



Press Brief

Business and Biodiversity

Why is this important?

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) is pursuing a comprehensive strategy designed to more deeply engage the business community with the Convention, and to fulfill decisions taken at the tenth and eleventh meetings of the Conference of the Parties (COP 10/COP 11). This strategy will apply beyond COP 12 and seeks to create a programme of work that can continue to 2020 and beyond. Stemming from these decisions and strategy, and building upon earlier work, the business programme is undertaking a fairly ambitious series of activities (often in conjunction with partners) which are important in helping to raise awareness and mainstream biodiversity and ecosystem management amongst companies as well as driving the business engagement agenda. Main activities include:

- **Development of the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity:** The Global Partnership stems from decisions taken at COP 10 and COP 11 and highlights the global community's increasing understanding that business needs to play a critical role in addressing serious environmental problems, such as biodiversity loss. Essentially a network of networks, the Global Partnership links together various National and Regional Initiatives, allowing them to share information and best practices, and cooperate on common projects. These Initiatives link together businesses, government and other key stakeholders so as to encourage information-sharing and mainstreaming of biodiversity by businesses at the national level. Currently, 16 National and Regional Initiatives are members of the Partnership, with others preparing to join.
- **Development of Global Commodity Impact Indicators:** The Secretariat has brought together various stakeholders to develop a set of impact indicators for biodiversity arising from commodity production. From the work to date, it is known that there are a relatively small number of key impacts that cut across most commodities and that represent the majority of negative impacts (i.e. habitat and biodiversity loss or deforestation). The goal is to identify these key impacts and create a set of global commodity impact indicators for production that reduces the key impacts of all commodities on biodiversity and ecosystems. This will be done in cooperation with stakeholders from partner organisations, NGOs, governments and businesses. A multi-step process will be put in place to assess what sorts of standards and indicators already exist, to examine what sorts of impact indicators are applicable, and then compile and disseminate this information to stakeholders in governments and the commodity business community.

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- **Evaluation of Tools and Mechanisms:** The Secretariat has been engaged with various partners in efforts to evaluate the effectiveness and use of the various tools and mechanisms. Some of this work has been published in the CBD Technical Series (#63 and 73).
- **Sustainable Public Procurement:** The Secretariat began a collaborative effort with partners to look at the issue of biodiversity and the sustainable use of natural capital in public procurement. The SCBD is part of UNEP's Sustainable Public Procurement Initiative (SPPI), which is the 10YFP on Sustainable Public Procurement. This network of governments, businesses and civil society promotes worldwide implementation of SPP and a better understanding of its potential benefits and impacts.
- **Information dissemination:** The Business.2020 newsletter magazine has been published by the CBD Secretariat since COP 8 in 2006.

What news to expect in Pyeongchang?

The Government of the Republic of Korea (and other partners) is planning an extensive programme of business-related activities. A three-day series of business engagement events will include a High-Level Segment, a business and biodiversity workshop, a meeting of the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity, and several media/launch events. The overall theme of the business forum will be "Mainstreaming Biodiversity: Innovative Opportunities for Business" and will look at practical methods for businesses to play a role in the overall objectives of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. Issues under consideration tie in with the Korean government's concept of the Creative Economy. This concept prioritizes the sensible use of natural resources for development gains as well as ideas and technology that help safeguard biodiversity and forge a more sustainable and creative path for economic growth and development.

Day 1 of the forum will be dedicated to several parallel events aimed at different business stakeholder groups (i.e. biotrade, tourism, commodities, the Global Partnership). Days 2 and 3 will focus on an exchange of creative practices aimed at showing how businesses can contribute to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Targets, including through mainstreaming biodiversity into business practices. Discussions will demonstrate economic opportunities related to biodiversity for business as well as look at different aspects of the challenges that companies face. In particular, these events should help and encourage businesses to understand how to better engage with, and implement, biodiversity-related initiatives. The events should further encourage governments and other stakeholders to create the correct enabling conditions to facilitate these opportunities.

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

413, Saint Jacques Street, suite 800
Montreal, Quebec, H2Y 1N9
Canada

Tel.: +1 514 288 2220
Fax: +1 514 288 6588
secretariat@cbd.int

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Press Brief

Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity

Why is this important?

