**, which shares knowledge about the environment. Rafale, a young boy, invites young web surfers to



follow his adventures. Air, water, waste recycling, sustainable development, agro-environment, northern environment and biodiversity issues are the main subjects featured on the site. Unusual twists and turns in the storylines let the characters share their new environmental knowledge, which is regularly updated on the website. In this way, youth and children are led to reflect on their habits and understand how their daily choices can have a major impact on the environment. Numerous pedagogical resources are also made available for use by elementary and secondary school teachers.

To ensure the sustainability of wildlife, an **educational program called "Wildlife and You"** was also created by the *Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs*. The program showcases Québec's diversity of wildlife and habitats, the impacts of our activities on wildlife and the work of a wildlife protection officer. This program is designed for elementary



school pupils and its goal is to spur them to get involved in the conservation of biodiversity. The activities of this program are meant to enable students to understand the concept of biodiversity, the importance of a quality habitat for wildlife, the existence of rules to protect wildlife and habitats and that they can take action to ensure the sustainability of wildlife. A classroom visit by a wildlife protection officer is included in the program in order to address these subjects.

According to Québec's Parks Act, the primary purpose of a national park is to ensure the conservation and permanent protection of areas that are representative of the natural regions of Québec and of natural sites with outstanding features, particularly their biological diversity, while providing the public with access to those areas or sites for educational or recreational purposes. In Québec, as of 2019, there were 23 national parks and 1 marine park representing a total of 7,017 square kilometers of unique protected territories south of the 50th parallel. In 2017, there were nearly 5 million days of visit in these national parks. In order to achieve their educational mission, the public agency created by the Government of Québec to manage its **national parks offers several activities where the public can experience the nature and wildlife**. The goal of these activities is to raise awareness among young people and adults regarding the importance of biodiversity conservation. For example, in 2017, 350,000 people participated in discovery activities.

Q11: Could you mention any Québec post-2020 plans or ideas? How could the "Guidelines" help your plans/ideas with the further development and implementation of BSAP?

The Government of Quebec is closely following the consultation and preparation stages of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and has begun a process of reflection to determine its policy orientations regarding this new framework. Even though all the topics covered in the Guidelines for an integrated approach in the development and implementation of BSAP already seem to be taken into account in Quebec's approach to biodiversity conservation, the Guidelines presents case studies and tools that may well contribute to the process of development of our post-2020 approach. Acknowledgement of the role that subnational governments play in mainstreaming biodiversity conservation should nevertheless be recognized in the post-2020 global framework, in order to ensure their full participation in achieving the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity.



Vertical Integration in the Development and Implementation of BSAP in São Paulo State / Brazil

Fundamental information on the subnational autonomy system

There are 26 States, Brasília (Federal District) and 5.570 municipalities under the central government in Brazil, a Federative Republic. More than 211 million inhabitants living in Brazil, with around 71 million households. Brazil has States with 853 municipalities (Minas Gerais State, with 21 million inhabitants) and with 15 municipalities (Roraima, with 515.000 inhabitants). The subnational and the municipalities autonomies are guaranteed by the Federal Constitution (1988). The municipality is the smallest autonomous unity in the Federation. The great themes are decided by national laws, federal executive regulation tools, policies and/or codes, such as the Environmental National Policy (1981), detailed by state and/or municipal laws, executive regulation tools, policies and/or codes.



The Federative Republic was established on 1889, with 20 States and the Federal District. Brazil was recognized as a territory on 1500 – on 1534, with part of the present territory, there were 14 “Capitanias Hereditárias” (hereditary captaincies), divisions created by the Portugal Government to manage the Colony. Parallel lines were used to separate each captaincy, from the coastal line to inlands. The natural resources were included in each territory.

Municipalities provide the environment for the everyday life of people, including aspects as: basic health system, waste management, leisure, basic education, sanitation, water supply, public transport, public lighting, streets management, local roads, urban planning and labour. State governments provide the regional economic and territorial planning, complex health system, public safety, great water systems, regional protected areas, roads systems, trains systems, ports and airports, environment control, incentives for development & sciences, technical education, high schools and universities (like the federal government).

State autonomy legislative initiative is harmonized to the

national laws and other executive regulation tools – which are oriented to general issues, that will be detailed by State and/or local systems. These legal systems run for the same direction.

The budgets of State (considering taxes on sectors like goods movement and vehicles) or local (considering taxes on sectors like residences and services) governments depend on their own tax income, complemented with values generated by part of the national taxes (considering sectors like industry, income, importation and finances) – oriented to actions in charge by these local and State governments (as designed by laws and/or special programs).

