



CBD



Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/SBI/1/5
1 April 2016

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SUBSIDIARY BODY ON IMPLEMENTATION

First meeting

Montreal, Canada, 2-6 May 2016

Item 7 of the provisional agenda*

STRATEGIC ACTIONS TO ENHANCE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION AND THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR BIODIVERSITY 2011-2020

Note by the Executive Secretary

INTRODUCTION

1. Pursuant to the decision XII/26, the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI) was given the mandate to assist the Conference of the Parties in preparing decisions on enhancing the implementation of the Convention, as appropriate, and to identify, and develop recommendations to overcome, obstacles encountered in implementing the Convention and any strategic plans adopted under it. As a related matter, SBI was also given the mandate to develop recommendations on how to strengthen mechanisms to support implementation of the Convention, and any strategic plans adopted under it.
2. The Conference of the Parties also decided, in its multi-year programme of work up to 2020 (decision XII/31, annex), to address, at its thirteenth meeting, among other things, strategic actions to enhance national implementation, in particular through mainstreaming and the integration of biodiversity across relevant sectors, including agriculture, forests and fisheries. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties also agreed to address at its thirteenth meeting the implications of the post-2015 United Nations development agenda (now known as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development),¹ and other relevant international processes for the future work of the Convention.
3. Therefore, at this meeting of SBI, the discussion on strategic actions to enhance national implementation will focus on strategic actions with respect to mainstreaming of biodiversity, both across and within sectors, taking into account various relevant international processes. Future meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation may focus on additional areas for potential strategic actions.
4. The present note by the Executive Secretary provides SBI with information on these matters, including draft conclusions and recommendations for its consideration, supplemented by addenda and information documents, and taking into account the coverage of related topics in other documents prepared for the consideration of the Subsidiary Body. Two documents prepared for the Subsidiary Body,

¹ General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015 entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.

(UNEP/CBD/SBI/1/5/Add.1 and Add.2), on mainstreaming within sectors and across sectors, respectively, provide greater detail on these issues.

5. Mexico, as host country for the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, organized, in cooperation with the Executive Secretary and with the support of Switzerland, the International Expert Workshop on Biodiversity Mainstreaming, which was held in November 2015. The discussions at that workshop were taken into account in the preparation of the documentation for this agenda item, and the full report of the workshop has been issued as UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/20/INF/52.

6. The Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting made requests on a number of matters that are also relevant to the mainstreaming of biodiversity, including the contribution of subnational and local governments to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (decision XII/9), the engagement of business (decision XII/10), a global communication strategy and messaging approaches (decision XII/2 C), and mainstreaming of gender into work under the Convention (decision XII/7). UNEP/CBD/SBI/1/5/Add.2 provides information on these matters, including updates on the work of the Executive Secretary, with a summary and draft recommendations included herein for the consideration of the Subsidiary Body.

7. Section I of the present note provides a short summary of the history of the focus on mainstreaming under the Convention. Section II provides background and context with respect to key international processes relevant to mainstreaming biodiversity at the national level. Section III addresses strategic actions to enhance implementation of the Convention and its Protocols at the national level, including the role of key actors, including the business sector, indigenous peoples and local communities and stakeholders. Section IV provides draft recommendations for the consideration of the Subsidiary Body.

I. BACKGROUND ON MAINSTREAMING OF BIODIVERSITY UNDER THE CONVENTION

8. Biodiversity mainstreaming is generally understood as ensuring that biodiversity, and the services it provides, are appropriately and adequately factored into the policies and practices that have an impact on it. Article 6(b) of the Convention on Biological Diversity calls for Parties to “integrate, as far as possible and as appropriate, the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies” while Article 10 (a) calls on Parties to “integrate consideration of the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources into national decision-making”. Other articles of Convention also have implications for biodiversity mainstreaming, including the requirements to use impact assessments (Article 14) and incentive measures (Article 11) and to regulate or manage processes and activities that have significant adverse impacts on biodiversity (Articles 7(c) and 8(l)).

9. Parties have adopted numerous decisions and resolutions since the Convention came into force to address mainstreaming. In addition, in 2002, Parties emphasized, as part of a high-level ministerial declaration made during the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, that “the most important lesson of the last ten years is that the objectives of the Convention will be impossible to meet until consideration of biodiversity is fully integrated into other sectors. The need to mainstream the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources across all sectors of the national economy, the society and the policymaking framework is a complex challenge at the heart of the Convention”.²

10. Mainstreaming is embedded in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, adopted in 2010. In particular, Goal A focuses on cross-cutting policies, including integrating biodiversity values into development processes and planning, incentive measures, and sustainable consumption and production,

² See UNEP/CBD/COP/6/20, decision VI/21, annex, para. 10.

and Goal B focuses on specific sectors, with a strong emphasis on mainstreaming. Other aspects of the Strategic Plan are also relevant to mainstreaming.

