

Additional Information to the 6TH National Report for the Convention on Biological Diversity



Contribution of New Caledonia

◆ March 2020 ◆

Summary

1. Preamble

This document provides a summary of the Report on Additional Information to the 6th National Report for the Convention on Biological Diversity, regarding New Caledonia (NC) The various technical elements or examples of integrated actions were not detailed here to avoid burdening the document and facilitate its reading.

2. Key



Getting further away from the target
(the situation is worsening instead of improving)

No significant progress overall (we are neither closer to nor further from the target)

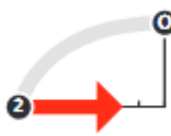


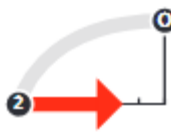


Moving towards the target but at an insufficient rate
(Unless we step-up our efforts, we will not meet the target within the scheduled timeframe)


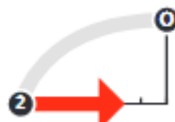



On pace to meet the target (if we maintain our efforts, we anticipate that we will meet the target by 2020)

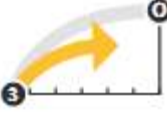
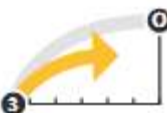



On pace to exceed the target(We anticipate that we will meet the target before the deadline)

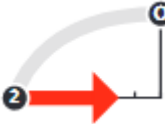


3. Summary of New Caledonia’s Contribution to the Implementation of the 20 Aichi Targets

Target	Objective Description	Situation	Comments
1	Individuals are aware of the biodiversity’s value and of the measures they can take to preserve and use it sustainably.		Overall, the general public’s awareness of environmental issues seems to increase in New Caledonia, not only due to the strong mobilization from institutional actors but also from associations whose involvement is essential and effective in the field. A specific effort was undertaken to facilitate access to environmental information to allow civil society to participate in environmental decision-making. However, we currently do not have data from field studies or indicators enabling us to directly measure the impact of awareness-raising measures on the evolution of behaviors. On the contrary, we can indirectly measure this evolution thanks to the increasing number of ecocitizen and participative science projects, the creation of new environmental associations or collectives or the fact that some previously trivialized behaviors are now taken seriously and are even reported via dedicated applications.
2	Biological diversity values are integrated in the strategies and the national and local development and loss reduction planning processes		There is a strong desire from local and international actors to integrate biodiversity values in the planning tools implemented in New Caledonia, particularly in the last 3 years. However, since most of these initiatives are relatively recent, it seems premature to evaluate their implementation at this stage: results will only be visible after 2020.
	Biodiversity values are integrated into national accounts (..) and notification systems.		There is no integrated national accounting in NC, even if institutional actors have led discussions on the subject in the last few years.

Target	Objective description	Situation	Comments
3	Incentives, including subventions harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, progressively phased out or reformed to avoid adverse effects or reduce them to a minimum (...).		As far as the greening of already existing taxes and subsidies is concerned, even if options have been identified, studies are too recent to enable us to take a position. We now have to transform recommendations into concrete measures.
	Positive incentives favoring conservation and the sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied (...).		Actions undertaken by NC to provide positive incentives are a step in the right direction and these efforts should continue long term.
4	Governments, companies and involved stakeholders, at all levels, took measures or implemented plans to ensure sustainable production and consumption and their use of natural resources fell within safe ecological limits.		Notable improvements on these themes must be noted, with a very positive dynamic at all levels and a genuine desire to regulate and frame things in the best possible way, regardless of the theme. The ambition and the potential are here: now, it is all about maintaining this dynamic long term to meet the determined targets, partly in 2020 but first and foremost, by 2025 or 2030 depending on the theme.
5	By 2020, the rate of loss of all-natural habitats, including forests, is cut at least in half and if possible, brought close to 0 and the fragmentation and the degradation of habitats are significantly reduced.		The trend has not currently been reversed. A lot still needs to be done, even if significant and consistent efforts are undertaken territory-wide to preserve natural habitats, notably with the implementation of ERC procedures and the examination of authorization requests. It should be noted that the outcomes of some of the actions undertaken are expected post 2020 (2023-2045).
6	All fisheries, aquatic invertebrates and plants stocks are managed and used in a legal and sustainable way (...), so as to avoid overfishing. Recovery measures and plans are put in place for all depleted species.		Several actions are being undertaken by New Caledonian managers to sustainably manage maritime resources. These actions are integrated into a national and regional framework. Several research programs help decision-making in this area even if all species are not currently being studied. Stakeholders' commitment is also apparent in the selection of New Caledonia's priorities during the elaboration of the PROTEGE program, which has been approved. The implementation of Theme 2 (Management of Lagoon-Reef Resources) should bring answers to the issues raised in this context.
	The impact of fishing on stocks, species and ecosystems remains within safe ecological limits.		The delivery of professional fishing licenses is subjected to a strict process which is supported by institutional actors. It should be noted that overfishing is not having a big impact in New Caledonia, considering what can be observed in the region.