Vertical Integration development and implementation of BSAP in case of /São Paulo/Brazil

Q1: How do Brazilian central government and subnational governments share the mandates on biodiversity conservation? (Relevant to Guideline B: “Clarifying mandates, institutional roles and responsibility”)

The **PNMA – Environment National Policy** in Brazil (Federal Law number 6.938/81, hosted by the Federal Constitution, on 1988) defines the mandates of the central government, state governments and municipalities – creating the **SISNAMA, the Environment National System**. Complementary issues are regulated using own legal systems, as the **SNUC – Protected Areas National System** (Federal Law number 9.985/2000) and **Water Resources Management National System** (Federal Law number 9.433/1997). This Policy (PNMA), basically, introduces the integrated actions to assure the environmental protection, linking the three level of governments – national, State and local. Each level develops and executes the policies, programs, projects and regular activities (like licensing) at its own territory and at the level below, when it is missing.

The Federal Constitution (1988) created the **public prosecutor’s office**, independent, dedicated to protect the rights of the society, like the environmental issues – becoming an important actor to protect the biodiversity.

There is the **Biodiversity National Policy**, created by a



Photo by Adriana Mattoso

Federal Decree – number 4.339/2002, following the Biodiversity National Program (Federal Decree number 1.354/1994, updated with the Federal Decree number 4.703/2003).

The Federal Decree of 2003 created the **CONABIO – Biodiversity National Commission**, which deals with seven thematic components, as the biodiversity National Policy: knowledge; conservation; sustainable use; reducing impacts; genetic resources and traditional knowledge; education and public awareness; and legal and institutional empowerment. This commission developed the national goals, like the Brazilian version to the ABT, created by the CONABIO Resolution number 6/2013, which allowed the development of the NBSAP, which has the most updated version on 2018.

Linked with the national efforts, the **São Paulo State created its own Biodiversity Commission (CPB)** on 2011, by the State Decree number 57.402/2011, being the first subnational one dedicated to implement the ABT, with the participation of a representative of the Ministry of the Environment, reinforcing the links between national and State governments. The CPB created the **São Paulo State BSAP** (with 5 main themes and 29 deliverables: linking with climate change agenda, economic and ecological zoning etc.), updating it for some years. We can illustrate these common efforts considering the protected areas systems at the São Paulo lands and waters: national, State and municipality areas, private protected areas and traditional people areas – acting together to protect the biodiversity at São Paulo, increasing the numbers that support the Brazil to fulfill the ABT 11. While reinforcing the national activities, the São Paulo State is working with the 645 municipalities located in its territory, supporting them to improve their policies to conserve biodiversity – by the **Green-Blue Municipality Program**, that is training local agents to implement actions. Linking vertically local actions, State ones and National efforts.

The National Focal Point at the CBD is a representative from the Foreign Affairs Ministry, who coordinates the participation of several actors during the COPs – for the last editions of the Conferences, São Paulo was working with the Focal Point and other important actors (like the Ministry for the Environment etc.) since the first discussions towards the biannual event, increasing the results of this common agenda. At the same time, São Paulo State unifies its partners into its territory with a non-stop agenda dedicated to biodiversity, focusing complementary issues, like protected areas (São Paulo has the largest number of State Protected Areas in Brazil), business and biodiversity, ecosystem restoration etc.

Q2: How are the specific methods to transfer and modify the national policies into the subnational and local governments’ policies?

(Relevant to Guideline A: “Specifying and institutionalizing

collaboration and coordination in policy and strategy” and Guideline D: “Coordinating Strategies to ensure alignment with Strategy Plan 2011-2020 and ABTs”)

The Brazilian current **national BSAP** revised in 2018, focusing the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (ABT), **considers the inputs from different actors, like State and local governments**. This document was made through a participative process with these many actors, supporting the national initiative, and the subnational and local ones. Discussing indicators, methodologies and other subjects, it was possible to develop the plan. Some of the Brazilian States did not develop a biodiversity plan, but they do have other tools, like the **subnational protected areas systems and environmental education policies**.



Photo by Adriana Mattoso

Some tools to promote this target are the São Paulo and the Parana states BSAPs, as examples for others SNGs, the NBSAP and the protected areas systems, which provide necessary information and examples.

The central government and some partners, like subnational governments, established **BSAPs program on communication** in 2018. As a network, it promotes the exchange of information among governmental entities. The founding members were National Government, São Paulo State etc. At the same time, the SNGs are acting together through the Association that unifies the **State Secretaries on Environment issues, the ABEMA**. Also, there is a support to **local Secretaries on Environment, the association ANAMMA**. There are **some events** increasing the debate on biodiversity conservation, **like the BIO2020** promoted by the São Paulo State Secretariat for Infrastructure and Environment, and partners, during the first days of February, 2020 in São Paulo, which had the presence, the ideas, the experiences and the words from different parts of Brazil and of the world, like the Federal Government, biosphere reserves, CETESB, Fundação Florestal, Instituto Geológico, Instituto Florestal, Instituto de Botânica, other Brazilian States, many municipalities, the Aichi Prefecture, Regions4 and ICLEI.