Cities and other subnational governments are responsible for much of the implementation required to ensure that decisions made by the Conference of the Parties (COP) are implemented. To harness their critical contribution, coordination between different levels of governments is required, as well as forums in which each level is able to share best practice with the others.

Cities have a unique role to play. Urbanization is a driver of biodiversity loss; nevertheless, cities have enormous potential for increased efficiency in resource use. Furthermore they can put in place policies, processes and technologies that can serve as solutions to biodiversity-related problems within and beyond the urban context.

The potential of cities and other subnational governments to contribute to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets has been recognized since decision IX/28, adopted at COP 9. Since COP 9, initiatives to harness this contribution have proliferated, but an acceleration of that process is required if the Strategic Plan is to be realized by 2020.



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What news to expect in Pyeongchang?

The fifth Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on the Review of Implementation of the Convention (WGRI-5), in June 2014, proposed a draft recommendation that the Conference of the Parties, at its twelfth meeting, adopt another decision on engagement with subnational and local governments. Its focus is on the challenges and solutions associated with current patterns of urbanization; collaboration between levels of government for the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets; biodiversity in urban and peri-urban planning; support of relevant initiatives on sustainable urbanization; and encouragement of subnational and local governments to contribute to the attainment of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.

It also requests the Executive Secretary to increase efforts to mainstream biodiversity into the work of other agencies and key partners involved in work at the subnational and local levels; to assist in the integration of the contribution of subnational and local governments into the implementation of the Strategic Plan; and to collaborate with other United Nations agencies and international organizations on issues related to subnational and local implementation.

While this decision and others are being considered, the Biodiversity Summit for Cities and Subnational Governments will be convened in parallel with the COP, for the fourth time, from 12 to 14 October. It is expected to attract about 500 participants, including mayors and governors, from around the world. The Summit's focus is on cooperative governance for biodiversity, and the various panels featured over the two days of the meeting will also include representatives of national government, organizations and academia.

A number of side events will also be convened by cities and other subnational governments, and the Korean Office of ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability will launch a Korean version of ICLEI's successful Local Action for Biodiversity Programme.

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

413, Saint Jacques Street, suite 800
Montreal, Quebec, H2Y 1N9
Canada

Tel.: +1 514 288 2220
Fax: +1 514 288 6588
secretariat@cbd.int

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Press Brief

Biodiversity and Climate Change

Why is this important?

Biodiversity underpins the functioning of ecosystems, and the provision of ecosystem services that are essential for human well-being. Climate change threatens the ability of biodiversity and ecosystems to continue to provide these essential services.

The contribution of Working Group II¹ to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) found that climate change is having, and will continue to have, negative impacts on terrestrial, inland water, coastal and marine ecosystems.

At the same time, biodiversity can play a significant role in climate change mitigation and adaptation. Therefore, it is important to take action now to reduce the impacts of climate change on biodiversity and to strengthen the ability of biodiversity to respond to climate change through conservation, restoration and sustainable use.

¹ IPCC, 2014: Summary for policymakers. In: Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability.

Part A: Global and Sectoral Aspects. Contribution of Working Group II to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [Field, C.B., V.R. Barros, D.J. Dokken, K.J. Mach, M.D. Mastrandrea, T.E. Bilir, M. Chatterjee, K.L. Ebi, Y.O. Estrada, R.C. Genova, B. Girma, E.S. Kissel, A.N. Levy, S. MacCracken, P.R. Mastrandrea, and L.L. White (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, United Kingdom and New York, NY, USA, pp. 1-32.



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What news to expect in Pyeongchang?

At its eighteenth meeting the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice recommended that the Conference of Parties adopt a decision acknowledging the vulnerability of biodiversity and ecosystems to climate change; and encouraging Parties to integrate ecosystem based approaches to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction.

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

413, Saint Jacques Street, suite 800
Montreal, Quebec, H2Y 1N9
Canada

Tel.: +1 514 288 2220
Fax: +1 514 288 6588
secretariat@cbd.int

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Press Brief

Biodiversity for Poverty Eradication and Development

Why is this important?

