

#### **SECTION IV. DESCRIPTION OF THE NATIONAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF EACH GLOBAL AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGET**

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

**Please describe how and to what extent your country has contributed to the achievement of this Aichi Biodiversity Target and summarize the evidence used to support this description:**

<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/aichi/goals/a/targets/1>

The Belgian Biodiversity Platform ([www.biodiversity.be](http://www.biodiversity.be)) invests substantially in knowledge brokerage from the Belgian scientists towards different types of stakeholders. Through its day-to-day communication (incl. social media channels), it also helps to raise awareness for biodiversity issues.

**Please describe other activities contributing to the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Target at the global level (optional)**

Based on the book “366 gestes pour la biodiversité / 366 tips voor de biodiversiteit”, a booklet “52 actions for biodiversity” was created, translated into more than 30 different languages and distributed widely across the European Union and further worldwide.

Following the online publication of the book “366 gestes pour la biodiversité / 366 tips voor de biodiversiteit” into a bio-action-machine (<http://www.1001pourlabiodiversite.be/fr/tips/> / <http://www.1001voorbiodiversiteit.be/nl/tips>) and its enrichment through a contest inviting the public to suggest new actions for biodiversity, it is foreseen to search for one or more partnership(s) to enable translation of this online instrument into English and other languages. In that way, it could reach far more public in a sustainable way than the paper version.

CEBioS has within its programme 2014-2018 a special strategic objective related to awareness raising. 36 projects were undertaken to raise awareness in developing countries. The projects were decided by the partner countries and had to be submitted to an annual call. To enable to measure the impact of awareness raising 5 baseline studies on public awareness were financed in Burundi, Benin, DR Congo, Niger and Togo. In Burundi the baseline study was redone in 2018, however the final results aren't known yet. In DR Congo the baseline study should be redone in the coming years. The target public of the projects ranged from schoolkids (5 projects), traditional healers and the Nagoya protocol (3 projects), scientific community/decision makers and NGOs (18 projects), general public (5 projects). The results of the projects can be found in the national CHMs of the partner countries and through [http://www.biodiv.be/cooperation/chm\\_coop/chm-partnering/public](http://www.biodiv.be/cooperation/chm_coop/chm-partnering/public). In 2017 and 2018 special awareness activities were organised to promote the results of taxonomic research (10 projects) as well as MRV projects (15 projects) to policy makers, researchers and local populations.

**Based on the description of your country's contributions to the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, please describe how and to what extent these contributions support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals:**

These awareness-raising activities on the importance of biodiversity and the various ways to protect and conserve it supports most SDGs and in particular:

- Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
- Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

- Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
- Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

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

**Please describe how and to what extent your country has contributed to the achievement of this Aichi Biodiversity Target and summarize the evidence used to support this description:**

<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/aichi/goals/a/targets/2>

The Belgian Biodiversity Platform hosts the IPBES National Focal Point which regularly organizes events and discussion sessions to promote uptake and use of IPBES products (incl. translation into concrete actions at national and sub-national level).

**Please describe other activities contributing to the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Target at the global level (optional)**

CEBioS, as a member of the expert team of the UNEP-WCMC CONNECT project, contributes its expertise, acquired via its Measurement, Reporting and Verification projects for biological indicators, to ensure biodiversity is taken into account in decision making across government sectors by improving development decision makers' access to and use of biodiversity information and embedding biodiversity information within national development decision making processes. More information on <https://www.connectbiodiversity.com>.

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

**Please describe how and to what extent your country has contributed to the achievement of this Aichi Biodiversity Target and summarize the evidence used to support this description:**

<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/aichi/goals/a/targets/3>

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

**Please describe how and to what extent your country has contributed to the achievement of this Aichi Biodiversity Target and summarize the evidence used to support this description:**

<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/aichi/goals/a/targets/4>

**Target 5 - By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.**

**Please describe how and to what extent your country has contributed to the achievement of this Aichi Biodiversity Target and summarize the evidence used to support this description:**

<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/aichi/goals/b/targets/5>

**Please describe other activities contributing to the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Target at the global level (optional)**

In the DR Congo, CEBioS supports, among others, the activities of the Centre de Surveillance de la Biodiversité in Kisangani, which is working with local populations to stop degradation and fragmentation of forests in valuable areas which are not yet or only partially protected. CEBioS is working closely with Institut Congolais de la Conservation de la Nature to monitor habitats in the National Parks in the DR Congo. Through its 26 Measurement, Reporting and Verification projects (2014-2018) (12 in DR Congo, 3 in Uganda, 2 in Benin, Rwanda and Tanzania and 1 in Burundi, Morocco, Kenya, Ghana and Palestine), CEBioS contributes to the development of biodiversity indicators for natural habitats and their possible degradation. It has used 15 of those projects as a starting point of awareness raising actions with local populations, decision makers and scientists (1 in Burundi, 2 in Benin, 13 in DR Congo).