Q3: Regarding the expectation for subnational and local governments to develop the collaboration network in the territories, how São Paulo is acting to make it real on the ground?

(Relevant to Guideline C: “Establishing institutional coordination and cooperation mechanisms and forums”)



and Guideline E: “Planning for action together”)

São Paulo works with **councils that link several actors** to different purposes. For instance, more than 1.500 people have a commitment as State protected areas counselors. Other examples are the **sectorial councils** – discussing general and specific themes (like the Greener Ethanol Protocol Executive Group, discussing for 14 years the sustainability of 1/4 of the State territory, occupied by sugarcane). The above-mentioned



Photo by Fausto Pires de Campos

program to support the 645 municipalities, the Green-Blue Municipality Program, that created a **ranking system**, is a strong example. São Paulo State supports two **participative councils dedicated for two UNESCO Biosphere Reserves** – the Mata Atlântica (the world largest one, with 30 years old, the eldest one in Brazil-which is present at other 16 States) and the São Paulo City Green Belt.

Q4: Could you introduce the mechanism to promote collaborative activities, especially highlighting financial support or incentives?

(Relevant to Guideline F: “Cooperating on programs and projects” and Guideline I: “Financial support and incentives”)

In order to promote collaborative activities, the BSAP managed by the São Paulo Commission on Biodiversity (CPB), used to update the next **year budget of every component of the plan – integrating the budgets of every partner into each action**. Blank actions (that means, without budgets) had generated projects that were object to fund raise.

The Secretariat for Infrastructure and Environment (São Paulo State Government) had created an **internal committee dedicated for Global Policies**. With three working groups, Biodiversity, Climate change and SDGs – a permanent universe of sharing experiences and resources.

Working into global networks is a way to reinforce collaboration. GoLS, AC-SNG of the CBD, ICLEI, Regions4 and The Climate Group are examples.

The **permanent network dedicated for the implementation of the CBD** on São Paulo State is an example of a collaborative

effort, generating the improvement of actions regarding more than 50% of the São Paulo territory.

There are some own **small funds in São Paulo, like the PES** (payment for environmental services) linked to private protected areas and the fiscal support to municipalities that hold protected areas and native vegetation coverture.

The São Paulo State Governor created a **group with experts** from the society to support the high-level decisions on environmental issues. **Resilient Cities and Ecosystem Restoration** are examples of themes, linking NGOs, Academia, public sector and private sector.

The actions and the plans to conserve biodiversity are being linked to reinforce the fund raising and the mobilizing resources process. This effort includes research support.

Q5: How about technical support and non-financial incentives to the implementation of BSAPs in Brazil? (Relevant to Guideline J: “Technical support and non-financial incentives”)

At São Paulo, we consider different resources necessary to conserve biodiversity, besides the financial ones. A great example is the partnership with private sector in improving environmental skills. The ethanol production can be highlighted – occupying more than 1/4 of the State of São Paulo territory, every change towards environmental protection is important. São Paulo has a fourteen years protocol linking knowledges from public sector, sugarcane producers and the ethanol mills. It is the **Greener Ethanol Protocol**.

São Paulo has the national biggest program to support research on biodiversity, the **BIOTA SP program**. Information is the resource on this example, coordinated by FAPESP (the State foundation for support the research and the science). Fauna protection, ecosystem restoration and research on protected areas are some issues that are working with information exchange, with universities, State research institutions (like Instituto Geológico, Instituto Florestal, SP ZOO and Instituto de Botânica) and protected areas managers (like Fundação Florestal).

In complementary scales, Brazil and São Paulo are updating their own **Species Red Lists**, considering their territories.



Photo by Adriana Mattoso



São Paulo is working on some networks and producing data, exchanging information and developing free access data products. Like the **native vegetation inventory**, the system with open environmental data – the **Datageo**, the Economic and Ecological Zoning and the study of aquifers in the São Paulo State.

Q6: By the way, how are the consultation and participation on BSAPs carried out, at national and subnational level? (Relevant to Guideline H: “Facilitating consultation and participation”)

The current national BSAP of Brazil was developed through a wide range of consultation with many academic experts, representatives of various stakeholders including subnational and local governments, other ministries of the central government, academia and private sector. Considering the ABT context, it started in 2011 with **national dialogues coordinated by NGOs with the Ministry of the Environment**.



Photo by Fausto Pires de Campos

In the São Paulo State, the process started just few months after COP 10 – Aichi. In February, 2011. With different partners the SP **State commission for biodiversity integrated more than 350 technicians**, from different partners, to build the BSAP.