11. While Parties to the Convention and numerous stakeholder have undertaken efforts to address mainstreaming, the fourth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* and other analyses have concluded that this continues to be a key area requiring attention if the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 are to be implemented.

II. THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL PROCESSES

12. A number of key international processes are relevant to biodiversity and will have major implications for national actions for implementation of the Convention and of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. These include commitments under other biodiversity-related conventions, commitments on climate change and desertification as part of the negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), as well as implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals. These international processes are very relevant to the mainstreaming of biodiversity within and across sectors at the national level.

13. As countries implement their commitments under various instruments and international processes at the national level, it will be important to consider how to do so in a coherent, mutually-supportive manner. It will also be important to ensure that actions at the national level to address commitments under one international process support, and do not undermine, commitments under other international processes. For example, as countries move to take action to address climate change at the national level, it will be important to ensure that choices related to climate-change mitigation and adaptation support do not adversely impact biodiversity and the implementation of the Strategic Plan. It will also be important to identify actions that will help to achieve commitments under both agreements, as well as other related global agreements including UNCCD. Likewise, in taking action at the national level, Countries also need to consider international obligations under the various biodiversity-related conventions, and opportunities to increase synergies, at all levels. This issue will be discussed under agenda item 11, supported by document UNEP/CBD/SBI/1/9.

A. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

14. On 25 September, 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 70/1, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, which contained the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Biodiversity features prominently in the 2030 Agenda. Virtually all of the elements of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets are reflected in the targets associated with the Sustainable Development Goals, including in the two Goals (Goals 14 and 15) that are focused on biodiversity and ecosystems (oceans and coasts, and terrestrial, respectively). Many other Sustainable Development Goals include targets related to biodiversity and ecosystems, including Goal 1 (poverty eradication), Goal 2 (food security), Goal 6 (water resources), and Goal 12 (sustainable consumption and production). The linkage between biodiversity and poverty eradication and development is explicitly set out in target 15.9, which calls on member States to, “By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts”.

15. The 2030 Agenda provides an important platform for taking actions that will directly contribute to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity has been collaborating with UNDP and others to discuss how best to ensure that country-level development planning effectively integrates biodiversity. As countries move towards implementation of the 2030 Agenda, this will provide a major opportunity for mainstreaming of biodiversity, and the achievement of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.

B. Climate change

16. The ability of Parties to implement the Convention and the Strategic Plan effectively and pursue the Aichi Targets is closely tied to climate change. Healthy biodiversity and ecosystems are essential to combat climate change, and, at the same time, climate change is already impacting negatively on biodiversity. The Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) at its twenty-first meeting, in Paris, adopted an agreement to address climate change effectively with a view to keeping global temperature increases within 2 degrees or lower.³ The agreement will have major implications for work under the Convention on Biological Diversity, as is further considered by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA).⁴

C. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

17. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030,⁵ adopted by the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Sendai, Japan, in March 2015, serves as a global framework for guiding disaster risk reduction efforts until 2030. The sustainable management of ecosystems is recognized as a way to build disaster resilience and ecosystems need to be taken into account in three priority areas: undertaking risk assessments; risk governance; and investing in resilience. The framework further acknowledges the need to tackle environmental drivers of disaster risk, including ecosystem degradation and climate change, as well as the environmental impacts of disasters. The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity has already adopted decisions relating to disaster risk reduction, notably decision XII/20 that encourages Parties to incorporate disaster risk reduction into relevant national plans and strategies. The Sendai Framework further supports this integration. There is a clear opportunity to engage at both the international and national follow-up processes to further mainstream biodiversity and ecosystem-based approaches to disaster risk reduction.

D. The international arrangement on forests beyond 2015

18. Economic and Social Council resolution 2015/33 of 22 July 2015 on the international arrangement on forests beyond 2015 strengthens the international arrangement on forests, extends the Global Forest Objectives to 2030 and calls for the elaboration of a strategic plan for the period 2017-2030. This provides an opportunity to promote a coherent approach to the achievement of the multilaterally agreed forest-related goals, including the relevant Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

E. Reviewed strategic framework of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

19. The Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting recognized the Reviewed Strategic Framework 2010-19 of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) as an important contribution to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and to the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.⁶ The framework addresses agriculture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture, with its mutually reinforcing objectives to eradicate hunger, food insecurity, malnutrition and poverty while sustainably managing and utilizing natural resources.

F. The SAMOA Pathway

20. Building on the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States⁷ and the related Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme

³ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Conference of the Parties, twenty-first session, decision 1/CP.21 (see FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1).

⁴ See UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/20/10.

⁵ General Assembly resolution 69/283, annex II.

⁶ See decision XII/6, para. 17.

