40th meeting of the Standing Committee:
Agenda item 11

Preparing the COP11 National Report Format (NRF)

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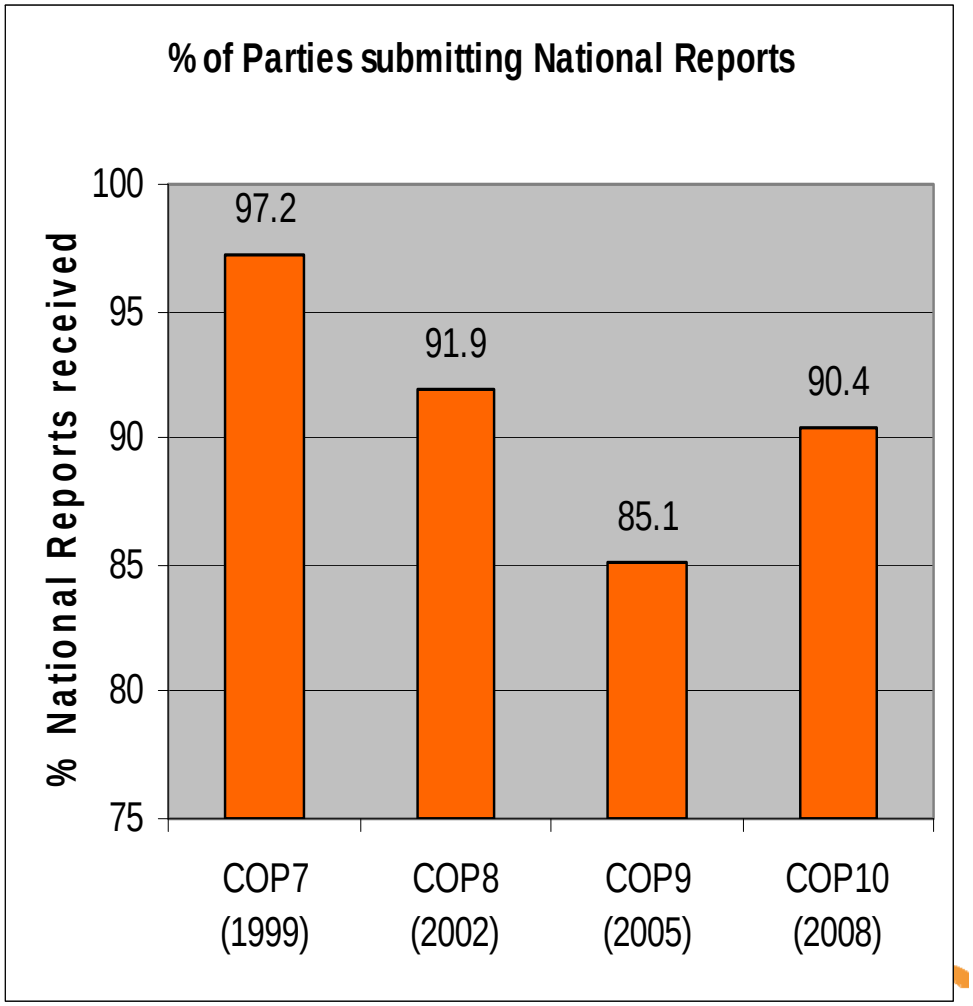
14 May 2009

Ramsar
CONVENTION ON WETLANDS
CONVENTION SUR LES ZONES HUMIDES
CONVENCIÓN SOBRE LOS HUMEDALES
(Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

