



BioTopic

National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) of Georgia

Background

With the ratification of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UN-CBD) in the year 1994 Georgia demonstrated its intention to conserve the nation's biodiversity, to ensure its sustainable use and to enable fair access to the benefits of biodiversity. With the ratification the individual CBD member countries are required to develop a national biodiversity strategy and action plan (NBSAP) and to ensure that this strategy is mainstreamed into the planning and activities of all those sectors whose activities can have either a positive or a negative impact on biodiversity. Georgia elaborated and adopted its' first NBSAP in the year 2005. Since it came into force a wide range of the listed activities has been implemented by Governmental and Non - Organizations, international donors and implementing agencies as well as scientific institutions or even the private sector.

Towards the 2nd NBSAP

According to the 10th meeting of the Conference of Parties of the UN-CBD (Japan), the member countries are requested to revise their existing NBSAP according to the "CBD Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020" and to set national biodiversity targets, which are in line with the 20 specific biodiversity targets (Aichi Biodiversity Targets). During this conference also Georgia committed itself to revise its NBSAP accordingly and to adopt it as a policy instrument by 2015. As a follow-up of this, the Biodiversity Protection Service (BPS) of the Ministry of Environment Protection (MoEP) initiated in May 2011 the revision process, supported by the GIZ project "Sustainable Management of Biodiversity" and an Integrated CIM expert, working for the BPS.

1. Involved Parties and Organizational Set-Up

Biodiversity Protection Service (BPS): The BPS of the MoEP is the

responsible body for the coordination of the development, the regular revision and the implementation of the NBSAP.

NBSAP Coordination Committee (NBSAP CC): To support the BPS within the upcoming task of the NBSAP revision a coordination committee was established in May 2011 and formally approved by the Minister of Environment Protection. It consists of nominated individual experts in the field of biodiversity protection

NBSAP Secretariat: A secretariat has been established to assist the NBSAP CC in all technical and organizational aspects. It is organizing workshops and meetings and publishes all relevant documents and materials elaborated during the revision process.

Designated Organizations: In December 2011, the NBSAP CC designated qualified organizations to elaborate the individual thematic components of the future NBSAP.



2. The Process

The general structure of the future NBSAP comprises the elaboration of 11 thematic components, which have been identified during a stakeholder workshop in July 2011. According to the CBD requirements the individual thematic components should consist of a situation analysis (biodiversity assessment) as well a strategy and an action plan. The elaboration of the

NBSAP is mainstreamed into the planning of all sectors, which are affecting biodiversity in Georgia, a broad range of stakeholders have been identified by the designated organizations and actively involved into the revision process. The stakeholder group consists of Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations directly working on biodiversity and biodiversity pro

cess, relevant strategies, laws, policies and programs as well as lessons learned, gaps and unmet needs. The biodiversity assessment is therefore, a crucial step within the revision process as it is providing the basis for the development of the further Strategy and Action Plan. In April 2012 the assessment process has been completed

Outlook: Strategy und Action Plan Development.

Based on the results of the biodiversity assessment the elaboration of the Biodiversity Strategy and the Action Plan will be launched. The strategy should show the priorities and the direction Georgia would like to focus on in order to protect and sustainably use biodiversity for the upcoming eight years. Therefore, principles and priorities as well as a consensus on acceptable targets for the coming NBSAP have to be identified. In this context, the five goals of the "Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020" and its 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets agreed at 10th CBD Conference of Parties (COP 10) have to be considered. Finally, the principles and priorities of the strategy must be turned into a specific set of activities, which should be carried within the implementation period. The process is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2012.

Strategic NBSAP components	Organizations in charge
Conservation of Species and Habitats	NACRES
Protected Areas	WWF
Agricultural Biodiversity	Elkana
Assessment / Valuation and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources	NACRES
Biosafety	RECC
Public Participation and Education	Eco-Vision
Biodiversity and Climate Change	NACRES
Management / Governance of Biodiversity	RECC
Biodiversity of Forests	WWF
Biodiversity of Internal Waters	Ilia State University
Biodiversity of the Black Sea	Ilia State University

components is designed as a consultative process in which various stakeholders should be involved and consulted. The process itself will be coordinated by qualified designated organizations.

Identifying and Engaging Stakeholders: To ensure, that the future

protection but also other governmental or line ministries and even the private sector have been engaged.

Biodiversity Assessment: The biodiversity assessment is designed to 'take stock' of what is already known about the status and trends of biodiversity, the drivers of biodiversity

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