⁷ *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,⁸ the Third United Nations Conference on Small Island Developing States produced an outcome document, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway,⁹ which exemplifies the trend towards mainstreaming of biodiversity. The SAMOA Pathway alludes to biodiversity in a number of paragraphs as well as in sections on combating desertification, invasive alien species as threats to sustainable development and food security, the key role of intact nature for sustainable tourism, the contribution of Aichi Target 11 to the sustainable development of oceans and seas, and the role of biodiversity in reducing economic leakages from food consumption and maximizing food and nutrition security.

G. The United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development

21. In September 2016, the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) will be held in Quito. This will provide an important opportunity to “mainstream” the issues of biodiversity and ecosystem services into the broader United Nations agenda on cities and human settlements.

H. Possible actions for enhancing mainstreaming with respect to international processes

22. There are numerous actions that can be taken by Parties, the Executive Secretary and the wide range of actors noted above to enhance mainstreaming of biodiversity with respect to international processes. At its nineteenth meeting, in recommendation XIX/1, SBSTTA recommended that the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth meeting welcome the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, and other internationally agreed frameworks. SBI could build on this recommendation, addressing the need for Parties to implement these various commitments in a coherent manner and to take steps to integrate biodiversity in national plans that address commitments under those processes. With the adoption of the Paris Agreement by the Conference of the Parties to UNFCCC COP in 2015, close collaboration among the three “Rio conventions”, both by the respective secretariats as well as Parties will be necessary to ensure that these processes are mutually reinforcing.

III. STRATEGIC ACTIONS TO ENHANCE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION AND ITS PROTOCOLS AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

A. National biodiversity strategies and action plans

23. NBSAPS provide one important entry point for mainstreaming biodiversity at the national level. Numerous efforts to support and strengthen mainstreaming through NBSAPS have been undertaken by the Secretariat of the Convention and other organizations. The effectiveness of NBSAPS in supporting actions on mainstreaming biodiversity will depend on the extent to which national biodiversity strategies and actions plans are policy instruments, applicable government-wide, on the extent to which they include targets and actions related to addressing the underlying causes of biodiversity loss, and direct pressures on biodiversity (Goals A and B of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020), and on the priority given by Parties to implementing NBSAPS.

24. As noted above, in order to support mainstreaming efforts, it will be important to link the national biodiversity strategies and actions plans with other relevant international processes, such as the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, including development planning processes at the national level. Further, there is a need to better reflect within national biodiversity strategies and actions plans, and in their implementation, international obligations under other biodiversity-related conventions, as relevant.

⁸ *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10-14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

⁹ See General Assembly resolution 69/15, annex.

25. There are a number of important limitations in the information available in current assessments of progress made towards implementation of the Strategic Plan and achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in the context of the mandate of SBI to provide recommendations for enhancing implementation. First, there is a lack of adequate information on the specific obstacles and challenges faced by individual Parties in implementing their NBSAPS, or even of the general nature of such challenges (for example, lack of capacity, legislative gaps, low political priority given to NBSAP implementation). Similarly, there is a lack of information regarding the effectiveness of processes and institutional arrangements in place at the national level to develop and implement the national biodiversity strategies and actions plans, which are intended to be policy instruments, applicable government-wide.

26. Because the effectiveness of the Subsidiary Body in considering possible actions, mechanisms and processes to enhance implementation will be closely tied to its ability to measure progress in implementation of the Strategic Plan and targets, the Subsidiary Body may wish to take actions to improve the level of information available to determine such progress. Relevant to this agenda will be discussions of the Subsidiary Body under agenda item 4 (review of progress in implementation of the Convention and the strategic plan for biodiversity 2011-2020), agenda item 8 (capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer), agenda item 12 (modus operandi), and agenda item 13 (sixth national reports).

27. At the same time, there is an increasing range of information that could complement information provided under the Convention that could be highly relevant in this regard. This includes the assessments that will be produced by the IPBES, as well as information from such technologies as GIS and remote sensing. These matters are being addressed by SBSTTA.¹⁰

B. Mainstreaming biodiversity within specific production sectors

28. At its twelfth meeting, the Conference of the Parties decided that its thirteenth meeting would include a focus on mainstreaming in three key sectors: agriculture, forests and fisheries. These sectors are discussed in UNEP/CBD/SBI/1/5/Add.2 and UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/20/15, and will be taken up under SBSTTA-20, agenda item 13. The Subsidiary Body may wish to consider the recommendations of SBSTTA-20, and suggest any additional actions within its mandate. The thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties will also include a focus on sustainable tourism. A short discussion of mainstreaming in this sector is included below.