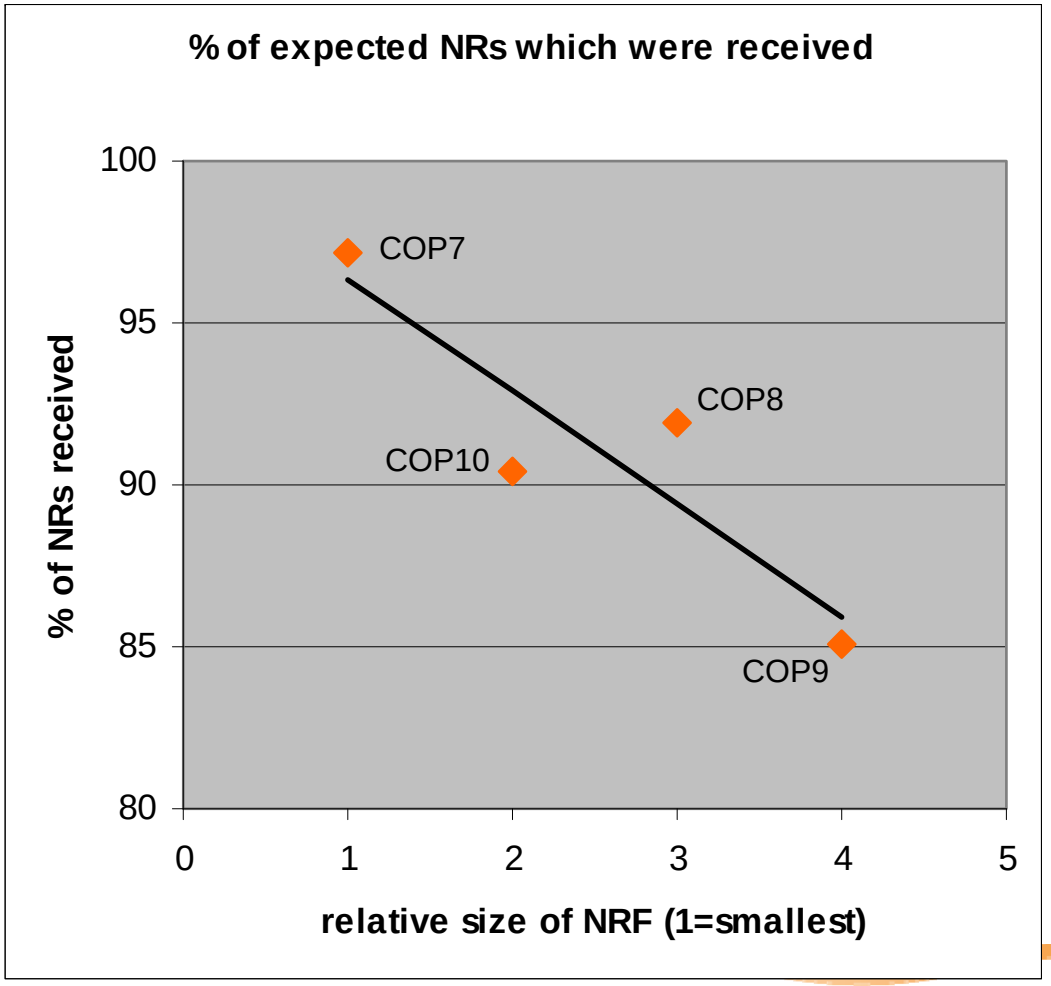
Ramsar national reporting

- National Reports to each COP (3-yearly)
- Very high and timely reporting rate (85-97%) cf other MEAs
- Wealth of implementation information for reporting to Ramsar processes – and to other MEAs
- Ramsar National Reports: implementation processes reporting
  - For each Strategic Plan Strategy and Key Result Area
- cf CBD 4th National Reports – focus on ecological status reporting
  - ?more complementarity with Ramsar reports



Ramsar national reporting

- Size/complexity of report format affects reporting rate:
  - But minimum size:
  - if sufficient information for assessing & reporting global and regional trends in implementation



Ramsar national reports – purposes?

7 main purposes:

i) provide official data and information on how the Convention is being implemented;

ii) capture lessons/experience, so as to allow Parties to develop future action;

iii) identify emerging issues and implementation challenges faced by Parties that may require further attention through Convention processes;

iv) provide a means for Parties to be accountable against their obligations under the Convention;

v) provide each Party with a tool to help it assess and monitor its progress in implementation, and plan for its future implementation and priorities;