The benefits provided by biodiversity are important to all people. Some benefits of biodiversity are especially important to indigenous peoples, the poor and vulnerable groups. These groups, including the rural poor, are in many cases most directly dependent on biodiversity and ecosystems. To them, the goods and services provided by ecosystems underpinned by biodiversity often constitute social safety nets. Women and men may use ecosystem goods and services in different ways. Examples of the benefits of biodiversity include:

- Almost one billion people in developing countries depend on fish for their primary source of animal protein
- As many as 80 per cent of people living in rural areas in developing countries rely on traditional plant-based medicines for basic healthcare
- Large populations in South and East Asia are dependent on complex rice-fish agro-ecosystems, where fish and other aquatic animals, serve as a source of nutrition to local communities, and provide essential services for rice productivity in the flooded fields
- A range of ecosystems act as buffers against natural hazards, providing valuable yet under-utilized approaches for climate change adaptation, enhancing natural resilience and reducing the vulnerability of people, for example to floods and the effects of land degradation. These ecosystem services improve the sustainability and economic efficiency of built infrastructure, and are critical for sustainable and resilient urban areas

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- Access to green space is an important determinant of physical and mental health for many urban dwellers.

Ultimately, the loss and degradation of biodiversity impact negatively on all people. However, the impacts are particularly severe, and more immediate, on the poor and vulnerable, women, children and indigenous peoples.

What news to expect in Pyeongchang?

Six years after the launch of the Convention on Biological Diversity's initiative on 'Biodiversity for Development', at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 9), COP 12 provides an opportunity to clarify how biodiversity can serve as a source of solutions for poverty eradication and development. Expected actions include:

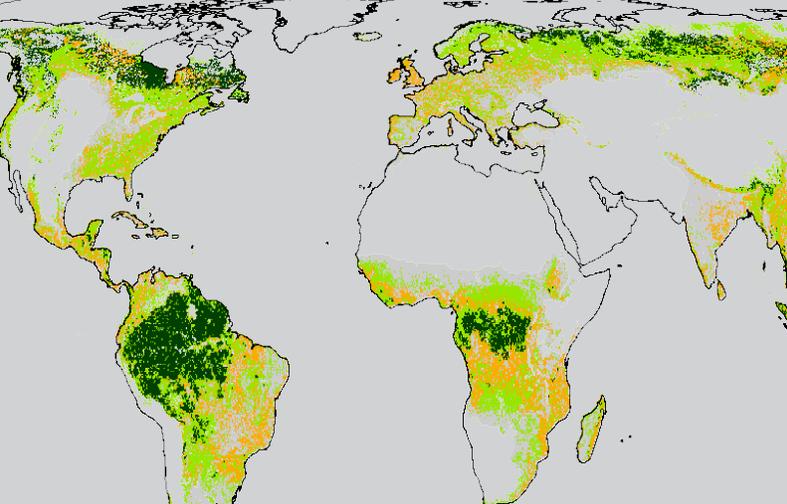
- Presentation of the main results of the "Expert Group on Biodiversity for Poverty Eradication and Development" meetings. (Side event: 'Biodiversity in development cooperation'), Monday 13 October
- Set of important decisions as encouragements to Parties, international organizations and relevant stakeholders to ensure that, in their efforts to integrate biodiversity into poverty eradication and development strategies, initiatives and processes, they identify and promote policies, activities, projects and mechanisms on biodiversity and development that empower indigenous and local communities, the poor, marginalized and vulnerable, directly dependent on biodiversity
- Support to the Dehradun/Chennai Recommendations for the integration of biodiversity and poverty eradication
- Diffusion of the assessments of barriers to the implementation of the decision of the Convention related to Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development (information document)
- Consideration of Biodiversity for Sustainable Development during the High-Level Segment and in the Pyeongchang Roadmap
- Press conference organized by the CBD Secretariat on the occasion of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, Friday 17 October.

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

413, Saint Jacques Street, suite 800
Montreal, Quebec, H2Y 1N9
Canada

Tel.: +1 514 288 2220
Fax: +1 514 288 6588
secretariat@cbd.int

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Press Brief

Global Biodiversity Outlook 4

Why is this important?

Published almost at the halfway point of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook, to be launched on 6 October 2014 at COP 12, provides a timely report on progress towards meeting the 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets and potential actions to accelerate that progress; on prospects for achieving the 2050 vision on 'Living in Harmony with Nature'; and on the importance of biodiversity in meeting broader goals for sustainable human development this century.