**Target 6 - By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.**

**Please describe how and to what extent your country has contributed to the achievement of this Aichi Biodiversity Target and summarize the evidence used to support this description:**

<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/aichi/goals/b/targets/6>

**Please describe other activities contributing to the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Target at the global level (optional)**

CEBioS and VLIR-UOS have assisted Burundi, DR Congo and Vietnam in specific ecosystems through applied research to better understand the life-cycle of the fishes, take an inventory of the spawning grounds, identify parasites that effect the health of the fish stocks. Studies have also been undertaken to identify with fishermen in DR Congo on the decline of harvest, the reasons behind this decline and actions to develop to ensure sustainable fisheries, even to the extend as to change local legislation.

The Africa Museum has continued the work on FISHbase to better understand the biodiversity of fishes.

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

**Please describe how and to what extent your country has contributed to the achievement of this Aichi Biodiversity Target and summarize the evidence used to support this description:**

<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/aichi/goals/b/targets/7>

**Please describe other activities contributing to the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Target at the global level (optional)**

CEBioS has worked together with partner countries towards this goal. Projects ranged from sustainable mushroom harvesting, management of invasive species, pollinators management, charcoal production, bush meat, and the creation of awareness about these ecosystem services.

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

**Please describe how and to what extent your country has contributed to the achievement of this Aichi Biodiversity Target and summarize the evidence used to support this description:**

<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/aichi/goals/b/targets/8>

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

**Please describe how and to what extent your country has contributed to the achievement of this Aichi Biodiversity Target and summarize the evidence used to support this description:**

<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/aichi/goals/b/targets/9>

The threat caused by IAS to biodiversity in Belgium is addressed in the NBS via operational objective 3.7 but also via other operational objectives (2.3, 5.7, 7, 8.3) dealing with internal and external trade and whose implementation is guided by ten principles, including the precautionary approach and the polluter pays principle (see part III of the NBS).

This target is in line with article 8h of the CBD (1992) supplemented by Aichi Target 9 (2010) as well as with the EU Biodiversity Strategy Target 5 (2011). At international level, the CBD has developed guiding principles in order to help Parties to prevent the introduction of IAS, to detect early new introduced IAS and to undertake mitigation measures for established IAS (CBD Decision VI/23).

In order to establish rules to prevent, minimise and mitigate the adverse effects of invasive alien species (IAS), the EU Regulation 1143/2014 entered into force on 1 January 2015. The Regulation stipulates a series of measures that apply to any organism listed on the list of invasive alien species of Union Concern. At the European level, the actual implementation of the Regulation is performed through two main bodies:

- The EU Scientific Forum on IAS, made up of representatives of the scientific community appointed by the Member States, which provides advice on any scientific question related to the application of the Regulation, and in particular, on whether additional species for inclusion on the list of EU concern and their associated risk assessments are robust and fit for purpose.
- The EU Committee on IAS, composed of representatives of all Member States, discusses the compliance of the proposed species with the criteria for listing. Any update of the Union list is subject to the positive opinion of the IAS Committee.

The implementation of the EU Regulation on IAS is based on a close cooperation between all the Member States. Concretely, the species included on the list of EU concern are subject to restrictions and measures set out in the Regulation. These include restrictions on keeping, importing, selling, breeding and growing. Member States are required to take action on pathways of unintentional introduction, take measures for early detection and rapid eradication of these species, and to manage species. The Belgian implementation of the Regulation involves the competences of the Federal State and the Regions. Therefore, in order to implement this Regulation in Belgium, a Cooperation Agreement has been drafted and is under the process of being endorsed between the federated entities. The Cooperation Agreement creates three official national structures:

- The Scientific Council on IAS, composed of scientific experts providing advice to the National Committee on IAS.
- The National Committee on IAS, composed of decision-makers who develop and adopt Belgium's position on the Union List and its updating (Belgium's position is then shared with other Member States within the EU Committee on IAS).
- The National Scientific Secretariat on IAS, supporting the Scientific Council in answering questions of the National Committee on IAS.

According to article 13 of the EU IAS Regulation, all member states are required to identify and prioritize pathways of unintentional introduction of alien invasive species of Union concern.