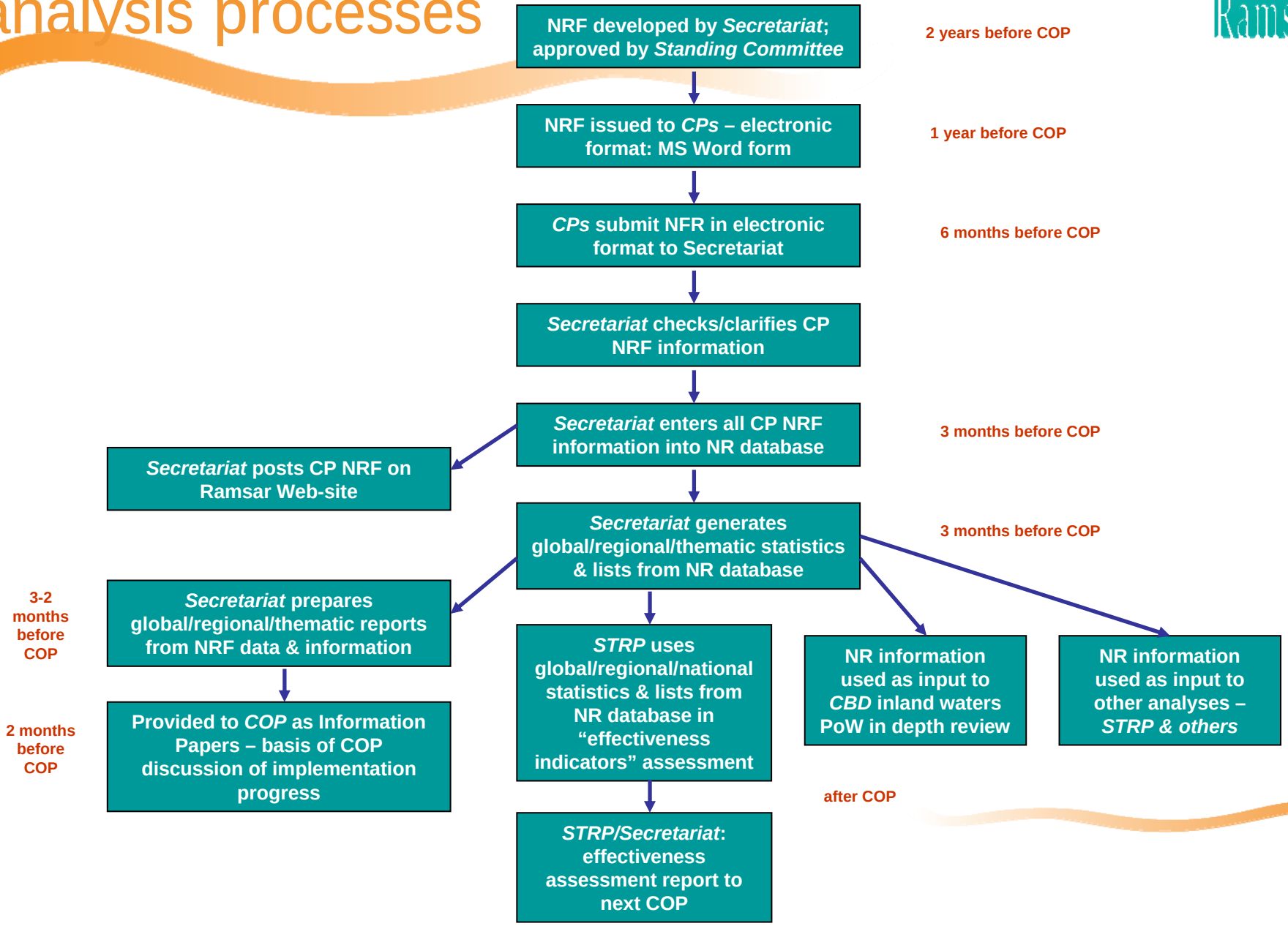
vi) provide an opportunity for Parties to draw attention to their achievements during the triennium; and

vii) data for assessment of “indicators of effectiveness of Convention implementation”

Ramsar national reports – what are they used for?

- Reports (Secretariat Information Papers) to each COP
  - on global, regional and thematic (e.g. CEPA; Ramsar site status) implementation progress
- Analyses of Convention implementation effectiveness indicators
- Other specific implementation analyses
- Information source for reviewing CBD inland waters PoW – and potentially other CBD PoWs
  - Reporting to SBSTTA in 2010
  - Under Ramsar lead implementation role for CBD on wetlands