The report brings together multiple lines of evidence derived from a wide range of sources. It draws upon targets, commitments and activities of countries as reported in national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) and national reports as well as Parties' own assessments of progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. It takes into account information on the status of trends of biodiversity reported by Parties and in the scientific literature, and makes use of indicator-based statistical extrapolations to 2020 as well as longer term model based scenarios.

Results

According to the GBO-4, there has been some significant progress towards meeting some components of the majority of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. However, in most cases, this progress will not be sufficient to achieve the target set for 2020, and additional action is required to keep the Strategic Plan for biodiversity on course.

Based on current trends, pressures on biodiversity will continue to increase at least until 2020, and that the status of biodiversity will continue to decline. This is despite the fact that society's responses to the loss of biodiversity are increasing dramatically. This may be partly due to time lags between taking positive actions and discernible positive outcomes. It could also be because responses may be insufficient relative to pressures, such that they may not overcome the growing impacts of the drivers of biodiversity loss.



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Meeting the Aichi Biodiversity Targets would contribute significantly to broader global priorities addressed by the post 2015 Development Agenda, namely reducing hunger and poverty; improving human health and ensuring a sustainable supply of energy, food and clean water.

Plausible pathways exist for achieving the 2050 vision for an end to biodiversity loss, in conjunction with key human development goals, limiting climate change to two degrees Celsius warming and combatting desertification and land degradation. However, reaching these joint objectives requires changes in society, including much more efficient use of land, water, energy and materials, rethinking our consumption habits and in particular major transformations of food systems.

Analysis of the major primary sectors indicates that drivers linked to agriculture account for 70 per cent of the projected loss of terrestrial biodiversity. Addressing trends in food systems is therefore crucial in determining whether the Strategic Plan will succeed.

The way forward

This mid-term report on the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 suggests that the majority of its targets are still achievable, if challenging to meet.

Achieving these targets requires innovative and bold action in many areas, and a sustained focus on biodiversity in a wide range of policy areas for the second half of this decade. Success stories have demonstrated that effective action comes from simultaneously addressing multiple causes of biodiversity loss through monitoring and data analysis, changing economic incentives, applying market pressures, enforcing rules and regulations, involving indigenous and local communities and stakeholders and targeting conservation of threatened species and ecosystems – among many other routes to biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.

Many of the measures required to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets will also support the goals of greater food security, healthier populations and improved access to clean water and sustainable energy for all. The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 is thus part of the agenda for sustainable development. There is a need to accelerate our own actions to seize the opportunity to live in harmony with nature.

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

413, Saint Jacques Street, suite 800
Montreal, Quebec, H2Y 1N9
Canada

Tel.: +1 514 288 2220
Fax: +1 514 288 6588
secretariat@cbd.int

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Press Brief

Invasive Alien Species

Why is this important?

Invasive alien species are non-native (alien) species which threaten ecosystems, habitats or species. Under the Convention on Biological Diversity, the contracting Parties should prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate those alien species which threaten ecosystems, habitats or species, as far as possible and as appropriate (Article 8h). In some ecosystems, such as oceanic islands, ancient lakes or mountains, invasive alien species are a leading cause of biodiversity loss. The fourth edition of Global Biodiversity Outlook identified that more than half of known causes of species extinction globally was due to invasive alien species.

The cost for dealing with the problems caused by invasive alien species in the European Union (EU) alone has been estimated at €12 billion/year over the past 20 years. Other examples include: €11 billion/year in China; €90 billion/year in United States of America; and even a country such as New Zealand, where strong biosecurity measures are in place, has to spend €2 billion/year¹.

Governments are increasingly taking steps to prevent, control and eradicate invasive alien species. Efforts taken so far, however, have been overwhelmed by the rate of alien species introductions with increased international trade and transportation, which shows no sign of slowing.

Recently, an international collaboration of experts on invasive alien species conducted an analysis on major pathways of introductions. The result showed that escapes of plants and animals from confined conditions for introduction evoked significant numbers of further spread and establishment of alien species, globally².

¹ www.europarl.europa.eu/eplibrary/Tackling-invasive-alien-species-in-Europe-FINAL.pdf

² www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/sbstta/sbstta-18/official/sbstta-18-09-add1-en.pdf



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What news to expect in Pyeongchang?

The twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties will consider a new global guidance to address the issue of invasive alien species introduced as pets, aquarium and terrarium species, and as live bait and live food, noting that their escapes are major cause of spread of invasive alien species, and to minimize their hazard risks to biodiversity. The COP will also consider the future work of Parties and the Secretariat and how to make progress on policy development and national and regional implementation to address invasive alien species in the future. The focus of the future work to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 9 on invasive alien species needs to include: awareness raising on invasive alien species in wider sectors; making use of the guidance developed under the CBD as well as the existing international guidance for pests and diseases to address invasive alien species; further identification and prioritization of invasive alien species and their pathways to manage; addressing risks of alien species associated with developing aid and ecosystem restoration; making use of the full range of measures for control and/or eradication, including biocontrol; prioritizing actions to address invasive species in particularly vulnerable ecosystems; efforts to manage invasive alien species in protected areas and key biodiversity areas contributing to achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 11; regional collaboration; involvement of academics, citizen scientists and indigenous and local communities, particularly for early detection and rapid response; and reporting on Target 10 of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation.

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

413, Saint Jacques Street, suite 800
Montreal, Quebec, H2Y 1N9
Canada

Tel.: +1 514 288 2220
Fax: +1 514 288 6588
secretariat@cbd.int

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Press Brief

Marine and Coastal Biodiversity

Why is this important?

Oceans are essential to sustainable development and the health and well-being of the planet. Oceans include highly diverse habitats — such as coral reefs, mangrove forests, seagrass beds, estuaries, open-ocean and deep-sea habitats — critical to ecological health, social well-being and economical development.

Nearly all living things on earth depend on the oceans in one way or another. They are an important source of sustenance, medicine, livelihoods, recreation and cultural value for populations around the world. They provide ecosystem services that are not only critical to the healthy functioning of the planet but also to sustainable economic growth and social welfare. Oceans are critical to many important global processes, such as climate regulation and carbon cycling. Ocean ecosystems provide critical life supporting services to the global population and underpin global productivity and well-being.

Oceans cover 70% of our planet but their tremendous wealth of biodiversity and ecosystem services are not infinite. The oceans are facing growing threats, including from overfishing, climate change, pollution and habitat destruction, which are causing an unprecedented loss of biodiversity in the oceans and negatively impacting efforts to achieve sustainable development.



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What news to expect in Pyeongchang?

The CBD's programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity involves a range of different issues, with the CBD Secretariat carrying out significant scientific and technical work to support the efforts of Parties in achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. In this regard, Parties will discuss a number of topics, including:

- Results of seven regional workshops to facilitate the description of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs) and the development of an EBSA online information-sharing mechanism
- A new set of priority actions to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 10 for coral reefs and closely associated ecosystems, which provides guidance to Parties in taking actions to minimize pressures on coral reefs and associated vulnerable ecosystems
- Results of an expert workshop on underwater noise, which provides guidance to Parties in implementing measures to minimize the significant adverse impacts of anthropogenic underwater noise on marine biodiversity
- Results of an expert workshop on marine spatial planning, which provides consolidated practical guidance for marine spatial planning in order to complement and further enhance the existing cross-sectoral efforts of Parties and on the application of the ecosystem approach
- A new CBD Technical Series report presenting a major global synthesis of knowledge on the impacts of ocean acidification on marine biodiversity, representing a significant collaborative effort by Parties and experts from around the world in gathering the best available knowledge on this issue
- Capacity building, including activities conducted in the framework of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) which will be further highlighted at a high-level meeting to be held during COP 12.

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

413, Saint Jacques Street, suite 800
Montreal, Quebec, H2Y 1N9
Canada

Tel.: +1 514 288 2220
Fax: +1 514 288 6588
secretariat@cbd.int

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Press Brief

National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)

Why is this important?

National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) are the principal instruments for implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) at the national level (Article 6). The Convention requires countries to prepare a national biodiversity strategy (or equivalent instrument) and to ensure that this strategy is mainstreamed into the planning and activities of all those sectors whose activities can have an impact (positive and negative) on biodiversity. To date, 180 (93%) Parties have developed NBSAPs in line with Article 6.