Q7: How are the cooperation on capacity building and sharing lessons learned carried out at national and subnational level? (Relevant to Guideline K: “Capacity building and sharing lessons learned”)

The central government of Brazil regularly offers **remote capacity building programs** for the society, like the system operated by the Ministry of the Environment. There was a great initiative on in person courses, the **ACADEBIO** – the biodiversity academia, located in a Federal Protected Area, in the São Paulo State.

São Paulo **State offers different programs on nature conservation and sustainable use** – in person or not. There are some examples, adding actions to the Environmental Education Coordination mandate (CEA-SIMA). Ecosystem Restoration, by the Instituto de Botânica. Native fruits from the forests, by Instituto Florestal. Protected areas management, by Fundação Florestal. Prevention against natural disasters, by Instituto Geológico. Municipality actions towards nature conservation, by the **Green-Blue Municipality Program**.

Also, there are some important private certification systems on skills on biodiversity: NGOs, companies, sectors representatives and Academia are examples. There is the need to integrate actions considering all the protected areas, the 645 municipalities, the State technicians etc.

Q8: How about the cooperation on science, information and monitoring and evaluation to support decision-making on BSAP? (Relevant to Guideline L: “Cooperation on science, information and monitoring and evaluation”)

São Paulo State has different systems to evaluate efficiency on protecting biodiversity – like the protected areas management, the coverture of native vegetation and the areas without studies on biodiversity. The **economic and ecological zoning** is a tool that can integrate these initiatives. The previous BSAP had 29 deliverables, with indicators – it is being studied, trying to update the plan, considering the Post-2020 framework and the “Letter of São Paulo”, developed during the BIO 2020, with five thematic lines.

Q9: How are the effort on CEPA carried out at national and subnational level? (Relevant to Guideline M: “Communication and awareness raising”)

São Paulo has a **State program on environmental education**, oriented to different areas, like schools, webinars, in person events, campaigns and publications.

The society awareness on biodiversity importance and caring, is increasing with **complementary efforts made by private sector, public sector (municipality, State and national), NGOs etc.** Like the issue on marine pollution.

There are more than 10 million people visiting annually the São Paulo State urban parks and the protected areas. They receive **special activities on environmental education**.

Q10: Could you mention any plans or ideas of Brazil for post-2020? How could the “Guidelines” help your plans/ideas with the further development and implementation of the BSAP?

São Paulo hosted the BIO2020 event, oriented to raise local voices in Brazil considering the planning process of the CBD Post-2020. This event, that was improved with the presence of Aichi’s Prefecture, Regions4, ICLEI, amongst others, produced an open letter – the “São Paulo (open) Letter”. This document is attached highlighting 33 actions linked to the Post-2020. The actions were designed considering the “Guidelines”.

Analysis and Conclusion

This report is a collective effort by GoLS members. It does not represent the exhaustive range of subnational governments in the world, but rather details the biodiversity efforts in active and committed subnational governments.

Thus, it could be argued that what is presented here is an exemplar for the Parties and subnational governments, and that it also represents the current reach of relations between the Parties and subnational governments.

Seven subnational governments reported on the issue of biodiversity responsibilities and actions, with a showcase of more than 200 initiatives.

Some of them are exclusive subnational governments' initiatives, others are collaborative initiatives between national and subnational governments or national initiatives applied to subnational territories, and all of these can illustrate specific embodiments of vertical collaborations.

Analysis along the Guidelines

Of the 13 guidelines, "**A. Specifying and institutionalizing coordination and coordination in policy and strategy**" and "**D. Coordinating strategies to ensure alignment with NBSAP and Aichi Biodiversity Targets**" identify and embody the roles of subnational governments in terms of the vertical integration of governments within strategies and policies. In these aspects, national initiatives come first, however, in the countries to which the GoLS members belong, efforts are being made to develop two-way approaches, rather than a one-way street from the national government to the subnational governments. For example, São Paulo (Brazil) reported the involvement of subnational governments in the development of NBSAP, and conversely, Campeche (Mexico) reported a type of national involvement in subnational government strategies. Catalonia (Spain) and Québec (Canada) reported permanent mechanisms to exchange views and share expertise, while Aichi (Japan) and Gangwon (Korea) reported the development of guidelines through cooperation between national and subnational governments. Although two-way approaches require a certain level of maturity from subnational governments, they increase the breadth of initiatives implemented and their positive impacts on biodiversity.

The **guideline "B. Clarifying mandates, institutional roles and responsibilities"** is a legal clarification of the role of subnational governments, which could be influenced by issues regarding the CBD. This is provided for in national constitutions in Spain (Catalonia), Canada (Québec) and Brazil (São Paulo), and in general national laws in Japan (Aichi) and Korea (Gangwon). Furthermore, it was reported that in Catalonia, in addition to provisions in the national constitution, the autonomous regions had defined their own role in environmental protection in their constitutions. It was also reported that Campeche has developed a provincial system through a provincial law, while Jiangsu has developed various regulatory systems under its own authority. These differences indicate a considerable diversity in the legal regime of subnational governments, and their historical background of each country and each subnational government.