Ramsar National Reports – handling and analysis processes

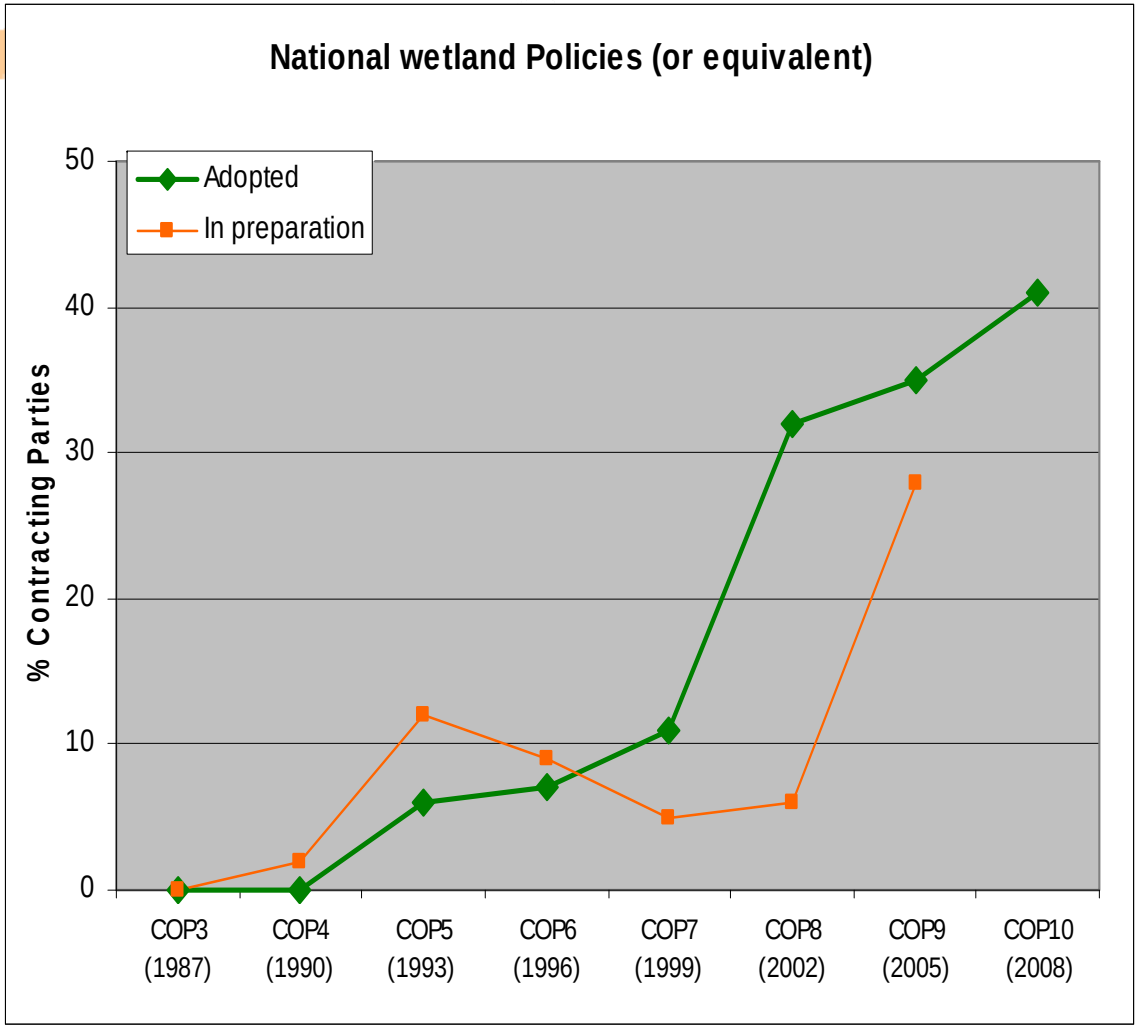


COP10 format – lessons learned

- Simpler basic structure
  - Improved reporting % cf COP9
- Structure generally well-received
  - Mix of required “multiple-choice” answers
  - Optional “free-text” fields for additional information
- Some questions could be made clearer
  - What else could be improved?
- Need to keep as much continuity as possible to permit long-term comparability on implementation progress – an example…

Value of consistency of NRF questions: National Wetland Policies

- Is a National Wetland Policy (or equivalent) in place and being implemented?
- Or is an NWP in preparation?
- Data since COP3 (1987) …



Issues to consider in COP11 NRF ...

- i. the COP11 NRF should be structured in line with the Goals and Strategies of the new 2009-2015 Ramsar Strategic Plan adopted as COP10 Resolution X.1;
- ii. the indicators included in the COP11 NRF should speak to the Key Result Areas established by Resolution X.1 for each Strategic Plan Strategy;
- iii. An indicator (or indicators) should be included to report on the rollout and uptake of the of the “Changwon Declaration” (cf Resolution X.3);
- iv. for continuity, and so as to permit time-series analysis and report of implementation progress, COP11 NRF indicators should are far as possible be consistent with those in previous NRFs, and particularly those of the COP10 NRF;
- v. the advice and experience of the STRP should be sought concerning the utility and any adjustments to, or additional need for, indicators in relation particularly to the Panel’s experience in using the COP10 NRF indicators in its analyses of effectiveness indicators – and in CBD reporting; and
- vi. the advice of the CEPA Oversight Panel should be sought concerning indicators for the CEPA Strategy of the Strategic Plan.