Further, in decision X/2, the Conference of the Parties (COP) urged Parties to review, revise and update, as appropriate, their NBSAPs in line with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. In addition, Aichi Biodiversity Target 17 calls for Parties to develop, adopt as a policy instrument, and commence implementing an effective, participatory and updated NBSAP by 2015.

Since 1993, 180 Parties have developed NBSAPs, with 14 Parties yet to submit their first NBSAP. Thus the majority (93%) of Parties have been through the process of formalizing their approach to meeting the three objectives of the CBD at least once. Of the 180 Parties that have prepared NBSAPs, 50 have revised them at least once. Twenty-six Parties (Australia, Belarus, Belgium, Cameroon, Colombia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Dominica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Estonia European Union, Finland, France, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Malta, Myanmar, Serbia, Spain, Suriname, Switzerland, Timor-Leste, Tuvalu, United Kingdom and Venezuela) have submitted NBSAPs since the adoption of the Strategic Plan. Of these 26 NBSAPs, 19 are revised versions, while 7 are the first NBSAPs to be developed by the Party.

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In decision X/10, the COP requested Parties to submit their fifth national report by 31 March 2014. The fifth national reports are an important source of information for a mid-term review of progress towards the implementation of the Strategic Plan and progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets which will be undertaken by COP 12. The fifth national reports have also contributed to the development of the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook. Further, the fifth national report guidelines request Parties to report on contributions to the relevant 2015 Targets of the Millennium Development Goals.

To date, 84 fifth national reports have been submitted to the CBD. In addition, 31 countries have sent advanced draft reports.

What news to expect in Pyeongchang?

The NBSAP and National Report agenda item for COP 11 is not a major item for negotiation because the role of revised and updated NBSAPs as the main national contribution to the global Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 was clearly defined by COP 10 decisions which remain operative through to 2020 (and beyond). Similarly, the 31 March 2014 deadline for 5th National Reports have allowed almost 100 of these reports to contribute to the mid-term review of the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 that is to be provided to COP 12 in the form of the Global Biodiversity Outlook 4.

It is likely that the majority of the 194 Parties will have completed and submitted their revised NBSAPs by the 2015 date set for Aichi Target 17. The main challenge facing Parties in the period following COP 12 is to “scale up” implementation of the revised NBSAPs. Thus the “fate” of effective NBSAPs, especially in developing remains “entwined” with the resource mobilisation negotiations in Pyeongchang.

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

413, Saint Jacques Street, suite 800
Montreal, Quebec, H2Y 1N9
Canada

Tel.: +1 514 288 2220
Fax: +1 514 288 6588
secretariat@cbd.int

www.cbd.int/cop2014



Press Brief

Protected Areas

Why is this important?

Protected areas are the cornerstone of biodiversity conservation; they maintain key habitats, provide refugia, allow for species migration and movement, and ensure the maintenance of natural processes across the landscape. Not only do protected areas secure biodiversity conservation, they also secure the well-being of humanity. Protected areas provide livelihoods for nearly 1.1 billion people; are the primary source of drinking water for over a third of the world's largest cities and are a major factor in ensuring global food security by protecting fisheries, wild crop relatives and the ecosystems services upon which agriculture depends.

Well-managed protected areas with participatory and equitable governance mechanisms yield significant benefits far beyond their boundaries. These can be translated into cumulative advantages across a national economy and contribute to poverty reduction and sustainable development, including achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the post-2015 Development Agenda. Better managed, better connected, better governed and better financed protected areas are recognized as the key to both mitigation and adaptation responses to climate change.

According to the United Nations Environment Programme's World Conservation Monitoring Centre, the current protected area coverage of terrestrial areas including inland waters is about 15.4%, and protected area coverage of territorial waters (to 12 nautical miles) is about 10.9%. However, there are still areas that lag behind. The social costs and benefits of protected areas, the effective participation of indigenous and local communities and the diversification of various governance types need more commitment and resolute actions. The evaluation and improvement of management effectiveness, and the development and implementation of sustainable finance plans with diversified portfolios of traditional and innovative financial mechanisms need enhanced measures. Climate change considerations for both mitigation and adaptation responses need to be incorporated.



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What news to expect in Pyeongchang?