Target	Objective Description	Situation	Comments
7	Areas dedicated to agriculture, aquaculture, and forestry are managed in a sustainable way to ensure biodiversity conservation.		New Caledonia has been committed to implementing adaptation procedures to sustainable development issues in agriculture, aquaculture and forestry for several years. This commitment is also apparent in the selection of New Caledonia's priorities during the elaboration of the PROTEGE program, which has been approved. The implementation of Theme 1 (Agro-Ecological Transition) and Theme 2 (Management of Lagoon-Reef Resources) should bring answers to the issues raised in this context by 2022.
8	Pollution, notably the one caused by an excess of nutritional elements, is cut to a harmless level for ecosystem functions and biodiversity.		New Caledonia must tackle several major issues associated with the implementation of an integrated management of water, agriculture, energy transition and land-based pollution. Several strategies have been elaborated to meet these challenges but their results will only become visible post 2020.
9	Exotic Invasive Species (EIS) and introduction pathways have been identified and ranked by order of priority. Priority species are controlled and eradicated and measures are taken to manage penetration pathways.		Since 2015, New Caledonia has reaffirmed its commitment to the fight against EIS with the implementation of territory-wide structuring strategies and action plans involving a wide range of actors and the search for new fighting methods adapted to local specificities. Therefore, important progress was made in just a few years. Now, it is about pursuing those structuring actions, notably through the implementation of both the EIS Strategy and the actions plans against the 7 established priority species which are associated with it. This commitment is also apparent in the selection of New Caledonia's priorities during the elaboration of the PROTEGE program, which has been approved. The implementation of Theme 4 which aims to manage EIS at a regional level to reinforce the resilience and the restauration of ecosystem services, should bring concrete answers to the issue raised in this context by 2022 (so post 2020).
10	The number of anthropic pressures exercised on coral reefs and the other vulnerable marine and costal ecosystems affected by climate change or ocean acidification are reduced to a minimum to preserve their integrity and their functions.		Concrete improvements have been made since 2015, since New Caledonia's approach to protecting coral reefs is integrated into an international, national, and local framework supported by scientists. 86% of New Caledonia's coral reefs have been granted territorial protection status including 41% under strong protection. New Caledonia appears to be in relatively good shape considering the global context when it comes to coral reef degradation.
11	At least 17 % of terrestrial areas and internal waters, as well as 10 % of costal and maritime zones are protected... <i>↪ see next page</i>		In terms of %, Target 11 has been reached in New Caledonia, terrestrial protected areas cover (since the creation of the "parc de la côte oubliée"), about 20% of the territory and the creation of the Natural Park of the Coral Sea has provided a legal framework for the entire New Caledonian EEZ (or 1,3 million of km ²).