29. In this context, it is also relevant to consider the main recommendations of the International Expert Workshop on Mainstreaming Biodiversity, held in Mexico City from 17 to 19 November 2015, that are relevant to the work of SBI in suggesting strategic actions for enhancing implementation at the national level. The workshop, hosted by the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Mexico with financial support from the Government of Switzerland, aimed to facilitate a common understanding of “biodiversity mainstreaming” in the context of local, national and intergovernmental processes contributing to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and related Sustainable Development Goals.

1. Integration of biodiversity in tourism¹¹

30. Tourism and travel are a major economic activity accounting for 9 per cent of the world’s gross domestic product, 6 per cent of exports and contribute (directly or indirectly) to one in eleven jobs. Travel and tourism, as a sector, are growing rapidly. From 2011 to 2013, total international arrivals increased by

¹⁰ For example, see SBSTTA recommendations XVII/1 and XIX/2 and documents UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/20/10/Add.1 and UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/20/13.

¹¹ Based on UNEP/CBD/COP/12/24/Add.1.

9.2 per cent, reaching 1,087 million, with total receipts growing even faster (by 11.2 per cent), reaching US\$ 1,159 billion.¹²

31. Because of the importance of the sector, biodiversity and tourism has been on the agenda of the Conference of the Parties for a number of years; already at its seventh meeting, in 2006, it adopted guidelines on biodiversity and tourism development (decision VII/14, paragraph 1 and annex), and, pursuant to a request at its seventh meeting, a user manual for the guidelines was also developed and made available.¹³

32. A multi-stakeholder approach in planning and managing sustainable tourism is fundamental. This may involve an inter-ministerial/inter-agency body for coordination, at various levels of government (national, subnational, local), as well as engaging the private sector. Local authorities have a particularly important role to play in providing leadership in conjunction with other local stakeholder interests (for instance through a destination management organization).

33. A range of tools can be used to manage tourism impacts on biodiversity. Regulations may be adopted, such as minimum standards for construction/decommissioning, operational standards, and measures to control visitor movement and activities. Voluntary tools can be implemented, such as product and destination standards, certification systems, codes of conduct and recognition of best practices, such as through awards. Economic instruments might include penalties to discourage environmentally harmful investments and activities, incentives such as concessions to operate in protected areas, and incentives such as larger grants, loans and micro-credit schemes for sustainable tourism through multi- and bilateral funding entities.

34. Certification agents, non-governmental organizations, educational bodies and other entities can provide capacity-building and, together with the media, can promote awareness on sustainable tourism, for consumers, indigenous peoples and local communities, government, business and educational bodies. Training and resource mobilization can help to build capacity within governments, protected areas authorities and other stakeholders.

35. One promising area for future work is the building of the capacity of national and subnational parks and protected area agencies to develop partnerships with the tourism industry as a means to contribute financially and technically to the establishment, operations and maintenance of protected areas. Significant experience has been gathered on tourism concessions, public-private partnerships, payback mechanisms and other forms of payment for ecosystem services. Information on a wide range of experiences is also available, involving public, non-profit and private conservation agencies, academic institutions, and community organizations, to improve visitor services and adequately protect the natural and cultural heritage of protected areas, and increase public support for their conservation. Concessions and related public-private partnerships are one possible answer, particularly in cases where government conservation agency budgets and payrolls are limited. Financial instruments that are based on tourism and visitation, such as entrance and service fees, concessions and licences, already are the largest market-based source of revenues to park systems globally. They are often combined with safeguards, such as trust funds associated with park agencies, to ensure the stability of revenues for public use.

2. *Possible actions for enhancing the mainstreaming of biodiversity in the tourism sector*

36. Making use of, and building on, the guidelines on biodiversity and tourism development, the following actions for mainstreaming biodiversity in the tourism sector could be considered by Parties, in cooperation with relevant international organizations such as UNEP, IUCN, and UNWTO, and with the support of the Executive Secretary:

¹² World Tourism Organization, *UNWTO Tourism Highlights*, 2014 Edition, UNWTO, 2014.

¹³ <https://www.cbd.int/tourism/guidelines.shtml>.

(a) Adopt a coherent regulatory framework for sustainable tourism, or strengthen existing frameworks accordingly, engaging all relevant institutions and stakeholders, including indigenous peoples and local communities, subnational and local governments, and the private sector, in the development of sustainable tourism;

(b) Use information on the values and benefits of biodiversity for the tourism sector in decision-making with respect to tourism investments, expansion and planning, including with respect to the development of infrastructure, and job creation, and in considering mechanisms for the reinvestment of parts of tourism revenues into ecosystem conservation at the local or community level;

(c) Promote capacity-building, in particular to national and subnational park agencies, on development and implementation of financial instruments, such as entrance and service fees, concessions and licences, to complement and support public investment in the establishment and maintenance of protected area systems and support sustainable tourism in tourist destinations;

(d) Take measures to further develop and use various communication, education and public awareness tools for the general public and tourists on sustainable travel, including sustainable consumption promotion programmes and voluntary standards and certification systems;

(e) Develop guidance on mainstreaming for tourism and conservation hotspots, and integrating consideration of biodiversity into their development;

(f) Take measures to enhance monitoring, reporting, and knowledge sharing on tourism and visitation activities in protected areas, including on visitor volumes and related revenues, visitor satisfaction, assessment of impacts and, as appropriate, corrective actions taken, and to include this information in future national reports under the Convention, as well as relevant databases.