Successive decisions of the Conference of the Parties (COP) have established a policy environment to foster implementation of the Convention's Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA). As the elements of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 ("By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscape and seascape.") incorporate the tenets of the PoWPA, furthering PoWPA implementation remains key to achieving Target 11 and to help achieve most, if not all, of the other Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

To strengthen implementation of the PoWPA and to align implementation with available funding and technical support, the COP invited Parties to develop a long-term action plan for the implementation of the PoWPA (or reorient existing plans), contributing to implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and to use these PoWPA action plans as the basis for accessing funding. As a result, 108 PoWPA action plans were formally submitted to the Secretariat by Parties. In decision XI/24 Parties were invited to integrate PoWPA action plans into revised NBSAPs which, in line with decision X/2, should be adopted as policy instruments and used as a primary framework for implementation.

Aside from general discussions on implementation of the Strategic Plan, discussion at COP 12 on protected areas will include: involvement of indigenous and local communities in management and establishment of protected areas; possible usage, as appropriate, of the scientific information regarding the description of areas meeting EBSA criteria for *inter alia* marine spatial planning including developing representative networks of marine protected areas; taking measures to reduce potential significant adverse impacts of anthropogenic underwater noise on marine and coastal biodiversity through *inter alia* management plans for marine protected areas; and increasing coverage and effectiveness of marine and coastal protected and managed areas in coral reefs and associated ecosystems.

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

413, Saint Jacques Street, suite 800
Montreal, Quebec, H2Y 1N9
Canada

Tel.: +1 514 288 2220
Fax: +1 514 288 6588
secretariat@cbd.int

www.cbd.int/cop2014



Press Brief

Resource Mobilization

Why is this important?

Considerable funding gaps in supporting biodiversity objectives and targets have been observed in both developing countries and developed countries, and the fiscal consolidations have added to the financial challenges for biodiversity and ecosystem services in many countries in the past few years. With the world economic recovery and improvement on the way, opportunities for mobilizing additional financial resources are unfolding domestically and internationally. It is thus important that the Parties collectively reflect on the financial challenges and opportunities, set ambitious funding targets, and determine a course of financing action that ensure adequate financial support for implementation at all levels.



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What news to expect in Pyeongchang?

Mobilization of financial and human resources for achieving the 2020 Aichi Biodiversity Target remains a major item to be discussed at the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 12) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Since 2008, when the Convention agreed in Bonn to a comprehensive strategy for resource mobilization much progress has been made; however, as was highlighted by the CBD high-level panel on global resource assessment, there is still a significant funding gap for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.

In order to address this gap, the last COP in Hyderabad adopted preliminary targets to double international flows for biodiversity and for all Parties to mainstream biodiversity in national planning, and to report expenditures related to biodiversity as well as remaining finance gaps.

COP 12 will review progress made on resource mobilization, based on a follow-up report of the high-level panel and the global monitoring prepared by the CBD Secretariat. It will consider adopting final targets, including the possible addition of a target related to domestic resource mobilization. The COP will also discuss the extension of the strategy for resource mobilization beyond 2015 and the adoption of concrete and effective actions on this subject, including biodiversity financing mechanisms and possible safeguards, and the establishment of a robust financial reporting framework. Together, this will establish a clear road map for Parties to mobilize resources to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

Resource mobilization relates to item 14 and 15 in COP 12 and contains two main documents besides six addendums and six information documents. All of the elements in this item were discussed at the fifth meeting of the ad hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation (WGRI-5) in July 2014 with a detailed recommendation made to COP12 in addition to a request to the Executive Secretary to do some inter-sessional work.

The WGRI 5 recommendation matches well with the ongoing discussion at the United Nations on the sustainable development goals, especially tentative goals 15 and 17. The report of the CBD high-level panel on global resource assessment for COP 12 has also been included as an input to the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing at UN Headquarters in New York.

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

413, Saint Jacques Street, suite 800
Montreal, Quebec, H2Y 1N9
Canada

Tel.: +1 514 288 2220
Fax: +1 514 288 6588
secretariat@cbd.int

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Press Brief

Ecosystem Conservation and Restoration

Why is this important?

