# Elements of Biodiversity Action Plan

Where biodiversity values of importance to conservation are associated with a project or its area of influence, the preparation of a Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) provides a useful means to focus a project’s mitigation and management strategy. For project activities that may affect natural habitats, critical habitats and protected areas, Standard 1 notes that a BAP needs to be in place. For projects solely designed to strengthen biodiversity and maintain or restore ecosystems in areas of critical habitat, the project document itself would constitute such a plan. Biodiversity plans are highly encouraged when also operating in modified habitats with biodiversity values of importance to conservation.

Targeted biodiversity-related mitigation and management measures may be integrated into more general Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) or related plans. However, a BAP provides focused attention to actions in ecologically critical areas. A BAP may be included as part of a broader ESMP.

As noted in the Section 2.1 of this guidance note, National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAP) are the primary instruments for implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity at the national level. A BAP is a more targeted instrument for enhancing and conserving biodiversity and ecosystem services in particular habitats, demonstrated on an appropriate geographic scale. A BAP should seek to achieve net gains to the biodiversity values for which the critical habitat was designated. A BAP is highly context specific.

There is no one widely recognized, cross-sectoral framework for the development of a BAP. Typically a BAP will be undertaken to address significant gaps in information for undertaking biodiversity-related actions (such as insufficient baseline data or understanding of key biodiversity values) and would articulate a management plan where/when adequate information is available for developing appropriate actions.

General elements of a BAP include the following:

**(1) Description of biodiversity context:** Identifies national and/or regional biodiversity context; location of projects site/s; relevant physiography; general description of relevant ecosystems, habitats, flora, fauna; priority biodiversity features and components of elevated significance.

**(2) Objectives and targets biodiversity actions and mitigation:** Identifies measures and actions to enhance and conserve biodiversity and/or in accordance with the mitigation hierarchy avoid, minimize, mitigate, potentially significant adverse social and environmental impacts to acceptable levels. Describes – with technical details – each biodiversity-related action/mitigation measure, including the type of issue/impact to which it relates and the conditions under which it is required (e.g., continuously or in the event of contingencies), together with designs, implementation descriptions and operating procedures, as appropriate; takes into account, and is consistent with, other relevant mitigation plans (e.g. indigenous peoples, economic displacement).

**(3) Implementation action plan (schedule, cost estimates and source of financing):** Outlines an implementation schedule for measures that must be carried out as part of the project, showing phasing and coordination with overall project implementation plans; and the capital and recurrent cost estimates and sources of funds for implementing the BAP (i.e. budget). Describes institutional arrangements, identifying which party is responsible for carrying out the actions/mitigation and monitoring measures.

**(4) Stakeholder Engagement:** Outlines context-specific plan to engage in meaningful, effective and informed consultations with relevant stakeholders, including locally affected groups. Includes information on (a) means used to inform and involve affected people and description of effective processes for receiving and addressing stakeholder concerns and grievances regarding the project’s social and environmental performance.

**(5) Monitoring and reporting:** Identifies monitoring objectives and specifies the type of monitoring, with linkages to the biodiversity actions and mitigation measures. Describes parameters to be measured, methods to be used, sampling locations, frequency of measurements, detection limits (where appropriate), and definition of thresholds that will signal the need for corrective actions. Establishes reporting schedule and format.