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)
Introduction

The Experiences of Vertical Integration in the Development and Implementation of BSAP in:

Concrete initiatives; Purple letters: National led/collaborative initiatives
Blue letters: Subnational led initiatives

Aichi / Japan

- Basic Act on Biodiversity of Japan, Fractional BSAP, Guideline to develop subnational and local BSAP
- Network of Local Governments for Biodiversity, Japan Committee for UN decade for Biodiversity (UNDB-3), Ecosystem Network Councils
- Subsidies for collaborative programs led by municipalities, Aichi Greenery Fund, Association for the Kiso
- National BSAP consultation, Biodiversity Center of Japan, National Institute for Environment Science, Cooperation of local academies and amateur researchers, Biodata Book (list of endangered species)
- Blue Data Book (Alien species), Green Data Book (All species), National capacity building programs, Workshops for municipalities, Prefectoral Committee on Biodiversity Strategy

Campeche / Mexico

- National Strategy on Biodiversity in Mexico and the 2016-2030 Action Plan, CONABIO’s collaboration with state governments
- State Ministry of Environment Biodiversity and Climate Change, State Biodiversity Strategies, Technical Advisory Council for Wildlife, National Coordination of subnational BSAP in CONABIO, Advisory Councils of Natural and Natural Protected Areas, State Committee for Conservation and Protection of Sea Turtles in Campeche
- Monitoring of Biodiversity in State Protected Areas of Balú Kim and Balam Kim, State Program for Monitoring and Preservation of Sea Turtle, National Strategy consultations (Review meetings, National enrichment workshops, Gender mainstreaming workshop, Public consultation online), State Strategy consultation (participatory workshops), Monitoring of jaguar specie in biological corridor beyond state border, Regional forum about environmental management units in conservation of biodiversity, Tools to decision makers and authorities, Community workshops and communication and monitoring plans within Program of State Protected Areas, Community events in the sea turtle camps

Catalonia / Spain

- Spanish Constitution, Catalan Statute, Conference of Presidents, Environment Sectoral Conference
- Environmental Third Sector support Plan 2011-2014, Advanced Grants, Monthly electronic newsletter, Marketplaces organization, Tandem project, Biodiversity in Catalonia, Environment co-management Board of Nuria 2000 site, BIODIVERSITAS, Action and Coordination Board, Prismatic platform, National grants to the environmental third sector, Biodiversity foundation, Yearly subsidies by Catalonia, Hinterreg POCTEFA GREEN project
- Three Nations Pyrenean Park, Strategic Plan for natural heritage and biodiversity 2011-2017, State Commission of Natural Heritage and Biodiversity, Natural Heritage and Biodiversity Inventory Committee, Monitoring protocols, ENSATURA monitoring commission, Spanish National Research Council, National Nature Database, Catalonia Biodiversity Database, ornithocat, Eucatext, platform Hipermaps, Internal and public participation to ENSATURA, Monitoring Technical Commission of the Environment and Sustainability Secretary, National capacity building conferences, Technological transfer annual Plan, Report on the status of nature in Catalonia 2020, National Center of Environmental Education, Strategy actions to raise communication and awareness (Area 6 of ENSATURA), Schools towards Network Sustainability, Catalonia network of schools for Sustainability, Green Schools, Strategic Plan of Environmental education and volunteer in natural parks, Financing environmental education projects, Citizen involvement

Gangwon / Korea

- Act On The Conservation And Use Of Biological Diversity, 4th NSBSAP (2019-2023), New Guideline and council to support the establishment of subnational BSAP, Biodiversity Center for Gangwon, Annual Biodiversity Forums, Gangwon Biodiversity Day, Cooperative workshop with local governments, National projects and subsidies to

subnational and local governments, Cooperation Fund for Conservation of Ecosystem, Gangwon-Tottori-Jilin-Maritime-Tiw annual meeting, Association of North East Asia Regional Governments, Environmental agreement with Aichi, Cooperative projects through MOUs, Restoration Center for Cloven-hoofed mammals, National Institute of Biological Resources, Korea Environment Institute, Consultation on the technology of cultivating and restoring cloven-hoofed mammals, NBSAP consultation, National capacity building program by NIEHRD, Forest Science Research Institute, Natural Environment Research Park, Workshop for local governments, Advisory Group to evaluate the 1st BSAP, New evaluation system for the 2nd BSAP that participates central government and related stakeholders, National events on International Biodiversity Day and World Migratory Bird Day, Video on environmental issues, Education and promotion through TV and out education programs for youth, National Broadcast documentaries on nature, Regional environmental education centers