Timelines for COP11 NRF

- agree overall structure and approach of NRF - SC40 (May 2009)
- Secretariat develop draft NRF – by early 2010
- NRF approved – SC41 (c. May 2010)
- Issued to Parties – 1 year before COP11 (c. June 2010)
- Parties submit completed NRF – 6 months before COP11

Ramsar

Ramsar & CBD – collaboration & reporting

- Since CBD COP3, Ramsar: lead implementation partner for CBD on wetlands
  - Ramsar implementation = practical on-the-ground CBD implementation
  - CBD focus on inland waters' collaboration, but wetlands a unifying theme across all CBD ecosystem PoWs
    - **drylands, agricultural systems, forests, mountains, coastal/ marine, islands**
    - **But water as a cross-cutting theme not recognised in CBD processes**

Ramsar & CBD - collaboration

- Collaboration delivered through:
  - CBD & Ramsar COPs requesting specific activities; and
  - Joint Work Programme (JWP)
    - 4th JWP (2007-2010) endorsed by Ramsar Standing Committee & SBSTTA13; 5th JWP under development
  - Biodiversity Liaison Group (BLG)
  - Chairs of scientific subsidiary bodies (CSAB)
  - 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (BIP GEF project)
    - Ramsar "ecological indicators of effectiveness of Convention implementation"

Ramsar & CBD - collaboration

- Recent/current Ramsar lead work requested by CBD includes:
  - Further development of criteria for identifying sites of international importance for wetland biodiversity (cf Ramsar site criteria);
  - Developing a framework for **joint framework for reporting on inland waters** (also now looking at coastal wetland reporting)
    - Request reaffirmed by CBD COP9 & Ramsar COP10 decisions
  - In-depth **review of CBD inland waters PoW –** reporting in 2010
- Cooperation delivered mostly at global scales so far
  - But still needs more national-scale implementation collaboration
  - Key pre-condition for easier harmonised national reporting

Ramsar indicators & CBD inland waters review

- Underway – reporting to SBSTTA 2010
- Using Ramsar COP10 National Report indicators & effectiveness indicator assessments
- Report on inland waters PoW implementation
  - Activities for Parties
  - Targets
- harmonised reporting mechanism for Ramsar & CBD PoWs is effectively already in place

Ramsar/CBD harmonised reporting

CBD inland water 2010 targets & activities:

- Ramsar COP10 reporting & indicators: 13 (62%) of 21 **targets**
- Additionally, Ramsar reporting speaks to CBD activities for Parties in PoW
- Ramsar not directly reporting to CBD targets on:
  - genetic diversity; sustainable use & consumption; benefit sharing
- Review Ramsar 2009-2015 Strategic Plan & KRAs
- Consider including questions on other CBD inland water targets in Ramsar COP11 NRF
  - To increase levels of harmonisation in reporting

CBD 2010 inland waters biodiversity goals & targets	Ramsar effectiveness indicators	Ramsar COP10 NFR questions	Ramsar Strategic Plan 2009-2015 KRAs
Goal 1. conservation of the biological diversity of ecosystems, habitats and biomes			
Target 1.1			
Target 1.2	✓		✓
Goal 2. conservation of species diversity			
Target 2.1	✓		
Target 2.2	✓	✓	✓
Goal 3. conservation of genetic diversity			
Target 3.1			
Goal 4. sustainable use and consumption			
Target 4.1:			
Target 4.2:			
Target 4.3			
Goal 5. reduced pressures from habitat loss, land-use change and degradation, and unsustainable water use			
Target 5.1	✓	✓	
Goal 6. threats from invasive alien species			
Target 6.1		✓	✓
Target 6.2		✓	
Goal 7. challenges to biodiversity from climate change, and pollution			
Target 7.1		✓	✓
Target 7.2	✓	✓	
Goal 8. capacity of ecosystems to deliver goods and services and support livelihoods			
Target 8.1		✓	✓
Target 8.2		✓	✓
Goal 9. socio-cultural diversity of indigenous and local communities			
Target 9.1		✓	✓
Target 9.2		✓	✓
Goal 10. fair and equitable benefit sharing of use of genetic resources			
Target 10.1			
Target 10.2			
Goal 11. improved financial, human, scientific, technical and technological capacity to implement the Convention			
Target 11.1		✓	✓
Target 11.2			

SC40 action/decisions

- Advise on the overall structure, format and length of the COP11 NRF
- Affirm what should be taken into consideration in its development
- Request Secretariat to prepare draft COP11 NRF for SC41 consideration

Thank you!