The **guideline "C. Establishing institutional coordination and cooperation mechanisms and forums"** is about creating organizations and mechanisms to promote collaboration between different levels of government, while the **guideline "E. Planning Action Together"** is about developing action plans between different levels of government. Many of GoLS members' reports on these issues were efforts of subnational governments to include municipalities and other local authorities. This clearly indicates that GoLS members commonly focused on collaboration within their jurisdictions, such as municipalities. It is because numerous efforts on the ground are made below the subnational government level, which is precisely the area where the leadership of subnational governments should be best demonstrated.

Among the initiatives detailed in this report, and on a larger scale, are Nature Conservation Network in Catalonia, the Watershed Agencies and the Wetlands conservation Act in Québec, and the UNESCO Commission on the Biosphere Project in São Paulo.

The **guideline "F. Cooperating programs and projects"** is collaboration with different sectors and at the planning and project level, which is strongly related to the **guideline "I. Financial support and incentives"**. The mechanism of the "Cooperation Fund for Conservation of Ecosystem", reported by Gangwon, which is a joint effort between the national government and the province, is extremely interesting in eliciting cooperation from companies. Jiangsu, Québec, and São Paulo reported on plans and permanent structures to promote geo-regional collaboration. The small-scale fund "PES" reported from São Paulo was particularly interesting. Aichi, Catalonia and Gangwon reported on national financial support, but more often reported were financial support mechanisms by GoLS members themselves (Aichi, Catalonia, Québec, and São Paulo). Developing alliances, agreements and other partnership mechanisms seems a crucial tool for successful project coordination. These efforts, as well as the efforts in **Guidelines C and E**, show the importance each member places on collaboration between different sectors in specific locations, which is indeed a good indication of the role important of subnational governments mainstreaming biodiversity in our societies. However, the efforts made by Parties to implement coherent biodiversity initiatives across sectoral policies and to ensure their vertical integration will significantly enhance similar efforts by subnational governments.

The **guideline "G. Cooperation across political borders"** is about collaboration across geographical boundaries. Catalonia reported on the POCTEFA GREEN project related to the Pyrenees Mountains. Québec reported on the St. Lawrence River and Great Lakes Council among other initiatives. These are efforts to jointly manage large scale ecosystems across the border. There was a report from Gangwon, Network of North-East Asia Regions (NEAR) may have similar intentions. Other examples of national and international collaboration were reported from Aichi, Gangwon, and Jiangsu. These efforts by subnational governments can be commended as complementary to coordination among parties.

The **guideline "H. Promotion of Consultation and Participation"** is

about participation from below in higher-level decision-making and requires consideration from above. All of GoLS members' countries reported that such considerations are being made, and most of GoLS members reported that they are making such considerations (Aichi, Campeche, Catalonia, Gangwon, Québec and São Paulo). Consultation and participation between subnational governments and Parties can sometimes improve the development of stronger collaboration mechanisms, for example in international policies or NBSAPs.

The **guidelines "J. Technical support and non-financial incentives"**, "**K. Capacity building and sharing lessons learned**" are strongly interrelated items. National support in these areas was reported from Aichi, Catalonia, Gangwon and São Paulo. On the other hand, it was reported that most of the GoLS members have established various collaborations with universities and other institutions and are providing active technical support in their domains. This seems to be because there are sufficient scientific and technological resources, such as universities and research institutes, which are reliable in the GoLS members' territories. However, the current collaboration is not always satisfactory. Greater sharing and exchange of knowledge and experiences between Parties and subnational governments will surely bring mutual advantages.

In terms of the **guideline "L. Cooperation on science, information, monitoring and evaluation"**, most of the members reported their own methods were systematic, objective, and as numerical as possible. In addition, there are reports on national-subnational collaborative efforts by Gangwon. Such vertical collaborations could be an element we should enhance for the future, and there is a big room left to improve in monitoring and evaluation by integrate methodology vertically.

Regarding the **guideline "M. Communication and awareness raising"**, national governments' support is prominent in unified countries, while independent efforts are prominent in federal countries.

Conclusion

Overall, the report outlines the important engagement and numerous initiatives deployed by subnational governments.

The positions of subnational governments differ between countries, and when compared within GoLS, the subnational governments are more independent in federal countries or autonomous states. But even within unified countries, the subnational governments showcase many innovative measures. Subnational governments invest significant resources in creating such initiatives, and some of them even include financial support.

How to allocate mandates within the vertical structures of governmental organizations can also vary in countries and policy spheres. However, reports from GoLS members show that subnational governments should generate significant leverage in all countries in the field of biodiversity, and that it is vital to release the potential of subnational governments and allow it to operate at its optimum.