Jiangsu / China

- Strategic Policies at Top Level improving related policies, regulations, and programs, Background research across counties, Fixed-point monitoring stations, In-situ protection, Off-site protection, Database for biodiversity, Administration and regulations on biosafety, Engage the public, Special institutions for biodiversity conservation
- Institutional coordination mechanism, Industry-university-research cooperation, Exchanges and cooperation of the local government alliance, Financial input, Training

Québec / Canada

- Commitment by Order-in-Council in 1992, 2013 Government Biological Diversity Guidelines, Intergovernmental conferences, Canada-Quebec collaboration on St. Lawrence, Policy guidelines for dialogue between the government and municipal entities on land use planning issues, Watershed Agencies, Act regarding the conservation of wetlands and bodies of water, Permanent and independent regional round tables on St. Lawrence River, Funding programs to support partner organizations, Water Strategy Action Plan, 2011-2026 St. Lawrence Action Plan, Québec Wildlife Foundation, New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers’ Annual Conference, Conference of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers, Natural Heritage Data Center of Québec, Consultation among several of Quebec’s government ministries, civil society actors and the Government of Canada for 2013 Guidelines, Network of protected areas, Transparent public participation process at all stages leading to the creation or expansion of a protected area, Regular Forum on the St. Lawrence and regional round tables, Yearly events by Watershed Agencies
- Fondation de la Fauve de Québec’s support for mentoring organizations, Steering Committee on Biological Diversity, Register, National biodiversity monitoring program, Youth website called Le Coin de Rafaële, Educational program called “Wildlife and You”, “National parks” activities for public experience on nature and wildlife

São Paulo State / Brazil

- Environment National Policy, Environment National System, Protected Areas National System, Water Resources Management National System, Public prosecutor’s office, Biodiversity National Policy, CONABIO-Biodiversity National Commission, São Paulo State Biodiversity Commission, São Paulo State BSAP, Green-Blue Municipality Program, National BSAP considering inputs from State and local governments, Subnational protected areas systems, Environmental education policies, PRSBAs program on communication, State Secretaries on Environment issues, Local Secretaries on Environment, Events like BIO2020, Councils linking several actors, Sectorial councils, Ranking system for municipalities, Participative councils for two UNESCO Biosphere Reserves, Year budget of every component of the plan integrating the budgets of every partner into each action, Internal committee dedicated for Global Policies, Permanent network dedicated for the implementation of the CBD, Small funds like the PES, Group with experts, Resilient Cities and Ecosystem Restoration, Greener Ethanol Protocol, BRITA SP program, Species Red Lists, Native vegetation inventory, Plataform, National dialogues coordinated by NGOs with the Ministry of the Environment, State commission integrating more than 350 technicians, Remote capacity building programs, ACADENIB, State programs on nature conservation and sustainable use, Economic and ecological zoning, State program on environmental education, Complementary efforts made by private sector, public sector (municipality, State and national), NGOs etc., Special activities on environmental education in state urban parks and protected areas

Analysis and Conclusion

About GoLS
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 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 keys 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.

### 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A. Specifying and institutionalizing collaboration and coordination in policy and strategy: The role 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.</th>
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<tr>
<td>B. Clarifying mandates, institutional roles and responsibilities: Roles and responsibilities of subnational and local authorities on biodiversity can also be established through appropriate designed councils, agencies, permanent or regular consultative bodies and even informal forums.</td>
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<tr>
<td>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.</td>
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<td>D. Coordinating strategies to promote 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.</td>
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<td>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.</td>
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<td>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.</td>
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<td>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.</td>
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<td>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.</td>
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<td>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.</td>
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<td>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.</td>
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<td>K. Capacity building and sharing lessons learned: Many parties and 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.</td>
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<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<td>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.</td>
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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 (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.

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”)

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. The table of contents is shown in the box below.

The central government and some subnational/local governments established the Network of Local Governments for Biodiversity (NLGB) in 2011. It is 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.

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.

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 yen per year. This fund is spent to maintain resilient forests and to create urban green space or biotopes.