C. Mainstreaming of biodiversity in other sectors

37. There are many other sectors that have the potential to impact adversely on biodiversity, and for which mainstreaming biodiversity will be important. These include extractive industries, such as oil and gas, mining, and manufacturing, as well as commercial and residential building development. The Conference of the Parties may wish to include a focus on these sectors in a future meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.

D. Cross-sectoral mainstreaming of biodiversity

38. In addition to a focus on mainstreaming within specific sectors, the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 include significant direction for “cross-sectoral” mainstreaming. Goal A of the Strategic Plan focuses on cross-cutting policies, including development and planning processes, national accounting, and national accounting and reporting systems, incentive measures, and sustainable consumption and production, as well as the important role of raising awareness of the value of biodiversity. The fourth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* found that achieving this goal is critical to the overall achievement of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity. While it identified important progress towards some of the targets associated with this goal, overall they were not on track to be met.

39. Document UNEP/CBD/SBI/1/5/Add.2 provides further information and possible actions for the consideration of SBI with respect to cross-sectoral mainstreaming, including possible policies, tools, and institutional mechanisms. It also provides information on the role of effective communications for achieving all of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. It also, includes a brief update on the work of the Executive Secretary to develop a global communications strategy as requested during COP-12, as well as to update toolkits for communication, education and public awareness to ensure that the tools and approaches listed therein are relevant for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and taking into account new research on communication, marketing and social marketing perspectives. In addition, the document provides information regarding the role of a number of key actors, such as the business sector

and subnational governments, in achieving mainstreaming of biodiversity, which is taken up later in section II.

E. Possible actions for enhancing cross-sectoral mainstreaming

40. There are a number of possible actions with respect to cross-sectoral mainstreaming that could enhance implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 at the national level. These are described in in UNEP/CBD/SBI/1/Add.2 and include:

(a) *Strengthen policies, tools, and legislation for cross-sectoral issues.* Gaps in legislation and policies with respect to cross-sectoral issues, such as development and finance, should be identified and addressed. A review of national laws and regulations to identify positive and adverse implications for biodiversity may also offer an important foundation for mainstreaming biodiversity across different sectors. Further, the effectiveness of laws related to transparency of decision-making and access to information are also important elements for achieving effective mainstreaming of biodiversity. Increased engagement of parliamentarians and legislators would also be important;

(b) *Cross-cutting work on incentives.* These include a need to enhance transparency on the true cost and benefits of incentive policies, including subsidies, the identification of those incentives that are harmful for biodiversity, and a transition plan to address these harmful incentives and to promote positive incentive measures, as foreseen in the milestones for implementing Aichi Biodiversity Target 3 adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting (decision XII/3, paragraph 21 and annex I). In addition to the draft recommendations provided herein, follow-up activities are suggested in document UNEP/CBD/SBI/1/7;

(c) *Introduce or scale up use of environment-economic accounting, as appropriate, and of tools to assess and/or evaluate the various values of biodiversity.* There are many tools that exist. Scaling up the use of these would provide an important contribution to mainstreaming of biodiversity;

(d) *Environmental assessment policies and strategic environmental assessments can provide an important basis for mainstreaming.* Such policies could be improved by taking on board new tools to evaluate ecosystem services, and to implement cost-effective approaches to identifying baselines and potential impacts on biodiversity;

(e) *Take steps to integrate biodiversity in work on sustainable consumption and production.* Target 4 is squarely focused on sustainable consumption and production, yet biodiversity is often not factored into policies addressing such issues, including public procurement policies;

(f) *Establishment of effective institutional arrangements within national governments and between levels of government.* A key mechanism for enhancing biodiversity mainstreaming, both for specific sectors as well as for cross-sectoral policies, is the development of effective institutional arrangements so that biodiversity is better considered by other ministries and interests, and that other government priorities are also reflected in NBSAPS. High-level engagement, inter-ministerial mechanisms, and transparent, consultative processes engaging stakeholders all could be helpful;

(g) *Developing institutional capacity* regionally and/or at the national level to help facilitate technical and scientific cooperation, using existing entities including universities;

(h) *Increasing efforts with respect to raising awareness on the value of biodiversity.* Effective communication tools are needed, tailored to take into account the scale of the problem, and making use of evidence-based communication transmitted in a compelling and effective way to decision makers, key actors, stakeholders and communities.

