

# The Role of National Ecosystem Assessments in Supporting the Review and Update of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans

A Side Event of the Fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity

## DATE & VENUE

Thursday 23 May 2024

13h15 – 14h50

CR-10 - GRULAC room, 2nd floor

[Event web page at the CBD website](#)

## AUDIENCE

This side event is open to all participants of the fourth Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation. Particularly, it is targeted at government authorities and stakeholders involved in the review and update of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and national implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. They include:

- CBD National Focal Points and members of their delegation.
- Representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities.
- Representatives of women's groups.
- Sub-national governments and local authorities.
- Representatives of the business sector.
- Researchers.
- Representatives of Youth.
- NGOs and IGOs.
- UN Agencies.

Expected number of participants: 50

## CONTEXT

National ecosystem assessments provide countries with an up-to-date, comprehensive synthesis of knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystem services tailored to address key national policy questions. Through participatory and inclusive processes engaging diverse stakeholders, these assessments highlight the status and trends of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

To assist countries in assessing the status and trends, the UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) has been instrumental in leading the National Ecosystem Assessment (NEA) Initiative. Since 2017, the NEA Initiative has supported countries around the world in developing their national ecosystem assessments by building capacity and promoting knowledge-sharing within a diverse, expert team spanning various cultures and disciplines.

Given that national ecosystem assessments are tailored to the country needs, they can play a critical role in supporting CBD Parties in the review and update of their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). Recognizing their significance, the Conference of the Parties (COP) has endorsed the role of national ecosystem assessments in the implementation of biodiversity targets at the national level. Specifically, the COP urged Parties and invited other Governments to consider undertaking national assessments of biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services in paragraph 12 of Decision 14/1 in 2018.

## AIMS

The side event will highlight the critical role of national ecosystem assessments in reviewing and updating NBSAPs in line with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. During this event, country partners of the NEA Initiative will share their experiences and lessons learned from incorporating key findings of their assessments into the NBSAP process. The session will kick off with an overview of national ecosystem assessments, followed by engaging discussions on practical case studies, highlighting challenges and opportunities encountered in NBSAP review and updating.

By joining this side event, participants will engage in dialogues that will further contribute to the discussions on the mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting, and review under agenda item three of the fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI).

## HOST ORGANIZATIONS AND PARTNERS

UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)  
Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network (BES-Net)  
UN Development Programme  
UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)  
Republic of Botswana

## APPROACH

The event will provide an overview of the NEA initiative and feature a roundtable discussion. The discussion will bring a variety of perspectives, lessons, and ways forward from the country partners of the NEA Initiative in integrating the key findings and inclusive processes of their assessments into the review and update of NBSAPs. It will be guided by a moderator, who will ask pre-defined questions and take additional questions from the participants.

### Moderator

Juanita Chaves, Senior Programme Officer, UNEP-WCMC

### Discussion Questions

#### Block 1: Participation and Engagement

- How does the participatory approach of national ecosystem assessments contribute to the review of NBSAPs?

#### Block 2: Integrating the assessment findings and gaps into NBSAPs

- How can the findings and gaps identified through national ecosystem assessments be integrated into the NBSAPs?

### Countries Sharing Perspectives, Lessons and Ways Forward

- **Botswana** – Ms. Mokgadi Monamati, Department of Environmental Affairs (**TBC**)
- **Cambodia** – H.E. Somaly Chan, Ministry of Environment and Co-chair of the NEA
- **Colombia** – Laura Bermudez, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development and Sandra Perdomo, Instituto Alexander von Humboldt of Colombia
- **Cameroon** – Mme Josephine Mbarga, Ministry of Environment, Protection of Nature, and Sustainable Development - CBD Focal Point
- **Ethiopia** – Dr. Melesse Maryo, Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute

## AGENDA

TIME	SESSION
13:15 – 13:30	<b>Video: National Ecosystem Assessments for People and Nature</b> Juanita Chaves, UNEP-WCMC
13:30 – 1:35	<b>Welcome remarks</b> Neville Ash, UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) UN Development Programme (UNDP) [TBC] Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources Conservation and Tourism of Botswana [TBC]
13:35 – 14:40	<b>Roundtable Discussion</b>
13:35 – 14:10	<b>Block 1: How does the participatory approach of national ecosystem assessments contribute to the review of NBSAPs?</b> Moderator: Juanita Chaves, UNEP-WCMC
14:10 – 14:40	<b>Block 2: How can the findings and gaps identified through national ecosystem assessments be integrated into the NBSAPs?</b> Moderator: Juanita Chaves, UNEP-WCMC
14:40 - 14:50	<b>Closing Remarks</b> Joseph Karanja, UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

## RESOURCES

[Video](#): National Ecosystem Assessments for People and Nature

UNEP-WCMC. (2021). [National Ecosystem Assessments to Support Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity](#). Cambridge, UK.

UNEP-WCMC, & UNDP. (2021). [National Ecosystem Assessment in Support of the Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity: Outlining Initial Impact](#). Information Document for the 24th meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), United Nations Development Programme. Geneva, Switzerland.

IPBES (2018). [IPBES Assessment Guide Summary](#). Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. Bonn, Germany.

## RELATED SIDE EVENTS

**Embracing Indigenous and Local Knowledge: A Paradigm Shift in Conservation Science for Advancing the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework**

Friday 24 May 2024

18:15

CR-10 - GRULAC room, 2nd floor

[Event web page at the CBD website](#)