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 among the members of the councils once a year.
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 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. According to 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) and the National Institute for Environment Studies (NIES) are national centers for science and technology on biodiversity in Japan. Biodic conducts basic research and monitors on vegetation, distribution of plants and animals, rivers and lakes, tidal flats, coal 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 (Browning 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 Date Book (list of alien species) and Green Data Book (list of all animals and plants recorded in Aichi).

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 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 conservation 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 good collaborative practices.

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 recognizes 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.
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), 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) 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)), 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), 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:

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 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 Campeche (ECUSBIOCAM) 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.

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.

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.

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
  Improve the planning and execution capacities of the federal 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.

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).
Campeche, Mexico

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 is Campeche 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 CBID 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, members from productive sectors, NGOs managing diverse sea turtle camps, higher education institutes and research centers.

Q5: By the way, how are the consultation and participation on BSAP 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 species 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 and 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.
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 provincies but also counties, veguerias, 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.

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

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.

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

Horizontal integration and implementation of BSAP in case of Catalonia/Spain

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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 topics such as 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 strengthen 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:

- Advanced Grants
- Monthly electronic newsletter
- Marketsplace organization

Two success projects resulting from this Plan are the Tandem project and the consolidation of the support to the Catalan Nature Conservation Network (NCC). 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 merit and social value environmental projects.

The DTES supports the Catalan Nature Conservation Network, a not-for-profit organization made up of 157 associations, public administration, private companies, universities and research centers. NCC fosters land stewardship and environmental volunteering as a conservation strategy for the natural, cultural and landscape resources and values of Catalonia.

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.

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
4) Subsidies for education and environmental awareness projects

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. 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 restoration. Specifically, it had three actions to provide technical support for the implementation of the Plan:

- 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.
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. CSIC currently has 120 research institutes distributed throughout the national territory. Furthermore, in Catalonia there are two research centers (Forest Science and Sustainability Secretary) attached to the Administration and other research centers and freelance scientists that provide specialized and fundamental data for the implementation and development of BSAPs.

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

**Action line 8**: Create a national natural heritage observatory focused on information and knowledge.

**Action line 7.1**: Implement a natural heritage observatory focused on information and knowledge.

For spatial data the Natural Heritage and Biodiversity Inventory Committee developed mechanisms to ensure the appropriate biodiversity knowledge transfer between administrations.

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.

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”)

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.

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

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

Q9: How about the cooperation on science, information and monitoring and evaluation to support decision-making on BSAPs? (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. 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.
Catalonia, Spain

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.
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.

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 help 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 CBDCOP12, 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 ‘Ordeanc 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 enhanced awareness of biodiversity with CBDCOP12, 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 procures 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 paid the 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 held several advisory meetings with private organizations to gather opinions. It was familiarized 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’ was 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...
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.
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 floral, 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. Thus, 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 Animal 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 sources, 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, Kaixian, Yangzhou, Jiangyin, Xuyi, Shihong, 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 zelii. 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, Huabei Mound, Jiaoshan 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 Carp. 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. Comprehensive
collection, assessment, 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 creating
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 Tourism Protection Promotion Joint Meeting of Project: 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, comprising the provincial-level Jiangsu Wildlife Protection Station and Wetland Protection Station, and corresponding management institutions for wildlife and wetland protection in Xuzhou, Wuxi, Yangzhou, Yancheng, Taizhou, Huainan, 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 conservation 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 exit-entry 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, Quanzhou 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 pygmea, which is an IUCN-specified extremely endangered species, continue to dwell in a wider range of areas in Jiangsu. The populations of Elgsharous davidvii 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 an index system that centers on 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.
Québec, Canada

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 Québec. The supra-local level comprises 87 regional county municipalities and 2 metropolitan communities (Québec City and Montréal).

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 Québec 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 Québec 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 B: “Coordinating Strategies to ensure alignment with the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan and Aichi Targets”)

In 2015, the Federal Government released the 2020 Biodiversity Goals and Targets for Canada in response to the CBD’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 Québec 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 Québec 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 Québec 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-Québec collaboration has led to the achievement of many positive environmental results. More recently, the governments of Québec and Canada have signed a joint working agreement meant to unify their efforts aimed at creating a network of marine protected areas in Québec 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 Québec 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 Québec 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 Québec’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 Québec 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
Québec, Canada

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 infrastructures 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 Québec 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 Québec 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 Québec 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 Québec plans to invest a total of CAD $223 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.