F. Role of key actors in supporting mainstreaming

41. As noted above, the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting adopted decisions with respect to engagement of a number of key actors, as well as on gender mainstreaming, which are relevant

to mainstreaming of biodiversity. These are discussed in UNEP/CBD/SBI/1/5/Add.2 and are summarized below, along with potential areas for action. The important role that indigenous peoples and local communities can play in contributing to mainstreaming of biodiversity was addressed in the ninth meeting of the Working Group on Article 8(j). Document UNEP/CBD/SBI/1/5/Add.1 also addresses the role of stakeholders in the sectors covered.

1. Role of gender in supporting implementation

42. Gender equality and the empowerment of women are increasingly understood as essential elements of sustainable development, as evidenced most recently in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Goals and Targets, which prioritize these as cross-cutting themes. The adoption in decision XII/7 of the 2015-2020 Gender Plan of Action under the Convention on Biological Diversity reflects the importance and commitment to the integration of gender in the implementation of the Convention, the Strategic Plan, and the associated work of the Parties and the Secretariat. The mainstreaming of a gender perspective, as pursued through the Gender Plan of Action, is meant to promote gender equality, demonstrate the benefits of gender mainstreaming and to increase the effectiveness of all work under the Convention.

43. Under decision XII/7, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to undertake a number of actions, including: to finalize and report on the implementation of a guidance document on gender mainstreaming; to collect case studies and best practices on monitoring, evaluation and indicators on gender mainstreaming regarding biodiversity; and to support the implementation of the Gender Plan of Action, including at the national level and for the purposes of better integrating biodiversity in national gender policies and action plans. An update on this work is included in UNEP/CBD/SBI/1/5/Add.2.

2. Role of engaging the business sector

44. The business sector, due to the increasing global demand for products and services, is one of the key drivers of adverse impacts on biodiversity. At the same time, businesses rely, directly or indirectly, on biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services. The degradation of these systems can therefore have severe impacts upon companies' activities and production models, adversely affecting their overall viability. In order to address this challenge, it is important to make businesses aware of their impacts and dependencies and to encourage them to act in a more sustainable manner. As business interests cut across virtually every sector issue, achieving the objectives of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 will be greatly facilitated by the proactive engagement of the business community, and by mainstreaming biodiversity within key production sectors, manufacturing, and the financial industry.

3. Engagement with subnational and local governments

45. The Conferences of the Parties at its last four meetings adopted decisions (IX/28, X/22, XI/8A and XII/9) related to the need to engage subnational and local governments in order to implement the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. Further, Parties recognized the need for action at the subnational levels of government in adopting, at COP 10, a Plan of Action specifically involving, supporting and coordinating efforts with subnational governments, such as provinces, states, cities and other local authorities, in achieving the Strategic Plan 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets (decision X/22). With the global population estimated to grow to an estimated 10 billion people by the year 2100, adding three billion people mostly to urban centres, the need to engage subnational and local governments is paramount.

46. Subnational and local governments often have more control over natural resources, or activities that impact them, than governments at the national level. Further, more money is invested globally on biodiversity at local and subnational levels than at national and multilateral levels. Subnational and local governments are also key players in designing and implementing ecosystem-level landscape planning and

management plans for services, including water and food production, preparedness plans for environmental disasters and risk reduction strategies, forest and fisheries management, and connectivity plans for protected area systems. Local authorities often have authority over zoning decisions that can directly impact biodiversity.

G. Strengthening mechanisms to support implementation of the Convention

47. As evident from the above discussion, especially in the context of the analysis of the progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, it is becoming evident that significant action is required by Parties to overcome major obstacles at the national level to implement the Convention. Some of these actions would benefit from better guidance by the Conference of the Parties based on the lessons learnt from good practices and exchange of experiences as well as expertise and information available at the global level. Decision XII/26 the Conference of the Parties also requested the Subsidiary Body on Implementation to develop recommendations on how to strengthen mechanisms to support implementation of the Convention, and any strategic plans adopted under it.

48. One approach to enhance implementation would be to establish a mechanism, on a regular rather than an ad hoc basis, for identifying specific actions and best practices for institutional and policy reform required to remove obstacles to implementation at the national level, focussing in particular on the challenges to implementation with respect to those Aichi Biodiversity Targets that are most lagging in progress.

49. This could be facilitated by SBI, perhaps through an intersessional process, by, for example:

(a) Organizing a regular forum for communication and continued exchange of information among bodies and entities, including stakeholders, dealing with biodiversity in order to promote linkages and coherence;

(b) Linking with efforts under the convention on capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation, taking into account the national biodiversity strategies and actions plans and national reports of the parties;

(c) Organizing expert input, including guidelines necessary to promote and enhance implementation of the convention and its protocols at the national level;

(d) Contributing to the biennial assessments of progress, drawing on available sources of information;

50. These matters may be taken into account by SBI when considering relevant agenda items including items 8 (with respect to capacity-building and technical and scientific cooperation), 12 (with respect to the modus operandi of SBI and enhancing review mechanisms) and 13 (with respect to national reporting).