Priority pathways of unintentional introduction for the 49 invasive alien species of Union Concern listed to date, were identified at the scale of Belgium. Based on this exercise, a set of action plans are under development in order to address the priority pathway identified. Belgium will establish and implement these action plans for its territory and as far as possible coordinated at the appropriated regional/federal level.

Additionally, member states are required to take a decision on the management options. For this purpose, Belgium performed a manageability assessment in 2018. The project relies on experts to score the feasibility of management strategies for Union List species using an adaptation of the Non-Native Risk Management scheme (NNRM) of Booy et al (2017)

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10530-017-1451-z/fulltext.html>. Species that are believed to be unable to establish in Belgium are excluded from the exercise. The NNRM uses semi-quantitative response and confidence scores to assess seven key criteria linked with management feasibility of an invasive species: Effectiveness, Practicality, Cost, Impact, Acceptability, Window of opportunity and Likelihood of re-invasion. The approach was slightly adapted to fit the needs and practice in Belgium. The undertaking of this assessment was agreed upon and formalized by the Belgian IAS scientific council & IAS committee and aims to: 1) Support the EU Regulation implementation in Belgium; 2) Provide a sound evidence base for decisions on IAS management through a transparent, repeatable process; 3) Provide an evidence base for derogations on the rapid response obligation ( Art 18 ); 4) Provide a means of structured decision making for IAS management through a participatory approach of the Belgian expert community on IAS. The outcome of the present manageability assessment therefore provides support to the decision-making process but is not in any way a management recommendation.

The Commission will also be considering how to better integrate additional biodiversity concerns into the new Plant and Animal Health Regimes.

As a Party to the Bern Convention (Council of Europe), Belgium should implement the specific Bern recommendations on IAS issues including article 11, 2 b) which states that each Party should take measures to strictly control the introduction of non-native species. In order to implement this provision, the Standing Committee adopted a Pan-European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species which inter alia recommends drawing up and implementing national strategies on IAS taking into account the above-mentioned pan-European strategy (Recommendation No. 99/2003).

Tackling the IAS issue in an integrated way is a particular challenge in Belgium due to its complex institutional framework resulting in a division and fragmentation of competences on issues dealing with different aspects of IAS (e.g. environment, health and agriculture). In order to address this problem and meet the various commitments regarding alien species under treaties to which Belgium is a Party, concrete steps must be urgently taken and coordinated action plans developed when necessary by and between all the competent authorities.

The TrIAS project is currently undertaken. It is aimed at dynamically, from year to year, track the progression of alien species, identify emerging species, assess their current and future risk and timely inform policy in a seamless data- driven workflow. One that is built on open science and open data infrastructures. By using international biodiversity standards and facilities, TrIAS ensures interoperability, repeatability and sustainability. This makes the process adaptable to future requirements in an evolving IAS policy landscape both locally and internationally.

**Please describe other activities contributing to the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Target at the global level (optional)**

CEBioS has worked together with DR Congo on studies towards the eradication of invasive species in mountain forest areas in the eastern part of the country. In Ivory Coast a project has been undertaken to raise the awareness of the population of invasive species around protected areas and in agriculture.

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

**Please describe how and to what extent your country has contributed to the achievement of this Aichi Biodiversity Target and summarize the evidence used to support this description:**

<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/aichi/goals/b/targets/10>

Target 11 - By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.

**Please describe how and to what extent your country has contributed to the achievement of this Aichi Biodiversity Target and summarize the evidence used to support this description:**

<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/aichi/goals/c/targets/11>

**Please describe other activities contributing to the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Target at the global level (optional)**

CEBioS has been involved with ICCN (DR Congo), OBPE (Burundi) and Pendjari national Park (Benin) to assist them in the monitoring of the habitats of the national parks. Long term monitoring has started since 2010 to give these authorities tools to effectively manage their parks based on changes in vegetation. Also in the DR Congo, CEBioS supports, among others, the activities of the Centre de Surveillance de la Biodiversité and the Faculty of Sciences of the

University of Kisangani, which are constantly inventorying and monitoring biodiversity in not or partially protected areas in order to obtain their protection in the long run.