The advantage of subnational governments is wide ranging, including the promotion of collaboration, participation and consultation leading to mainstreaming and financial support as the heart of collaboration (**Guidelines C, E, F, H and I**), the uptake and dissemination of scientific and technical knowledge essential to the planning of effective measures for biodiversity (**Guidelines J, K and L**), and CEPA for the population sectors(**Guideline M**). All seem to be based on the direct relationship between subnational governments to local societies and ecosystems and are complementary to national initiatives. Such catalytic function of subnational governments gives them access to international financing frameworks for nature. Parties are expected to ensure that nature conservation funds are managed by the government body responsible for natural habitats or environmental issues.

The basis for subnational governments is their position in a country's constitution, laws or fundamental policies; however the participation or consultation of subnational governments is essential in the consideration and application of the national policy or legislation (**Guidelines A, B and D**). Thus, the participation of subnational governments in the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of national BSAPs is crucial and needs to be further strengthened in the coming decade as part of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. Additionally, flexibility according to the capacity of each player at every moment, is a useful tool to when considering the necessary actions to implement the CBD and to reduce the gap in continuity.

In addition, subnational governments establish their own local and global relationships (**Guideline G**). An autonomous and decentralized network is essential for the conservation of biodiversity, which requires numerous actions at different scales in all parts of the world, and in this respect, the value of subnational governments is also recognized.

In the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, it is necessary to keep in mind that the relevance of subnational governments should be made manifest, and the effects of their actions will be wide ranging, including mainstreaming, resource mobilization, capacity-building, and CEPA. To this end, the importance of subnational governments should be clearly stated in the framework and its means of implementation, and each Party should be obliged to develop and monitor plans for cooperation and collaboration with subnational governments in accordance with national circumstances. In addition, the active participation of subnational governments' networks to the implementation, monitoring, and reviewing of the Post-2020 GBF should be ensured and even enhanced beyond advocacy to pursuing real actions. An international community's effort to maintain and expand global cooperation among subnational governments should be decided and acted upon to ensure the effective implementation of the Post-2020 GBF, and a specific international financing framework for subnational governments should be established.

The Group of Leading Subnational Governments toward Aichi Biodiversity Targets

1. Background

The Strategic Plan 2011-2020, including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, is due to be implemented through national actions, as well as subnational activities. Additionally, it advocates promotion of the engagement of subnational governments. The Parties at COP-10 have moreover endorsed the “Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and other Local Authorities for Biodiversity” by COP decision X/22. The important role of subnational governments was repeatedly expressed and strengthened by the COP decision XI/8, XII/9, and XIII/3. The Sharm El-Sheikh Communiqué for Local and Subnational Action for Nature and People 2018 at the 6th Biodiversity Summit at COP14 and COP decision 14/34 are proof of the recognition given to subnational governments on a global scale. These plans, targets and decisions have encouraged the continuation of many innovative strategies towards the protection of biodiversity and the implementation of the Strategic Plan, at a subnational level, across the world.

2. Establishment

The Group of Leading Subnational Governments toward Aichi Biodiversity Targets (GoLS)¹, firstly advocated by the Governor Hideaki Ohmura of Aichi to promote and strengthen the initiatives of subnational governments, was established by six foundation members in 2016.

The members gathered for the first time at Cancun, Mexico, during COP13 to adopt their first statement with support of the Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development (nrg4SD; now Regions4)², ICLEI Cities Biodiversity Center³, the Secretariat of CBD (SCBD) and the National Commission for Conservation and Use of Biodiversity of Mexico (CONABIO), and launched the statement at the 5th Global Biodiversity Summit of Cities and Subnational Governments.

1. <http://kankyojoho.pref.aichi.jp/gols/>
2. <https://www.regions4.org/>
3. <https://cbc.iclei.org/>

3. Current Members

In addition to the six foundation members, three more subnational governments joined GoLS after COP13. Therefore, it now consists of nine members as below;

Aichi (Japan), Asociación Nacional de Autoridades

Ambientales Estatales (ANAAE, Mexico), Campeche (Mexico), Catalonia (Spain), Gangwon (South Korea), Jiangsu (China), Ontario (Canada), Québec (Canada) and São Paulo (Brazil).

4. Achievements

a) At COP13 (December 2016)

GoLS launched its first statement⁴ committing itself to voluntary efforts to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and calling on parties to promote the Plan of Action on Subnational Governments in the 5th Biodiversity Summit, and carried out its first joint action “SNGs Forum ~Contribution of Subnational Governments for achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets~” as a side event of COP13.