IV. SUGGESTED RECOMMENDATIONS

51. The Subsidiary Body on Implementation may wish to adopt a recommendation along the following lines:

The Subsidiary Body on Implementation,

Recognizing the need to strengthen mechanisms to support implementation of the Convention, and any strategic plans adopted under it,

Requests the Executive Secretary to prepare options for an intersessional process that can support implementation and help remove obstacles to implementation, especially with regard to those Aichi Biodiversity Targets that are most lagging in process, for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth meeting;

52. The Subsidiary Body on Implementation, noting the outcomes of the nineteenth and twentieth meetings of SBSTTA on the mainstreaming of biodiversity, in particular with respect to the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors, and also noting the need to complement these recommendations of SBSTTA with those on related issues, including those on the tourism sector and on cross-sectoral mainstreaming, may wish to recommend that the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth meeting adopt a decision along the following lines:¹⁴

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling Article 6 of the Convention, which requires Contracting Parties to integrate, as far as possible and as appropriate, the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies,

Also recalling paragraphs 10 (a) and (b) of the rationale for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020,¹⁵ which call for initiating action to address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss through mainstreaming and for decreasing the direct pressures on biodiversity by engagement of key sectors,

Recognizing the need for additional action with respect to mainstreaming biodiversity in the tourism sector,

Recognizing also that integrating biodiversity considerations into cross-sectoral policies, plans and programmes is critical for harnessing the benefits of enhanced synergy and policy coherence at the national level, and recalling paragraph 9 of decision X/30 and paragraph 12 of decision X/44,

Recognizing further the importance of more effective engagement of the business sector,

Noting the need for more effective engagement of subnational and local governments,

Strengthening the mainstreaming of biodiversity through relevant international processes

1. *Welcomes* the adoption of the Paris Agreement by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,¹⁶ the outcomes of the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification,¹⁷ and the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,¹⁸ the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030,¹⁹ the principles for sustainable agriculture of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,²⁰ and other internationally agreed frameworks;

2. *Calls upon* Parties to take measures to ensure closer linkages between biodiversity-related and other international processes, to implement their various commitments in a coherent manner at the national level, and to include biodiversity considerations in their engagement in these various processes;

¹⁴ These recommendations, and those arising from SBSTTA-19 and SBSTTA-20, would be integrated into a single draft decision for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties.

¹⁵ Decision X/2, annex.

¹⁶ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Conference of the Parties, twenty-first session, decision 1/CP.21 (see FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1).

¹⁷ See ICCD/COP(12)/20/Add.1.

¹⁸ General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015 entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development".

¹⁹ General Assembly resolution 69/283, annex II.

²⁰ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Building a Common Vision for Sustainable Food and Agriculture: Principles and Approaches*, Rome, FAO, 2014.

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to continue to engage in these and other relevant international processes, particularly as these proceed into the implementation phase, and to support Parties in their efforts pursuant to paragraph 2 above;

Mainstreaming biodiversity in the tourism sector

4. *Calls upon* Parties, with support provided by relevant international organizations and initiatives, including the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Tourism Organization, and the International Union for Conservation of Nature to make use of, and implement, on a voluntary basis and in accordance with national circumstances and conditions, the guidelines on biodiversity and tourism development adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting,²¹ and, in particular:

(a) To develop and adopt coherent regulatory framework for sustainable tourism, or strengthen such frameworks, engaging all relevant institutions and stakeholders including indigenous peoples and local communities, subnational and local governments, and the private sector;

(b) To use information on the benefits and values of sustainable tourism in decision making on planned expansion of the tourism sector, including with respect to tourism investments, development of infrastructure, job creation, and in considering mechanisms for the reinvestment of parts of tourism revenues on ecosystem conservation at local or community level;

(c) To promote capacity-building, in particular to national and subnational park agencies, on development and implementation of financial instruments, such as entrance and service fees, concessions and licences, to complement and support public investment in the establishment and maintenance of protected area systems and support sustainable tourism;

(d) To take measures to further develop and use various communication, education and public awareness tools for the general public and tourists on sustainable tourism programmes, including sustainable travel and voluntary standards and certification systems;

(e) To include information on pertinent activities undertaken, and measures adopted, in the online reporting system on the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and sixth national reports;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To analyse the information provided by Parties pursuant to subparagraph (e) above, complemented by information provided by relevant international organizations and initiatives,

(b) To develop proposals on how to enhance monitoring, reporting and knowledge sharing on tourism and visitation activities, in particular in protected areas, with a view to promoting sustainable tourism;

Cross-sectoral mainstreaming

6. *Calls upon* Parties, with support by relevant international organizations and initiatives:

(a) To introduce or strengthen measures to raise awareness of the values of biodiversity and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, by tailoring communication tools to take into account the scale of the problem, making use of evidence-based communication transmitted in a compelling and effective way to decision makers, stakeholders, indigenous peoples and local communities, as well as parliamentarians and legislators;

(b) To introduce or scale up use of environment-economic accounting, as appropriate, and of tools to assess and/or evaluate the various values of biodiversity;

²¹ Decision VII/14, annex.