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

**Please describe how and to what extent your country has contributed to the achievement of this Aichi Biodiversity Target and summarize the evidence used to support this description:**

<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/aichi/goals/c/targets/12>

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

**Please describe how and to what extent your country has contributed to the achievement of this Aichi Biodiversity Target and summarize the evidence used to support this description:**

<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/aichi/goals/c/targets/13>

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

**Please describe how and to what extent your country has contributed to the achievement of this Aichi Biodiversity Target and summarize the evidence used to support this description:**

<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/aichi/goals/d/targets/14>

**Please describe other activities contributing to the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Target at the global level (optional)**

The Belgian Development cooperation through ENABEL has undertaken the Kilombero and Lower Rufiji Wetlands Ecosystem Management Project in Tanzania. The main objective of the project was “to sustainably manage the wetlands Ecosystem of the Kilombero Valley and Lower Rufiji so that its ecological balance is conserved, the local communities’ livelihoods are improved and economic development is sustained. The results of the project were:

- Key resource users (wildlife, forest, fisheries, land & water) are organized to manage their resource base on wise principles within the framework of Community Based Natural Resource Management.
- Key resource users, transformers and traders (wildlife, forest, fisheries, grazing land, water etc) organized to derive sustainable economic benefits from wise resources management through access to markets and sound business management.
- Strengthened capacities of central, regional and local government structures to support and monitor the implementation of policies at local level and improved coordination between Natural Resource governance stakeholders at all relevant levels.

**Target 15 -** By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.

**Please describe how and to what extent your country has contributed to the achievement of this Aichi Biodiversity Target and summarize the evidence used to support this description:**

<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/aichi/goals/d/targets/15>

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

**Please describe how and to what extent your country has contributed to the achievement of this Aichi Biodiversity Target and summarize the evidence used to support this description:**

<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/aichi/goals/d/targets/16>

**Please describe other activities contributing to the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Target at the global level (optional)**

CEBioS contributed to the development of know-how on the Nagoya Protocol:

- In DR Congo by organising a training session (>100 participants) and by setting up test cases for the exportation of scientific biological material in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development. Assistance was given to the National focal point for the Nagoya Protocol to add the new legislation to the ABS-CH.
- In Burundi by assisting the OBPE with the development of the national legislation, developing a policy brief for decision makers, setting up of a network between traditional healers and researchers at the University of Burundi as well as setting up a working agreement with them.

**Target 17 -** By 2015 each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan.

**Please describe how and to what extent your country has contributed to the achievement of this Aichi Biodiversity Target and summarize the evidence used to support this description:**

<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/aichi/goals/e/targets/17>

**Please describe other activities contributing to the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Target at the global level (optional)**

CEBioS works with privileged partner institutes in DR Congo, Burundi, Benin, always in tight cooperation with their national ministries of environment. This allows for the ministries to call on those institutes to contribute to the updating of and reporting to the NBSAPs. The national CHMs of 30 developing countries are hosted at the national CHM of Belgium. The national CHM are used to follow-up the implementation of the NBSAP of these countries.

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

**Please describe how and to what extent your country has contributed to the achievement of this Aichi Biodiversity Target and summarize the evidence used to support this description:**

<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/aichi/goals/e/targets/18>

**Please describe other activities contributing to the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Target at the global level (optional)**

CEBioS facilitated the drafting of an agreement between traditional practitioners and the national ministry of environment in Burundi regarding access and benefit sharing. To use the traditional knowledge of IPLCs that live near National Parks in Benin, Burundi and DR Congo, CEBioS has published with the national authorities and experts during the reporting phase 2 lexica on the vegetation of the national Parks (Pendjari, Benin and Kibira, Burundi).

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

**Please describe how and to what extent your country has contributed to the achievement of this Aichi Biodiversity Target and summarize the evidence used to support this description:**

<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/aichi/goals/e/targets/19>

**Please describe other activities contributing to the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Target at the global level (optional)**

CEBioS has worked towards the sharing of knowledge, the science base and technologies through its programme 2014-2018 through capacity building in developing countries of the Belgian Development cooperation. Information on CEBioS and its activities can be found on the website <https://cebios.naturalsciences.be>. Some of the highlights are the following:

- Sharing of knowledge: This has been done through assisting partner countries in developing their national CHMs. In the section II/action 7.1 and action 11.3 of this national report these activities have been reported.
- The science base: through the GTI, habitat monitoring, Coherens and MRV objectives of the CEBioS programme the science base in developing countries has been improved see section II/action 11.3 for more information.
- Technologies relating to biodiversity have also been addressed in partner countries not only through training developing country students on DNA barcoding but also on using drones for surveillance, extraction techniques for active ingredients in mushrooms and more.
- Values of biodiversity, status and trends as well as the consequences of its loss have had special attention in the programme with OBPE in Burundi where projects have been implemented on ecosystem services, valuation of losses and costs of restoration, value chains, have been implemented.

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

**Please describe how and to what extent your country has contributed to the achievement of this Aichi Biodiversity Target and summarize the evidence used to support this description:**

<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/aichi/goals/e/targets/20>