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 fish and 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 woodland 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 Québec 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, technology, innovation 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 efficiencies and maintain ecological connectivity located in Québec 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 fish and 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 woodland owners’ commitment to protecting and enhancing wildlife habitats.

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.

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”)

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.
In the context of 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 Quebec to provide, among other things, a common framework for collecting, processing and publishing data on protected areas, as well as a unique, integrated and interconnected 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, non-governmental entities or individuals. Science-based cooperation between these bodies is therefore essential to ensure a continued biodiversity conservation on these protected sites.

There are also several examples of data collection and monitoring networks in Quebec that help in supporting decision-making on BSAP. The Natural Heritage Data Center of Quebec 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 Quebec, 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 (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 Quebec 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, 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.

Q10: How are the efforts on CEPA carried out at national and subnational levels? (Relevant to Guideline L: “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 converted the years 2011-2015 and listed all actions implemented during that period for 18 Aichi Targets in 17 Government of Quebec ministries and other official bodies. Many of these actions (54 in all) were aimed at awareness, education and the communication of Quebec’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 Quebec 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 Quebec’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 and 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 Quebec’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 Quebec 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 Quebec, as of 2019, there were 23 national parks and 1 marine park representing a total of 7,071 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 Quebec 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 to the importance of biodiversity conservation. For example, in 2017, 350,000 people participated in discovery activities.

Q11: Could you mention any Quebec 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.
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, 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, Regions 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?

The Federal Constitution (1988) 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 land. These systems: 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 Fiscal Point and other important actors (like the Ministry for the Environment etc.) since the first discussions towards the biennial 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 on implementation 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?

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

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 participatory 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.

Fundamental information on the subnational autonomy system

There are 26 States, Brasilia (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 15.000 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 “Capitanías Hereditarias” (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 in the Development and Implementation of BSAP in São Paulo State / 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”)


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 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.

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”)
São Paulo State, Brazil

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 guardians. Other examples are the sectoral councils – discussing general and specific themes (like the GreenEthanol Protocol Executive Group, discussing for 14 years the sustainability of 1/4 of the State territory, occupied by sugarcane). The above-mentioned examples are the different purposes. For instance, more than 1,500 people have their own laws and Guideline E: “Planning for action together”

The Secretariat for Infrastructure and Environment (São Paulo City Green Belt) 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 E: “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 cooperation. GoS, AC-SNG of the CBD, ICLEI, Regions 4 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 cover.

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.

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.

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 ACADERBIO – the biodiversity academy, 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 BIO 2020 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, Regions 4, 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”.

and Guideline E: “Planning for action together”)
Canada (Québec) and Brazil (São Paulo), and in general national laws. This is provided for in national constitutions in Spain (Catalonia), 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 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, Réunion, 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.

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 be more independent 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, I). Thus, 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 seems 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.

Analysis along the Guidelines

Of the 13 guidelines, “A. Specifying and institutionalizing coordination and coordination in policy and strategy” and “B. Coordinating strategies to ensure alignment with NSBAP 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 NSBAP, 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 autonomy from subnational governments, they increase the breadth of initiatives implemented and their positive impacts on biodiversity.
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 X/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), 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 (nr4SD; now Regions4), ICLEI Cities Biodiversity Center, 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.

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), Quebec (Canada) and São Paulo (Brazil).

4. Achievements
a) At COP13 (December 2016)
GoLS launched its first statement 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.

b) At SBSTTA21 (December 2017)
GoLS held a side event, in collaboration with nr4SD, 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 SB12 (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 SB12. GoLS also held a side event on the “Contribution of Subnational Governments toward Aichi Biodiversity Targets,” 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.

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 Quebec 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”, 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.

e) At SBSTTA23 (November 2019)
GoLS 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 Paris-130 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 (CoR) and GoLS met daily to act as one constituency and made several interventions in the sessions.

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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” presented at COP13, publishing the report “Mainstreaming Biodiversity: The Subnational Government Experience” which was accredited as an Information Document to SB1-3 under agenda item 11, and being a partner of the Edinburgh Process.

The R4BLP is a flagship biodiversity initiative by Regions4 (nr4SD), 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.