Biodiversity and ecosystems underpin economic growth, sustainable development and human well-being. Yet the loss of biodiversity continues, resulting in serious reductions in ecosystem goods and services, negatively impacting human well-being, economic prosperity and environmental sustainability. Earth's ecosystems are degrading as a result of damage, unsustainable development and a failure to invest and reinvest in their productivity, health and sustainability. The well-being of the world population in the coming decades will in large part depend on conservation and restoration of ecosystems to maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystem services, thereby contributing to sustainable development while reducing environment-related risks.

The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 includes three Aichi Biodiversity Targets that establish quantitative global targets for land-use change: to halve the rate of loss of natural habitats (Target 5); to protect at least 17 per cent of terrestrial areas and inland waters and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas as part of improved protected area networks with connectivity across the landscape (Target 11) and to restore at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems and enhance ecosystem resilience (Target 15).



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What news to expect in Pyeongchang?

The Conference of Parties may adopt a decision, based on a recommendation from the eighteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, that highlights the need to avoid activities that will lead to ecosystem loss and degradation. The COP decision may also encourage Parties to promote comprehensive land-use planning approaches, and to utilize native species and genetic diversity in ecosystem restoration programmes.

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

413, Saint Jacques Street, suite 800
Montreal, Quebec, H2Y 1N9
Canada

Tel.: +1 514 288 2220
Fax: +1 514 288 6588
secretariat@cbd.int

www.cbd.int/cop2014



Press Brief

Biodiversity and Tourism Development

Why is this important?

Travel and tourism activities employ (directly and indirectly) one in every 11 people on earth and is responsible for 9 per cent of the world's gross domestic product. While unsustainable tourism can lead to environmental degradation and loss of biodiversity, the right kind of partnership can generate financial resources for conservation (in fact, visitation and tourism are the largest market-based source of financing for park operations worldwide), sustainable tourism can create green business opportunities and jobs for indigenous and local communities as stewards of rich natural areas, and travel creates awareness and commitment to environmental issues in guests and hosts.

Policies and actions to reduce carbon emissions and pollution from tourism activities and to minimize the use of scarce and precious resources are highly important to global and local biodiversity, both directly and indirectly. Social aims, requiring engagement of local and indigenous communities, a focus on poverty alleviation, and social equity in relation to tourism income and benefits, also have a bearing on the provision of sustainable livelihoods and decent work opportunities which are key to reducing negative impacts on biodiversity in some areas. Tourism development and management can contribute to at least 13 of the 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

In 1994, Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) adopted the CBD Guidelines on Biodiversity and Tourism Development, developed through a consultative process. Ten years later, the Guidelines still provide a basis for area planning and for assessing tourism projects in vulnerable ecosystems, and at COP 12, their application is under review by the Parties.



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What news to expect in Pyeongchang?

At COP 12, specialists and delegates will discuss ways to:

- Develop and support demonstration projects in areas where there is both significant biodiversity and significant pressure or potential pressure from tourism ('tourism and conservation hotspots')
- Enhance reporting on recreation, visitation and other tourism activities as part of their regular reporting on protected areas
- Promote partnerships with the tourism industry to contribute financially and technically to the establishment, operations and maintenance of protected areas through appropriate tools such as concessions, public-private partnerships and other payback mechanisms.

An ongoing reporting process will be suggested to monitor biodiversity impacts from tourism and associated management processes on an annual basis.

To support deliberations, the CBD Secretariat, supported by the Government of Germany and in conjunction with the Government of the Republic of Korea and other partners, is planning a three-day series of business engagement events parallel to COP 12 under the overall theme of, "Mainstreaming Biodiversity: Innovative Opportunities for Business". On Sunday, 12 October, a full-day side event will be dedicated to helping protected areas to gain more from tourism, and to examine synergies in the work of the UN and international agencies such as the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and IUCN. Discussions at COP 12 will bring new examples and techniques in planning and assessing tourism projects in vulnerable ecosystems. The events will also validate a new version of the User's Manual of the Guidelines. In addition, representatives of GIZ, Fair Trade Tourism, G Adventures, and indigenous tour operators will showcase their experiences.

It is noteworthy that COP 12 takes place after the UN's Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS); the participation of SIDS Parties such as Samoa and Jamaica will contribute to confirm the importance of improving knowledge on the symbiotic relationship of tourism and biodiversity.

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