4. <http://kankyojoho.pref.aichi.jp/gols/gols.html>

b) At SBSTTA21 (December 2017)

GoLS held a side event, in collaboration with nrg4SD, ICLEI and SCBD, on the “Importance of Subnational Governments for Mainstreaming of Biodiversity into the Sectors of Energy and Mining, Infrastructure, Manufacturing and Processing Industry and Health”. This was the first appearance of the “Guideline for an integrated approach in the development and implementation of national, subnational and local Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans” developed by ICLEI and SCBD. The summary of the forum, highlighting the importance of horizontal and vertical collaborations among a variety of governments and showing the willingness of GoLS to contribute to the mainstreaming of biodiversity in all spheres, was delivered to the Executive Secretary of CBD.

c) At SBSTTA22 and SBI2 (July 2018)

GoLS compiled and posted “Voluntary Report on the Contribution of Subnational Governments for the Strategic Plan 2011-2020 and Aichi Biodiversity Targets” which introduced how GoLS and other subnational initiatives had developed their collaborations and how the members were contributing to the mainstreaming of biodiversity, as an information document for SBI2. GoLS also held a side event on the “Contribution of Subnational Governments toward Aichi Biodiversity Targets,”⁵ in which the delegations of six Parties, namely Canada, China, Egypt, Japan, Korea and Mexico participated. These six Parties supported the intervention and proposition made by GoLS in



The Voluntary Report posted to SBI2

SBI2.

5. <http://kankyojoho.pref.aichi.jp/gols/pdf/SBSTTA22/Voluntary%20Report.pdf>

d) At and after COP14 (November 2018)

A joint press conference, supported by Egypt, was carried out by the Advisory Committee of Subnational Governments and Biodiversity (AC SNG) coordinated by Regions4 and Québec and relevant groups of subnational and local governments before the 6th Biodiversity Summit. GoLS launched its second statement “Roles of Subnational Governments with Respect to Biodiversity toward 2020 and beyond”⁶, claiming for the recognition of the roles of subnational governments when discussing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. COP decision 14/34, “Comprehensive and participatory process for the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework”, invites various stakeholders to the process, which allows subnational governments’ participation in every participative step, such as the regional consultation workshops held in the first half of 2019.

6. <http://kankyojoho.pref.aichi.jp/gols/pdf/COP14/COP14%20GoLS%20statement.pdf>

e) At SBSTTA23 (November 2019)

AC SNG made several interventions in the official sessions. A joint side event on Nature-based Solutions at subnational level was held by collaboration of ICLEI, AC SNG and GoLS supported by Post 2020 Biodiversity Framework EU Support. This was an opportunity for groups of subnational and local governments to join together as a constituency.



f) At OEWG-2 (February 2020)

During the sessions, participants from AC SNG, ICLEI, European Committee of the Regions (ECOR) and GoLS met daily to act as one constituency and made several interventions in the sessions.



7. <https://cor.europa.eu/en>

g) At the Edinburgh Process (April 2020-)

The Edinburgh Process has been planned as the official online process to seek inputs from subnational governments, cities and local authorities on scope, content and implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and led by Scottish government with support of other major partners. GoLS has been supporting the process as a partner, especially in holding alternative sessions at a different time for Asia-Pacific regions. The landmarking Edinburgh Declaration⁸, which sets out the aspiration and commitments of the subnational constituency of CBD, in delivering for nature over the coming decade, is now open for

supporting signatures in dedicated websites. The report of the process will be made available for OEWG-3.

8. <https://www.gov.scot/publications/edinburgh-declaration-on-post-2020-biodiversity-framework/>

5. Collaboration with other international initiatives at subnational level

As described above, GoLS is actively collaborating with other international initiatives, such as the AC SNG and the Regions for Biodiversity Learning Platform (R4BLP).