(c) To take measures to improve the effectiveness of environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessments, including by strengthening the application of strategic environmental assessment methodologies, by using tools to evaluate ecosystem services, and by implementing cost-effective approaches to identifying baselines and potential impacts on biodiversity;

(d) To review, in connection with the implementation of the milestones for implementing Aichi Biodiversity Target 3 adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting,²² national legislation in order to identify provisions that have positive or adverse implications for implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including with respect to the transparency of decision-making and access to information;

(e) To strengthen biodiversity considerations in national sustainable consumption and production policies, plans and programmes;

(f) To review the implementation of cross-sectoral measures taken and their effectiveness, including national institutional mechanisms to support the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and to identify gaps, with a view to strengthening such measures and mechanisms as needed;

(g) To consider, as part of the gap analysis referred to above, the need for additional institutional mechanisms to ensure an integrated approach towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and national biodiversity strategies and actions plans;

(h) To include information on pertinent activities undertaken, and measures adopted, in the online reporting system for the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and sixth national reports;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with relevant organizations and initiatives and taking steps to avoid duplication of existing work:

(a) To continue cooperation with relevant international organizations and initiative to provide support for the implementation of Goal A of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020;

(b) To undertake an assessment of the variety of institutional mechanisms in place at the national level to support implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and to report to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its second meeting.

Engagement of key actors to enhance mainstreaming

8. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to continue his work with respect to gender mainstreaming to support the implementation of the 2015-2020 Gender Plan of Action, including by support to Parties in integrating gender considerations into their revised national biodiversity strategies and actions plans;

9. *Invites* Parties that have not yet done so to adopt national initiatives on business and biodiversity as part of the Global Partnership on Business and Biodiversity;

10. *Calls upon* Parties to take measures to raise awareness of the business case for mainstreaming biodiversity in business-related decision-making;

11. *Also calls upon* Parties to encourage or require, as appropriate, businesses to generate and assess, on a regular basis, information on their activities and operations, including supply chains, that have impacts on biodiversity and associated ecosystem functions and services, as well as remedial measures taken and the expenditures associated therewith, making use, as appropriate, of tools, such as the newly developed Natural Capital Protocols, that support better understanding and measurement of dependencies and impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem

²² See decision XII/3.

functions and services, and to make such information available through relevant reporting schemes;

12. *Calls upon* the businesses sector to initiate or strengthen pertinent activities pursuant to paragraph 11 above, and to take measures to integrate the information compiled into decision-making, including decisions on operations, siting and sourcing;

13. *Invites* relevant international and national organizations and initiatives to support the activities described in paragraphs 10 and 11 above;

14. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations and initiatives to submit to the Executive Secretary information on existing frameworks for implementing biodiversity-related valuation and accounting schemes in businesses, such as natural capital valuation, as well as on public plans, policies and programmes that seek to encourage or promote the application of such frameworks by the business sector;

15. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in cooperation with other relevant organizations and initiatives:

(a) To explore options for harmonizing the manner in which information from the business sector on biodiversity-related issues, including supply chains, is provided for use by Parties under the various reporting schemes, with a view to enhancing the consistency and comparability of reporting on biodiversity-related issues across the various business sectors;

(b) To provide Parties, subject to the availability of resources, with support in the implementation of the above-described actions;

16. *Calls upon* Parties, in view of the need for more effective engagement of subnational and local governments:

(a) To enhance their efforts to engage subnational and local governments in order to strengthen the contribution of subnational and local governments to the implementation of the Strategic Plan;

(b) To review their governance structures with respect to the relationship between national, subnational and local governments regarding decisions that impact biodiversity, and to identify possible actions, as appropriate, that could facilitate the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020;

(c) To raise the awareness of subnational governments of the importance of biodiversity and ecosystems;

(d) To include consideration of biodiversity in follow-up activities related to the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) and other relevant international process;

17. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources:

(a) To undertake a study of the potential impacts of urban expansion on biodiversity hot spots and on potential ways and means to avoid, reduce or mitigate such impacts;

(b) To provide support in the implementation of the above actions.