Target	Objective Description	Situation	Comments
11 (CONT.)	...thanks to a representative and well linked network of protected areas, managed efficiently and fairly, as well as other area specific conservation measures (...).		We currently need to structure these protected areas into a network, improve the system's representativity and put evaluation systems in place for a management adapted to New Caledonia's various contexts.
12	The extinction of known endangered species is avoided and the state of conservation, in particular of those for which the decline is the most severe, has been improved or maintained.		Significant efforts have been undertaken since 2015 for the protection of endangered species, whether it be from a regulatory point of view, or the improvement in our knowledge and the publication of strategic frameworks applied to specific animal or vegetal species. The work undertaken as part of the RLA NC should bring precious information in the coming years to enable us to better grasp the importance of the issues, the progress that have been made and the challenges that need to be met.
13	The genetic diversity of cultivated plants, bred animals and pets, and parents in the wild, as well as diversity with a cultural or socio-economic value is preserved. Strategies are elaborated and implemented to reduce genetic erosion to a minimum and preserve their genetic diversity.	Not evaluated	We currently do not have an overview of the actions undertaken locally to preserve the genetic diversity of cultivated plants, bred animals and pets and wild parents. The lack of local regulation regarding the implementation of TIRPAA on New Caledonia's territory should be noted.
14	The ecosystems which provide essential services and contribute to the health, the well-being and the livelihood of the populations are preserved and restored.		The undertaking of several studies since 2015 proves that managers and decision makers are willing to move towards a better integration of ecosystem services in the different decision-making processes. As a consequence of these studies, ecosystem preservation and restoration actions are being implemented. A coherence needs to be created between field activities and newly-acquired knowledge, on the basis of existing framework documents and the recommendations which stem from them.
15	The resilience of ecosystems and biodiversity's contribution to carbon stocks are improved, thanks to conservation and restoration measures, including the restoration of at least 15 % of degraded ecosystems.		Significant efforts have been undertaken in the last few years to improve knowledge and develop strategic frameworks to guide implementation policies in New Caledonia. The goal is to create a coherence between field activities and newly-acquired knowledge, on the basis of existing framework documents and the recommendations which stem from them.
16	The Nagoya Protocol on access to genetic resources and the sharing of benefits stemming from their use, is enforced and operational, in accordance with national legislations.		Regulations regarding terrestrial and maritime genetic resources outside the EEZ exist in New Caledonia. Modalities regarding the transmission of decisions between New Caledonia and France, to ensure that decisions taken in New Caledonia are recognized internationally, are currently being finalized. Reflections and/or work are also under way regarding regulations inside the EEZ and traditional knowledge.

Target	Objective Description	Situation	Comments
17	All parties have elaborated and adopted National Strategies and Action Plans which are used as general policy tools. These strategies and plans are implemented efficiently and in a participatory manner. They are regularly updated.		There is no <i>stricto sensu</i> territory-wide biodiversity strategy in New Caledonia.
18	Knowledge, innovations and traditional practices from indigenous and local communities which are of interest for the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity, as well as their sustainable customary use are respected, fully integrated and taken into account in the enforcement of the convention.		The taking into account of knowledge, innovations and traditional practices from indigenous and local communities is at the heart of the preoccupations of all the actors involved in the management and the preservation of biodiversity in New Caledonia. The search for the link between society and the environment is noticeable at every level: not only in the actions implemented by managers in the field but also as genuine research orientations in the scientific programs developed by the institutes implanted in New Caledonia. However, this work must continue and be sustained long term.
19	By 2020, knowledge, the scientific basis, and technologies associated with biodiversity, its values, its functions, its state and its trends, and the consequences of its degradation are improved, broadly shared, transferred and applied.		Significant efforts are being undertaken to provide decision-makers and the general public with relevant information (see Target 1). The challenge is sizable considering the specificity of New Caledonia's fauna and flora. As it is currently the case for other targets, A coherence needs to be created between field activities and newly-acquired knowledge, on the basis of existing framework documents and the recommendations which stem from them.
20	The mobilization of financial resources to efficiently implement the Strategic Plan 2011-2020, from all sources and in accordance with the consolidated process approved in the Mobilization of Resources Strategy should increase.	Not evaluated	New Caledonia supports several regional and international initiatives. It also leads and monitors the implementation of CITES.