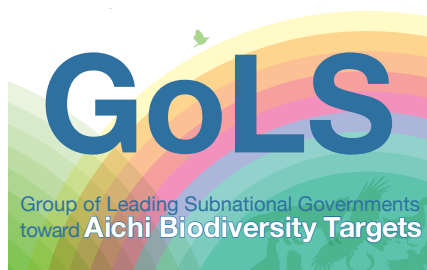
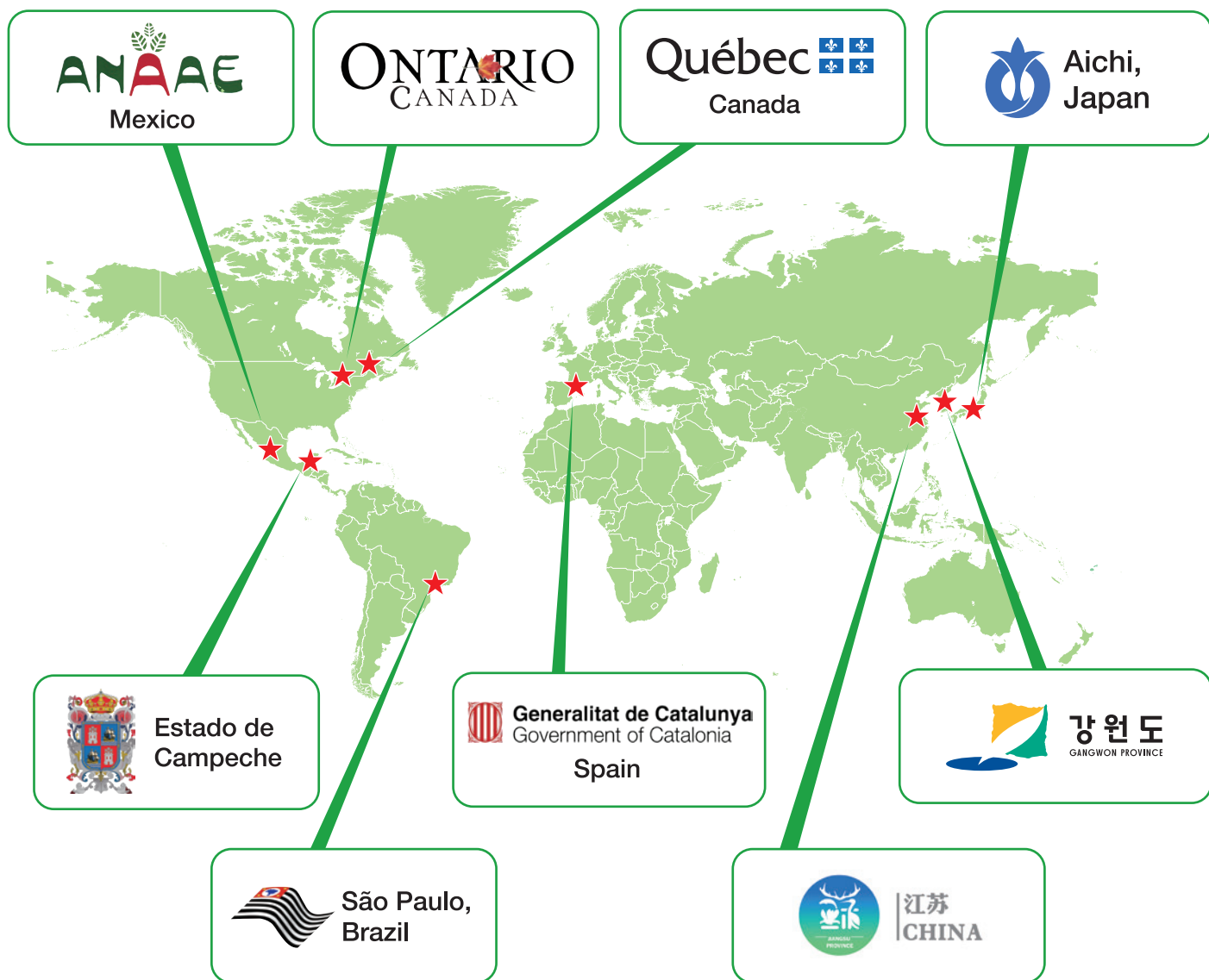
The AC SNG had the first meeting in April 2012 at Curitiba, Brazil and is the permanent structure officially recognized by the CBD through Decision X/22 of COP10 which aims at bringing the voice of subnational governments to the agenda of the CBD. It has contributed to the CBD by producing “Subnational governments in action for biodiversity-Case study”⁹ presented at COP13, publishing the report “Mainstreaming Biodiversity: the Subnational Government Experience”¹⁰ which was accredited as an Information Document to SBI-3 under agenda item 11, and being a partner of the Edinburgh Process.



The Case study by ACSNG

The R4BLP is a flagship biodiversity initiative by Regions4 (nrg4SD), officially recognized and supported by the SCBD. It consists of a global community of proactive subnational governments working together to build capacities to conserve biodiversity, encourage healthy ecosystems, and promote sustainable livelihoods for their citizens. The R4BLP is a shared learning experience that aims to work toward advancing the global biodiversity agenda, by designing and implementing policies and best practices intended to drive progress and promote innovation, also aligned to the subnational implementation of the CBD Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and beyond. The objectives and values of R4BLP are inspired by those promoted by the Bio-Bridge Initiative, an overarching programme of the CBD focused on catalyzing and facilitating technical and scientific cooperation by linking Parties or regions with technical and scientific needs with those that are able to provide support.

9. <https://www.environnement.gouv.qc.ca/biodiversite/etudes-cas-gvt-infranationaux-en.pdf>
10. <https://www.regions4.org/publications/mainstreaming-biodiversity-the-subnational-government-experience/>



(Bureau)
Natural Environment Division,
Department of the Environment,
Aichi Prefectural Government, Japan
TEL -81-52-954-6229 FAX-81-52-963-3526
Email aichi.shizen@gmail.com
HP <http://kankyojoho.pref.aichi.jp/gols/>